



SMOKE

Billy Caldwell
Post 806
Chicago, Illinois

SIGNALS



We're on theWeb at: <http://www.post806.org>

2020 Edition – Issue 1

January / February / March 2020

Commander's Message

Peter Hirt (708) 828 - 7383

Brothers and sisters of the American Legion Billy Caldwell family, I send greetings and salutations! I hope you all have slipped through the winter without incident.

The last few months of the 2020 Legion membership drive may pass faster than we want. At a little more than 84% membership, we should be asking all the people we meet about being a member in the largest Veterans service organization in the world. The new eligibility requirements could be a great way to increase our membership.

The remaining meetings of the year we will try to make in different locations. The library, police station and possibly the church. I have asked 9th District Commander Dale to use his exceptional talent to arrange for this to happen.

I look forward to seeing all of you and sharing the company of family. God bless!

CHAPLAIN

Gregg Weghorst (773) 282 - 3923

Blessings to all,

Please mark your calendars to attend **District Everlasting Ceremonies** at 7:30 pm on March 25 at the Italian American Veterans Museum, 3800 Division St., Stone Park II., 60165. At this meeting we will be remembering our fellow Legionnaires and Auxiliary who have passed during the last year.

Also, remember that your communication with the Post is vital in our efforts to keep in touch. We will make every attempt to pray for or with; visit or in some way try our best to let our Billy Caldwell Post family know that we care if they are in spiritual need as we also keep our service men and women, past and present, in our prayers always.

SENIOR VICE – COMMANDER

Gregg Weghorst (773) 282 - 3923

Well, as the new year progresses we have pretty **good news to report** about membership. We are at 87% thus far. However, we still have a ways to go before we are where we should be. Please, let's do get our dues in! Also, since our eligibility dates have expanded, so many more veterans can (and should) join the American Legion.

Billy Caldwell Post 806 is known for our community involvement in the Portage Park, Belmont-Central, Jefferson Park and other Chambers of Commerce. We are also well represented at the Chicago Police Department's 16th & 25th Districts; many of the Chicago Public Library branches, and of course the public and private elementary and high schools on the northwest side. In addition, we have a regular presence at two retirement communities **and there is so much more!** As "Spring 2020" approaches, let's grow our membership and service to the community by introducing more of our friends, neighbors and families to Billy Caldwell Post 806.

See you at the next meeting!

JUNIOR VICE – COMMANDER

Jim Kostka (224) 766 - 0094

My Comrades . Hope everyone can hold on for a little while longer , Spring is just around the corner. With hope of warmer days , we will be able to get out and hopefully attend Our POST MEETINGS as our return meeting at St. Paul's is only a few weeks away . Hopefully you remembered to " BUDDY CHECK " your neighbors and Veterans in your area . It will be time again soon for our POST MEETING / LUNCHEON once again . I will have more information as I arrange a date for this special meeting .

Stay warm, stay safe, hoping to see you at our meeting on March 14th.

President's Message

Mary Collado
(847) 294-6517

Hello members of Billy Caldwell. I hope everyone is doing well. This year we are celebrating 100 years of The American Legion Auxiliary.

I would like to thank all of you that have paid your dues and made us 100% again this year. That is great!

This year the eligibility changed to join The American Legion, with that being said, anyone that served in the Military since 1941 and is currently active or received an honorable discharge is eligible to join now. That opens the door to more members for both The American Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons. Also with the changes came male spouses of Veterans are also eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary.

It has been an extremely busy year this year as I have been traveling the state of Illinois with our own Department President Sue Cunniff Coughlin. In January we traveled with the American Legion Family Membership Caravan and visited many Posts throughout the state. We collected membership along the way.

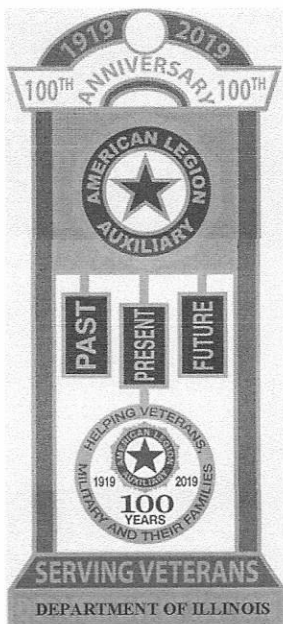
March 20th and 21st we will be attending the Patriotic Conference in Bloomington Normal. We would like to see our members come out and join us in the festivities and support our Department President Sue. The night before Patriotic Conference on March 19th there will be an open

house and birthday party at our Department Headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois. Our National President Nicole Clapp will be on hand along with our Leadership teams to meet and greet with our members. Come out and join us. We would love to see all of you. At Patriotic Conference we will have great speakers. Come out for the day or join us for the entire weekend.

We need to keep working on membership. With the new changes we should be able to find more members. Ask your friends and neighbors and even coworkers. This year with the changes my brother served in the Air Force and he was not eligible to join in the past. I am happy and proud to say that he is now a member of Post 806. When he became a member his wife also rejoined our Unit. So, you see it is just that easy. If we all work together we can grow our organization one member at a time.

April 18th and 19th is Junior Conference at the Holiday Inn in Champaign, Illinois. Tina the Jr Activities Chairman would like every District to bring 5 Juniors. She would love to have 100 junior members on hand to celebrate our 100th birthday. This will be a 50's and 60's birthday party. Come out and bring your Junior members.

If you have not sent in your membership dues yet you may pay online or you may mail it to me. Have a wonderful day and we will see you soon.



**"Celebrate Your
Pride in
Membership to
Grow for the
Future.**

**Our Department
Auxiliary Theme for
the year is:**

**"Celebrate Our Past
and Awaken Our
Future.**

Service Officer

Al Pizarro (708) 655 – 5282

Due to privacy laws remember to contact me in the event of a death or hospitalization of a member.

Post Meetings

PLEASE NOTE !!!!

**The next meeting will be
March 14th, 2020
Time: Noon**

**The Legion Post, S.A.L. Squadron and
Auxiliary Unit meetings will be held at
Noon. The meetings will be held at St.
Paul's House located at;
3800 N. California Avenue – Chicago.**

American Legion Auxiliary History

America's largest veterans service organization, The American Legion, turned 100 years old in 2019.

The American Legion was founded after the end of World War I. During March 15-17, 1919 in Paris, France, the first caucus under the name *American Expeditionary Force* was held. Two months later, a caucus was held in St. Louis, Mo., where the name *The American Legion* was officially adopted. The Preamble and the Constitution of The American Legion was approved, and on Sept. 16, 1919, the United States Congress chartered The American Legion.

After its formation in 1919, several existing women's organizations wanted to become the official affiliate of the Legion. A committee decided to create a new organization made up of the women most closely associated with the men of the Legion. During The American Legion's first convention Nov. 10, 1919, members and officials "birthed" the American Legion Auxiliary.

This Auxiliary would perform those portions of Legion activities that were more suitably performed by women. In less than one year, 1,342 local units in 45 states of the *Women's Auxiliary to the American Legion* had been organized.

At the Legion's second convention in September 1920, the Legion sanctioned the Auxiliary. The Legion's Committee on Women's Auxiliary presented some recommendations to the Legion, one being that the women decide upon their name. And the women did just that at the Auxiliary's first convention in 1921, omitting the word "women's" – thus becoming the *American Legion Auxiliary*.

New Legion eligibility requirements as of close of the National Convention in August 2019. Why not recruit new members for the American Legion and Billy Caldwell Post 806.

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving - you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

*Because eligibility dates remain open, all active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time.

**U.S. Merchant Marine eligible only from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII).

From the beginning, both organizations' main goals were to help veterans and their families. Today, there are over 2 million veterans in over 12,000 posts worldwide.

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) has three-quarters of a million members in over 8,000 communities. The American Legion Auxiliary has come a long way from "doing the activities more suitable for women" – in 2018, the organization's volunteer hours had an impact of over \$1 billion through services to servicemembers, veterans and their families, and our communities.

Also in 2018: over 4,000 scholarships were awarded; \$18 million was raised and spent on the ALA Girls State program; over \$82 million was raised/spent to benefit children; and 5.5 million poppies were distributed with nearly \$4.4 million raised. Over 3 million veterans were assisted, 356,000 military families were served, and \$189 million was spent on community service projects alone.

The American Legion Auxiliary has advocated for veterans rights, including the GI Bill and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, and ending homelessness among veterans.

The American Legion Auxiliary can still be seen baking pies and serving dinners to our many veterans as well as sending care packages to deployed troops and writing notes to wounded veterans in hospitals. Our membership makes a difference.

Finance Officer & Adjutant **Al Coughlin (773) 852 - 5561**

Welcome to all of our Members. A special welcome to all of our new members who have joined us whether new or if you have transferred in from another Post or our state holding Post. We're always being asked about the address of the Post. Be assured that we are still a Chicago based Post, primarily located in the Portage Park area. Our Park Ridge P.O. Box is for administrative purposes.

The 2020 membership term went into effect as of January 1, 2020. By the time you get this newsletter, all of our members should have remitted their dues. If you haven't please do so as soon as possible, your benefits as a Legion member expired as of January 31st. Dues have remained at \$40 but, we have received notice that dues at the state level will increase next year, this means individual dues may also increase next year. You can lock in this rate by purchasing a "Paid Up For Life" (PUFL)..

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. By phone, snail mail at the P.O. Box or by email at ALC-LEGION@COMCAST.NET

MAILED FROM:
 Billy Caldwell Post 806
 The American Legion
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The stamp for this mailing

The U.S. Postal Service issued new "Forever Stamps" honoring the nation's flag. Please remember to fly the Flag of our Nation proudly.

When you submit your renewal dues take notice that your membership card will be mailed with a stamp honoring our first lunar landing fifty years ago!

We try and use stamps with historic views from our nation, we hope you enjoy them.