
The Rising Star

Disney-Bell Post 66 Newsletter

September 1, 2001

Get Your Kicks, at Post 66!

Summer is officially over, the kids are back in school, vacations from work have stopped and here at Post 66 the dust has settled and all our organizations are getting into our usual routines.

Friday Night dinners hosted by the Auxiliary begin again on Friday, September 14th. The menu for September is ham, macaroni and cheese, some other vegetable and dessert. Cost is \$8.00 and all we ask is that you call the post to make your reservation no later than Wednesday, September 12th so we know how much food to prepare. Dinners are served from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m..

The SAL hosts their annual Car Show on the very next day. Saturday, September 15th is the day and you don't need a car to have a great time. There will be refreshments, prizes, food and of course, great vintage cars to enjoy. Plan now on coming on out and having a good time.

While it doesn't start in September, it is not too early to start planning on cleaning up the old shotgun and getting up early on Sundays for our annual Turkey Shoots. Shoots begin on Sunday, October 21 promptly at 9:00 a.m.. The Turkey Shoot Committee will be meeting shortly to work on the details but you can be sure that there will be plenty of fun, and food, for everyone. Mark your calendars now and don't miss out one of the traditional activities of our Post.

Other activities coming your way this fall are our annual Early Bird Dinner, set for the second week in November and Veterans Day Observances on November 11th. It's never too early to plan for those events you don't want to miss.

I hope everyone had a very enjoyable summer and are looking forward to a very successful year ahead.

Remember that the kids are back in school so please drive carefully when in school zones and through our neighborhoods.

J. D. Larson
Commander

Post 66 Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, September 26
7:30 pm

First Vice Commander Report

Why not be an Early Bird for the Rest of Your life? The 2001-2002 membership drive has begun. In the August newsletter, Adjutant Jim Pritchett explained the details of the "administrative year" and how National solicits dues from our members. The membership goal of Post 66 is to reach four star status with the Department of Maryland. In order to reach that goal, we need to have 827 members before the next state Convention (cutoff is June 10, 2002). As of August 3, we are at 42% of our goal.

While we were in Ocean City, we mailed 155 letters to Post 297 members encourage them to transfer from that "holding" post to our very active Post 66. We have gained at least 12 new members already from that mailing.

But besides needing new members to reach our goal, we need to get everyone to renew early. This helps in many ways. "Early Birds" are those Post 66 members who pay their 2002 dues before November

12, 2001. By becoming an "Early Bird," you are invited to attend the Early Bird Dinner scheduled for November 17, 2001. But this year we are offering a very special incentive for you to become an "Early Bird."

The Executive Committee has approved a new incentive for this year to get more members to become "Early Birds." If you pay your 2002 dues prior to November 12, you will be eligible for a drawing for a Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) Membership to be held at the Early Bird Dinner. Depending upon your age, a PUFL can be worth as much as \$628 and you will never have to pay Legion dues again. You do not have to be present at the drawing to win.

Recruit new members, pay your own dues early and always be prepared to sign up new members by carrying a membership application with you. If you need an application form, any Post Officer will be happy to give you a supply. Good luck to all of our Post 66 "Early Birds."

Clif Morvant
First Vice Commander

Adjutant's Call

Last month, I covered the procedures regarding membership renewal notices. If you have not renewed your membership for 2002 by the time you read this, you will receive another renewal notice from National around the first of October.

Of course, if you are tired of receiving these notices and making yearly dues payments, then the "Paid-Up-For-Life" (PUFL) membership may be the answer. Under this plan, Legionnaires choose between two methods of paying dues for life.

A PUFL is not a discount program but rather a convenient method of paying your dues for a lifetime. It is based on two factors: the members age at the time of purchase and the total cost of dues of the Post. For example, Post 66 dues are currently \$20 per year and you are 55 years old, your cost for a PUFL is \$331. A

rate chart showing the various rates and age groups is available at the Post. An application for a PUFL, along with the payment, is turned into the Post Adjutant. After endorsement and certification, it is transmitted to National, via the Department, and a plastic PUFL card is sent to the member.

If you feel that the full fee is too much at one time, you may use a time payment plan whereby the total fee is paid within a year. The first payment is 10% of the processing, a balance due statement will be sent directly from National and the portion due will always be at least 10% of the total fee. The PUFL membership card will not be issued until the fee has been paid in full. (*HINT: What a great Christmas gift for that "hard to shop for" relative!*)

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 to God and Country.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant

Unit 66 President's Report

This is the beginning of a new year and we have new officers and a new set of goals to reach as well as continuing our service to the Post. We held our first meeting of the new year on Wednesday, August 15th at 8:00 p.m. in Thompson Hall at the Post home. We started our meeting by introducing our new officers: President, Juanita Thompson; Vice President, Barbara Goshen; Secretary, Cindy Queen; Treasurer, Anna Thompson; Chaplain, Priscilla Sprehe; Sergeant-at-Arms, Rose Carazzi; and Historian, Linda Healy. Immediately following the opening formalities, we jumped forward with both feet into the business at hand. We filled all of the chairpersons' slots for our committees.

On September 15, 2001, we will be operating a game table at the Charlotte Hall Carnival, the theme is, "The Big Top, Circus Fun for All." It will be held rain or shine. A new budget was presented and accepted. The Standing Rules were read and changes were made for the new year. Turkey Shoots will be starting soon and Rose Carazzi volunteered to the Turkey Shoot Chairman. If you can assist with breakfasts or lunches, please leave a message at the Post (301-464-9814). We have also planned some exciting activities for the coming year: Children's Halloween Party, Tribute to Youth Program Poppy Dinners and Gas Raffle to name but a few.

We changed the Friday Night Dinners to the second Friday of the month and our first dinner is September 14 at 6:30 p.m.. The menu will be fresh baked ham, homemade macaroni and cheese, homemade baked beans and fresh fruit salad. The price is \$8.00 per person. There is a sign-up sheet behind the bar and you can call in orders or make your reservations personally at the Post. Please indicate if your order is "to go." Reservations will be closed on Wednesday, September 12, so we will know how much food to prepare. Hope to see you there.

Fall Conference is coming up at the end of September and we have a delegation attending. We are hoping to come away with even more ideas and enthusiasm for the coming year.

There is a lot of energy and excitement in the air between the officers and members to whom I have spoken. We have a lot of new ideas and the willingness to work together on them. If you are interested in finding out more about our activities, or serving on a committee or even volunteering for an activity please feel free to call be at 301-262-8356, or drop a line at the Post home. Every volunteer is a valuable asset.

Thank you for your faith in me and I will strive to earn it during my term in office

Juanita Thompson
President

Edwin Thompson Receives Award

At the monthly meeting of Post 66, Eddie Thompson was officially presented with the "Earl B. Wright Memorial Service Officer Award" from the Department of Maryland. Named for Earl Wright, the Department of Maryland's Service Officer for many years, Eddie Thompson is the first Service Officer in the state to receive this award. All of us at Post 66 are well aware of the many hours of dedicated service he has done for not only our Post, but any veteran in our area who needs assistance. Mr. Thompson has been the Service Officer for Post 66 for many years and three ago was recognized by the Post awarding him the title Service Officer Emeritus and dedicating the meeting hall in his honor. It is great to see that the Department has chosen Eddie to receive this honor first and that they too recognize him for the service we have known about for many years.

Originally, this Earl B. Wright Memorial award was to be presented to Eddie at the Ocean City Convention; however, the plaque was not ready at that time. It is a pleasure to honor him at our post at this time. Congratulations, Eddie, for a job well done.

Chaplain's Corner

As we begin another administrative year, let us remember our fellow veterans in the VA hospitals and nursing homes. If you know of any veteran or their family who needs our help, please leave a message for me at our Post Home, or call me at 301-262-0257, or send an e-mail message to rweik53164@aol.com.

Toni King

Squadron 66 Report

A reminder of our upcoming Car Show on September 15, 2001. This annual event is always a lot of fun for all, even if you don't have a vehicle to enter. So come on out and have a good time.

Remember to pay your dues for 2002. Those SAL members delinquent back through 2000-2001 will be removed from our membership rolls on December 10, 2001.

Congratulations to the SAL'S 2001-2002 officers. They are: Commander Timothy McEwan, First Vice Commander David Maxwell, Adjutant James Clark, III, Finance Officer Darby McNeill, Chaplain Sam Clark, Jr., Sergeant-at-Arms Patrick Lamb, and Historian John O'Toole.

A special "Thank You" to Juanita and Craftsman Press for donating 500 color Flyers for the September Car Show.

Timothy McEwan
SAL Commander

You will only be remembered for two things. The problems you solve or the ones you create.

Alan J. Twohig Memorial Forget-Me-Not Golf Classic

The 13th Annual Alan J. Twohig Memorial "Forget-Me-Not Golf Classic" will be held on Monday, September 17, 2001 at the Bowie Golf and Country Club on Route 197. This annual event, sponsored by Omaha Beach Chapter 7, Disabled American Veterans in Bowie, is held in honor of the late Alan J. Twohig, also a past member of Post 66. All proceeds of the tournament benefit the DAV Veterans Service Fund. The format for the tournament is a best ball scramble with a shotgun start promptly at 9:00 a.m..

Cost for the tournament is \$60.00 per person (\$240.00 per foursome) for participants. There are also hole and tee sponsors, boosters and business card ads available for those who wish to contribute but do not play golf. To play, contact Jim Pritchett at 301-390-6436.

POST EVERLASTING



The following members of Disney-Bell Post 66 are to be transferred to the Post Everlasting of the American Legion for the year 2001-2002: John W. Badaczewski, Claude W. Fulp, Martin M. Spolarich, James E. DeVinney, Thomas M. Green, Stanley Mardeusz, and Gary B. Leapley. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to their families and loved ones.

VA Mobile Clinic Visits

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic returns to Post 66 on Thursday, September 20, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. The Clinic provides checkups, preventive medical screening examinations and patient education and counseling. The Clinic will also offer enrollment into the VA Health System, issue veteran ID cards, check on patient information and schedule appointments. If you have any question regarding this service, contact the Post Service Officer Eddie Thompson, Service Officer at (301) 262-2263.

Squadron 66 Monthly Meeting
Monday, September 10
7:30 pm



MIA Recognition Day

Saturday, September 15, 2001 is POW/MIA Recognition Day. In honor of this day, a brief history of the POW/MIA flag is presented. In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville Florida *Times-Union*, Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice President of Annin & Company which had made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations as part of their policy to provide flags to all UN member states. Sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue, Mr. Rivkees, along with Annin's advertising agency, designed a flag to represent our MIAs.

On March 9, 1989, the official flag, which flew over the White House on 1988 National POW/MIA Recognition Day, was installed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. It is the only flag ever

displayed in the rotunda where it will stand as a symbol of national commitment to America's POW/MIAs until the fullest possible accounting has been achieved.

On August 10, 1990, Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355 which recognizes the POW/MIA flag and designated it "... a symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia ..."

VA Mobile Clinic
Post 66
Thursday
September 20, 2001
9:00 am to 2:30 pm
Registration, Blood Pressure Screening

Turkey Shoots!



Coming Soon!