

Hayes-Velhage Post 96

The American Legion

45 Raymond Road

West Hartford, CT 06107-2211

860.233.9029

www.post96.org

★ *Newsletter* ★

★ Winter 2014-15 ★

Wednesday, Dec. 10, '14 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 14, '14 – 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Holiday Buffet Sorry, no guests. For member and spouse or significant other.
Wednesday, Jan. 14, '15 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 11, '15 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Mar. 11, '15 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Apr. 8, '15 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting

Commander's Message

Another Post 96 season is underway with the normal activities taking place. I sincerely hope you Legionnaires of Post 96 have your copy of the newsletter visible somewhere in your home wherein you can look at it often to keep you updated as to meetings and other functions.

I want to discuss the October 6th Park Road Parade where Post 96 had the honor of stepping-off as the 3rd Division of the parade with Post 96 Honor Guard leading. Our Honor Guard again distinguished themselves with their stupendous performance. I tip my hat to them.

However, my only regret is that only 3 marching Legionnaires and one Son of a Legionnaire showed up to march behind Post 96 Honor Guard (Jeff Cole, Bob Hyland, Mark Gallagher, and myself). This, to me, was very embarrassing when right behind us were 15 CT Korean Veterans Association Members marching. I cannot believe with a membership of 430 members plus that 15 to 20 Legionnaires could not make an effort to participate to show the community that we are proud to march. After all, a good part of Post 96 activities interact with the Town of West Hartford

★ THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ★

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(Commander's Message Continued)

In regards to participating comrades, this is your Post. It appears to me that your interest to become involved or even visiting the Post to have lunch or supper is non-existent. This really perplexes me. Post 96 has the lowest beer, wine, and liquor prices in Blue Back Square. Even our menu meal prices beat most restaurants in town.

Unless we begin to see a turnaround from members and friends with more frequency of use within this beautiful facility some hard decisions concerning this facility's ability to sustain itself will have to be made down the road in the near future.

I would like to recognize and compliment a few Legionnaires for loyal efforts in various Post 96 activities who give of their time to get things done. Dave Albert, Brendan Boyle, Jeff Cole, Moe Fradette, Dan Smith, Bob Hyland, Kim Fallon, Larry Taylor, Dick Hennessey, Greg Stevens, and Jeanne Berry. I tip my hat to you guys.

Comradely yours,
Ken Hungerford
Post Commander

Welcome To Our New Members

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

Aaron Asimakopoulos * Roman Baca * Donald Ellis * Mark Kotyla * Blake Leonard * Louis Luba* Paul Small * Peter Stevens * Michael Touhy * David Wall, Jr.

American Legion Auxiliary

(Jeanne Berry, Contributor)

~ *THANK YOU* ~ *THANK YOU* ~ *THANK YOU*
To everyone that donated to the "Poppy Drive"

Because of your generosity, we can continue to support auxiliary programs for veterans such as, the Christmas Shops, Stand Down, Project of the Month, and help provide for our veterans, troops, and military families.

Your American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 96 has been busy. Programs are in progress and we have planned some fundraisers. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. January 30, 2015 is "Movie Night". Tickets are available at the bar. During December and January meetings, we will be making valentines for Rocky Hill and West Haven Hospitals.

If you can't make a meeting, you can do things at home. Save pull tabs from cans, box tops, and Campbell Soup labels. Bag them and give to the bartender. Keep track of bags and approx. value when donating clothes, shoes, or household items. Give list to bartender by May 5, 2015.

Membership cards for 2015 are available at each meeting. You can make check of \$25.00 to ALA Unit #96, give to the bartender or mail to Jeanne Berry 110 Castle Road Bristol, CT 06010-5301. Your dues help the Auxiliary's Voice be heard in Congress when issues arise. Applications are available at the post bar.

We "*WELCOME*" our new senior members, so far this year are; June Marie Benigno, Kelly A Claffey, Rita B Maloney, April L Smith, Jennifer L Smith, and our new junior member, Sloane F Smith.

The Preamble of the American Legion Auxiliary very clearly states part of our mission is to:

"To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of the American Legion."

Visit www.alaforveterans.org for more info or contact President Jeanne at 203-715-2336 jeanneberry@comcast.net . God Bless America Thank You.

2014 Installation of Officers

Chuck Woodin, District 1 Commander, Connecticut Department, conducted the installation of officers at the September 10th monthly meeting of Post 96. Commander Woodin and other members of the Connecticut Department were present as 2014-15 Officers of Hayes-Velhage post 96 were installed. Officers installed:

Commander	Ken Hungerford
Sr. Vice Commander	Moe Fradette
Jr. Vice Commander	Dan Smith
Finance Officer	Dick Hennessey
Judge Advocate	Bob Hyland
Chaplain	Barry Leghorn
Executive Committee	Jeff Cole



Chuck Woodin, Commander, District 1.

Veterans Day November 11, 2014

(Reprint from we-ha.com by Ronni Newton)



Post 96 Jr. Vice Commander Dan Smith, host for event.

Veterans gathered Tuesday, November 11th, with state and local civic leaders at the Connecticut Veterans Memorial in West Hartford Center for the town's annual Veterans Day ceremony.

The ceremony is held each year at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, the time and date that marks the cessation of fighting in World War I in 1918. Veterans Day was originally celebrated as "Armistice Day," but now "we honor all American veterans of all wars," said American Legion Vice Commander Dan Smith of Hayes-Velhage Post 96, as he welcomed the crowd that gathered in West Hartford Center.

Guest speaker Command Sergeant Major James Peter M. Matthews, USAR 76th Operational Response Command, said that this year's Veterans Day ceremony should honor not only active duty and retired veterans, but also recognize "Blue Star" family members "for the burdens they shoulder while we are deployed," and "Gold Star" family members who "have sacrificed so much."



CSM James Peter M. Matthews was the keynote speaker at the 2014 West Hartford Veterans Day Ceremony at Connecticut Veterans Memorial. Photo credit: Ronni Newton

"Thank you for your sacrifice. You are not alone," Matthews said. "On this Veterans Day it is a privilege to share the honor with 236 West Hartford heroes," Matthews said, referencing the 236 members of the Armed Services from West

(Veterans Day continued)

Hartford who gave the ultimate sacrifice and whose names appear on the Veterans Memorial.

Matthews said that the military “has always been the strength of our nation,” and that it’s also critically important to provide continued care for members of the military.

West Hartford Town Council Minority Leader Denise Berard-Hall told the story of a Vietnam veteran who received the Medal of Honor for remarkable courage. “We are so fortunate that this country produces heroes ... and continues to inspire heroes.” Hall also thanked not only veterans but also their families for their courage and commitment.

“Most Americans profess to truly love our veterans, especially on days like this ... but it’s important to remember them 365 days a year,” said State Rep. Joe Verrengia. “I have two words: thank you. That’s what today is all about,” Verrengia said.



Veterans and families of veterans pose for a group photo following the 2014 West Hartford Veterans Day Ceremony at Connecticut Veterans Memorial. Photo credit: Ronni Newton

State Sen. Beth Bye said, “I also want to thank our veterans for their service to each other when they get home.” Bye said it’s important to ensure that we

provide safe places for veterans, so they can continue to receive care and help each other “once the battle is done.”

West Hartford Mayor Scott Slifka said that he believes one of the reasons the country is so divided today is because so few serve in the military and truly understand what it takes to protect and serve this nation. “Ninety-nine percent of us don’t live with deployment or fear of deployment to a war zone.”

Slifka said that his grandfather, who is now 97, speaks of the country’s sense of national unity in the past as coming from a belief “that the whole country was in this together.” Slifka said that in order to “move forward with unity,” in the future he would love to see reinstatement of the draft or some form of national service, as well as a commitment to not fund military action without also having the budget to provide housing and services to family members.

The Veterans Day ceremony concluded with placement of a memorial wreath by Slifka and Matthews, and the sounding of “Taps” by Peter Roe of the American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96.



Peter Roe, Hayes-Velhage Post 96

Dick Hennessey Recognized by Connecticut Department

The Soilders' Sailors' and Marines' fund of Connecticut presented Dick Hennessey the Commissioner of Meritorious Award at the September 10th meeting of Hayes-Velhage Post 96. The Connecticut Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund was established in 1919 to assist needy wartime veterans and their families. It is administered by the American Legion in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 27-138 and 27-140, and is governed under the Bylaws of the American Legion Department of Connecticut.



Chuck Berry, Treasurer, Connecticut Department, presents Commissioner of Meritorious to Dick Hennessey.



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events and menu specials at the Post. Email addresses are only used for Post announcements and are NOT shared outside our Post. Send us your email today!

Happenings At Post 96

Have you tried the *Fish and Chips*? The last Friday of each Month the menu special for lunch and dinner is the best *Fish and Chips* in town. And starting February 20, 2015, there will be a *Fish and Chips* special every Friday during lent. Don't miss this great special!



Post Christmas Dinner Sunday, December 14, 2015.

There are two times available for the dinner, 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm. Call the Post to make your reservation.

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

The Post will close at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed Christmas Day. The Post will also close at 4:00 pm New Years Eve and will be closed New Years Day.

Also, don't forget to check the Post website, www.post96.org, for other dinner specials and events at the Post.

	Bar	Kitchen
Sunday	Noon to 6 pm	Closed
Mon.-Tues	4:00 pm to 11:00 pm	5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Wed. - Fri.	11:30 am to 11:00 pm	11:30 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday	4:00 pm to 11:00 pm	5:00 pm to 8:00 pm



We love Post 96! Come join us!



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