



# Hayes-Velhage Post 96 The American Legion

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## Newsletter

### ★ WINTER 2010–11 ★

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Publisher: Andrew Battistone  
Editor: PPC Richard Hennessey

Wednesday, Dec. 8, '11 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 19, '10 - 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.	Holiday Buffet
Wednesday, Jan. 12, '11 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 12, '11 – 8:00 p.m.	Post Oratorical Contest
Wednesday, Feb. 9, '11 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, '11 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting

#### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

My fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL Members,

We have lost the services of one of our great stalwarts, Ken Hungerford, who moved to Massachusetts last month. Ken was involved in the core programs of The American Legion of Baseball and as the Chair of the Americanism Committee. In this capacity he was in charge of the Oratorical Contest, Boys State and School Awards. Ken leaves a void that will be difficult to fill. I am looking for a volunteer that can step up and take the chair of the Americanism Committee and run the Oratorical Contest and Boys State programs.

While on the topic of volunteers, we could use the services of a public relations type volunteer that have "hands-on" internet experience with "blogs" that can get our name out in the local blogosphere and in the future, publish an on-line newsletter.

(Commander's Message continued on page 2)

★★★★ THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ★★★★★

A Strong National Security ★ Taking Care of Veterans ★ Mentoring Youth ★ Promoting Patriotism and Honor

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AUXILIARY UNIT 96**

Dear Auxiliary Member, Don't get the Winter Time Blues! Spend one hour a month making new friends at your unit meeting. Use another hour helping a veteran, young person or the community. Like to work at home? Save unused manufacturing coupons, box tops, and soda pull tabs. Keep track of volunteer hours. Be a part of the Christmas Shops on 11/27/10 to 11/28/10. All volunteers are appreciated. Do I have your email address? Next meeting date is 01/08/11. No meeting in December. THANK YOU for your Poppy donations. Happy Holidays - Jeanne Berry Unit President 203-715-2336 - [jeanneberry@comcast.net](mailto:jeanneberry@comcast.net).

**VA DISABILITY HOAX**

An e-mail making the rounds on the internet claims that new legislation will dramatically increase veterans' disability compensation - in some cases by more than 100 percent. But that claim about H.R. 4667, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Act of 2010 is a hoax. The bill does exist, and it was passed by Congress, but it only authorizes the same COLA increase for VA beneficiaries that will be paid to Social Security annuitants this year, (which is zero). Unfortunately, a prankster created a fake version of the bill, put it out on the internet and it quickly turned viral. It just goes to reinforce the old adage: if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

**MEMBERS' HOLIDAY BUFFET DINNER**

All members of the Post, Auxiliary and SAL are invited to our Holiday Buffet Dinner on Sunday, December 19. Reservations are an absolute necessity! Because of limited space, guests are not included in this invitation. We welcome members and spouse. Our policy is to validate members' Isham garage parking ticket for three hours. So, remember to bring your parking ticket with you. Seatings are at 2:00, 3:00, 3:45 and 4:30 p.m. Reservations will be on a first-in, first reserved basis. Reservations will close when we reach capacity. Please email your reservation to [alpost96@comcast.net](mailto:alpost96@comcast.net) indicating the time you would like to be seated. If you don't have email, phone the office, 860-233-9029 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**POST NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Commander Battistone has appointed Past Commanders Ron Cady, Ed Friedman and Ray Gmeindl as members of the Post Nominating Committee and designated PPC Ray Gmeindl as the committee chair. The Post Bylaws require this committee to propose a slate of officers at our April post meeting to serve for the coming year. After the report is accepted, the Commander calls for further nominations from the floor three times, after which the nominations are then closed. The election takes place at our May post meeting. Members interested in serving Post 96 are encouraged to contact Chairman Gmeindl at 860-667-0272 or any member of the Nominating Committee to express their interest in serving Post 96.

**COMMANDER'S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

The response to my request for membership data information and email addresses of the membership has been encouraging with a tad more than a 50% response. I am still waiting replies from the remaining members.

The officers and trustees of Post 96 join me in wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season. We wish you good health and prosperity in 2011.

Andrew J. Battistone  
Commander



### **PAST COMMANDER DAVID M. SWENSON, (R.I.P.)**

It was a sad day this past August when we learned of the passing of Past Post Commander David Swenson. Dave made significant contributions to our Post.

He built the first database of our membership records that allowed us to upgrade our record keeping process. In this area, Dave was ahead of our National organization by several years.

Dave had a particular fondness for pets. Back in the days when the Post hosted a Labor Day Fair, Dave started a Pet Parade as part of the Fair. The Pet Parade continued after the Fair was discontinued solely through the efforts of David Swenson.

We are fortunate that David touched our lives. May he rest in eternal peace.

### **CHANGES TO MEDICARE**

For the benefit of the "seniors" in our membership, they will see significant changes in their Medicare benefits authorized by the "The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 - Public Law 111-148" effective January 1, 2011. This change adds coverage for a new "Wellness Visit" and eliminates cost sharing for almost all of the preventive services covered by Medicare, i.e. bone mass measurement, abdominal aortic aneurysm screening, and others. For more information check with your Health Benefits Advisor.

### **PROPOSED CHANGE TO POST BYLAWS**

Judge Advocate Bob Hyland presented a proposed revision to the Post Bylaws to the Executive Committee that they approved for presentation to the membership at our next Post meeting scheduled for December 8. A copy of these changes will be posted on the Post Bulletin Board and Web page after the December meeting.

### **OUR MANAGER - MS. JEAN WATTERS**

Ms. Jean Watters started her employment with the Post as a part-time bartender two years ago. Her skills in dealing with people, (both employees and members), led to her promotion to Permittee and Bar Supervisor last year. In September she was promoted to Manager, supervising the bar and kitchen staff and overseeing the housekeeping and routine maintenance of the Post.

Jean, as she prefers to be known as, has demonstrated that she has the "right-stuff" in meeting the demanding challenges as our manager. A long time member, who had expressed surprise that a lady would fill the position as our manager, asked a member of the Board of Trustees: "On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, how would you rate Jean as a manager?" The trustee replied: "As a 12." Needless to say, the response silenced this inquisitive member. Clearly, we are fortunate to have an employee of Jean Watters' caliber on our staff.

Unfortunately, circumstances have changed. Jean was diagnosed with stage 4 abdominal cancers. This has caused her to scale back her work schedule somewhat. Jean is confident that she will beat this illness and will soon be back to her full time schedule. To this end, she has our prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery.