



Chicago Illinois

Mailing & Correspondence Address
American Legion Post 806
P.O. Box 1322
Park Ridge, IL. 60068

SMOKE

SIGNALS

2016 Edition – Issue 1

January / February / March 2016

Commander's Message

Dale Tippett (773) 259 - 4300

I trust everyone had a Merry Christmas and are looking towards a Happy New Year!

George Washington is quoted as saying that, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of early wars were treated and appreciated by our nation".

Keeping these wise words in mind as we enter 2016 not only makes us focus on the veterans we are here to serve, but also on the impact military service has on veterans families and the communities that they live in. Moving forward, let us remember the Four Pillars of The American Legion: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. At Billy Caldwell Post 806 we will meet our obligations under each pillar. We must remember that The American Legion is of critical importance to the well being of our entire nation.

Our young people need our legacy. Let us advance confidently in to the new year. For starters I suggest reading aloud the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion. It begins: For God and Country, we associate ourselves...

SENIOR VICE – COMMANDER

Peter Hirt (708) 828 - 7383

The Post is doing well in membership. We could always do better. 129 members out of 137 have paid their 2016 dues. That gives us 94.16%, which is ahead of the Department quota and cut-off date. National raised the dues effective January 2016. Accordingly, the Post will raise its dues by the \$5 increase to \$40 annually starting on January 1, 2016.

Welcome to our newly gained members who have transferred into our Post from the 2910 Department Holding Post. Also, welcome to Goran Anderson and his membership from Victory Post 7, who have joined us.

President's Message

Mary Collado (847) 294-6517

I want to remind those of you that have not yet paid their dues, that the Membership is being increased to \$25.00 as of January 1, 2016.

On a sad note in October one of our members, Patricia Middlestadt passed away. I received a call from her son a few weeks ago.

Sue Cuniff and I attended the Ninth District Board Dinner. That night everyone that attended was asked to bring nonperishable food items for the Food Pantry. Our Unit donated three bags of food. What a great idea to bring to a meeting.

On February 20, 2016 there will be a leadership class held from 9 am to 1pm at Robert E. Coulter Post 1941 in La Grange, Illinois. I would like to see all of you there. The Post is located at 900 S. La Grange Road. I'm sure it will be a fun time and you will learn a lot.

The Ninth District is having a joint fundraiser at Merle Guild Post on February 27, 2016. The proceeds from the Fundraiser will be split between Gift To The Yanks, and the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. The Auxiliary decided to donate to the AEF, which is National President Sharon Conatser's Special Project for this year. If you would like more information see the write up included in this newsletter or contact me at 847-514-3078. It should be a lot of fun.

I hope everyone enjoyed a good Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year. Continue to keep up the good work that you do for our Veterans and their families.

Post & Unit Meetings

Please be advised that our next Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit meetings will be held on February 13th, 2016 and March 26th, 2016. The meetings will begin at 1 PM. Both Meetings will be at the Post Home at 5116 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago

Note: No Meeting in January

ATTENTION MEMBERS !!!!**Membership Renewals**

Legion Members; Does your mailing label show (2016) next to your name? If not, we would appreciate your sending in your dues A.S.A.P.

Dues rates went up as of January 1, 2016. Our Post Legion dues are now \$40 per year. The Auxiliary Unit is now \$25.00 per year and the S.A.L. dues have remained at \$15 annually.

Membership in The American Legion is based on a calendar-year from January 1st to December 31st. When a member pays their dues, they are paid up for that membership year. They will also receive twelve monthly subscriptions to The American Legion Magazine.

The renewal process begins in July for the upcoming membership year. Renewal notices are sent out in July, October, January, March and May. When a member renews, they are removed from future renewal notices for that year. There are times when a member pays their dues, but they still receive a renewal notice. If dues are paid to the local post, it takes a little longer for national to be notified about the renewal and the member may receive another renewal notice. If this occurs, please check with your local post to ensure they have received your dues.

New Members

Perhaps you know of someone who would like to join our organization. As a member, you are on the front line to bring in new members. There are three applications that you can use, on page five of this newsletter issue, for all three groups. (Feel free to photocopy them if you need more). Have the new perspective member fill out the form, sign it and return it to our P.O. Box address along with their first year's dues. Great News! All new Legion members can join our Post at \$20 for their first year (renewal years will be at \$40 or whatever the renewal rate is at that time.

**9th District
Fundraiser Dinner**

February 27th, 2016

**American Legion Post #208
121 N. Douglas
Arlington Heights, Illinois**

Doors Open: 4:30 PM - Dinner: 6 PM

Cost \$25 per person

Food – Cash Bar -Raffles – Music

**All Proceeds will go towards
Illinois Gifts to the Yanks &
The Auxiliary Emergency Fund**

If you should have any questions, feel free to contact our Post Officers.

Eligibility Information

Men and Women; if you have served at least one day of federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during any of the war eras listed, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving -- you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

Ladies are eligible to join the Auxiliary if you are a Wife, Mother, Daughter (including adopted), Sister, Grandmother, Granddaughter, Great Granddaughter or your self (by eligible military service) of an American Legion member.

Sons are eligible to join the Sons of the American Legion if you are a Son (including adopted) or Grandson of an American Legion member.

* Note that in order to be a member of the Auxiliary or Sons the person for who you gained your eligibility to join must be a member in good standing of The American Legion. If said person is deceased they must have met the eligibility to be an American Legion member.

Eligibility dates: August 2, 1990 to today (Persian Gulf/ War on Terrorism); December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990 (Operation Just Cause - Panama); August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada); February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam); June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955 (Korea); December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (World War II); April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 (World War I).

Because eligibility dates remain open, all members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States. U.S. Merchant Marine eligible only from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII).

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Remember to "Recon" for new members!





Above. Why did Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon have The Billy Caldwell Post flag in the Wrigley Field player's club house? Did you see it on tv in August and wonder why and how he had it? See the article on page 4



Left. Commander Dale visited with State Department Vice Commander Cheri Stanton when she attended the 9th District meeting at Palatine Post in October.

Right. The American Legion School Award Program Team at Billy Caldwell Post 806 met up at the October 9th District meeting held in Palatine. From the left; Al Coughlin, Commander Dale, Pete Hirt, Al Pizarro and Jim Kostka. As Cmdr. Dale said The American Legion School Award is huge in recognizing leadership in good citizenship of our young people. There is a track record. It works. However, establishing relationships with schools can be very difficult for a number of reasons. The addition of Al Pizarro and Jim Kostka to the team makes the mission much easier to accomplish.

