

# THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1, 2003

## Legion Programs Moving Forward

I hope by the time this issue reaches you, the cold snap has ended and we can get back to running our normal lives. But the cold hasn't slowed us down at the Legion. Of course, attendance at the Turkey Shoots has slowed a little, but we expect that to pick up again soon.

At our last meeting in January, Dave Winpigler, First Vice Commander for the Department of Maryland, visited and addressed the membership. His talk was very positive and he praised Post 66 for our contributions to the Legion programs that are so important. And he is right.

Our post contributes thousands of dollars to Legion-sponsored programs, such as cerebral palsy, special olympics and other charitable organizations. By the time you read this, we will have completed our third year participating in the Department Oratorical Contest for high school students. We also bestow three college scholarships to high school seniors worth \$1,500 each.

Post 66 is also active in the local community as well. We support a cub scout pack and boy scout troop that are extremely active and well organized. Of course, Post members are involved in their leadership. The Auxiliary ran a food drive during the holidays and continues to donate old cell phones for use by seniors for emergencies.

Shall I go on? Of course . . . let's brag! Because programs are not the only things going on that make Post 66 one the best. For instance, the Chairman of our Service Committee is constantly serving our veterans in assisting them whenever possible. You can always count on Eddie, day or night, to come to the rescue. The Honor



Guard is known statewide for the professional way they perform their duties. They are a great team and every member should be very proud. From the Post, to the Auxiliary, to members of the SAL, we have a great team of members who spend their time putting on Friday night dinners and other events to make this a great place for people to want to be. Just last week at the Super Bowl party, many members jumped and helped prepare the hall, serve food, clean up and lend a hand for a great party. I want to thank everyone who helped pull that one off.

And how about our staff? All too often we forget about the people who serve us day in and day out. With the unexpected departure of our facilities manager, everyone has been asked to do a little more. I wish to particularly thank Gidget for her extra help while the search for replacement continues. Thanks Gidget. The next time you see your favorite bartender, how about thanking them for the service they provide.

I am very proud to be a member of Post 66 and you should be, too. Thanks to everyone who makes this one of the best posts in the Department of Maryland.

J. D. Larson  
Commander

Post 66  
Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, February 26  
7:30 pm

### 1st Vice Commander Report

As I write this article, our post membership for 2003 stands at 778 members. To continue our long-standing streak of attaining four-star status we need to reach 835 by the end of June. The math indicates that we need to add 57 members to our roster, either renewals or new members. Last year at this time we had 677 paid members and needed another 150 for four-star status. Yes we are well ahead of last year, but the membership committee does not have a cake walk to the finish line.

If you are one of the holdouts who have not yet submitted your 2003 dues, we would appreciate your doing so as soon as possible. If you are not sure whether you have paid, please check your membership card. It should read 2003. If it doesn't, please mail your check today, or stop by the post to renew acquaintances. Unfortunately, we lose members every year and must replace them with new members in order to remain a four star post.

Did you know that the post will pay the first year's dues for an active duty member of the armed services? All we need is a membership application and a photocopy of his or her military I.D. card. If you need an application form, they are available at the post.

We are at 92.4% of our goal for 2003. I hope that with the upcoming mailing by the membership committee and the cooperation of those who have delayed paying their 2003 dues, we can hit 100% by May 1. But, please don't think this will happen without our adding new members. We need everyone's support. Thank you.

Clif Morvant  
1st Vice Commander

## Melvin Buck Scholarship Award

**N**ominations to receive the 2003 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 2003.
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, 2003.

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.

**Auxiliary Monthly  
Meeting  
Wednesday, February 19  
7:30 pm**

## Unit 66 Report

**T**he ladies had their first meeting of the New Year on Wednesday, January 15, 2003. There were several social and business events attended and news to catch up on. Upon completion of this we forged ahead into new adventures for the Auxiliary.

February 2, 2003 is the District day for God and Country. This year the services will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Laurel, starting at 2:00 p.m.. There will be a reception at Laurel Post #60 following the services. All are welcome to attend the service. It is a moving experience.

It was moved that we sell the Flags for the Children's Miracle Network again this year with proceeds going to a local Children's Miracle Network participant. Please check with an Auxiliary member to see if they are available.

The Southern Maryland District of the Ladies Auxiliary is participating in the Linus project again this year as part of our Children and Youth project. Blankets are to be handmade. That is they need to be sewed, knitted or crocheted, and they will be distributed by the Linus project personnel to those children that, because of an illness or family

problem, need a little extra security. If you are interested in participating please contact me at 301-262-8356. If I cannot answer please leave a message.

Our Community Service Committee chairman, Cindy Morvant, reported that 215 pounds of food were collected and donated to the Bowie Food Bank from our Post. Congratulations are in order for a job well done. In the coming months Cindy has other projects forthcoming to make us more aware of the needs of our community and what we can do to help.



Concerning membership, we still have several members that have not renewed their membership for the coming year. If you receive the National News, the monthly Auxiliary publication, you will find a list of benefits for all Auxiliary members. This can be found just inside the front cover. Check it out and see what all you can be eligible for, for a mere \$10 a year for membership.

Turkey Shoot breakfasts are ongoing until the final shoot in March. This is one of our major fund raisers. This money goes to veterans programs, and also toward programs for their families. You do not have to be a shooter to enjoy a good warm breakfast. Come on up any time after 8:00 a.m. and buy a breakfast and I'm sure the cooks would be glad to sit and chat with you.

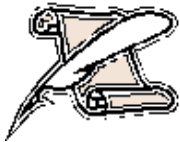
Starting with the February 14, 2003, Friday night dinner we will be fixing the same menu for all of the Auxiliary Friday night dinners (held

on the second Friday of each month). The menu will be oven fried chicken, with potatoes, a vegetable, a salad, roll and butter and dessert. This has always been a great selling dinner. This way you can plan a month in advance for a dinner we know you will enjoy. After all, we are a Legion family and we should all support each others dinners and functions. The proceeds from the dinners as always go toward veterans programs. Besides, where else are you going to find great food and warm friends and fellowship in the Bowie area without waiting an hour to be seated?

I am glad to report that our Vice President Barbara Goshin is recuperating from her surgery and coming along fine. We hope to see her smiling face at our monthly meetings soon,

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Post. If you are a member, you are always welcome to attend. If not, fill out an application and send it along with your dues of \$10, and we will be glad to see you at our meetings.

Juanita Thompson  
Unit President



## Adjutant's Report

Several members have applied for a Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) membership and still have not received their PUFL card from National. The following is a letter from The American Legion National Headquarters apologizing for being tardy in processing those applications.

"First of all, we are sincerely sorry that it has taken so long to get your application processed, and the plastic card sent to you.

"Our processing staff has been totally overwhelmed with the increased number of applications that have been received at the national headquarters.

"Each July and August when we insert a lifetime membership application into the dues' renewal mailing to the member, we always expect to receive an upsurge in the number of applicants, but we were nearly double the applications than normal, and this has created a backlog in our ability to fulfill our obligation of service to the member.

"Again, we are sorry for the delay; we appreciate your patience and hope that you understand the reason behind this unexpected bottleneck.

"If you have any questions, please call our Customer Service toll-free number at 1-800-433-3318. "Your continuing support of the programs and activities of The American Legion is greatly appreciated. It is an example you are "Still Serving America." Sincerely, Jeffry L. Wonder, Deputy Directory, Internal Affairs and Membership"

If you have applied for a PUFL and have not received your card and do not have a 2003 membership card, please contact me as soon as you can. I may be reached at the Post 301-464-9814 or my residence 301-390-6436, cell 240-355-6809. Post e-mail address is [alpost66@bellatlantic.net](mailto:alpost66@bellatlantic.net) and mine is [jimabiam@aol.com](mailto:jimabiam@aol.com).

In service to God and Country,

James L. Pritchett, Jr.  
Adjutant

### February Friday Night Dinner Menu

February 7	Steak
February 14	Oven Fried Chicken
February 21	Taco Nite
February 28	Roast Beef
All meals are served 6:30 to 8:00 pm Reservations should be made by calling the Post no later than the Wednesday before.	
February 8	Shrimp Nite

## Bugles Across America

**B**ugles Across America is a volunteer organization, consisting of individuals who believe that veterans deserve to have a live bugle player performing TAPS at their funerals, rather than a taped version played through speakers or with a digital device inside a horn.

Any family member wishing TAPS be played at the funeral of their veteran relative may contact Bugles Across America.

The Maryland state coordinator is Lansing Williams and his telephone number is 301-444-0767. He may also be contacted at

[slansing@cfoassoc.com](mailto:slansing@cfoassoc.com). For more information regarding this organization, you may contact Lansing directly or visit the web site at [www.buglesacrossamerica.org](http://www.buglesacrossamerica.org).

This is a relatively new project; however they are doing their best to ensure that veterans receive a burial with the dignity and respect they



deserve. This organization operates on donations and there may be a fee for their services.

## Honey, Where is Your DD-214?

Every year we are contacted by family members of comrades who have been transferred to Post Everlasting, needing to locate a copy of the member's DD-214. And every year we print at least one item in the newsletter about the importance of knowing the location of your DD-214. We cannot overstate this issue. This document represents valuable certification of the member's military service, and without it, you will encounter delays and/or denial of certain rights including the awarding of the U.S. flag and internment in a VA cemetery. ***The American Legion DOES NOT retain copies of members' DD-214.***



One of the greatest gifts you can leave your family is easy accessibility to your DD-214 for that time you are not here to help them. Here are some

hints: make several copies and keep them handy. Put one in the safe deposit box, one where you file your bills, send one to all your kids, give one to your neighbor. We even had one member put it in a frame and hang it on the wall with his other awards and certificates.

**SAL Squadron 66  
Monthly Meeting  
Monday, February 10  
7:30 pm**

Please, make sure your loved ones know where to find your DD-214. And, if you can't find it yourself (that happens), contact the Chairman of our

Service Committee, Eddie Thompson, and he will help you get a copy NOW! His telephone numbers is 301-262-2263. (Spouses: Nag them about this!)

### 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

## Henry Wagner 8-Ball Champion

Henry Wagner won the playoff with John Delinsky and is the champion of the 2003 8-Ball Tournament held at Post 66. Lindsey Van Sickle represented the Auxiliary and shot well during the tournament. All the players displayed good sportsmanship and the games move very smoothly.

Thanks go to Laura and Jr. Martin and Dan Healy for preparing the dinner for the participants.

A 9-Ball Tournament is tentatively scheduled for early spring. Look for the details in a future newsletter.



## Application for Internment

As a resident of Maryland and a U.S. veteran, you are entitled to a burial in one of five state-run Maryland Veterans Cemeteries. They are: Allegheny County (Rocky Gap), Anne Arundel County (Crownsville), Baltimore County (Garrison Forest), Dorchester County (Eastern Shore) and Prince Georges County (Cheltenham). You may apply for internment and ease potential problems for your family at a very difficult time. In order to take advantage of this program, contact the Chairman of the Service Committee, Eddie Thompson, to complete the necessary paperwork. Eddie's telephone number is 301-262-2263.

### WANTED

Bar Manger: Disney-Bell Post 66 is looking to hire a Bar Manager to oversee the daily operations of the Post. This is an ideal position for a retired person looking for something to do a few hours a day. If you are interested and wish to pick up a copy of the job description and other information, please contact J.D.





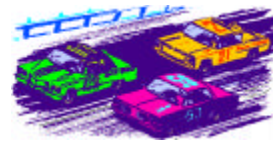
American Legion County  
Turkey Shoot!

Sunday, March 2, 2003

Special Shoots! Scatter  
Shots, Door Prizes! Great Fun!

Plan to Attend! See Post for Flyer

**NASCAR POOL FORMING**



A sign up sheet is now posted in the Pool Room for the 2003 NASCAR season. Some details have changed, so if you are interested, contact J. D. for more information. Rules, regulations and format are available and also posted in the Pool Room. The first race is in two weeks so don't get shut out!

**Please, serious**



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)

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*Inside This Issue:* Organization Reports, Where is Your DD-214?, Bugles Across America, Melvin Buck Scholarship 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: 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.