



The Rising Star



Disney-Bell Post 66 Newsletter

August 1, 2002

New Legion Year Begins

The American Legion year traditionally comes to an end and another begins when we attend the annual Department of Maryland convention in Ocean City, Maryland. This year was no exception and what a great year it was, too. Disney-Bell Post 66 was represented by 19 delegates this year, our highest number ever. We received our 14th consecutive Four Star Award for membership and broke our goal of 829 members.

Our Honor Guard represented our Post in their usual professional manner and took second place in the statewide competition . . . their highest finish ever. We wish them well in the competition at the National Convention in Charlotte in August. The Post also marched two units in the parade, one led Post 66 and one the Southern Maryland District contingent, which lead the parade due to our stated leading membership. Our float won first place in the parade which also featured many members of the Post and Auxiliary passing out small American flags to the people along the parade route. It was great fun.

Officers of the American Legion, Unit 66 of the Auxiliary and Squadron 66 of the Sons of the American Legion for 2002-2003 were installed at the Joint Installation Dinner held Wednesday, July 24th. I want to personally thank everyone who attended and made this event a great success and particularly the members of the Auxiliary for their hard work in preparing the meal.

Things are usually quiet around the Post during August and this year is no exception. The Legion organizations will soon be getting ready for Friday night dinners (Steak Dinner is the first on September 6), membership drives are preparing for reaching goals, soon the kids will be back in school and things will be normal.

Some details about future events were not available at press time but you might want to pencil in a couple of dates on your calender. There will be a Prince George's County Council of the American Legion fund raiser at Beltway Post 172 on Cipriano Road in Lanham on Saturday, September 7. It will be an all-you-can-et bull roast and tickets will be available at the Post in a week or so. Cost if \$20. Also, we are getting in contact with city officials to participate in some way with the marking the one year anniversary of 9-11. As soon as details are forthcoming, it will be on the web site and posted in the hall. We are also planning an Oktoberfest celebration for October 19 with live music, German food and a great time.

I hope everyone is enjoying a beautiful summer and I hope to see you at the Post soon.

J. D. Larson
Commander

First Vice Commander's Report

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of serving another year as the Post First Vice Commander. Although a lot of work is involved in being membership chairman, the membership committee helps to make the job much easier. I will be recruiting the 2003 membership

committee in the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in serving, and I don't get to you first, please let me know you are willing to serve. I welcome any help I can get.

The committee meets approximately four times a year, and we try to keep our meetings short. We are

MEETING SCHEDULE

POST 66

WEDNESDAY, AUG 28

UNIT 66 (AUXILIARY)

WEDNESDAY, AUG 21

SQUADRON 66 (SAL)

MONDAY, AUG 12

always exploring new ways to recruit new members and to retain the members we have now. I know we have many very intelligent and imaginative members whose ideas may lead us to attain our four star rating even earlier than we did last year. If you have ideas, join the membership committee and let us know what we could be doing better.

The Department Convention was inspiring. Many of those that addressed the convention focused on the events of the past year and the significant role that our organization can play now, and must be prepared to play in the future. After taking time to reflect on the content of several of the speeches, it occurred to me that the preamble of our constitution, which we recite before each meeting has taken on greater significance than ever before. I realize that many readers of this newsletter have elected not to take the time or extend the effort to attend our monthly membership meetings. Others would like to attend, but for any of a number of reasons cannot do so. Or maybe some have never noticed the reverse side of their membership card. For those comrades, I would like to remind you of the noble causes we, as Legionnaires, espouse.

The Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion

'For God and Country, we associate ourselves together

for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.'

So what does this have to do with membership? With the principles of our great organization in mind, what eligible veteran would decide not to want to belong to the American Legion when advised of what we do, and then asked to join? Some of us may be willing to ask a veteran to join, but not have the words to explain what we do. Pull out your membership card, or clip out the copy of the preamble above, and open the door for a new member.

Clif Morvant
First Vice Commander

Dr. Seuss Explains Why Computers Sometimes Crash

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,
and the bus is interrupted at a very last resort,
and the access of the memory makes your floppy disk abort,
then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,
and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash,
and your data is corrupted cause the index doesn't hash,
then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house,
says the network is connected to the button on your mouse,
and your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss,
Then the icons in your window will be as wavy as a souse.

And if your packets want to tunnel to another protocol,
that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall,
then you may as well reboot the thing, bang your head
against the wall,
'cuz as sure as I'm a poet that sucker's gonna fall!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy in the disk,
and the macro code instructions cause unnecessary risk,
then you'll have to flash the memory and you'll want to
RAM your ROM,
then quickly turn off the
computer and be sure to
tell your Mom!

Well! That certainly
clears things up for me!



"You caught a virus from your computer and we had to erase your brain. I hope you kept a back-up copy."

Adjutant's Call

National has begun American Legion Membership Year 2002-2003 by mailing the first of five dues renewal notices to all members of the Department of Maryland on the 1st of July. They will mail out the second renewal notice October 1, 2002 to all members whose dues have not been processed at National Headquarters by August 8, 2002. As you can see, there is a large turn around time in this process and as a direct result, many who have renewed their dues will receive that second notice.

The renewal process is really very simple. When your dues are received, an entry is made in the Post Membership Roster and your portion of the membership card is mailed to you. With the exception of the back log that occurs during the Department of Maryland's annual convention, most renewals are processed and mailed to the member within 24 hours. The Department and National portions are transmitted to the Department on a weekly basis, who then forwards National's portion on a timely basis.

Despite the fact that all dues' renewal notices (after the original July statement) contain a statement "Please disregard if you have already paid your 2003 dues," many Legionnaires mail that notice to the Post with a note that they have already paid and why are they being asked to pay again. Or in some cases, they pay their dues a second time. If you have paid your 2003 dues and have your membership card, do as National suggests and disregard the notice.

If you have any questions on the status of your membership, please contact me either at the Post 301-464-9814 or 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

THE SNEEZE

They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-three students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With rich maroon gowns flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt. Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and moms freely brushed away tears. This class would not pray during the commencements ----- not by choice but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it.

The principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families. The speeches were nice, but they were routine . . . until the final speech received a standing ovation.

A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then he delivered his speech . . . an astounding SNEEZE!

The rest of the students rose immediately to their feet, and in unison they said, "GOD BLESS YOU." The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future. . . with or without the court's approval.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Unit 66 Report



Here we are at the beginning of a new year. We have many of the same people serving as officers in the Auxiliary and we are all working toward the same goals; membership and service. During the coming year, I hope that Unit 66 Disney-Bell can make 4-star earlier than the past year, which means if you who have not yet renewed your membership please do so as soon as possible. Thanks. Also, if you would like to participate in any of the functions that the Auxiliary sponsors, feel free to attend our monthly meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. You just might find a suitable place to show of your talent or it might be the place to come and enjoy the company of fellow Auxiliary members working toward our common goal: service to our veterans and their families.

We have several activities already in the planning stages. The Charlotte Hall Summer Carnival will be held in September and we welcome any and all that would like to attend and entertain the veterans there. We will be starting up our Friday night dinners in September and can always use extra hands in the kitchen while enjoying the fellowship of good friends.

We have several committees that cover aspects of Legion life; children & youth, Americanism, VA&R, community service and

poppy to name but a few. We will looking for people to take the chairmanship of these committees and also for people that would like to serve on them. Can you think of a better way to learn about our goals while enjoying the friendship of other ladies? If you are interested in any of the above functions or committees please call me at 301-262-8356 and leave a message we would be honored and proud to work with you.

Keep your eye on this space in the following months I will be reporting on our accomplishments and future plans of the Disney-Bell Unit.

Juanita L. Thompson
President

Chaplain's Corner

With a new year as your Chaplain starting, I want you to know how much it has meant to me to serve as the Chaplain of Post 66.

As always you can reach me at 301- 262- 0257 or on the web at rweik53164@aol.com or leave a message at the Post home. I am always on hand to help any veteran or their family.

Toni King
Chaplain

Members in the News

Commander J. D. Larson's Mom underwent surgery in June and is recovering nicely...even rumored to have been seen playing tickets at the Post. Kathy Seeburger got a new car and it broke down on the first day. Sorry , Kathy. Gloria Wright (Post 217 but a 66 "regular") won the NASCAR first season. She beat out J.D. and Roger Goll on the last week of competition. Congratulations! Last place went to Greg and Kim Prendable. Sorry, Jr. Paul Thompson has been spending his free time driving PG County Council hopeful Doug Peters (past Post 66 Commander) around the area to knock on doors and kiss babies...you may see them soon in your neighborhood. Clif and Cindy Morvant recently took a short trip to New Orleans.

(Do you know what' happening with a fellow member? Let us know.)

SHRIMP NITE

Date: Saturday, August 10
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
What: Baker's Dozen
Steamed, Spiced
Shrimp
Draft Beer or Wine
Cost: \$6.50

First Come, First Served

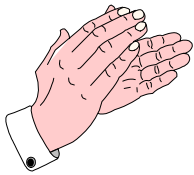
Prince George's County Council Bull Roast

The Prince George's County Council of the American Legion is planning on holding a Bull Roast on Saturday, September 7, 2002 at the Beltway Post 172 on Cipriano Road in Lanham. The Roast will be an "all-you-can-eat" picnic from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. with a DJ beginning at 6:00 p.m.. Details were not completed by press time but will be forthcoming both at the post and on the post website at www.alpost66.org. The menu is being finalized and will consist of pit beef bar-be-que, chicken, sausage (both German and Italian), hamburgers, hotdogs, cold salads, fresh corn-on-the-cob, beer and much, much more. The cost will be \$20 for advance sales and \$25 at the

door. Tickets will be available not only at Post 66, but all American Legion posts in Prince George's County.

The purpose of the fund raiser is to raise funds for use by the PG County Council in furthering the programs of the American Legion and assisting county posts in their program efforts. Post Commander J. D. Larson is the County Second Vice Commander and is Chairman of this year's fund raising efforts. Future fund raisers during 2002-2003 will include a turkey shoot, raffle and other events. Volunteers are needed and anyone wishing to donate some time please call the Post and leave your name and telephone number, or call J.D. at home (301-464-8943) or work (301-902-0410).

BRAVO! BRAVO!



The July 4th Picnic has gotten bigger and bigger every year and 2002 was no exception. We had over 165 people sign-up for the event and to say the least, it was a bit overwhelming. Events this large can only be successful with the help of a lot of people and we wish to recognize some of them now.

Thanks go to Dan Healy for the prep work in the kitchen and help setting up tables and other chores. A crew consisting of Les Wicklein and Dan assembled the small tents. Tim Kluchinsky provided the children's water toys and dunk tank (he always keeps the kids busy). Several people jumped to help with the cooking but special recognition goes to Steve Planty, Sr., Steve Planty, Jr. and Joe Weik for all the sweat and hard work in front of the grill. Thanks guys. Jim and Marie Pritchett kept food moving and cleaned up afterwards, Paul Thompson tended bar (we all know how hard that was on him), with help from Eddie and Ed later in the day, and a host of others who pitched in whenever asked. The Post thanks you all!

BORED?

Next time you're bored and looking for something to do, why not try one of these?

- C At lunch time, sit in your parked car with sunglasses on and point a hair dryer at passing cars...see if they slow down.
- C Page yourself over the intercom. Don't disguise your voice.
- C Put your garbage can on your desk and label it "in".
- C Don't use any punctuation marks.
- C Specify that your drive-through order is "to go".
- C When the money comes out of the ATM, scream "I won! I won! 3rd time this week!!!"
- C Tell your children over dinner "Due to the economy, we are going to have to let one of you go".