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# Hayes-Velhage Post 96 The American Legion

45 Raymond Road  
West Hartford, CT 06107-2211

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www.post96.org

## Newsletter

### ★ WINTER 2013-14 ★

Wednesday, Dec. 11, '13 – 7:00 p.m. Monthly Post Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 15, '13 – 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Holiday Buffet

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

Wednesday, Jan. 8, '14 – 7:00 p.m. Monthly Post Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 12, '14 – 7:00 p.m. Monthly Post Meeting

Wednesday, Mar. 12, '14 – 7:00 p.m. Monthly Post Meeting

Wednesday, Apr. 9, '14 – 7:00 p.m. Monthly Post Meeting

### Commander's Message

With the most highlighted holiday seasons on our doorstep, I wish each and all of you my very best expressions of good times with family and friends.

Before I get into Post 96 activities past and present, I want to acknowledge my apology I made to Bernadette Capella, one of our bartenders, for leaving her name out in our Fall-Winter newsletter. Sorry Bernie, just an oversight.

Hats off to "Bernie" Capella for running a golf tournament on September 25, 2013 for Legion members and friends. It was a huge success as Bernie donated \$200 to the Post to help Homeless Veterans Fund.

There were several highlights of activities during the Fall season I would like to review:

1. Installation of new officers presided by our Adjutant Chuck Berry.
2. Non smoking survey results were 3 to 1 in favor of non smoking.

★ THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ★

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

(Commander's Message Continued)

Discussion of the non smoking policy was held at the October Post meeting. A special committee was formed to reach a possible solution. The committee was headed by Moe Fradette, Sr. Vice Commander.

3. On October 5<sup>th</sup>, Post 96 Honor Guard along with 6 Legion Members participated in the Park Road Parade. Our Honor Guard performed magnificently receiving tremendous applause from the huge crowd.

4. The Board of Trustees has voted to implement a Non Smoking Policy for the Post on a trial basis beginning January 1 2014. The trial will be conducted for a period of 90 days during which the Board will monitor the impact of the policy on the Post especially in terms of revenue from the Lounge. At the end of the trial, the Board will assess whether the Policy should become permanent or whether the Post should revert back to the present policy of allowing smoking in the lounge area only.

5. At the October 9<sup>th</sup> Monthly Post Meeting, 11 new members were initiated as Post 96 members. The ceremony was performed by the Department of Connecticut American Legion Initiation Team. Congratulations!

6. Past Post Commander Chris Conlin was recognized for his selection by the Dept. of CT American Legion as Post Commander of the Year (2012-2013). Chris was also recognized for reaching 100% plus membership goal (2012-2013). You deserve the recognition Chris!

7. Sr. Vice Commander Moe Fradette was appointed Master of Ceremonies for the Veterans Day ceremonies in West Hartford Center at the CT Veterans Memorial.

8. Fighter of the Year Award was rescheduled to May 1, 2014 at the request of the Chief of the West Hartford Fire Department.

9. I feel our membership should salute our comrade Frank Gallagher for his tireless efforts handling the role of Office Manager every Monday thru Friday from 8:30 AM until 1:00 PM. He has handled the telephone calls, deliveries, problems, mail, and reservations for Post 96. Frank deserves our utmost accolades for a job well done.

Comradely yours,  
Ken Hungerford  
Post Commander

## Welcome To Our New Members

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

Robert Battistini \* Chris Ford \* Anthony Gabriele \* Henry Mahier \* Eric Nickerson \* George Politis

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## Initiation 2013



The Post held an initiation ceremony on October 9, 2013 at the monthly Post meeting. The ceremony was conducted by Joe Jackson, National Executive Committee (pictured left) and Connecticut Department members Everett Shepard, ADJ, Dennis Beauregard, District Commander and Boyd Saxon,

PDC. The ceremony emphasizes the four great principles of the American Legion, justice, freedom, democracy, and freedom. An explanation of the principles and symbols of the American Legion was presented to each new member before they were asked to assume responsibility of membership.



The following members were initiated: Ken Carpenter \* Frank Costello \* Timothy Floyd \* Bud Jacobs \* Ellis Larson \* Charles Mayer \* Jack Moshier \* Austin Page \* Michael Seder \* Daniel Suppin \* William Tacy.

## 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

Dues can also be paid online at “myLegion.org” and selecting the “Members” link.

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## DD 214

If you have not submitted a copy of your DD 214 or equivalent to the Post, we ask that you forward a copy as soon as possible. It is imperative we have a copy of every member's discharge document to be compliant with IRS regulations.

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## American Legion Auxiliary

(Jeanne Berry, Contributor)

To everyone that donated to our “Poppy Drive”

~ *THANK YOU* ~ *THANK YOU* ~ *THANK YOU* ~

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 troops, and military families.

Your American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 96 is growing larger and stronger. Programs are in progress and we are doing fundraisers. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. November is “Movie Night”. December and January we will be making valentines for Rocky Hill and West Haven Hospitals. If you have time, stop in for a few minutes.

If you can't make a meeting, you can do these things at home. Save pull tabs from cans, box tops, and Campbell Soup labels. Bag them and give to the bartender. Keep track of number of bags and approx.

value when donating clothes, shoes, or household items. Give list to bartender by May 15, 2014.

Membership cards for 2014 are available at each meeting. If you haven't received your renewal notice, 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 support our programs to assist our veterans, their families and the community. If you know someone that may want to join our cause, applications are available at the post bar or online. We should strive for 4+ new members each year.

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](mailto: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. Visit [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) for more info or contact President Jeanne at 203-715-2336 [jeanneberry@comcast.net](mailto:jeanneberry@comcast.net). THANK YOU

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## Legion Christmas Party

The Date of the Legion Christmas Party is Sunday, December 15th. The holiday buffet will be for members and spouse or significant other. You must RSVP! Please call the post 860-233-9029 by December 8th to choose your seating time. You may choose 2pm, 3pm or 4pm. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Holiday Hours for the Post

The Post will close on the following days and times:

Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Eve 4:00 pm  
Christmas Day  
New Years Even 4:00 pm  
New Years Day



## Veterans Benefits for 2014

The West Hartford Assessors Office offers several veterans benefits. Information regarding benefits can be obtained at the Assessors Office or online at [http://www.westhartford.org/living\\_here/town\\_departments/assessment\\_office/veterans\\_benefits.php](http://www.westhartford.org/living_here/town_departments/assessment_office/veterans_benefits.php).

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## Legion Golf Tournament



(Bernie Cappella Tournament Organizer)

The first annual Legion Golf Tournament was held September 25<sup>th</sup> at Buena Vista Golf Course in West Hartford. Tournament organizer Bernie Cappella had a fabulous tournament and raised \$200 to benefit the Post Homeless Veterans Fund.



## Veterans Day Luncheon

A special *Thank You* to the Connecticut Police Work Dog Association for sponsoring the Veterans Day Luncheon at Hayes-Velhage Post 96. It was greatly appreciated by all who attended.

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## Park Road Parade

American Legion Post 96 participated in the 2013 Park Road Parade held on October 5<sup>th</sup>.





## *Views from the Post*

Veterans Day 2013



Commander Hungerford at Conard High School



Post members at Hall High School.



Veterans Day Ceremony



Post Honor Guard



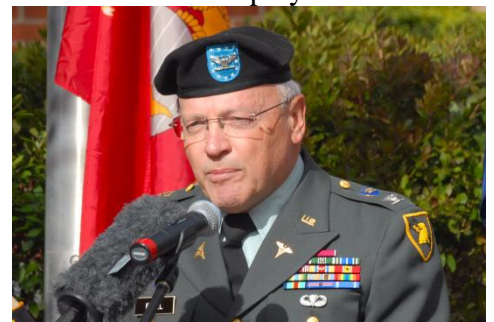
Post Member Peter Roe plays TAPS



King Phillip Middle School Singers



Wreath Placement Ceremony



Guest Speaker Colonel Rolf Knoll



Veterans Luncheon at Post 96



Mayor Scott Slifka



Post Members at Charter Oak  
International Academy



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