
THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1, 2002

New Year Begins at Post 66

Year 2001 is behind us and we are looking forward to another great year ahead. I hope that all members of the American Legion family enjoyed a very merry, holiday season and safe and a happy new year.

All of the events of the past month were a huge success and hopefully you were able to take part in most, if not all of them. The "Toys for Tots" drive resulted in the Post collecting more than \$3,000 worth of toys that were distributed to needy children in the local area and hospitals in the Baltimore area. Pat Lamb and his team did a fantastic job. Be sure to pass along your appreciation to Pat and his committee the next time you see him.

Unit 66 hosted a wonderful party for the kids this past year. At one point, I counted well more than 50 children who were enjoying the magic show, refreshments, prizes and of course, Santa Claus. As you all know, our Santa is from the South Pole and he really made the kids happy this year. Thanks Santa, for all your help this season and every year at Disney-Bell Post 66.

The annual Christmas Party held every Christmas Eve was also a great success. While not attended by as many people as in past years, it is always a great time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and socialize with some members you may not see as often as you would like. Dan Healy put together a great team and the food was delicious and plentiful. An extra special treat was having our own National Commander Richard Santos and his lovely wife Linda stop in for a visit. We presented Ric and Linda with the special edition sweatshirts we are selling to support our local troops through the USO. It was great to see our Commander relaxing and enjoying Post 66 and his friends. A special

"thank you" goes out to Juanita and Paul Thompson for gathering the viddles and setting up, Tom Murphy for his specialty "Murphy Meat," and Clif and Cindy Morvant for heading up the clean up detail (always a popular chore). If there are some names that were missed (like Nick Muller), please forgive me; everyone knows how much we rely on you to help make all of these events the successes they are.

If you happened to have missed any of these events and have access to the internet, log onto www.alpost66.org and see the pictures and spot some of your friends. Our web site continues to grow and look great thanks to the dedication and hard work of our volunteer web master, Ray Hart.

Please be sure to read the rest of the newsletter and make plans to be active in the Post this upcoming year. With Friday night dinners, shrimp Saturdays, a NASCAR pool, Super Bowl Sunday and more, more, more, we literally have something for everyone. Don't just read about it in the newsletter, come on out to the Post and be part of it.

We have been through a lot this past year and although our country suffered a great loss on the September 11th, we have pulled through with flying colors . . . red, white and blue. United we stand and united we will stay as we go together into 2002.

J. D. Larson
Commander

Here we are at the beginning of a New Year and time to start anew with important projects and to thank those who did so much in the past year. I'd like to thank John Harlings daughter Adele for the beautiful Christmas wreath on the front door of the post. For leading the children in Christmas carols at the Children's Christmas Party, I would like to thank Sue O'Toole. Also for helping with the M&M's guessing game I'd like to thank Evelyn Durst. For their extra time and effort in shopping and preparing a food basket and gifts for our "adopted family" many thanks go out to Cindy Morvant and Betty Mullins. And last but certainly not least thanks goes to Priscilla Sprehe for purchasing the toys for the Auxiliary's Toy for Tots donation. I know I've missed others who have participated and given of their time and talent and I'd like them to know that they too are very much appreciated for their work that makes our functions a success and my job a lot easier. **THANK YOU!!**

There was no regular Auxiliary meeting for December, in its' place the ladies had their annual Christmas party, with Santa Claus as our guest. We began our evening with a short business meeting to take care of some important items: first we draped the charter in memory of Sandy Harkleroad, a member of both the Post and the Auxiliary who will be missed; second, we voted in seven new members, bringing us within twenty-five of making goal; third the winners of the gas raffle were drawn and the recipients have been notified. Following a prayer by the Chaplain, Priscilla Sprehe we proceeded on with the festivities at hand. I want to thank the ladies for the beautiful Lennox crystal Nativity Scene, it will be one of my most cherished keepsakes. Santa arrived to hand out the gifts in his own unique style. Then we proceeded to the food table with so many different goodies to choose from, everything was delicious. The party was attended by eighteen members, several of them were our newer members. A good time was had by all.

Remember our Friday night dinner on January 11th at 6:30 P.M., Ron and Rose Corrazzi will be doing the cooking of an Italian menu of stuffed shells, Italian chicken and other Italian delights. Please make plans to attend, a sign-up sheet will be behind the bar you can make your reservations in person or by phone, but do

it before January 9th in order that we can figure out how much we need to prepare.

We have decided to donate the proceeds from February's Friday night dinner to the Sandi Dutton for National President campaign fund. The date is February 8th at 6:30 P.M. and the menu will be oven fried chicken. Please make plans to come out and support a great cause and have a wonderful meal too!! The sign-up sheet will be made available in January so that you can sign up early.

I'd like to take this time to wish everyone a safe and joyous New Year and may this year be better than last.

Juanita L. Thompson
President

SHRIMP NIGHT COMING IN 2002!!



January 12th, Post 66 will be hosting our inaugural "Shrimp Night". Not a dinner, just a good sized bowl of shrimp and a draft beer or glass of wine for a low price. Please join us at 6:00 and enjoy the post, some friends, and great shrimp.

Adjutant's Call

The calendar year 2001 has come to a close, but American Legion Year 2001-2002 continues until June 30, 2002. For those Legionnaires who have not paid their 2002 dues and feel they have until June, they are technically correct; however, National will soon begin to take actions which could suspend their legion magazine and might result in being removed from the rolls.

The simple solution is to pay your 2002 dues now and prevent any administrative hassle. Just make a \$20.00 check payable to The American Legion and mail it to Post 66, 9605 old Laurel-Bowie Road, Attn: Adjutant, Bowie Maryland 20720. If you are not sure that your dues are current contact me at either the Post, 301-464-9814 or my residence, 301-390-6436. Post e-mail address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and mine is jimabniam@aol.com.

I service to God and country, I am.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant

Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 23
7:30 P.M.

First Vice Commander's Report

Here is a little game you can play. Quick, look at the calendar. It should indicate that it is now 2002. Great, so far you are winning. Now, take a look at your American Legion membership card. It should read "2002", just like the calendar. Are you still a winner? If not, please send your \$20 annual dues to the Post as soon as possible. Don't put it off any longer. This is one of those things that is easy to put off and easier to forget. If your card says "2001," you can still win our little game by sending in your 2002 dues as soon as possible.

I wrote a few months ago that I would use this space to give you reasons why you and your friends, neighbors and relatives should belong to the American Legion. Here is one activity of the Legion that goes

largely unnoticed by all but the members of the legislative branches who are constantly lobbied by the American Legion. The American Legion has **National Security** policies in the areas of Aerospace, Energy, Merchant Marine, Defense Civil Preparedness, Law and Order and Military and Naval Affairs. Implementation of these policies is accomplished through legislative action and coordination with the Department of Defense, Military Services and other federal agencies.

The membership committee met recently and will suggest an incentive program to the Executive Committee at the January meeting. The committee believes that our recommendations will be well received. If approved by the Executive Committee, I will announce them in this space next month. Remember, that incentives for new member recruitment will be retroactively awarded, so that you will get credit for any new members you have recruited already this membership year.

The commander, J.D. Larson was on hand the day that the Marines came to pick up the Toys for Tots donation from the post and DAV. As you have read here before, all he had to do was "ask" the Marines who came by that morning if they would like to join the American Legion. Just by "asking," J.D. signed up two new members for our post. Congratulations, Commander. I hope all of you will remember, all you have to do is "ask."

Clif Morvant
First Vice Commander

Post 66 Auxiliary
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 16
8:00 P.M.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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

Blue Star Banner Program

National Commander Ric Santos of Maryland recently issued a challenge. "I ask the American Legion family to . . . take the lead in a show of national pride and unity by providing a Blue Star Banner to every family in their area who has a relative serving in our war on terrorism. Let us provide this service to our military families. By them hanging the banner in their windows, these families display their pride and patriotism," Santos said.

The Blue Star Banner program was a common site in America's neighborhoods during World Wars I and II. Created in 1917, people hung it in their windows to denote that a member of the family was serving in the armed forces. Leaders of the nation's largest wartime veterans organization believe the program can play a vital role in America's war on terrorism.

Post 66 will provide a Blue Star Banner to any member of Post 66's Legion family who has a family member(s) serving in the armed forces, to include Army National Guard and Reserve Component members who have been called to active duty. Requests for banners should include the service members name and military organization, along with the name and membership number of the American Legion family member. Requests should be mailed to the American Legion. Disney-Bell Post 66, ATTN: Blue Star Banner, 9705 Old Laurel-Bowie Road, Bowie, Maryland 20720.

Future plans call to extend this program beyond the Post; however, we currently only taking orders for Post 66 members.

As of this writing, Blue Star Banners are on "back order" from National Emblem Sales and are expected to be shipped in late January 2002. Don't let this stop you though. Please place your order as soon as possible and you will be notified when they are received at the Post.

Anyone with questions should contact the Americanism Committee Chairman, Jim Pritchett, either at the Post, 301-464-9814 or residence, 301-390-6436. The Post e-mail address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and his is jimabniam@aol.com

NASCAR POOL FORMING

Did you miss having a pool last year??? Well, so did I. So 2002 will see a return of the weekly NASCAR pool. Some details will change, but if you are interested, contact J.D. for more information. Rules, regulations and format will be available by the beginning of February in plenty of time for the first race. Please, serious NASCAR fans (or diehard gamblers) only need apply.

SAL SQUADRON 66
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, JAN 14
7:30 PM