



Hayes-Velhage Post 96

The American Legion

45 Raymond Road

West Hartford, CT 06107-2211

860.233.9029

www.post96.org

Newsletter

★ FALL - WINTER 2013 ★

Wednesday, Sept. 11 '13 – 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Post Meeting
Installation of Officers

All SAL members are invited to attend meeting.

Saturday, Oct. 5, '13 – 9:00 a.m.

Park Road Parade

Wednesday, Oct. 9, '13 – 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Post Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 23 '13 – 7:00 p.m.

Firefighter of the Year Award

Monday, Nov. 11, '13 – 11:00 a.m.

Veterans Day Ceremony
West Hartford Veterans Memorial

Wednesday, Nov. 13, '13 – 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Post Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 11, '13 – 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Post Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 22, '13 – 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Holiday Buffet

Sorry, no guests. For member and spouse or significant other.

Wednesday, Jan. 9, '14 – 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Post Meeting

Commander's Message

I want to thank Post 96 membership for their confidence in me to lead the Post through the 2013-2014 year ahead. I will do my very best to warrant your confidence. I want to salute our past Commander Chris Conlin for the magnificent performance he carried out during his term as Commander of Post 96. It is unfortunate that Chris, due to health reasons, was unable to seek another term in office. I know all of us wish Chris well to conquer his health status.

★ THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ★

Commander Ken Hungerford
860-906-8135

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

(Commander's Message Continued)

I look forward to working with the Executive Committee, Facilities/Operations Committee, and Finance Committee as well as all appointed committees. I want Post 96 membership to know our officers and committees will provide to you the very best we can to make Post 96 an organization to be proud of.

I hope to see many of you are our Post Meetings, lunch, dinner or just relaxing at our beautiful bar imbibing in your favorite beverage. Get to know our Bar Manager Kim Fallon and her exceptional bartenders, Doug and James. Bring your friends to show-off our outstanding facility at 45 Raymond Road, 2nd floor.

I have stepped up to the Post Commander position in hopes that some of our younger members will consider joining some of our committees or consider handling a Post executive or facility position. There are a number of us who have served this Post for many years and we need younger members to get involved so that the existence of this Post carries on. After all, we do have the most excellent Post in Connecticut.

Comradely yours,
Ken Hungerford
Post Commander



Dr. Rolf Knoll
Veterans Day Keynote Speaker

Retired U.S. Army Colonel, Dr. Rolf Knoll, will be the keynote speaker for the 2013 Veterans Day Ceremony, November 11, 2013, 11:00 a.m. at the West Hartford Veterans Memorial. Dr. Knoll's 25 years with the United States Army included Command of the 405th Combat Support Hospital and Senior Medical Officer for U.S. Forces in the Balkan Theater.

He received his Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from the United States Military Academy, West Point and his Doctor of Medicine from the

University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

Dr. Knoll is a diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine, an inductee into the Order of Military Medical Merit, and a member of the American College of Physicians, the Hartford County Medical Society, the Hartford Medical Society, and the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

Dr. Knoll currently has a private practice in West Hartford specializing in internal medicine.

SAL Members Invited to September Post Meeting

All SAL members are invited to attend the September 11th Post Meeting which will begin at 7:00 P.M. at the Post.

Results Of Post 96 Member Survey

The following are the results of the member survey conducted July, 2013:

Should the Post adopt a "No Smoking" policy?

Yes 191 No 62 Abstain 5

If "Keno" becomes available to Veterans organizations, should the Post pursue this further.

Yes 138 No 111 Abstain 9

Send the Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Newsletter via email or U.S. Mail?

Email 155 U.S. Mail 99 Abstain 4

For members who have internet access, we would ask that you consider receiving the Post 96 letter via email. Electronic delivery of the newsletter significantly reduces the Post's cost for distribution. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send a email message to mfradette@comcast.net to confirm.

The results of the survey will be discussed at the September 11, 2013 Post Meeting.

Welcome To Our New Members

A special welcome to those who have recently joined our Post:

John Almeida * John Chaponis * Russell Duffy * Timothy Floyd * B. T. Jacobs * Dane Kostin * Martin Levitz * John Mastro * Peter Steinle * Richard Wells * Todd Wilson

American Legion Baseball

(Nick Winn and Dennis Hannigan Contributors)

Sr. Legion bows out in first round of State Championships

Post 96 Seniors left 15 on base in the opening round of the state playoffs vs Danielson. The locals were clearly a much better team but hit into three inning ending double plays and just couldn't get the big rally going dropping this heart breaker 6-4 and ending the season with a combined record of 20-7 (zone 15-6).

After winning the Zone 7 title 3 out of the last 4 years, the locals finished in third place behind RCP and Newington in 2013. Dropping a Sunday doubleheader at Newington mid season turned out to be the poster child for how the season was going to go. In years past a 15-6 record would have been a success but after going 21-3, 19-5 and 20-4 the last three seasons, this year seemed like we may have taken a step backwards. Starting pitching was our shortfall this year with key injuries to our number one and two starters left us shorthanded on the bump. Despite the setbacks the kids battled all season and this was one of our better groups of kids, they all jelled and were good kids.

Three players graduated from the program this season, George Lund (Roger Williams), Pat Kearney (Catholic University) and 2012 zone 7 MVP Nick Miceli (Weslyan University) will be missed. A new crop of young players are moving up and the team should be strong for the next few years.

Coaches Rick Sanford (7yrs) Steve Meucci (10yrs) Tom Miceli (8 years) are set to retire from the coaching ranks after the 2013 season. Sanford will remain with the team as a coordinator and help out the new incoming coach as well as current GM Nick Winn. Sanford will remain the ZONE 7 Chairman.

Additional rostered players were: Will Cook (Hall), Jon Greenfield (Hall), Neil Kelly (Hall), Alex White (Conard), Jordan Muchin (Conard), Ben Horowitz (Hall), Max Vogel Freedman (Conard), Dylan Robinson (NWC), Brendan Fox (NWC), Clay Felice (East Catholic), Dan Nunes (Hall).

Jr. Legion Advances to State Quarter-Finals

The Post 96 Jr. Legion baseball team made it to the quarter-finals of the Connecticut state tournament before losing to Zone 8 champion Tolland 2-1 in extra innings. West Hartford advanced to the final 8 tournament by beating Southington and then knocking off the number one seed New London team 2-1 in a thriller at Fitch High School in Groton. Playing in a new combined zone that added Southington and Simsbury to the schedule, West Hartford finished 13 and 8 in the regular season. The 2013 Jr. Legion team included Travis Abrahamsen, Ryan Bell, Brendan Dakin, Sam Dobbins, P.J. Elsner, Henry Fracasso, Carl Francalancia, Jake George, Patrick McHale, P.J. Melly, R. J. Place, Brian Santoro, Reid Silverhart and Josh Singer. The coaching staff consisted of head coach Dennis Hannigan and assistant coaches Greg Damato and Steve Hannigan.

2014 Dues

If you have not yet paid your 2014 dues, they can be sent to the Post at 45 Raymond Road, West Hartford, CT 06107, Attn. Adjutant, or directly to:

Chuck Berry, Adjutant
110 Castle Road
Bristol, CT 06010

Ethan Swain Represents Post 96 at Boys State and Boys Nation

Ethan Swain was selected from Hall High School to attend Boys State as a representative from Post 96. The following is an article he has written on his experiences at Boys State and Boys Nation.



(Ethan Swain seated left)

As I reflect on Boys State and Boys Nation, I honestly can say that these programs were the best educational experiences of my life in that I grew as a person and a citizen.

My name is Ethan Swain and I attend Hall High School, a public high school that houses a student body of approximately 1600, so you can imagine how honored I felt to be named by Hall's faculty to attend American Legion Boys State held on the campus of Eastern Connecticut State University. I, along with over 250 students from Connecticut public and private schools, worked to simulate the operation of state government during our time at Boys State. We were assigned one of two political parties (nationalist and federalist), held elections, presented speeches, and developed platforms. I, a nationalist in the city of Polk, was honored to receive my party's nomination for Attorney General after an adrenaline-filled night with debate flying and wits tested. I also was honored to win the general election for Boys State Attorney General. In addition, we were fortunate to have Chuck Berry as our senior counselor, for the city of Polk distinguished itself with an unprecedented three out of six state officials elected.

Throughout the week, these intense political learning experiences were balanced with guest speakers (including Senator Richard Blumenthal,

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, and former Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz), committee meetings, and highly enjoyable sports periods (Polk: Frisbee 6-0). Like many Boys State delegates, I was not at all anxious for the week to end, and just when I thought the challenging and rewarding experience had come to a close, I learned that I had been selected as one of two boys who would represent Connecticut at Boys Nation.

With the backdrop of Arlington, Virginia and Washington, D.C., Boys Nation majestically set the stage for the simulation of the political process at the federal level. Ninety-eight senators from forty-nine states gathered together for seven awe-inspiring days. Elections were held for Pro Tempore, Secretary, President and Vice President, and bills were placed in committees. A requirement of Boys Nation is for each senator to submit a bill to the American Legion prior to arrival. The process by which a bill passes to the floor involves committee meetings, a description of the bill to the senate, a question and answer period, pro and con opinions, and finally a vote. The day my bill was approved by the senate was one of the most rewarding moments of the week.

When Boys Nation participants weren't debating on the senate floor, the American Legion set an agenda that profoundly affected all the senators. We were exposed to influential speakers, traveled along the hallowed sites of memorials, toured the Capitol and White House, and spent time with our U.S. Senators and the President of the United States.

I remember clearly the solemn darkness of the Vietnam Memorial, the stoic gaze of President Lincoln, and the ritual of the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, but what resounds most notably in my mind are the words of Nese Godin, a holocaust survivor, who while narrating the tragedy of her life, reminded us all of our responsibility to "do the right thing," to live our lives with respect for others and hope for the future. I stand here today a changed person due to Boys State and Boys Nation. I have met people from within Connecticut and the far corners of this large

country who will be my friends for life, and I can't thank the American Legion enough for their planning and executing two amazing experiences that have taught me invaluable lessons about government, history, the greatness of this nation, and the greatness within each of us.

American Legion Post 96 School Awards

Post 96 School Awards for 2013 were presented to West Hartford students who possess high qualities of Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship, and Service. The 2013 recipients were: Conard High School, Sarah Allen, School Award, Emily Tuite, Honorable Mention; Hall High School, Keilani Lai-Hipp, School Award, David Dobrynin, Honorable Mention; American School for the Deaf, Christian Collazo, School Award, Keiondra Hurt, Honorable Mention; Northwest Catholic, Alison Connors, School Award, Elizabeth Lathrop, Honorable Mention.

Recipients of School Awards for the Middle Schools were: Bristow Middle School, Sierra Lyles, Medal, James Doar, Certificate; King Philip Middle School, Jose Vasquez, Medal, Charlotte Apter, Certificate; Sedgwick Middle School, Jeff Remy, Medal.

American Legion Auxiliary

(Jeanne Berry, Contributor)

YEAH! It is time to begin our American Legion Auxiliary programs for 2014. With our first meeting on September 3, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the post, we will cover our agenda, programs, and goals for the year. Monthly meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday at 6:30 pm with the exception of November the meeting will be on Wed the 6th due to election day.

We ended last year with 3 awards at the Department Convention. Our American Legion Post generously donated the cost for us to send three local High School girls to Laurel Girls State (one of our popular programs) in June. Melissa Nenninger, Billie Jefferson, and Hailey Townsend had the time of their life learning about government. Someday our Boy Staters and Girl Staters could be running our towns and country.

THANK YOU for being a part of the nation's largest non-profit organization for veterans. Membership cards for 2014 will be available at the meeting. You don't have to wait for your mailing. The dues are \$25.00. It's the first increase in over 10 years. It's still a small amount to repay our veterans for what they've done for us. It comes out to .068 cents per day for a year. Your dues pay for our programs to assist our veterans, their families and our community.

If you know someone that may want to join our cause, applications are available at the post bar.

Unit, Department, and National communications will be sent via email. If you wish to receive these emails or just have a question send your email address to President Jeanne at: jeanneberry@comcast.net. No addresses will be forwarded to anyone else. All communications are exclusively for auxiliary business purposes only. For those who don't use email, a postcard will be mailed for major announcements.

Come Visit Your Post

Kim Fallon, our Club Manager, would like to extend an invitation to all members to visit the Post for some outstanding food. Support our Post and dine at 45 Raymond Road.

	Bar	Kitchen
Sunday	Noon to 6 pm	Closed
Monday – Friday	11:30 am to 11:00 pm	11:30 am to 2:00 pm 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Saturday	4:00 pm to 11:00 pm	5:00 pm to 8:00 pm



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Chris Conlin Selected As Connecticut Department American Legion Outstanding Post Commander

The Connecticut Department of the American Legion has awarded the Louis E. Molinaro Plaque to Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Post Commander Chris Conlin as the most outstanding Post Commander for 2013. The award was presented July 11 at the State Convention of The American Legion in Rocky Hill.

Thank you Chris for your outstanding leadership.