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Hayes-Velhage Post 96 The American Legion

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Newsletter

☆ Winter 2012-13 ☆

Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012 – 1:00 p.m.	Veterans Day Ceremony West Hartford Veterans Memorial
Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012 – 2:00-4:30 p.m.	Holiday Buffet Sorry, no guests. For member and spouse or significant other
Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.	Fundraiser for 143d MP Co.
Wednesday, Feb 13, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, March 13, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
–Nomination of Officers–	
Wednesday, May 13, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
–Annual Election of Officers–	

Commander's Message

As the Holiday Season approaches, we can take an accounting of our blessings and what we can be thankful for. We must also remember those who stand in harm's way, far from home and protecting our freedom.

Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers

Christopher J. Conlin, Commander

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

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

Kevin McAllister Honored as Firefighter of the Year

Commander Conlin had the honor of presenting our Firefighter of the Year award to Kevin McAllister of Engine Co. 2 of the West Hartford Fire Department. All this took place in front of the joyous family of this heroic firefighter along with a hall full of friends, neighbors and fellow firefighters. McAllister was cited for his brave action in saving an accident victim from a burning car while vacationing in Vermont. For this act of bravery, Firefighter McAllister was nominated for the Carnegie Heroism Award, an esteemed and prestigious national honor bestowed upon a select few who have risked their lives to save others.

Mayor Scott Slifka proclaimed October 24, 2012, Kevin R. McAllister Day in West Hartford and offered the appreciation and thanks from the people of West Hartford for his outstanding service to the community.

Members' Holiday Buffet

We extend an invitation to all members of the West Hartford Legion family to take a break from their holiday shopping and enjoy the Legion's holiday buffet as a guest of Post 96. The buffet will be served from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 16th. Sorry, no guests other than spouse or significant other. Past experience has shown that having a seating reservation system caused more problems than it solved. Thus, the old stand by rule of "First come – First served" will apply. Also, a reminder, "No doggie bags allowed."

Voices of Korean War Veterans

The Department of Defense (DoD) 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee and the GI Film Festival (GIFF) are launching "Heroes Remembered: Voices of Korean War Veterans" — an oral-history video contest for high school students. This project will provide an opportunity for Korean War veterans to tell their personal stories and share their experiences, while educating younger generations about the lessons of the "Forgotten War."

The committee's mission is threefold: to honor the service and sacrifice of Korean War veterans, American service members and their allies who fought heroically to preserve freedom; to commemorate the key events of the war; and to educate the American people about the significance of the war.

The young video makers will create 3-to-5-minute videos to educate, encourage and promote veterans of the Korean War upload the videos to YouTube and send their video links to the submission site. All entries must come from students attending high school in the United States, its territories or a DoD international school.

This is an opportunity to make sure the lessons of the Korean War are not forgotten. Veterans are encouraged to reach out to children and grandchildren, neighbors and other high school students to participate in this project. The submission period for the contest is Oct. 10, 2012, to Feb. 13, 2013.

Any Korean War veteran interested in participating in this project should contact Commander Conlin. If we can get even a few of our members to partake in this project, we will then broadcast a "challenge" to students of Conard and Hall high schools to produce the videos.

Time Change for Post Meetings

Effective with the November Post meeting the starting time for all Post meetings has been changed to 7:00 p.m. (Note: Post meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from September thru June).

Message from the President of Auxiliary Unit 96 New Program Year – New Members – New Goals!

During the unit meetings members will be engaging in different projects. October we'll be preparing our "Poppy Letters", and in November we'll make "Pocket Flags" for deploying troops. We want our community to know who we are, what we stand for, and what we can do for them. To assist us in this goal, the unit is making plans to participate in "Celebrate West Hartford" in the summer of 2013.

We meet at the post on the first Thursday of the month, (except in December), at 6:30 pm. Come early, enjoy dinner, then have fun with your fellow members. If you haven't joined yet, you can pick up an application at Post 96 or download an application from our national website www.ALAforVeterans.org. For more information contact: Jeanne Berry, President Unit #96, cell phone 203-715-2336 or by email at jeanneberry@comcast.net.

Veteran's Day

As Veterans Day this year falls on a Sunday, we have moved the starting time from the traditional hour of 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is out of respect and deference to the First Church of Christ Congregational because of the church's close proximity to the Veterans Memorial. The keynote speaker will be Congressman John Larson.

Improvement in VA Women Veterans Health Service

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has released a report that shows improvement in gender disparities in 12 out of 14 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures in VA since 2008. HEDIS measures are used by 90 percent of America's health plans to measure performance on important dimensions of care and service, such as screening, prevention and chronic disease management. VA consistently scores higher than private sector health care on both gender-specific and gender-neutral HEDIS measures. "We have a solemn obligation to provide high-quality health care to all Veterans, regardless of gender. Although we are encouraged by the progress we have achieved, we are not going to stop working until all gaps are eliminated," said Secretary Eric K. Shinseki.

Post Nominating Committee

Commander Conlin has appointed Past Commanders Andy Battistone, Ray Gmeindl and Ken Hungerford to the Post Nominating Committee and designated Ken Hungerford as the committee chair. The Post Bylaws require the committee to propose a slate of officers at our April post meeting to serve for the coming year. The annual election of Post officers takes place at our May post meeting. Members interested in serving Post 96 are encouraged to contact any member of the Nominating Committee to express their interest in serving Post 96.

Save the Date: Jan. 19, 2013 for a Gala Bingo Party

This is a joint effort by VFW Hannon-Hatch Post 9929 and Post 96 to raise funds for the 143d MP Co. Family Support Group. It will be held in the hall of VFW Post 9929. Admission is \$12 per person. Bingo cards \$2 per game. Tickets will be on sale at Post 96 in December. Your support is needed to help this worthwhile cause.

Update on Chef Kevin

We are pleased to report that the back surgery that Chef Kevin recently underwent was successful. "Keep-up the good work Kevin, we miss you and God speed!"



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Post Scripts Wanted – Military Patches

It has been suggested that we collect and display various military patches that our members might have worn while in the service. The Executive Committee approved the suggestion. We are interested in obtaining military patches from Class A uniform patches to organizational patches which are popular with USAF and US Navy units. Commander Chris Conlin has agreed to be the point of contact for this project. Members wishing to donate patches are asked to identify the patch(es) by their organizational name and send them to Commander Conlin at the Post.

Editor/Publisher of Post Newsletter Needed

The publishing of our Post Newsletter is a “one-man” operation for a person with basic skills in writing, knowledge and competency in MS Publisher and digital photography. It’s a challenging and interesting position and rewarding in the sense of creative accomplishment. Members interested in learning more about this position should contact Commander Chris Conlin.