

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66

JANUARY 1, 2003

New Year Begins at Post 66

The Christmas rush is over, the new year is upon us and now it is time to begin the long haul through winter. This past year has been a great one for Disney-Bell Post 66 and I would like to take a few moments to reflect on some of the highlights for our year.

The 2002 Legion year saw Post 66 earn its 14th consecutive four-star award in membership. This task gets more difficult each year and with the hard work and dedication of First Vice Commander Clif



Morvant and his Membership Committee, I am sure this winning trend will continue in 2003. If you have not seen the flag we were awarded in Ocean City last July, stop in Thompson Hall and take a look at it proudly displayed along the back wall.

Last year also saw our Historian Myron James win his second Post Yearbook Award as the best scrapbook in the state. This is quite an accomplishment once, let alone twice. Congratulations, Myron.

The Post 66 Honor Guard continues to represent this Post and the American Legion throughout the state. They continue to be a hard-working part of this Post, sponsoring dinners and shrimp nights to raise funds in support of their competition efforts. Be sure to thank a member the next time you see one.

Friday night dinners have quickly become a

tradition. Between the Honor Guard, Auxiliary and other dedicated members of the Post (read: Laura Martin), we now have dinners every Friday unless the month has a fifth Friday whereby we eat leftovers or frozen pizzas. You are asked to make reservations by the Wednesday before dinner so we know how many meals we need to prepare. We have very little "walk-in" meals.

Turkey Shoots have been well attended and the breakfasts and lunches provided to the shooters by the Auxiliary have been great. No matter the weather, we always have a good time at the shoots. If you haven't been to one lately, or never, drop by on a Sunday morning and spend some time with red necks and guns.

All of our Legion programs are progressing and Post 66 continues to shine. We have donated several thousand dollars to such programs as Maryland Special Olympics, the Epilepsy Foundation of Maryland, and the Cerebral Palsy Association of Maryland. We also awarded \$4,500 in college scholarships, chartered both Cub Scout Pack 1688 and Boy Scout Troop 1688 and made substantial financial donations to the Bowie Boys and Girls Club sports teams and the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department. American Legion baseball continues to flourish and we look forward to a very competitive season this year. We will be entering competitors to the annual American Legion Oratorical Contest again this year. This program, as well as our participation in Boys and Girls State, adds significantly to well being of the youth in our area.

Our physical plant is exceptional and the work of our Second Vice Commander Les Wicklein in getting us on schedule with our filtering systems (both air and water), and other housekeeping items, is deeply appreciated. If you haven't seen the landscaping job on the side hill, check it out. We

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are not completed yet, due to the season, and plan to add some shrubbery in the spring to halt further erosion.

Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 22
7:30 pm
Election of Convention Delegates

Yes, it's been a great year and I am proud to serve as your Commander. But we are not done. In 2003, we can look forward to the Post Birthday Party in March, our Post Everlasting Ceremony in April, leading the Bowie Veterans Service Organizations in Memorial Day services, and this year we will hold our inaugural Flag Disposal Ceremony, scheduled for Flag Day in June. And just to add a plug for the First Vice, if we expect to make it 15 consecutive years as a four-star post, we still need some of you to pay your dues. Please, if you are receiving this newsletter, we ask that you continue your membership in this Post by paying your 2003 dues now.

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season and I look forward to seeing many of you at one of our functions or around the Post in the future.

J. D. Larson
Commander

From a child's view:

A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a new litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens."

"How did you know that?" his mother asked.

"Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."

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



Unit 66 Report

I hope everyone had a safe and healthy holiday. The weather helped promote some special memories for us. We are starting a new calendar year and I hope we will continue to strive to meet our goals for the year. Let's put any past problems behind us and start fresh with a clean slate and work together to make Post and Unit 66 the best in the District and State. We already know this is the best in our hearts.

Membership is our main goal and we still have members that have not paid their dues for 2003. If you are one of those, please send your dues in as soon as possible (before the end of January) or you might miss out on some of the benefits your membership brings. Just look in your "National News" magazine that is sent out bimonthly to all members and read up on some of the benefits that

American Legion Auxiliary members are eligible to receive.

December was a very busy month for the ladies. The 7th was the annual Gift Shop for the veterans at Charlotte Hall. A contingent of three from Disney-Bell ventured down and helped fill their Christmas lists. December 14th was the Children's Christmas Party. The children were entertained with crafts and a clown and they were able to visit with Santa so that they could make their Christmas wishes directly to the jolly old man himself. The ladies had their own Christmas party on the 18th where we had a potluck meal and exchanged gifts and friendship, I believe we all had a wonderful time.

Auxiliary Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 15
7:30 pm

When you visit the Post please take a look around to see where you might find Auxiliary members working. They might be working the bar, turkey shoots (inside and outside), serving a Friday night dinner, or working together with the Legion family on many different levels. We still need volunteers to help and if you are interested please call and leave a message at the Post for me and I will return your call as soon as possible.

Our next Friday night dinner is on January 10, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.. The menu will be chicken cacciatore with spaghetti, garlic bread, a salad, and dessert. Please make your reservations by Wednesday, January 8, 2003 so we will know for how many to cook. There is a sign up sheet behind the bar and you can make your reservations in person or by phone.

Juanita L. Thompson
 Unit President

Adjutant's Call

While American Legion year 2002-2003 does not end until June 30, 2003, your 2002 membership card expired at midnight, December 31, 2002. As was pointed out last month, there is no grace period, you are either current or delinquent. While National has mailed three dues renewal notices to every member of Post 66, some of you are still "hanging fire" on paying your 2003 dues. Legionnaires, it is time to get off the \$20.00 and send those dues in before you put it off till tax time. As always, if you have paid your 2003 dues and have your membership card, disregard those dues notices. If you don't have that 2003 card, act now for the good of the Legion.

Should you have any questions concerning your membership, contact me either at the Post 301-464-9814 or my residence 301-390-6439, cell 240-355-6809. Post e-mail is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and mine is jimabniam@aol.com.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
 Adjutant

SHRIMP NIGHT!!



Shrimp night is Saturday, January 11th from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. It's not a dinner, just a good sized bowl of spiced shrimp and a draft beer or glass of wine for a low price. Reservations are not required and all proceeds go to support the Post 66 Honor Guard. Please join us at 6:30 and enjoy the post, some friends, and great shrimp.

1st Vice Commander Report

My personally established goal for this membership year was to reach 95% of the annual goal by the end of December. As of this writing, I must admit we have fallen short. The last membership report listed on the Department's web site shows us to be at approximately 85%. But, because of the holiday season, our last report was dated December 13, 2002, so I think we are actually closer to 90%. Close, but no cigar.

We are, however, ahead of Department target dates for membership, which is to be at 85% by January 6, 2003. The good news is that we are at least 81 members ahead of where we were last year. We are approximately 125 members shy of attaining 4 Star status.

As of January 1, 2003, if your membership card does not show your membership for the year 2003, you are no longer an active member of Post 66. Please do not wait any longer. You do not want to lose your continuous years of membership status because you delayed paying your 2003 dues. For those who have renewed for 2003, please don't forget to "ask." There are millions of eligible veterans out there who have never been asked to join our organization who would be glad to join if only they were given the opportunity and asked. These eligible men and women are everywhere. I have found them at Outback Restaurant, delivering my mail, my own family and (these were the easy ones) people who have dropped into the post to ask about joining. Some of us have paid first year dues for eligible members as a gift. Whatever works.

My personal wishes go to each of you and your families for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Clif Morvant
1st Vice Commander

SAL Squadron 66
Monthly Meeting
Monday, January 13
7:30 pm

January Friday Night Dinner Menu

January 3	Steak
January 10	Chicken Cacciatore
January 17	Ribs
January 24	Spaghetti

All meals are served 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Reservations should be made by calling the Post
no later than the Wednesday before.

NASCAR POOL FORMING

Yes I know...it seems like only yesterday that the NASCAR season was over. Did you miss out on the pool in 2002? Not a problem...it's back. Some details will change, but if you are interested, contact J.D. for more information. Rules, regulations and format will be available by mid-month and the first race (Daytona) is February 16th. Please, serious NASCAR fans (or diehard gamblers) only need apply.



SUPER BOWL SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE

DON'T MISS OUT ON AN AMERICAN TRADITION. SUPER BOWL SUNDAY AT THE AMERICAN LEGION. SPOTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE. COST IS \$55 PER PERSON (SQUARE) AND ENTITLES YOU TO A GREAT PARTY, DRINKS, SNACKS AND PAYOFFS ON THE BIG BOARD (\$1K/QTR AND \$125 FOR REVERSE NUMBER). STOP BY THE POST TO SIGN-UP. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.



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POST OFFICERS

Commander: J. D. Larson, 1st Vice Commander: Clif Morvant, 2nd Vice Commander: Les Wicklein, Adjutant: Jim Pritchett, Judge Advocate: Charlie Milstead, Service Officer: Vacant, Finance Officer: Dick Lanham, 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.



*18 SHOTS
\$50.00*

*Pre-Sign Up
at Post
During the Week*

**TURKEY SHOTS
EVERY SUNDAY
SIGN-UP BEGINS 7:00 AM
SHOTS BEGIN 9:00 AM
BREAKFAST SERVED 8:00 AM**