

# THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1, 2002



## Fall Activities in Full Swing

The fall season is here upon us and as usual we are busy at the Post. Friday night dinners are back and ready to go. There is something to eat every Friday, either hosted by the Post, SAL, or Auxiliary and all we ask is that you make your reservations by calling the Post no later than the Wednesday before. This is needed so we know how much to purchase and that food is not wasted. The various Legion organizations rely on these dinners to finance many of their programs and we make every effort to host different activities for all our members. Sample a menu you like and stop on by.

The Auxiliary has many activities coming up, including the annual Children's Halloween Party. Be sure to check the article in the upcoming pages to see what is happening there.

We will be having an Oktoberfest party on Saturday, October 19th complete with German food and a live band. We haven't had live music at the Post for a couple of years and it looks as if this going to be a great time. The Marcia and Joe Illig Band will be performing from 7:00 to 11:00 (Joe and Marcia are members of Post 66) and they play a great variety of music that won't blast your ears off. Of course, some traditional German music will be played as well. Cost is only \$15 per person (25\$ per couple) and includes all food, draft beer and music. Sign-up at the Post quickly as we can only hold 100 people.

The fall also brings our annual Turkey Shoots and 2002 is no exception. Shoots begin on Sunday, October 13 at 9:00 a.m.. As always, the Auxiliary will be sponsoring breakfasts and lunches on all shoot days beginning at 8:00 a.m.. Sign-up sheets for the shoots are in the lounge for early registration or you may register at the range beginning at 7:00 a.m.. It is still \$50 for all 18 shoots (19 shoots if it sells out), so sign up early and don't be shut out.

If you have not yet paid your 2003 dues, be sure to do so now so as not to miss out on the Early Bird Dinner being held on Saturday, November 16.

We have two small construction projects which will begin shortly. One is replacing the current windows in

the lounge and game room with those that can open and close to increase the flow of fresh air when weather permits. The other is some landscaping to improve the appearance of our grounds and to help abate the erosion of the hill adjacent to our parking lot.

J. D. Larson  
Commander



### TURKEY SHOOTS RETURN!

Fall began on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and if fall is here the annual Disney-Bell Post 66 Turkey Shoot season cannot be far behind. That's right! Turkey Shoots begin Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am and we are all set for another exciting year. Super Shoots, Winner-Take-All Pots, Scatter Shots and, of course, turkeys, hams, bacon and much more are planned for the upcoming year. Cost for a shoot package is still only \$50 and you may pre-register at the bar. The Auxiliary will be serving breakfast (starting at 8:00 am) and lunch with their now famous homemade soups. So clean your shotguns and break out your long johns and join us for a great time. In case of inclement weather, call the Post at 301-464-5425 for cancellation information.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

## 1st Vice Commander Report

Membership for 2003 is looking very promising, but historically the toughest road lies ahead. As of this writing, we have 490 paid up members for 2003, or 58% of our goal of 842. These are the members who always renew early, plus a number of new members and transfers from other posts. Now we need to work on the hard-liners who are always the last to renew.

We would like to have as many Early Bird renewals as possible this year. Most years we are struggling to meet our goal as late as May and June. If we can get everyone to cooperate and submit their renewals by Veteran's Day (or sooner) we can save on having to send out reminders and making phone calls or visits.

If you have not renewed for 2003, please help us by sending in your check as soon as possible. Thank you.

Clif Morvant  
First Vice Commander

### 2003 Dues Reminder

On October 1, 2002, National began sending the second 2003 dues renewal notice to all members of the Department of Maryland whose dues have not been received and processed by the August 2002 cutoff date. If you have paid your dues and have your 2003 membership card, you should ignore the renewal notice. If you have not renewed, now is the time to do it. The cutoff date for the third mandatory mailing is November 10, 2002. That is, your renewal must have reached National and been processed by them before November 10<sup>th</sup> to prevent a third notice from being sent. Also, remember that November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day, is the cutoff to qualify as a Post 66 "Early Bird" and be eligible to attend the Early Bird dinner the following Saturday.

Doctors can be frustrating. You wait a month-and-a-half for an appointment, and he says, "I wish you'd come in sooner."



## Unit 66 Report

The new year is in full swing for the new officers of Unit 66. Our first meeting of the new year was one of the busiest and longest. We read and revised our standing rules, members volunteered to chair our various committees, Friday night dinners were planned, and various veterans' projects were discussed. Our committee chairmen are as follows: Americanism - Anna Thompson, Girls State - Anna Thompson, Children and Youth - Priscilla Sprehe, Community Service - Cindy Morvant, Membership - Barbara Goshin, Poppy - Juanita Thompson, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation - Lois Van Sickle. Plans were also put on the table for the Fall Conference in October.

Our first Friday night dinner had a small turnout. I hope it was because we did not have a menu in the newsletter for people to plan on. That money is used for programs for veterans, their families and to benefit the community. I hope to see more of you at the remaining dinners for the year so we may be able to provide the quality of caring and service our veterans and their families deserve.

At our September meeting plans were finalized for the Charlotte Hall Summer Carnival to held on September 21, 2002. Juanita Thompson constructed the game for the Carnival and the table decorations were the idea of Brenda Graham. The theme for the essay contest this year is "What Does America's Future Hold for Me." If you know of a school in this area that would like to participate please call the post home at 301-464-9814 and leave a message. We will contact you with the details. We will be holding our annual Children's Halloween Party on November 2, 2002 from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the American Legion. We will be working with the Auxiliary from the DAV and it should be very exciting. Also, we have set up our menus for the Friday night dinners for the next two months, they are as follows: October - Pork and Sauerkraut with all the trimmings; November - Real Turkey with all the trimmings.

On Saturday, September 21, 2002 our contingent of eight volunteers went to Charlotte Hall for the annual

Summer Carnival. This year's theme was A Haunted House, so we manned our booth in costume. We entertained many of the veterans at our booth and every one of them went away with a prize and our gratitude. I would like to thank those ladies that went: Brenda Graham, Priscilla Sprehe, Cindy Morvant, Lois Van Sickle, Lindsay Van Sickle, Betty Mullen and Anna Elmendorf, along with myself.

October 26, 2002 has been designated as "Make A Difference Day" and since this day falls during our Fall Conference we have decided to choose a project that can be done on the Unit, District and Department level. We are planning to have a food drive to collect nonperishable food items and paper products. We will be collecting donations at the Post home for distribution to the Bowie Pantry and would also like to take some of the items to Fall Conference to donate at the Department level. I'm sure that all of you can find something to donate in order to help a needy family with food.

Remember that our meeting time is at 7:30 p.m. and our next meeting is October 16, 2002 at the Post. I hope to see you there.

Juanita L. Thompson  
Unit President

### e-Vets Information

The U.S. Department of Labor has recently launched a web site called e-Vets. This new web service provides timely, one-stop veteran information. The site address is: <http://www.dol.gov/vets> and includes information on a broad range of topics, such as: job search skills, employment/career job listings, entrepreneurship, Federal employment, education/training, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (ASSURE), Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, state veterans benefits, military records, veterans service organizations, housing/lodging and financial assistance to name just few. You may also link onto this page from the Disney-Bell home page ([www.alpost66.org](http://www.alpost66.org)) as well as many other related web sites.

## Adjutant's Call

The following article was published in the August 9, 2002 edition of The American Legion Dispatch and should resolve any questions that may exist concerning eligibility requirements for the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL.

### The American Legion

Any person is eligible for membership who was a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard (of the United States) and assigned to active duty during any of the following periods:

Aug 2, 1990 - present  
Dec 20, 1989 - Jan 31, 1990  
Aug 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984  
Dec 22, 1961 - May 7, 1975  
June 25, 1950 - Jan 31, 1955  
Dec 7, 1941 - Dec 31, 1946\*  
April 6, 1917 - Nov 11, 1918

\*U.S. Merchant Marines eligible during this time only.

Those who have left the service must have received an honorable discharge. Membership also is open to those who were citizens of the U.S. at the time of their entry in foreign armed forces that served with the U.S. during any of these periods. Service must have been terminated with an honorable discharge of honorable separation.

### The American Legion Auxiliary

All women who are eligible for membership in the Auxiliary fall into one of the following categories:

1. The mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of members of the American Legion.
2. The mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during any of the eligibility periods listed and who died in the line of duty during such service, or who, having received an honorable discharge, died after service.
3. The mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of those citizens of the U.S. who served during any of the

eligibility periods in the Armed Forces of any of the governments who were allies of the U.S. and who died in the line of duty during such service, or who, having received an honorable discharge, died after such service.

4. Women who are eligible for membership in the American Legion in their own right. (Eligibility includes step-relatives).

### **Sons of the American Legion**

Eligible members must be a male descendent, including stepsons and adopted sons, of a member of The American Legion. Others eligible to join are:

1. Male descendants, stepsons and adopted sons included, of a veteran who died in service during the eligibility periods.

2. Male descendants, stepsons and adopted sons included, of a veteran who died subsequent to his or her service after eligibility periods.

Should you have any questions on membership, please contact me either at the Post or my residence. Post telephone is 301-464-9814 and mine is 301-390-6436, cell 240-355-6809. Post E-mail is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and mine is jimabniam@aol.com.

In service to God and Country, I am.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.  
Adjutant



## **Oratorical Contest**

**D**isney-Bell Post 66 will once again be a Post sponsor of the 2002-2003 American Legion High School Oratorical Contest. The local contest is scheduled for February 1, 2003. Registrations must be submitted no later than January 1, 2003.

The purpose of the contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the

United States on the part of high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

The National final is scheduled for April 12-13, 2003 in Indianapolis, Indiana. All contestants must be citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States and "bona fide" students. For the purposes of the contest, "bona fide" students refer to any student, under the age of 20 (as of 4-12-03) and presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school, either public, parochial, military, private or state accredited home school.

Contestants are required to present one prepared oration of eight to ten minutes on some phase of the Constitution which will give emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. A second oration of three to five minutes on one of four assigned topics is also required. No notes are allowed. All orations must be in the English language.

Disney-Bell Post 66 will award three cash prizes of \$500 for first place, \$300 for second and \$200 for third. Additional cash prizes are awarded at the county, state and national levels. The national first place winner receives \$18,000. If you know of a junior or senior high school student who would like to participate, please contact Clif Morvant at the post (301) 464-9814 or by email [clifmorvant@msn.com](mailto:clifmorvant@msn.com) for copies of this year's rules and registration information.



American Legion Disney-Bell Post 66  
9605 Old Laurel-Bowie Road  
Bowie, MD 20720  
Phone: (301) 464-9814  
Fax: (301) 805-6832  
Web Page: [www.alpost66.org](http://www.alpost66.org)

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

---

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Bowie, MD  
Permit No. 30

---

---

Inside this Issue: Turkey Shoot Season Begins, Legion Association Eligibility Requirements, Oratorical Contest Registration, e-Vets Info, Organizational Reports, Events Calender and More!

---

### POST OFFICERS

Commander: J. D. Larson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Clif Morvant, 2nd Vice Commander: Les Wicklein, Adjutant: Jim Pritchett, Judge Advocate: Charlie Milstead, Service Officer: Vacant, Finance Officer: Herman Peterson, Historian: Myron James, Chaplain: Toni King, Sergeant-at-Arms: Nick Muller.  
Executive Committee: Jr. Martin, Tom Murphy, A. H. Sprehe, Eddie Thompson and Paul Thompson.



OKTOBERFEST  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19  
7:00 - 11:00  
JOIN US FOR AUTHENTIC FOOD,  
BEER AND FUN . . .  
GERMAN STYLE

DANCING TO THE LIVE SOUNDS  
OF THE MARCIA AND JOE ILLIG  
BAND  
(Music Everyone Can Enjoy)



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY  
MONDAY  
NOVEMBER 11, 2002  
11:00  
BOWIE VETERANS PARK

(Refreshments Served at Post 66  
immediately following ceremony)