
THE BLAIZIN' STARR

DISNEY-BELL POST 99 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 32, 2001



Post Names "Legionnaire of the Year"

Commander Jr. Martin has announced that long time member of Disney-Bell Post 66, Alfred E. Newman, has been named Legionnaire of the Year for the year 2001. Mr. Newman first moved to

the Bowie area in the mid 1950s and has been active in local activities and politics ever since. As a past city councilman, he has acted as mentor to such dignitaries as Bowie Mayor G. Fred Robinson, Mayor Pro Tem Douglas J. J. Peters, Councilman Bill Alshire and Spiro T. Agnew.



Commander Martin cited his many accomplishments over the past year are which included conducting the first annual combined Oyster Shucking Contest and Baby Pageant, managing the used chopstick recycling program and promoting the sale and distribution of Depends undergarments to our more "seasoned" veterans.

Al Newman, as he is called, first joined Post 66 in August of 1956 and has held almost every position on the Executive Committee. While successful in his service as Finance Officer (he once sued the IRS for failure to collect their share of taxes), his plan to sacrifice live chickens when serving as Chaplain did draw complaints from PETA. Mr. Newman has never missed a meeting, except when they conflict with his AA sessions and has faithfully paid his dues annually. During the award presentation, Commander Martin remarked that Comrade Newman is the second recipient of this prestigious award and requested that he uphold the honor of the position, unlike the putz we gave it to last year. Al's response was a typical, "What, me worry?"

Congratulations, Alfred E. Newman.

Commander's Report

Spring is here and we are well on our way to a great season of activities at Post 66. Just look at the calendar and you'll see events hosted by all of the organizations in the Legion. The Pool Tournament is well underway on Tuesday and Thursday nights, Friday night dinners are scheduled through April and the first week in May, the Auxiliary is hosting their annual "Tribute to Youth" this month, the SAL is planning a "Comedy Night" for early June, and soon we will be hearing the crack of the bat from our American Legion baseball team.

As you can see, there are plenty of activities for everyone at Post 66. On Sunday afternoons, there is always a dedicated group of NASCAR fans watching the race and don't forget our special Happy Hours on Fridays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m..

I wish to thank everyone who participated in the Legion Birthday Dinner last month. A special thanks goes to the Auxiliary for preparing the dinner and the Honor Guard for not only doing their usual professional job of posting colors, but serving the meal as well. It was great to see so many veterans from Charlotte Hall with us.

I hope you enjoy our annual spoof edition of The Rising Star. The staff always has a good time with it. Remember, the opinions stated are those of the morons writing this issue and not the Commander of the Post.

On a serious note, I want everyone to make a special effort to join us on Sunday, April 29th for our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony. It is a very solemn occasion for us as we have lost an unusually high number of members this year. I hope to see many of you there.

Jr. Martin
Commander

Adjutant's Report

Some say "Membership is the lifeblood of the Legion" while others claim "It is the pulse of the organization". Either way, it is the standard by which our Post is gauged. Regardless of how many contributions we make or the number of programs we support, these questions always asked: "What is your membership? How is your membership program working? Is your membership team fulfilling its function? What are you doing membership wise?" It is so important that the Department of Maryland issues a Membership Statement Report each week which gives the status of every Post within the state.

For those members who are "hanging fire" on renewing for 2001, you are, as I use to refer to my son, waiting to procrastinate tomorrow. Why should you renew your membership in the American Legion? First off, it helps the Post meet its membership goals and secondly, it gives us more strength at the county and district level. Most important, it adds membership strength to the American Legion.

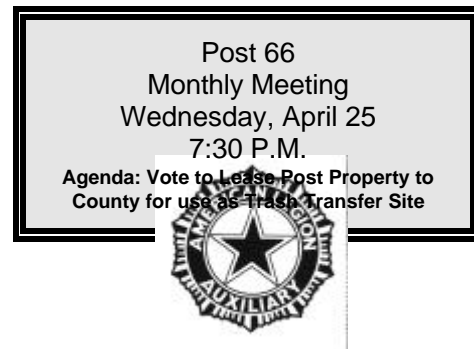
Why is this so important? With the decreasing veterans population and the fewer numbers of veterans elected to legislative office, we are becoming a minority and our duly elected representatives see no "political fallout" happening to them for taking away or reducing the benefits, compensations and entitlements we have earned. It is only through large and active Veterans Service Organizations, such as the American Legion, that we can protect what was promised to us. In numbers we have strength.

If you have not renewed do so now. If your membership is current, ask an eligible friend or neighbor to join with you and I as members of the American Legion. Every veteran has earned the right to be a Legionnaire.

As always, should you have any questions, comments or concerns do not hesitate to contact me either at the Post or my home (301-390-6436). Post e-mail address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and mine is jimabniam@aol.com.

In service for God and Country, I am.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant



Unit 66 President's Report

Friday night dinners are going great and we only have two left to go. On April 6th, we will be serving chicken cordon bleu with all the trimmings. Make sure you call the Post no later than Wednesday the 4th to make your reservation. The first Friday in May will be our last dinner before summer recess so mark your calendar now. We don't know what the menu will be yet but you know it will be delicious.

We are collecting donations for the Children's Miracle Network by selling small placards behind the bar. You may donate whatever amount you wish, write your name on the placard for all to see, and help the Auxiliary to help these children in need.

I wish to thank all those Auxiliary members who helped in the kitchen for the Birthday dinner last month. The giving of your time and trouble helped make the dinner run smoothly and be appreciated by everyone who attended. Thank you.

Well, short month this month, in terms of news. Please make an effort to join us on Wednesday, April 18 for our monthly meeting.

Sandy Dadurka
President

Post 66 Auxiliary
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, April 18
8:00 P.M.
**Agenda: Discuss Viagra fund-raiser
for Charlotte Hall**

66 Now 99???

Beginning this month, Disney-Bell Post 66 will be assigned a new post identification number. The new number will be 99.

The American Legion assigns post numbers by department (state) in the order they are established. Once a charter is issued, the number assigned is never issued again, even if the post folds or otherwise ceases to exist. In the case of Post 66, I mean Post 99, a regrettable series of events recently occurred which created this unusual circumstance.

Back in December of 1999, the Post Adjutant faxed our membership figures to the Department of Maryland. The fax, which was sent late at night, was in transmission at exactly midnight and, due to Y2K problems, arrived upside down. Department, in their wisdom, took this "fact" and, since their word is law and they never err, Disney-Bell Post 99 is here. It only took one year to "get the word."

Of course, it is not all bad news. Jim Pritchett, Commander of the Post Honor Guard, says that the color devices worn by members of the honor Guard need not be replaced, only inverted. Also, according to Post Commander Jr. Martin, no loss in Department "seniority" will occur as a result of the Post dropping 33 numbers on State lists. Until new cards can be issued, Post members may wish to make a pen and ink correction to their 2001 membership cards.

VA MOBILE CLINIC
THURSDAY
APRIL 19
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

SOL Squadron 66 Report

By the time you get this newsletter, spring will have arrived. With spring, the SAL has some great events coming up soon. First, however, I wish to thank those who attended the fish fry in February. We had an excellent turnout and everyone enjoyed themselves. Also, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all those who helped setup, cook, serve and cleanup. We can't do it without you.

As we go to print, membership currently stands at 91% paid SAL members. If you still owe your 2001 dues, please step forward and help us achieve 100%.

Our next dinner is Friday, April 20th and is the last scheduled dinner before our summer hiatus. The menu will include rotisserie chicken (one half), potatoes, veggies, rolls, salad, dessert, coffee and ice tea. All this for only \$8.00 and a great time too. Make sure you call or stop by the Post to make your reservation no later than Wednesday, April 18th.

Plans are currently in the works for a comedy night and spaghetti dinner for Saturday, June 2. These have been very popular in the past and we are all looking forward to a good time. Check future issues of the newsletter and/or message board at the Post.

Thank you all for your support and remember our meetings are the second Monday of each month. I hope to see you there.

Tim McEwan
Commander

SAL SQUADRON 66
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 9
7:30 PM
Agenda: Discuss Possible Sponsorship of NASCAR car

Chaplain's Corner

Please mark your calender for April 29th for Post Everlasting to pay tribute to our comrades who have gone to the Great Commander and to meet their families so they know they have not been forgotten.

As always, if you know of a veteran or his/her family that is in need please call me at 301-262-0257 or e-mail rweik53164@aol.com or leave a message at the post.

Toni King
Chaplain

VA Mobile Van Returns

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic returns to Post 66 on Thursday, April 12, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. The clinic provides checkups as well as conducting preventive medical screening examinations and patient education/counseling. The Clinic also offers enrollment into the VA Health System, as well as the issuance of veteran ID cards, checks on patient information and schedules appointments. Check the events calender for other van visits during the month of April

This is a great opportunity to inform your veteran friends to not only take advantage of a benefit they earned, but also to join the American Legion. Details to qualify are posted in the Post or contact the Post Service Officer, Eddie Thompson, at (301) 262-2263.

**POST EVERLASTING
SUNDAY, APRIL 29
2:00 PM**

Second Vice Commander Missing

We regret to inform the membership that due to the 2nd Vice Commander's loss of the March bar receipts at the recent DAV Monte Carlo Nite, we must increase bar prices to make up the difference. Beer will be \$3 a can, wine \$4 a glass and mixed drinks \$5. We thank you for your support in this crisis. Should anyone see the 2nd Vice Commander, please call 1-800-CRIME-66. He was last seen headed for Mexico with Legionnaire of the Year Alfred E. Newman's daughter Zelda and her cocker spaniel Ex-Lax.

Thank you.

An annual tradition, this month's issue is in keeping with the spirit of the season. Some articles are meant to be humorous and hopefully you can tell the difference between the real and the not so real. Comments in this issue are those of the Newsletter staff and are not the policy of Disney-Bell Post 66, Inc., its officers, or anyone else with any sense.

Editor's Note

2001 CONVENTION SHIRTS

We are now taking orders for the 2001 Department of Maryland Convention Shirt. Shirts will be gold with the Maryland crest on the left-hand side and "Maryland" printed below it in black. The name "American Legion" will be imprinted on the left sleeve. Total cost is \$18.00 and payment must accompany your order. Order forms are available behind the bar and must be received no later than May 30, 2001. Shirts will be picked up in Ocean City on July 10th.