

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66

AUGUST 1, 2001

POST, AUXILIARY AND SAL INSTALL OFFICERS

Commander's Message

The new American Legion activity year began last week when the 2001-2002 officers of Disney-Bell Post 66, Unit 66 of the Auxiliary and Squadron 66 of the Sons of the American Legion were installed at ceremonies held on Wednesday, July 25. On behalf of Auxiliary President Juanita Thompson and SAL Commander Tim McEwan, I wish to thank everyone who participated in the ceremonies and joined us in assuming our new duties of American Legion leadership. The upcoming year will be one of challenge for our associations and I look forward to working closely with both the Auxiliary and the SAL.

Every summer, we return from the Department Convention in Ocean City, install new officers and get our batteries recharged for the upcoming year's activities. Certainly this year is no exception. Most of you are well aware of the great facilities we enjoy at the Post, as well as the parties, dinners and other social events we host. However, there is a lot more to our American Legion and our Post than our great facilities.

In Bowie alone, we annually donate \$4,500 in college scholarships, charter both Cub Scout Pack 1688 and Boy Scout Troop 1688, support the Bowie High School ROTC program, contributed more than \$5,000 to Bowie Boys and Girls Club sports teams and almost \$2,000 to the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department, and sponsor our American Legion baseball team. Throughout Maryland, during the past calendar year, we have contributed thousands of dollars to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Johns Hopkins Children Center, Maryland Special Olympics, the Epilepsy Foundation of Maryland and the Cerebral Palsy Association of Maryland, to name but a few. We also sponsor students to attend Boys State (as does the Auxiliary to Girls State) and we are a leading county participant in the national oratorical contest. In service to all local veterans, we also host monthly visits by the VA Mobile Clinic.

These activities and the programs we sponsor are but a few in which we are involved. Disney-Bell Post 66 does not set the standard of performance in these areas . . . we raise the standard. Please take a moment and read the previous paragraph again. You may even want to read it several times. Then, when someone asks you what the American Legion does, you can tell them. Now, when someone says we are just a bunch of old guys drinking beer and smoking cigarettes, you can enlighten them. And, when someone wants to know why they should join, you can inform them.

We have a proud tradition of "service to the community, state, and nation." Be proud of your membership and share it with others. Be proud of our American Legion. Remember that these accomplishments did not happen over night. They are the result of many years of dedication, hard work and service by devoted members and the past commanders that have preceded me. Your continued support for these programs, along with the officers of our Post, the Auxiliary and SAL to carry them out, is greatly appreciated.

J. D. Larson
Commander

Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, August 22
7:30 P.M.

July 4th Picnic a Hit

The annual 4th of July picnic was a huge success and if you did not attend you missed one the biggest parties ever. Of course, this is only possible because of the hard work by many people. At the risk of

leaving a name or two off the list, and in no particular order, I wish to thank the following people for their contributions to this event: Joe Clark and Tim McEwan for cooking, Jim Pritchett, Michele Larson, John Marshall for setting up the tent, Tommy Andree and Paul Thompson for pouring the beer (we all know what a "sacrifice" that was), Laura Martin for frying the chicken, Marie Pritchett for cleaning the pots and pans, Sandy Harkleroad for selling raffle tickets, Juanita Thompson for the cake, the Honor Guard for the "Pledge of Allegiance" ceremony, Tim Kluchinsky for bringing the kids toys, everyone who brought food, all the people who carried chairs and tables out (and in), and of course, everyone who participated to make this annual event surely one of our highlights. Thanks, again, to everyone who helped.

Adjutant's Call

American Legion year 2001-2002 began with National mailing the first of five renewal notices to all members of the Department of Maryland. You should have received that notice around the 1st of July. Many of you have responded already and became "Early Birds" in Post 66 and the American Legion. We would certainly like to have more and more of you step forward and join us as "Early Birds," so mail your 2002 dues renewal to Post 66 today.

For those who are putting off paying their 2002 dues, National will send the second renewal notice October 1, 2001. Since the cutoff date is August 8, 2001, some of you will be renewing your membership, may receive that second notice. If that happens, verify that you have your 2002 membership card and disregard the notice. Everyone else should send in their dues.

Once again, if you have transferred into Post 66 during the past year, look at the left side of your renewal notice. If it is from your last Post, National, for some reason, has not yet processed your transfer. DO NOT pay your 2002 dues to your old post. If you do, you will automatically be transferred back to your Old post and we must do the whole transfer routine over again, only this time, Post 66 WILL NOT receive credit for your membership. Please mail your 2002 dues to \$20 to: Disney-Bell Post 66, 9605 Old Laurel Bowie Road, Bowie, MD 20720.

If you have any doubts or questions on your membership, contact me either at the Post (301-464-9814) or at my residence (301-390-6436). The Post e-mail

address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and mine is jimabniam@aol.com.

In service to God and Country, I am.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant

Unit 66 Report

First of all, I want to wish all of the new officers for Unit 66 a great year. I have enjoyed the past two years as President of our Unit. I also want to thank all the officers who served with me these two years from the bottom of my heart for all your support. We had a very successful term and we could not have done it without you and your dedicated spirit.

I am sure that President Juanita Thompson has a lot of "irons in the fire" getting ready for the 2001-2002 year. I ask all members of Unit 66 to give her all the help and support you gave me. While I am thanking people, I need to extend my appreciation to Immediate Past Commander Jr. Martin for all of the help given the Auxiliary from the Post. Also, I want to thank all the legionnaires and especially J. D. Larson for helping me get these articles in the newsletter. You did a great job! Thanks too, to the SAL for helping in the kitchen for our famous "Big Breakfasts."

Thanks to all!

Sandy Dadurka
Past President

Post 66 Auxiliary
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, August 15
8:00 P.M.

VA Clinic Visits Post

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic returns to Post 66 on Thursday, August 16, 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. 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 listed in the Post or contact the Post Service Officer, Eddie Thompson, at (301) 262-2263. This is the first visit of the summer, so if you haven't been in a while, mark your calendar now.

SAL SQUADRON 66
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 13
7:30 PM

WEB PAGE NOW ON-LINE

The Post 66 web site is up and running. Thanks to the work and computer savvy of member Ray Hart, we have a page in which we can all be proud.

Find out who your officers are, see pictures of the Post, the 4th of July picnic and even the calendar of events (just in case you lose your last). It's all there and we will be building on it almost daily. Well, weekly for sure. Monthly . . . I promise we'll update it monthly. Usually.

Keep in mind that we are in the initial stages of development. Currently, there is limited space to put all we want to put in it at this time. Plans are to obtain our own domain with unlimited space and make our homepage a useful tool for our members and also recruiting new members.

Check it out. The web address is: <http://members.bellatlantic.net/~alpost66/>. Bookmark it and return often. Thanks for a great job, Ray.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A special "get well" card goes out to Ray Hart who is at home recuperating from surgery. Also, Joe Dardzinsky, a member of Post 136 but friend of ours, is also recuperating from surgery. As Post Chaplain, I am always available to lend whatever support is necessary for Post 66 members who are in need of assistance. When a member is ill, in the hospital or has had a loved one pass away, we are here to lend our support and render any help we can.

If you know of anyone who is in distress, please call me at 301-262-0257, send e-mail to me at rweik53164@aol.com, or leave a message at the Post. Thank you.

Toni King, Chaplain



VA MOBILE VAN
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16
9:00 AM TO 2:30 PM