



# SMOKE



# SIGNALS

**Billy Caldwell  
Post 806**

**Chicago, Illinois**

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

2018 Edition - Issue 1

January / February / March 2018

## Commander's Message

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

Wishing you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018! Exciting times ahead as we move forward in 2018. Post 806 Color Guard Training is about to start. The Four Chaplains Sunday is almost upon us. Also, committees are now forming for Poppy Day and The American Legion School Awards program. During the new year we want to do better to document our activities for public relations purposes. It amazes me how many valuable programs The American Legion has that most know little or nothing about. That is why during our organization's centennial a greater emphasis will be on public relations. We are all part of that mission. So, let's have a goal to show up, share and take pictures that we can publish for our membership as well as the whole, "Legion Family".

Please do keep your eyes open for tattered, washed out or otherwise disrespected U.S. Flags. Bring the addresses to our attention and the Post will contact the owners, be they businesses or private residences.

I am so honored to serve as Commander at Billy Caldwell Post 806. Thank you for your continued support and I again wish all of us a fantastic new year!

For GOD and Country

## SENIOR VICE - COMMANDER

**Peter Hirt (708) 828 - 7383**

Brother and Sister legionnaires, I hope you enjoyed the Holiday season. Perhaps you gave the gift of membership to a friend or neighbor this year (wishful thinking) !! Or maybe you received the same from a friend. If you haven't paid your dues yet, you are no longer a member in good standing, which means you can't apply for your Legion benefits. Discounts, financial aid in emergencies, and all the others. If you need help paying your dues, please let us know. We're here to help! Veterans helping Veterans. It's what we do. Remember, it's not the price you pay for membership, it's the price you paid to be eligible.

Billy Caldwell Post is currently at 84.07%, 7th place in the District. The 9th District is in 17th place in Department at 79.14%. The First Division at 79.45% is in last place in the Department standings. By the time you get this newsletter, I hope all these numbers and standings are continually improving. The new year should see our members involved with the community and not struggling with membership.

Want to check your membership status? Check your mailing label for this newsletter. If you've paid your 2018 dues, there is the number 2018 or a code shown starting with OL (if you paid online) next to your name. If there is nothing next to your name, you need to pay your 2018 dues now. This is current as of the mailing of this newsletter.

Below; Chaplain Gregg Weghorst presenting Pastor Carla Thompson Powell of United in Faith Lutheran Church with a Certificate of Appreciation from Billy Caldwell Post 806 for Uif's support of The American Legion on Veterans Day 2017 and throughout the year.



At the right; St Pauls House Life Enrichment Director Kelly Cooke with Billy Caldwell Post 806 & Auxiliary GTTY team December 23, 2017. (L-R) Kelly Cooke, April & Bob Harriet, Al & Sue Coughlin, Loma & Post Commander Dale Tippett, Gregg Weghorst and Jim Kostka.



## President's Message

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



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

We have been very busy over the past few months. We joined with a couple of Units and filled 132 Socks of Love with toiletries. The socks were distributed to Jesse Brown VA, Pads (Pads is a moving homeless shelter that is held in different churches) and Concord Place which is an assisted living facility that has facilities for the homeless. We also did a t-shirt for our Veterans in the VA hospitals. We put together a puzzle book, a deck of cards, comb and hand lotion in the shirts. We distributed them to Jesse Brown, Lovell and Hines VA facilities.

Our Ninth District had a Christmas dinner and instead of sharing grab bag gifts, everyone brought nonperishable food items, which were donated to the local food pantry. For Christmas, our Unit found a female Veteran who is a single parent and has three children. We purchased their entire Christmas day meals including breakfast. At the Ninth District Christmas dinner, I asked them to donate \$150.00 to purchase gift cards for the children so that they could have presents on Christmas day. They agreed and three Walmart gift cards were purchased for \$50.00 each. I am glad that we were able to make this family's Christmas a special one.

## JUNIOR VICE - COMMANDER

**Jim Kostka**

Welcome, I hope everyone had a great holiday. Just wanted to bring you up to date as to our Meeting/Luncheon coming up. Last year we had a great turn out I think everyone had a good time, I know no one left hungry. Tentatively our Meeting/Luncheon will be scheduled for our May Meeting.

I think all who attend will have a "JOLLY TIME". Have you figured out where I am planning our luncheon? Don't forget to bring your date! ... More information to come ....

## Post & Unit Meetings

Our next Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit meetings will be held on the following Saturdays at Noon. The meeting will be held at St. Paul's House auditorium located at 3800 N. California Avenue - Chicago

**January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Our Unit and Post gave Gifts to the Yanks blankets, money and a flag to Veterans in two nursing homes. Our members visited 10 Veterans at St Paul's Home and 30 Veterans at Norwood Crossing (photo on front page)

We will continue to be busy through the rest of the winter. In January, the Legion family Caravan will be starting. There are three stops within our area. You are welcome to stop at any of the Posts. You can find more information at the American Legion Auxiliary web site at ilala.org. We hope to see many of you there. We will be attending Lincoln Pilgrimage in February and Patriotic Conference in March. We hope to do another project in the spring. If you are interested in helping, please give me a call.

Thank you to everyone that has paid her dues. You should have received another notice from National if you have not paid. Remember that In order to stay in good standing your dues should have been paid by December 31, 2017. So please get your dues in so that we can continue to serve our Veterans and the community. You can send them to me or you can now pay them online. It is that simple. Of course we are also looking for new members. So ask your neighbors and friends if they are eligible to join. We are holding our meetings with the Legion each month. The dates are in this newsletter. We would love to see more of you ladies attend with us.

Until next time, take care of yourselves and stay safe.

## Chaplain

**Gregg Weghorst**

This first year in the Post has been a busy one, but thanks to my dear friends and leaders it has been fruitful. Thank you. I look forward to an even better "2018", helping wherever I can and learning more about The American Legion. Thank you all so very much for your friendship. We make a great team. May you have a great 2018. Be safe, happy, healthy and may you achieve all your goals! God Bless You and God Bless The United States of America.

Respectfully, Chaplain Gregg

## IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

We've been asked about 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.



## Finance Officer & Adjutant

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

Happy New Year everyone!

A little bit of what our Post accomplished in the past year;

- We were well represented at both the State and National Conventions.
- Our Post was recognized at the State Convention for having the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Newsletter in the 100 to 200 member category.
- We've made numerous donations to some of our local Portage Park organizations.
- The Post assisted the Auxiliary Unit in presenting gifts to the veteran residents at two local nursing homes that we have a connection with.
- We placed flags at the graves of veteran's at Mt Olive Cemetery. We also placed flags at the graves of two of our members, Rich Batzkal and John (Zero) Zurowski who are buried at St. Adalbert's.
- In response to Cmdr. Dale's request, we've presented American Flags to a number of members, schools and local businesses in the Portage Park area.
- Our Post attained 119% in membership at the close of the 2017 processing year at the end of June. This was accomplished by new members joining with us and all those Illinois Holding Post 2910 members who decided to transfer into our Post. Welcome to you all.
- We have an established and thriving relationship with the Portage Park Chamber of Commerce.

Just a few of our accomplishments of last year, here's looking to a more active new year for our Post. Be sure to check our website for updates and new photos showing what we're doing!

Remember, if you should 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](mailto:ALC-LEGION@COMCAST.NET)

At right, Al Coughlin accepting a flag for disposal from Asst. Principal Joyce Pae of The Chicago Academy. On advisement from our member Joe Sedivy and as observed by Al, this flag was in disrepair at this Chicago Public School. We supplied a new flag and a commitment to the school for the future. News to Al, the schools depend on donations of flags, CPS and the city of Chicago don't supply American Flags... What's that about?

## Did You Know?.....

This is a letter sent to the National Adjutant from our own Senior Vice Pete Hirt.

National Adjutant Wheeler,

I read your article about photos of service members on the Vietnam Wall with great interest. In response to the challenge of the Department of New York, the Department of Illinois answered that call back in 2013-2014.

The First Division, Cook County Council of The American Legion Department of Illinois consists of eight Districts, some 130 Posts. We took on the project of a "face to a name" in September 2013. At that time there were 2934 Illinois service members without a photo. Less than 200 Illinois service members had a photo. With the tireless efforts of Mr. Bart Halleman, a historian (S.A.L. Legion Family Member), and his small team of volunteers, 2800 photos have been found and matched to the service members. Eight months of work and donations from Posts and Districts of \$2,000.00 paid for postage and forms and food for the volunteers.

We also confirmed the final resting place for 610 Illinois service members. There are still some 2,000 service members in Illinois, on which we do not yet have a listed final resting place. Many are MIA, others are publicly memorialized but no information has been confirmed as to their final resting place.

Yours in Service,

Pete Hirt / Past Department Vice Commander (2013-2014)

**Also, did you know?...** The postage stamp used to mail this issue is one of a set of four. The Distinguished Service Cross is the second highest military award that can be given to a member of the military, for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force. Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not meet the criteria for the Medal of Honor. The Distinguished Service Cross was first awarded during World War I. The Distinguished Service Cross is only awarded for actions in combat, while the Distinguished Service Medal has no such restriction.



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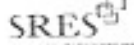
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