

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1, 2002

www.alpost66.org

I know it looks like a strange headline for a newsletter but I felt it was time to highlight this important service to our Post. Of course, many people do not utilize the internet and for those of you who don't, maybe this will be just what you need to convince you it's time.

Our web site, www.alpost66.org, is relatively new and is the result of many hours of hard work and dedication by one of our members, Ray Hart. Ray needed a class assignment, and we needed a site. But the assignment has been over for a while and Ray still acts as webmaster and is continuously developing new ideas to help our members. For example, you probably noticed that the calender section of the newsletter has changed. That is because it is pulled directly off the web site. While it takes about six weeks to get changes to you via this newsletter (if at all), the calender can be changed daily. And, for more information, click on the shaded field and a pop up screen provides more information about that activity which normally could not fit in the little box.

From time to time we get comments about the arrival time of the newsletter. This is understandable; however, often we are at the mercy of the printer and, more noticeably since 9-11, the Post Office. In fact, under normal conditions, it now takes about 10 days from the time it is given to the Post Office until it arrives at your home. That is not a problem with the website. In every case, the newsletter is printed "on line" before the printer ever sees it. You want the latest news, hop on line.

Besides the calender, you can view Post officers (Wow!), take a tour of the Post, see pictures and scenes from many of our events and other great

features. For instance, you can "link" to other Posts and check out their facilities, or to the Department and National. You can even order American Legion products direct from emblem sales. Also, our links page is continuously updated with just about every imaginable connection a veteran and Legionnaire could hope for.

Future plans call for a "subscriber" newsletter whereby you can enroll to receive special e-mail notices when time is of the utmost importance. This could be for schedule changes, unexpected events, legislative agenda items and, more importantly and sadly, the announcement when a member has been transferred to Post Everlasting.

That's all the time and space I have for selling our site. Comments are welcome. The rest of the newsletter is filled with activities, organization reports and other important Post information. We strive to have something for everyone and be the best we can possibly be. Thank you.

J. D. Larson
Commander

Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, February 27
7:30 P.M.

1st Vice Commander Report

Our Post has 677 paid members for 2002 or 82% of what we need to maintain our four star ranking. We need to sign up an additional 150 members by the end of June.

The membership committee will soon begin a telephone and mail blitz to try to round up now-delinquent members. And, as always, the quest continues for new members.

If you have not paid your 2002 dues, please send us your check now to avoid losing your continuous years of membership. Or better yet, drop by the Post to deliver your check or cash 2002 dues payment. There have been major renovations to the Post that many of you have not seen and we continue to make improvements. We are seeing growing numbers of members of the Post, the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion enjoying the amenities of our renovated Post home.

One of the many benefits of your Legion membership is the monthly issue of The American Legion Magazine. As a Legion member you receive a yearly subscription to this outstanding publication at no additional cost. This colorful monthly issue is packed full of general-interest features and updates on veterans' benefits to keep you informed of changes that effect you as a veteran. You don't want to be a lapsed member and miss any of the upcoming issues.

Now that we are well into the new year, let me suggest a New Year's resolution that is easy to keep. Please remember that the best way to recruit a new member is to "just ask." Resolve to "ask" new acquaintances if they are eligible to join the Legion and then "ask" them to join. And don't let old acquaintances be forgot, if you haven't asked, now is the time.

Clif Morvant
First Vice Commander

CRIBBAGE NIGHT AT THE POST

On Thursday evening February 7, 2002 "Cribbage Night At The Post" will begin for those who would like to learn as well as those who know how to play. The intent is have some fun and meet new friends with the common interest of playing cribbage. We will continue to meet each Thursday until March 7, 2002 when we will have a cribbage tournament. Particulars are as follows: Cost: \$5.00 per person. Format: determined by number of participants. Sign up sheet will be at the Post or call and have your name added to the sheet.

Cut off for tournament registration is March 2, 2002.



Unit 66 President's Report

It is a joyous new year and a very busy one for the Ladies Auxiliary at Disney-Bell Post 66. We have participated in many activities so far this year that will benefit our veterans and their families and there is still so much to do.

Our Americanism Committee Chair, Anna Thompson, has contacted schools that will participate in our essay contest and essays will be picked up soon for judging. The winners will be announced in April at our Children and Youth Program. The Southern District day for God and Country that was usually held at Andrews Air Force Base will be held at the Clinton Baptist Church in Clinton, due to the tragic events of 2001. The date will be Saturday, February 9th at 2:30 p.m.. The service will be followed by a reception at

Clinton Post 259 and all are invited to attend this nondenominational event.

Priscilla Sprehe, Children and Youth Chair, reported on the success of the Toys-for-Tots campaign this year. She is going to approach several area schools to participate in making Valentines for the veterans at Charlotte Hall. She had done this on her own last year and it was very well received. Also, this year we will be selling the flag circles for the Children's Miracle Network. She also reminded us of the Southern Maryland District Children and Youth Project, the Linus Project. Ladies are asked to make a quilt blanket from crib size to full size to be donated to the children's wards in hospitals in the Southern Maryland District.

Post 66 Auxiliary
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, February 20
8:00 P.M.

Community Service Chair, Cindy Morvant, reported that she and Betty Mullins put together a food basket and gifts for our adopted family for Christmas. She also reminded us about collecting cell phones for the Office of Sheriff of P.G. County so that they may be converted and distributed to Senior Citizens to use as 911 emergency phones. Barbara Goshin reported that we have a total of 237 members and only need 12 more to make goal; however, we are striving to do better than that. The Ladies have done a great job recruiting new members.

Our February 8th Friday Night Dinner proceeds will go to the Sandi Dutton for National President Campaign. We are hoping she will be able to attend and meet the great people of Disney-Bell Post 66. The menu will be: oven fried chicken, parsley potatoes, green beans, salad, dessert, roll and butter. The cost will still be \$8 and the money will be going toward a great cause. Please make plans to attend. Either call or sign up personally on the sign-up sheet behind the bar. Remember the cut off date for reservations is February 6th so call in early. March's Friday Night Dinner will be

a Taco Night. Details and menu will be in the next newsletter.

I would like to take time to thank Brenda Graham for the wonderful letter she composed to send to our service people overseas for the holidays. I will post a copy on the Post bulletin board for all to see.

Thanks are also forthcoming to Ron and Rose Corrazi for the successful Italian night dinner that they prepared. We received many favorable comments and I think they deserve a hearty pat on the back for their efforts.

The Auxiliary also makes its presence known at the Turkey Shoots. Whether you realize it or not we are involved in many aspects of this Sunday morning activity. From fixing breakfasts for the shooters and workers, to running scatter shots and meat scatter shots. We are also involved with "running" targets and even as shooters. So just look around on Sunday and see how much support there is from the Ladies Auxiliary, and we are proud of it! *(A little added note from the Commander: Yes, Juanita! We are proud of it, too! Thanks!)*

Last but not least I would like to say a big THANKS to all the Ladies for their support and participation so far this year. They make me proud to be President of such a wonderful and great organization. They also make my job much easier because they are so energetic and eager to serve. Again many thanks and I know this year will only get better.

Juanita L. Thompson
President

St. Patrick's Day Dinner
Sunday, March 17th
Corned Beef and Cabbage
Green Beer
5:00 to 6:30 PM
\$6 per person
rsvp: 3-13-02

Adjutant's Call

The American Legion National Headquarters compiles continuous years of membership and prints them on an individual's membership card. National Emblem Sales has lapel pins in units of five years - from five to 80. Each year, Disney-bell Post 66 has more than 100 Legionnaires who qualify for on of these pins. With that large a number and the size of Thompson Hall, it would be impossible to present all eligible recipients their pins during the Legion Birthday Dinner.

On Saturday, February 23, 2002 from Noon until 3:00 p.m., Post 66 will have an Open House during which those Legionnaires whose 2002 membership cars are printed with 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 years of continuous membership may receive their pins. If you are eligible, stop by the Post and get your pin, shake hands with the Commander and other Post officers. Even if you are not eligible for a pin, bring a prospective member and introduce him or her to The American Legion and Post 66. This will e a casual way to reacquaint yourself with your fellow Legionnaires.

If you are not sure about your continuos years, contact me at either the Post (301-464-9814), my home (301-390-6436) or e-mail me at alpost66@bellatlantic.net or jimabniam@aol.com.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant

VA MOBILE CLINIC
THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 7
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Friday Night Dinner Schedule and Menu February 2002

February 1st (**Honor Guard**)

Grilled Steak (Cooked to Order) Baked Potato, Salad and Dessert (\$8.00)

February 8th (**Auxiliary**)

Oven Baked Chicken, Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, and Dessert (Proceeds benefit Sandi Dutton for National President Campaign) (\$8.00)

February 22nd (**SAL**)

Fish Fry with Orange Roughy, Macaroni and Cheese, Dessert (\$10.00)

All dinners are served from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. "Doggie" bags provided. Call Post for reservation Wednesday before dinner.

Geezers

Geezers (slang for old men) are easy to spot: At sporting events, during the playing of the National Anthem, geezers hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them. Geezers remember WWI, the Depression, WWII, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, Korean War, Cold War, Jet Age and the Moon Landing, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into a Geezer on the sidewalk, he will apologize. If you pass a Geezer on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. Geezers trust strangers and are courtly to women. Geezers hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.

Geezers get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like filth on TV or in movies. Geezers have moral courage. They seldom brag unless it's about their grandchildren.

It's the Old Geezers who know our great country is protected, not by politicians or police, but by young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs Old Geezers with their decent values. We need them now more than ever. Thank God for Old Geezers!



Squadron 66 Report

The Sons of the American Legion are hosting a variety of activities in the upcoming months. The first one will be a Valentine's Dinner and Dance with DJ on Saturday, February 9. A spaghetti dinner with salad, rolls and dessert will be served from 6:30 until 8:00 with a DJ and dancing from 8:00 until midnight. Cost is \$10 per person. Please sign-up at the Post so we can prepare enough food.

Also, we will be hosting a Bull and Oyster Roast on Saturday, March 23rd. This will be an "all you can eat" with beef, oysters (raw and fried) shrimp, oyster stew, hot dogs, sauerkraut, cole slaw and potato salad. Details and hours will be forthcoming in the next

newsletter. (At press time, it was unclear if there would be a live band or a DJ -- either way, there will be dancing). With all of that food, there is sure to be something for everybody and plenty of it. The cost is only \$20 per person and seating is limited. Tickets will be on sale at the Post. Don't get shut out of what looks to be a great feast.

I want to thank all the members who attended our last meeting. It was great to see more SAL members there. Mark your calendars for the next meeting (February 11) and I hope to see more of you there.

Tim McEwan
Commander

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The "Sick Call" list this month includes Past Commander Billy Woods, recuperating at Larkin Chase in Room 101 North. He is taking visitors and I am sure would like a call from some old friends.

As we start the new year, let us always remember our comrades that are defending us both here and abroad. We know how they are feeling and the loneliness of being away from home and family. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

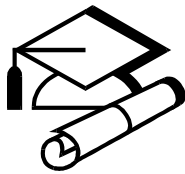
If you know of any veteran or their family who needs our help, please leave a message for me at our Post Home, or call me at 301-262-0257, or send an e-mail message to rweik53164@aol.com.

Toni King
Chaplain

SAL SQUADRON 66
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, FEB 11
7:30 PM

Applications for Melvin Buck Scholarship Now Being Accepted

Nominations to receive the 2002 Melvin Buck Scholarship are now being accepted. The winner will receive financial assistance in the amount of \$1,500. Applicants must meet the following criteria:



1. Be a graduating high school senior in 2002.
2. Be a child, stepchild or grandchild of a member in good standing of the American Legion, Disney-Bell Post 66.

This scholarship is awarded by a blind draw of all applications accepted. Applications must be in writing and contain the following information: The applicant's name, address, telephone number, relationship to the member, member's name and membership number, and the name and telephone number of the high school the applicant attends. The deadline is April 1, 2002.

Applications may be delivered or mailed to the American Legion, Disney-Bell Post 66, 9605 Old Laurel-Bowie Road, Bowie, Maryland 20720 and marked to the attention of Doug Peters, Chairman, Children and Youth Committee. Applications may also be sent via fax or e-mail.

Oratorical Contest Results

On January 19, 2002, Disney-Bell hosted the local-level contest in the 2001-2002 American Legion High School Oratorical Contest.

Those attending were treated to very informative and inspirational presentations by the contestants. The winner of a gold medal, \$500 scholarship and the right to move to the county level contest is Jed Wentz, a

junior home-schooled student from Bowie. Second place finisher, Alexander Bobowiec, the son of a Post member, received a silver medal, \$300 scholarship and a certificate of participation.

It took the efforts of many members to make the event the success it was. Special thanks to Commander Larson and Adjutant Pritchett; time keepers Toni King and Myron James, who also doubled as tabulators; tabulator Herman Peterson; escorts and monitors Paul Thompson, John Marshall and Nick Muller.

Our thanks also go to the panel of judges who did an outstanding job. They were Ken Queen, Jan Mayer and Cindy Morvant.

Our winner, Jed Wentz, will be competing in the Prince George's County contest on February 9, 1:00 p.m. at the College Park American Legion Post. All of you are invited to attend to support our Disney-Bell Post 66 champion.



**VALENTINE'S
DINNER AND
DANCE
SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 9th
Dinner: 6:30 pm
Dance: 8:00 pm
Cost: \$10.00**

VAN VISITS POST

The VA Medical Center Mobile Health Clinic returns to Post 66 on Thursday, February 7, 2002 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.

For questions, contact the Post Service Officer, Eddie Thompson, at (301) 262-2263.