

# SMOKE

# SIGNALS



**Billy Caldwell**  
**Post 806**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

2016 Edition – Issue 3

July / August / September 2016

## Commander's Message

**Dale Tippett (773) 259 - 4300**

Moving forward I want to thank our leadership team and you, the membership for continuing to make Billy Caldwell Post 806 relevant. Billy Caldwell Post 806 is prominent among our comrades serving the community, state and nation. Remember as we participate in volunteer programs serving veterans, school awards, oratorical contests and graduations of our youth, the Post presence at many patriotic ceremonies and support of our District, Division and Department goals, the leadership at Billy Caldwell Post 806 represents you and it is an honor to do so.

Our mission continues only with greater speed and accuracy as we grow our membership and community involvement through teamwork. You have probably seen the acronym T.E.A.M., "together each achieves more". That is a true statement. 2016-2017 looks to be a great year of advancing our priorities which are the Four Pillars of The American Legion: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. The American Legion is America's story. We need to tell it at every opportunity. You included! Thank you for an exciting year and let's do it bigger and better during 2016-2017

## President's Message

**Mary Collado (847) 294-6517**

Happy Summer to all, We hope everyone is out enjoying the wonderful weather we are having. The ladies of our Unit traveled to Bloomington, Illinois to spend two days at Special Olympics and volunteer in the hospitality tent. What a rewarding experience. The smiles on the athletes faces is priceless. When they come through the line to get their snacks they are happy and they show us their medals that they have earned. I have volunteered at this event for the past three years and I enjoy it each and every time. Our entire Legion Family joined us. This year my grandson Michael, an SAL member also spent time filling bags of cheese balls. We filled bags of cookies, snacks, and spent time on the line, personally handing each bag of goodies to the athletes. If you have never had a chance to attend, it is a great opportunity.

Patricia Middlestadt, a member of our Unit passed away this year, I am sorry I never had the chance to meet her. Our Unit has contributed an Education Scholarship again this year. Our very own Sue Cunniff Coughlin is a candidate for Historian for the Department of Illinois American Legion Auxiliary. Hopefully she will be elected. Good Luck Sue, we wish you all the best! We will be attending Department Convention in July.

We made 100% in membership again this year thanks to all of you for sending in your dues. Please remember to pay your dues for the new year promptly. Continue to be on the lookout for new members. Without new members, we will not be able to keep the American Legion Auxiliary going in the future. Who will be there to take care of our Veterans? Look for our meeting notifications. We are having our meetings with The American Legion members. I am sure that you may have read that our Post building will be sold. That does not mean we cannot continue to have an Auxiliary Unit. Send us any news that you may have and would like to share. We would love to hear from some of our members. Have a safe and happy summer!

*Community Service*



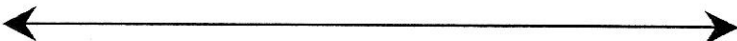
Portage Park School Principal Maureen Ready with Cmdr. Dale as Ms. Ready takes receipt of the school's American Flag that was cleaned and mounted on a new pole and stand by Billy Caldwell Post 806 at the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

## Chaplain & Service Officer

Dale Tippett (773) 259 – 4300

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

It has been a humbling experience serving our veterans (and non-veterans) as Chaplain. Late last winter, Pastor Paul Pfefer of Edison Park Post 541 invited me to do the invocation at the Norwood Park Memorial Day Parade and of course I accepted the invitation. The experience was awesome. Also, I often visit hospital patients, seniors groups and families of all kinds. One thing is for sure, today the general public loves our veterans. Turning the emotion of love into action is where the challenge comes in. You might have heard of the tragic statistics of suicides among veterans? Twenty-two per day! What is surprising and sad is that a huge percentage of those harming themselves are older veterans that have retired from work, raised a family, etc. It is common that old wounds, including "moral Injury", surface later in life with sometimes tragic results. We need to do a better job at connecting our comrades with help way ahead of time. The best way that I know is to grow our ranks. Grow The American Legion Family. Expanding our reach by increased membership is a good way of practicing love by helping our veterans and their families before a crisis occurs.



Our Illinois members are either getting this postcard shown below, an E-mail or both. We contacted the Department office in Bloomington and it's legit. For the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Legion. The Department of Illinois, along with seven other Departments, will be putting together directory books with members names and other information available. When you contact the company at the toll free number you can let them know what type of information you want listed including if a member wants to have their picture and a short bio placed in the publication. It will be available in 2017 and there will be a charge to actually purchase it. There is no obligation to buy a copy of the directory and your response is voluntary.

Dear [Redacted]

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

We are asking all American Legion Department of Illinois members to contact us to update their member information as part of a comprehensive data verification project. We've assembled the information currently listed in our members' files and now need your assistance to confirm the accuracy of your member data.

Please give Publishing Concepts (PCI) a call so that we may verify your information. PCI is a trusted partner of the American Legion Department of Illinois. We are planning to print your member information as part of the *Member Publication*, and we want to ensure that your information is complete and correct.

**We need your help. Please call 1-888-716-7470 (toll-free) to verify the accuracy of the data currently listed on file.**

Your prompt assistance is greatly appreciated. Please call the dedicated, toll-free American Legion Department of Illinois member data verification line today. When you call to update your information, you will be given the opportunity to reserve a copy of the *Member Publication*.

Sincerely,

Your Personal ID# [Redacted]

Paul W. Gardner  
Commander

## SENIOR VICE – COMMANDER

Peter Hirt (708) 828 - 7383

Hello Billy Caldwell Post 806! As of June 24<sup>th</sup> close of books at Department in Bloomington, our membership is at 110.9%! Our Post placed 5<sup>th</sup> in our District standings. All credit for this is due to Commander Tippett and Al Coughlin. Their dedication is impressive and should be applauded. The new year has begun, let's get those renewals rolling in and while you're at it, how about signing up a new member? I look forward to continued service with you all.



Finance Officer / Adjutant Al Coughlin joined Commander Tippett at the monthly meeting in May of the Portage Park Chamber of Commerce, the Commander is also currently the President of the "Chamber". Al gave an overview and answered questions about the American Legion, the School Awards Program and the Oratorical Contest.

## Post & Unit Meetings

We are taking a slight break for the summer months, no meetings in July and August. Our next Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit meetings will be held on September 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's House auditorium located at 3800 N. California – Chicago. (there is under building parking on Grace Street or street parking) All Meetings will begin at Noon.

### Mailing & Correspondence Address

American Legion Post 806

P.O. Box 1322

Park Ridge, IL 60068

Or Call Adjutant Al Coughlin at (773) 852 - 5561



## Memorial Day

Finance Officer Al Coughlin, NVAM Education Coordinator Christine Bespalec-Davis, Cmdr. Dale, Sgt-at-Arms Jim Kostka and local Marine JROTC (what a great group of young men and women the JROTC are) at the National Veterans Art Museum for a 2016 Memorial Day Ceremony. The museum moved from the south side a few years ago to its current location at 4041 N. Milwaukee Ave. in the Chicago – Portage Park / Six Corners area.

## Special Olympics

Billy Caldwell Post assisted at The American Legion Hospitality Tent at the Special Olympics held in Bloomington, Illinois on June 16<sup>th</sup> thru June 18<sup>th</sup>. We were well represented by handing out "goodies" to the kids, parents and event volunteers. It's true, the Legion served over 4,000 participants. All of our volunteers said they're ready to sign up again next year. Not only was it a good time, it left you very enriched with a good feeling of helpfulness. Our members included, from left; April and Bob Harriett, Maggie and Al Pizarro, Sue and Al Coughlin and Jim Kostka. (Not pictured were Mary and Victor Collado and their grandson & S.A.L. member Mike)



## Finance Officer & Adjutant

**Al Coughlin (773) 852 - 5561**

The 2017 membership term is beginning. By the time you get this newsletter, all of our members should have received their renewal notices from our National Organization. We would appreciate your returning your dues as soon as you can, why not return it prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> and get an "Early Bird" stamp on your membership card! You'll notice that the dues increased from \$35 to \$40, this was due to a National dues increase of \$5, which was voted and approved at the National Convention last August. Our Post increased the dues only to offset the National increase. Also, when you return your notice to us, please include your email address in the section provided, so we can include you on our Post email notification list. This will be used in order to send out important notices, outside of meeting and Post newsletter mailings, **IT WILL NOT BE USED BY US FOR "JUNK" EMAIL MAILINGS.**

At our last Post meeting held on June 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's House, the membership in attendance voted to accept the changes as listed in the letter mailed in April. The items approved included changes to our Post Constitution and By-laws and concerning the sale of the building.

I'm currently typing the Constitution and By-laws along with the Amendments and they will be available soon, in PDF format, and will be sent to all members as contained in our email list. This would be a good time to send me your email address at; **ALC-LEGION@COMCAST.NET.**

The sale of the Post Home building is underway. Keep in mind that we do not need a building in order to continue as a viable and functioning Post of The American Legion. Hundreds of Legion Posts across the country, the world, meet in venues not owned by them and continue to perform the good services they always have, to follow the "Four Pillars" of The American Legion; to serve the veteran, their families and our communities.

I've received inquiries as to the address of the Post. Be assured that we are still a Chicago based Post. We have been on the Northwest side of Chicago, mainly in the Portage Park area, and will continue to meet in the area. The Park Ridge post office box location is just for the convenience of correspondence, since I live only a block away. If you should ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me by snail mail, phone or email.

**MAILED FROM:**

Billy Caldwell Post 806  
The American Legion  
P.O. Box 1322  
Park Ridge, IL 60068



**POSTAL CARRIER - PLEASE DELIVER TO;**



*Have a Happy & Safe Summer*

*Rush In Your*

*Dues*

*Today!*

*Remember to ... "Recon" for new members!*

The Commander would like to re-start advertising in our quarterly newsletters. If you have a business or know of a business that would like to take out an ad, the cost will be \$25 annually. Just mail a copy of the ad with your check payable to Billy Caldwell Post to the Adjutant at the P.O. Box address.

**CAROLYN POTAMITIS**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

**BERNARD A. HENNIG & ASSOCIATES, PC**

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