



SMOKE



SIGNALS

**Billy Caldwell
Post 806**

Chicago, Illinois

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

2019 Edition - Issue 1

January / February / March 2019

COMMANDER

Peter Hirt (708) 828 - 7383

My wife Laura and I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. We hope your Holidays were the best.

Now, the Holidays are over, so down to the business at hand. The National Commander has set a challenge and incentives for bringing non-renewed members back on board from the years 2014, 2015 and 2016. The Department of Illinois has added to the incentive so, the per capita that we send in to Department has been dropped to \$21. Finance Officer/ Adjutant Al and I have decided that Billy Caldwell Post will pick up the odd dollar for every member brought back from the time periods as indicated and these individuals will be considered as new members and will need to pay only \$20!

I have received a list from the Legion and Al can retrieve additional names from National. Copies will be available at the next meeting. Please help the membership increase for the 100th year, as a team we can get this challenge accomplished. We have a cut-off date of May 8, and Ninth District SVC Dale has suggested the Posts assist each other to accomplish the most returns. I believe we can do that.

Chaplain

Gregg Weghorst (773) 282 - 3923

Dear Legionnaires, Please do keep the Post informed as to the well being of our members. A well being check goes a long way to keeping our members safe throughout the year. I am looking forward to meeting more of you as 2019 unfolds. With the multiple meeting sites that are available to Billy Caldwell Post 806 and the various community events we partake in, I am optimistic that we will meet in person soon. Please come out and join us! Best wishes go out to all of our members as we proceed together in the year ahead.

May God richly bless you all.

SENIOR VICE - COMMANDER

Gregg Weghorst (773) 282 - 3923

Happy New Year Billy Caldwell Post 806! Legionnaires, as we proceed to our membership goal I urge everyone to keep applications handy to sign up new members as the opportunities arise. As we go about our daily routines let us continue inviting veterans to join us. Even if their membership has expired, let us help to get that veteran reinstated. The power of our voice in The American Legion depends on each of us to retain and grow membership. Billy Caldwell Post 806 has been doing a great job and I know that we will continue to do so!

Please renew your membership today and together, let's continue to grow Billy Caldwell Post 806!

JUNIOR VICE - COMMANDER

Jim Kostka (224) 766 - 0094

My Comrades, I hope you had a MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR. Now, come on Spring! Hopefully it will come as fast as the holidays did. I'm still working on a date for our Luncheon Meeting at the JOLLY TIME INN, possibly in June not to worry, just remember to bring your date and your appetites. Once I have all the information I will let everyone know. Be safe and see you at our next meeting.

Our members gathered at Union Ridge Cemetery in order to lay wreaths with the folks from "Wreaths Across America"



President's Message

Mary Collado
(847) 294-6517

We hope each and everyone of you had a very Merry Christmas and may your New Year be a year filled with joy and happy memories. As many of you know, we have joint meetings with the Legion of our Post and we are doing great things. It has been a truly enjoyable year. At the beginning of December, we held a Bingo at Jesse Brown VA. There were 35 Veterans playing bingo. What a great turn out. We played 14 games of Bingo. Each Bingo winner won a cash prize. We also gave each Veteran a raffle ticket. We held a raffle during the Bingo game where we handed out a single raffle ticket to each Veteran playing and when their number was called, they won a beautiful polo shirt. The lady Veterans that joined us also won a long sleeve shirt. When Bingo was over, every Veteran received a gift from our Unit. They each received a pair of white socks filled with Christmas candy. One of the Veterans left the room and stated he did not need a pair of socks, but when he found out that there were treats inside of the sock, he quickly returned to the room to get one. We had a few left over socks and we asked the coordinator at the VA to give it to Veterans that were unable to join us for the evening. He stated he would do just that. The Veterans thanked all of us for a wonderful and fun filled evening. It was truly a time that we will never forget. We are looking forward to our next visit with our Veterans.

Some of our Unit Members joined the Legion in placing wreaths on Veterans graves for Wreaths Across America at Union Cemetery. I was not able to attend due to work but I wish I had.

On Saturday December 22, six Billy Caldwell Auxiliary Members, many Legionnaires, and a few guests of our Post traveled to two Nursing Homes, St. Paul's and Norwood Crossing to hand out bathrobes, which we received from the "Gifts to the Yanks" program and Christmas cards to all of the Veterans in these two facilities. There were 52 Veterans that each received a gift and a card. All of us shook the Veteran's hands, wished every one of them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We thanked them all for their Service. We brought joy to each and every one of the Veterans that we visited with. The Veterans were truly touched by seeing all of us there for them. They were amazed that there were all these visitors there just for them. While we were at Norwood Crossing we were joined by one of our Unit Members that is also a Veteran and her name is Lucille Janssens. It was great to see you Lucille. Take Care of yourself dear.

As for Membership, it is very, very slow coming in. We are not even 50%. If you have not yet paid your dues, you may do so online or send it to me. Please remember that your dues should have been paid by December 31st, 2018 for you to remain a paid member. After that date you no longer are eligible for any of the benefits available to us as Unit members. So if you have not done so, please send me your dues as soon as possible. I am looking forward to being a goal Unit once again. With your help, I know we can do it. Please look for new members to help us serve our Veterans and our communities.

We are looking forward to our next events with our members. There are also many Department activities coming soon. The National Membership Caravan is coming in January. There is a stop in Evanston. The guest speaker is Past National Commander Denise Rohan. Yes, she is also an Auxiliary member. She is a wonderful person and energetic speaker. If you have the opportunity to stop by, please do. It will be worth the trip. Also, Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield will be held on February 11 and 12. Patriotic Conference is in March. Details can be found in the ALA Today Magazine.

Sue Cunniff Coughlin Department First Vice President

As you know, I am pursuing my dream of becoming Department President and if elected, I will be installed this summer.

A fundraiser was held in November to raise funds for our Department President Campaign fund. We had a wonderful turnout, good food, good company, good music and a few surprises. Our surprises started when one of our ladies came out wearing a vintage Auxiliary cape and hat. She gave a brief history of the ALA. She introduced us to Mrs. Edith Hobart, the first national ALA president and Mrs. Hartman the first Illinois Department President. Both were wearing vintage coats and hats. The two past presidents exchanged greetings and went on their separate ways. The narrator then introduced us to the First Division Past Department Presidents in attendance. Each had some memorabilia from their year. Everyone had a great time reminiscing about those who have led the way.

These types of events take a lot of work. Our Post and Unit members have been very involved in these events. Whenever I have asked for help, our members have been there. My heartfelt thanks for your support, guidance and hard work. I would like to thank everyone that supported our fundraiser. Thank you so much! We still have a lot to do, so I hope I can count on everyone's continued support and guidance.



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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday season. It is time to get back on track. In this article, I am giving you tips on things You Should Not Do!

If you are sent a flyer stating you can have a free meal if you just will listen to lawyers talk about the Veterans Administration Non-Service Connected pension benefit with aid and attendance be careful. They can't charge you for filing a claim for that benefit but they usually will talk you into setting up various trusts and wills which will cost you money. **DON'T** sign anything unless you know exactly what you are doing. If need be, bring a son or daughter along.

If you get a telephone call from someone claiming they are from the Veterans Administration hospital prescription department and they just need to confirm your Social Security number **DON'T** give it to them. That's a big scam to steal your identity. If they call and say your savings account was hacked and they need your account number **HANG UP.**

Lastly, when you get that call from a person asking for donations to help needy veterans **DON'T** make a contribution over the telephone unless you are 100% sure the group is on the up and up. If concerned, simply ask them to send you a request in the mail. Then when you get that info check them out at websites like www.givewell.org or www.charitywatch.org.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Post meeting. Be Safe and Take Care! And if you are aware of any member in need of help, please contact me by phone at 708-655-5282 or by e-mail at pzodad2@gmail.com.

Respectfully, AL Pizarro / Service Officer

Our members gathered at (below) Norridge Crossing and St. Paul's (below right) for the "GTTY" event. (top right) Jim Kostka and Al Coughlin present a check from the Post to the care takers of "The Haven"

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 located in Bloomington Illinois. We're always being 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 and have a community presence in that area. **The Park Ridge post office box location is just for the convenience of correspondence.**

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

Did you know? that Past Billy Caldwell Post 806 Commander Dale Tippett (2015-2018) is an ordained chaplain as well as a REALTOR(R) managing broker? Past Commander Dale is active in the seniors, veterans and faith based communities as well as being a Money Smart Week Partner(R) and Chicago Police 16th District Advisory Committee Member and Committee Chair. With the American Legion, Dale is currently the Senior Vice Commander for the Ninth District. As a regularly booked public speaker at business, civic and religious organizations Dale enjoys a live audience and says that his service to the community is rewarding on many levels.



MAILED FROM:

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The American Legion
P.O. Box 1322
Park Ridge, IL 60068



POSTAL CARRIER - PLEASE DELIVER TO:

*Remember to "Recon"
for new members!*



**PLEASE MARCH IN THOSE RENEWALS
LEGION MEMBERS IF IT DOESN'T SHOW A
VARIATION OF 2019 ON YOUR MAILING
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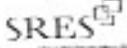
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Post & Unit Meetings

January 12th at Noon

**NOTE THAT The
January Meeting will be
at the United In Faith Church
Community Room at Noon on
January 12th, 2019. Located at
6525 W. Irving Park Rd, Chicago**

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

**February 9th, 2019
March 9th, 2019**