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# Hayes-Velhage Post 96 The American Legion

45 Raymond Road  
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## Newsletter

### ★ Winter 2015 - 2016 ★

Wednesday, Dec. 9, '15 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 13, '15 – 2:00. & 3:30 p.m.	Holiday Buffett
Sorry, no guests. For member and spouse or significant other. You must call Post to reserve a time.	
Wednesday, Jan. 13, '16 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Fri – Sun, Jan. 29-31, '16	CT Department Mid-Winter Conference, Trumbull, CT
Wednesday, Feb. 10, '16 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Mar. 9, '16 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Apr. 13, '16 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting Nomination of Officers
Wednesday, May 11, '16 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting Election of Officers
Wednesday, May 25, '16 – 7:00 p.m.	Police Officer of the Year

#### Commander's Message

Dear Comrades and Members of our Legion Family,

I would like to thank all Post members of who spent time during the Veterans Day week visiting our schools and retirement communities. It's important that our message of service is heard in our community, especially

★ THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ★

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

## Hayes-Velhage Post 96 ★ NEWSLETTER ★ Fall-Winter 2015

(Commander's Message Continued)

to students enrolled in our schools. We will continue to make every effort to promote the American Legion story through our community involvement surrounding the Four Pillars of the American Legion.

As we approach the New Year I want our Post to focus on recruiting new members. If you know of someone who is a Veteran and meets the eligibility requirements for membership, please reach out to them and ask them to consider joining. A great recruiting tool is to bring them to the Post for lunch or dinner and let them see the beautiful Post home we have, one of the best in the entire country.

I am pleased to announce that Roman Baca, Editor of our Newsletter, has accepted the position of Adjutant of Post 96. Roman has been instrumental in establishing our Facebook page and our Twitter page. This new direction, we feel, will help promote Hayes-Velhage Post 96 in our community. Please check this edition of the Newsletter for additional information on how you can help promote our mission through these social media.

If you have not visited the Post recently I would encourage you to do so. We have a new cook, Joe Pajak, and he's working some magic in the kitchen creating great menu specials.

As we approach the holiday season let us remember and ask God's blessing on the men and women who serve our country and will be away from their families during this season. I thank you for your support and wish you Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year.

Fraternally,  
Moe Fradette  
Commander

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### American Legion Auxiliary

(Jeanne Berry, Contributor)

Your American Legion Auxiliary Unit # 96 wishes to express their **Deepest Gratitude** to everyone that

has contributed to the annual "Poppy Drive". Together we are enriching lives of veterans and active military. Your donations make a tremendous difference.

Congratulations are in order for newly elected unit officers. *Chaplain Rita Kirby and Sergeant-at-Arms Bernadette Capella* were installed during October's meeting. These outstanding ladies have been doing these jobs for some time. Now they officially have the title. They are truly an asset to the unit.

Unit meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 6:00 pm at the post from Nov to May. June TBA later. Membership dues for 2016 are due now. 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. Unit Goal is 55, we're at 18. We were 100% last year. National goal is to have over 1 million members by 2019. We did it before, we can do it again. The American Legion Auxiliary is again offering female American Legion Legionnaires their first year of ALA membership at no cost. Applications are available at the post bar.

The Christmas Shops for Rocky Hill begins 11/28/15 and West Haven starts on 12/05/15. Anyone that would like to help with the set up or decorating, or shopping or wrapping gifts, please contact Director Ruth Morgan 203-387-2305. Even 1 hour would be appreciated.

Thank You to everyone for bringing in pull tabs from cans that turn into wheel chairs & those box top points and Campbell Soup labels that turn into scholarships & grants for veteran's families. Bag them & give to the bartender.

"Movie Night" will be announced soon. Check the bulletin board.

May we forever be thankful for our freedoms given to us by all veterans and active military. Enjoy your Holidays & May God Bless.

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) . **God Bless America**

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## Dr. Michael Gutman Guest Speaker on Veterans Day



Retired U.S. Army Lt. Colonel and Post 96 member, Dr. Michael Gutman, was the guest speaker for the 2015 Veterans Day Ceremony at the Connecticut Veterans Memorial West Hartford.

Dr. Gutman volunteered to join the US Army reserves shortly after 9/11 and received his commission as a Major on June 4, 2002. Over the next 6 years he was deployed 3 times to combat zones, twice to Iraq and once to Bosnia. He was part of the 405<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital based in West Hartford and was the commander of the 947<sup>th</sup> Forward Surgical Team for 3 years. On his first deployment to Iraq, Dr. Gutman served as the Battalion Surgeon at Abu Ghraib prison in '03-'04.

His second deployment was as Chief Medical Officer for the US contingent for the NATO forces based at Eagle Base in Tuzla, Bosnia in '05-'06, and his final deployment was in Mosul in the waning days of the Iraq war in '08-'09 where he served as Chief of the Emergency Department in the 345<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital.

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## Jerry Blum Elected as National Commander of Jewish War Veterans

Our congratulations to Hayes-Velhage Post 96 member Jerry Blum on his election as the National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the

USA. Jerry has been a member of the American Legion for over 35 years.

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## William Walter Receives Appointment to West Point



Congratulations are in order for William Walter, son of Post 96 Service Officer Shelly Walter, on his appointment from U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Mr. Walter is currently a cadet candidate (CC) at the United States Military Preparatory School (USMAPS) class of 2016.

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## Jason Preuss Honored As Firefighter Of The Year



Firefighter Jason Preuss of the West Hartford Fire Department was honored as Firefighter of the Year by Hayes-Velhage Post 96 on October 28, 2015. Joined by over 40 of his fellow firefighters, Preuss received the award and a proclamation from the West



Hartford Town Council designating October 28, 2015 as Firefighter Jason Preuss Day. Mayor Scott Slifka read the proclamation and stated, "Firefighter Preuss demonstrated his dedication to his profession by responding to traffic accident and administering medical assistance while off duty."

In his remarks Fire Chief Gary Allyn stated Preuss has been a firefighter with the Town Of West Hartford for over 3 years, beginning his career eighteen years ago as a volunteer firefighter with the Bolton Fire Department until being hired in 2010 by the city of New London as a career firefighter. In 2010 he graduated from the Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit Class 46. In 2012, he was hired by the town of West Hartford and was promoted to apparatus operator on February 1, 2015.

## Janet Fournier and Freddy Ortiz Awarded *Certificate of Appreciation* by Hayes-Velhage Post 96



Hayes-Velhage Post 96 awarded a *Certificate of Appreciation* on Veterans Day to Janet Fournier of Charter Oak International Academy for her years of service recognizing Veterans on Veterans Day. Each year area Veterans receive an invitation from Janet for the ceremony which is done by the students of Charter Oak International Academy. Janet is also a member of the West Hartford Veterans Commission.

## Avon High School Crew Team Donates to Post 96



Rocky Goodwin and Brendan Boyle

The students of Avon High School Crew recently raised \$542 to donate to the American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96. They raised money to purchase a new 8-person racing shell in a campaign called "Ribbons of Hope."

The campaign allowed them to raise enough money to buy the boat along with raising money for several charities. The presentations were made September 26<sup>th</sup> at Avon Days. Post 96 thanks the Avon High School Crew for their generous gift and wishes them many victories with their new boat.



Hayes-Velhage Post 96 awarded a *Certificate of Appreciation* November 7, 2015 to Freddy Ortiz, Supervisor of Fairview Cemetery. Each Memorial Day and Veterans Day volunteers place flags on the graves of Veterans buried in Fairview Cemetery. This year, prior to placement of flags, Freddy was recognized by Post 96 for his continuing dedication and support of the event and Veteran activities at the cemetery. Freddy's family have for years donated the flags that are used to acknowledge Veterans.

## American Legion Baseball

(Ken Hungerford, Commissioner)



### Post 96 Senior Team

Elliot Lane, 2015 head coach of the Senior Team has retired from coaching after 8 years of outstanding leadership of our American Legion Baseball team. The new head coach for the 2016 Senior team will be Jim Hungerford. Jim has a long and successful baseball history as both a player and coach. He played in town youth baseball programs for 5 years and Conard High School for 3 years. On the collegiate level he played 4 years for Fairleigh Dickinson College. His coaching career includes WHYBL for 24 years including 10 championship seasons. He also coached the Farmington/Vanis League for 3 years winning a championship in each.

The 2016 Senior Team has 12 players returning, 5 of which are college eligible players. If all players return there will still be 6 openings available on the Senior Team.

### Post 96 Junior Team

The coach for 2016 Junior Team has not been announced as of this date. Dennis Hannigan, the 2015 coach, is unable to continue as head coach but will assist, time permitting, the new coach of the Junior Team.

### Post 96 Prep Team

The 2016 Prep Team will be coached by Rick Sanford.

With all this outstanding coaching and baseball talent Post 96 looks for to another outstanding season of American Legion Baseball.

## Americanism Events Veterans Day 2015

(Jeff Cole Contributor)

Hayes-Velhage Post 96 had an extremely busy schedule this Veterans Day with participation by many Post members at events throughout our community. If you did not have an opportunity to participate, please give consideration to joining fellow veterans next year.

### The following is a partial list of events attend:

Jamoke Academy, Blue Hills Avenue, Hartford, CT  
Elmwood Senior Center, West Hartford.

Hughes Health Care facility, South Highland Street, West Hartford.

Color Guard attended Salute to Veterans program at King Philip Middle School for a ceremony.

Duffy Elementary School

Conard High School

Hall High School

Charter Oak International

Bristow Middle School, "Voices of Bristow" sang National Anthem at West Hartford Veterans Day Ceremony

Lunch at Post for all Veterans sponsored by the PK-9 Police Dog and Officers Association.

Avery Heights Health Care Facility, News Britain Ave, Hartford 12 November,

Fellowship Housing, Starkel Road, West Hartford.

Batchelder Elementary School, New Britain Ave, Hartford

I would like to thank all the Legionnaires who participated in the Veterans Day events at the schools and Healthcare facilities. It means a lot to the Veterans and the students to have an appreciation for what we have provided.



## Discounted Tickets for Members to BTC's *The Nutcracker*



Roman Baca, member of Post 96 and BTC's Artistic Director and US Marine War Veteran presents a traditional interpretation of *The Nutcracker* with recognition and support of the brave men and women that serve our country. BTC's production of *The Nutcracker* keeps the cherished story of Clara and the Nutcracker alive while including elements of the military.

Post 96 members and their families are eligible for a military discount which BTC proudly offers for the Friday night performance at the University of Saint Joseph's Hoffman Auditorium. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at <http://www.dancebtc.org> or by calling 860-570-0440.

### Performance Dates:

- Thursday, December 18 at 6:30pm
- Friday, December 19 at 7:30pm
- Saturday, December 20 at 1:00pm and 5:30pm
- Sunday, December 21 at 1:00pm and 4:30pm

## Annual Holiday Buffet

Our Holiday Buffett will be held Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> with sittings at 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The Buffett is for member and spouse or significant other. You must call the Post to reserve a time.

## Pat Harrell performs at the Post and for Veteran's Day



Patrick Harrell is a computer application developer, promoter, and trainer.

Raised a Navy 'brat', Pat lived in numerous towns, and attended many schools. By his high school years, when the family's movement pace had slowed down a bit, he still managed the 4-years with attendance in three schools, in three states.

Hartford became his home, after 4 years of college at UConn, a brief stint in the Marine Corps, and the decision not to follow his father's nautical career. At the October Post meeting Pat embodied the life of a Connecticut Civil War Soldier, documenting the life and battles in the form of a one-act spoken dialogue piece.

In November in honor of Veteran's Day, Pat also performed the role of the soldier at a Veteran's Day performance at the Hartford Public Library. He has prepared several dialogues for high schools that cover several wars including the Civil War and Vietnam War.

If you know a school that would like a performance by Pat please send an email to Roman Baca at [romanfbaca@gmail.com](mailto:romanfbaca@gmail.com).



## Have you paid your 2016 dues?

If you have not paid your 2016 dues we ask that you please pay them before December 15, 2015. Any dues paid after January 1, 2016 will cost Post 96 an additional \$5.00 as National dues will increase on that date. Dues can be paid online at <http://www.legion.org> select "Renew Your Membership" from the home page. Dues can also be mailed to Post Adjutant at:

Chuck Berry  
110 Castle Road  
Bristol, CT 06010

Thank you for your membership in Hayes-Velhage Post 96.

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## Find us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter

The best place to see photos from meetings and events, catch up on Legion News, and hear about daily specials and fish and chips night is on social media.

Like us on Facebook and Twitter and ask your family and friends to follow us as well.



**facebook.com/  
AmericanLegionPost96**



**@LegionPost96**

## Have You Met Joe?

### GRAB YOUR MESS KIT



### GOURMET CHOW AT THE LEGION

Have you met our new cook Joe Pajak? Joe recently joined the Post 96 staff and has been creating some wonderful specials for lunch and dinner. He recently had a special "*Italian Night*" which, according to those who attended, was "fantastic". Joe will be doing some additional special dinners so stay tuned and watch for the announcements in email and on our Facebook page.

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

Please note the Post will close at 4 pm Christmas Eve day and will be closed on Christmas day. The Post will also close at 4 pm on New Years Eve day and will be closed New Years Day.

Don't forget the Post provides up to 3 hours of free parking in the Isham Street Garage. Bring your parking ticket with you for validation.



**We love Post 96! Come join us**



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The American Legion  
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