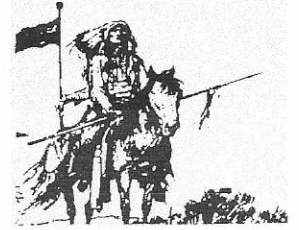




# SMOKE

Billy Caldwell  
Post 806  
Chicago, Illinois

# SIGNALS



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

2019 Edition - Issue 4

October / November / December 2019

## Commander's Message

Peter Hirt (708) 828 - 7383

Greetings and Salutations to the members of Billy Caldwell Post 806!!! The year is starting off well, membership is on track. Of course, it could be better, that goes for every month.

The Legion Act allows for Veterans that have honorably served at any time since December 7, 1941 to the present to join the American Legion. I'm asking all of you to ask friends, neighbors, and folks you meet if they are Veterans and encourage them to join the Legion! The goal for membership set by the Department is 60% by Veterans Day. I believe we can reach 75% before then.

Our Post may not have a "home" , but we have a community. We have made an impact on the people in our community with programs. Gifts to the Yanks that Gave and our flag replacements are just a few examples. We need to let the community know what we can do for them and the children. Scholarships, awards, oratorical contest , Boys and Girls State have helped shape the future. Let's keep up the good work!!

Until we meet again may God bless!

## CHAPLAIN

Gregg Weghorst (773) 282 - 3923

*Blessings!*

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach let us ever be mindful of our brothers and sisters currently in uniform and those of us who once wore the uniform. Please do reach out to one another for a **"Buddy Check"**. A simple phone call or knock on the door does wonders for the soul. I hope to see you at an upcoming meeting. May you have a memorable Veterans Day and please join us this December for our annual distribution of **"Gifts to the Yanks"** items. Also, remember that prayer requests are welcome!

May God Bless each of you and your families.

## SENIOR VICE - COMMANDER

Gregg Weghorst (773) 282 - 3923

Greetings all!

Well another membership drive is upon us and I want to thank each and every one of you that has already renewed your membership for 2020!

We know that it sometimes gets frustrating to always hear about, **"getting your dues in"**, but it really is our life blood as an organization. Nationally we have fallen below 2 million members. Let us agree to *increase* our numbers to keep our voice strong in the community, state and nation.

Our post membership totals as of the end of September were at 62%. National has just sent out a second reminder to those who haven't sent their renewals in. If you have renewed, *Thank You!* If not please send them in. Our next milestone is at Veterans Day. Let's go for 100% renewals, shall we?

Yours in service,  
Gregg

## JUNIOR VICE - COMMANDER

Jim Kostka (224) 766 - 0094

My Comrades, I hope everyone's doing ok. Fall is here, Winter is not far away, looks like the Holidays are not far away either. Let's hope Spring gets here before we know it.

Don't forget your **"WELLNESS, "Buddy" CHECK**. I'm sure there are a few to be contacted. Not only Veterans, but friends, relatives and neighbors that you could call Just to say, hi and check up on. Winter can be long and just a call could brighten up someone's day. Hope you can attend our next Post Meeting October 19<sup>th</sup> at St Paul's. If you are unable to attend, have a safe and Happy Holiday season to you and your families. Life is too short make, time to spend them with your Loved ones. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS ....**

## President's Message

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

Hello members of Billy Caldwell Unit. What an exciting year this is as we are celebrating the American Legion Auxiliary's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is also a very exciting and busy year as we have our first Unit member, Sue Cunniff Coughlin serving as Department of Illinois President. She was installed as President at our Department Convention in July. It was a beautiful installation.

After the Convention, Al Coughlin, Jim Kostka and I have been traveling and attending events with President Sue. The Department Fall Board meeting was in Chicago in early August. To celebrate our start in 1919, it was a Roaring 20's party. Many of the members from the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL dressed in that era. We attended the Illinois State Fair on Veteran's Day and enjoyed visiting with many Veterans in attendance. August ended with our National Convention in Indianapolis. Since then we have been on the go every weekend visiting Units and our Legion Family members across the state.

We are doing great on membership. It would be great to get everyone in before November and our Unit can win a monetary award. We could use the money to support our programs. It would also be great to reach 100% for our Department President, Sue. Thank you to everyone that has sent their membership in and thank you to all that have paid their dues online.

**ENJOY  
THE  
UPCOMING  
HOLIDAYS**



**MARCH IN THOSE 2020  
LEGION RENEWALS**

There has been a change this year to eligibility in the American Legion Auxiliary. With the signing of the Legion Act, the dates have been opened to include every Veteran that has served our country since December 7, 1941 until the government declares otherwise. Ask your friends, family and neighbors that were not eligible to join in the past to join us now. For example, my brother served our country in the 80's but before the Legion Act, he was not eligible to join the Legion. With this change, he is now eligible. Maybe we can find several new members to join the Auxiliary. It would be wonderful to grow our organization! There is also another new eligibility change this year were "wives" was changed to "spouse" allowing male spouses of a veteran can join the Auxiliary.

If you find a new member to join us, please have them fill out the paper work and send it to me. For new members only, please do not have them pay online. If a brand new member pays online for the first time, our Unit will not get credit for them this year.

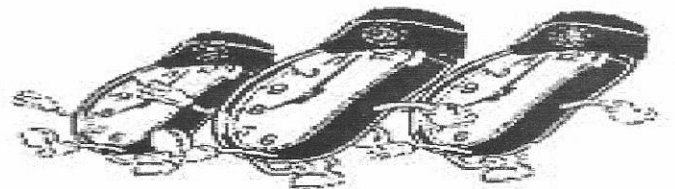
We would also like to wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season to all of our members. Take care and I will talk to you again soon.

## Legion Riders

**Bob Harriett**

On day one, 245 motorcycles and 47 passengers started on the 14th annual American Legion Legacy Run left Post 347 at Lady Lake, Florida at 7:30 a.m. I was one of those 245 motorcyclists that did the 2019 Legacy run, along with other Legion Rider members from Lady Lake Florida to the National Convention site, Indianapolis Indiana on August 18 through August 22.

We raised just under 1 million dollars for scholarships given to our children of fallen Comrades and to the children whose veteran parent has 50% or greater disability due to military service. This ride is a great way for the American Legion to be visible in the community. Billy Caldwell Post 806 donated \$500.00 to the cause.



## Ninth District Commander

Dale Tippett (773) 259 – 4300

Exciting things are happening in the 9th District.

Since, the new Legion year began our team has had a full summer of activities and fulfilled commitments that I am proud to say were performed in the finest tradition of The American Legion. I won't be giving a blow by blow account, but what I will do here is get to the point. We had a terrific September meeting that covered some very important business, as well as two excellent speakers and *good meeting attendance*. We had a successful September 9th District Council meeting, but moving forward specifically at the next 9th District Council meeting on October 23rd, we will be filling the vacancy of Junior Vice Commander of the 9th District.

Also, of importance to note is that, "*3,120*" is our number *this year!* The goal is to be at 3,120 members in the 9th District (as a minimum) as of our Americanism meeting in February 2020. So, let's encourage one another as our posts activities and their community engagement become membership opportunities, as we lead the "*campaign*" to build and strengthen our voice as American Legionnaires.

What those membership opportunities look like is up to our individual posts. We have twenty-one posts in our District.

## 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 is beginning. By the time you get this newsletter, all of our members should have received their second renewal notices from our National Organization if you hadn't renewed by September 15<sup>th</sup>. We would appreciate your returning your dues as soon as you can. Dues have remained at \$40 but, we have received notice that dues at the state level will increase next year, this means individual dues will increase. You can lock in this rate by purchasing a "Paid Up For Life" (PUFL) membership or if this is not financially feasible, you can stave off a future increase by getting a five year card. Feel free to contact me if you are interested in either of these options. 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

Our posts are unique with distinct personalities and talents. I see that as an asset. In a spirit of respect and cooperation I am looking forward to helping our posts to grow and accomplish their membership goals. The first step is for all of our posts to get to 100%. Let's do that together.

A word about our installation...

Special thanks go out to all that were able to attend the 9th District Installation on August 6 in River Grove. It made good sense to me to work our installation in to the National Night Out event this year since it was a great way to introduce ourselves to the community. It was a success due to the tireless commitment of 9th District Auxiliary President Cathy Zito and River Grove Post 335 Commander Lorenzo Fiorentino for all of the effort that they put in to it. Also, special thanks go out to Al Coughlin and Department Auxiliary President Sue Cunniff Coughlin for serving as Installing Officers. Likewise, it was wonderful to have the prayers of Department Auxiliary Chaplain Pat Kowalski as well. And, of course there were many others behind the scenes. Thank you to all!

Lastly, I am hoping that our 9th District Council meetings become something to look forward to. We have made additions and adjustments to enhance the meetings and I believe that you will find increased value in the take-away's that you will be able to bring back to your home posts from our guest speakers and more. Hope to see you *before* the next 9th District meeting. Let's keep in touch! Together with you in service for God and Country.

## 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 meetings will be**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>**

**November 9<sup>th</sup>**

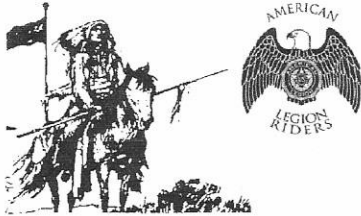
**December 7<sup>th</sup> (GTTY Distribution)**

**The Legion Post 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.**

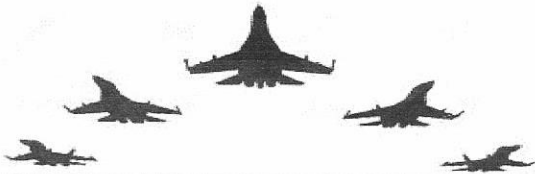
**The Gifts to the Yanks distribution will begin after the meeting at St. Paul's and will go to Norwood Crossing to continue the Gift distribution.**

**MAILED FROM:**

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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 brave and loyal military working dogs. Four different stamps feature a stylized illustration of the four canine breeds that serve in America's armed forces; German Shepherd, Labrador Retriever, Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherd.