

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1, 2003

Snow Slows But Post Still Goes

I know I began last month's issue of *The Rising Star* with hopes of getting back to normal life after suffering through a deep winter cold snap. Sorry to say, it appears as if we were in for a long winter. It seems like years since we've experienced so much snow. The Post was open through most of the storm, closed on Monday and thanks to the hard work of Fred Stevens and his snow plow, we were back to normal long before most other people in the area. It's a good thing, too! As you all know, March starts off roaring like a lion and this month is no exception for us in the Legion.



Friday dinners will continue as always. If you missed Taco Nite, don't worry, we have another one coming this month for you. And a special treat . . . catfish! If you haven't had a great southern cooked catfish dinner in a while, sign up and have dinner with us on Friday, March 28th. I can taste it now.

We also have some annual events going on this month as well. This year, Post 66 will be celebrating our 71st birthday with our annual birthday Dinner to be held on Saturday, March 22. Happy Hour begins at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 and the short, but always eventful, program to follow. There is no cost for this dinner. It is a gift from the Post to our members. We ask that you do call or drop by to sign-up so we know how many to cook for. Regrettably, the Auxiliary meeting was canceled last month and the menu has yet to be determined. But you can be sure it will be great.

And doesn't it always taste better when someone else cooks it and it's FREE?

March Friday Night Dinner Menu

March 7	Steak
March 14	Oven Fried Chicken
March 21	Taco Nite
March 28	Catfish

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

March 8	Shrimp Nite
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Post 66 has also enjoyed an annual St. Patrick's Day corn beef and cabbage dinner provided by Tom Murphy, and with a name like Murphy you know it's good. Dinner begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 17th (St. Patrick's Day, of course). There will also be plenty of green beer available if you are so inclined. Cost is only \$6.00 and, like always, we ask you make a reservation at least by the 14th so we know how much beef to corn.

On Sunday, March 16th, Post 66 will again be hosting a special Turkey Shoot. This time, we are helping in the fund-raising efforts of the Southern Maryland District of the American Legion, of which our Adjutant, Jim Pritchett, is the Second Vice Commander. If your schedule permits, stop on in and have some fun.

Also, April is also just around the corner and it is not too early to plan on attending some of our

events then. On Saturday, April 12th, we honor those members of Post 66 who have passed away during the past year with our Post Everlasting ceremony. This is the most solemn ceremony in the American Legion and everyone is invited to join us as we honor those who served our country and are no longer with us.

Hopefully, by the time the next newsletter rolls around, we will have seen our first crocus or other harbinger of spring. I don't know about you, but I can sure use it. And remember, it's a great life if you don't weaken.

J. D. Larson
Commander

HELP WANTED

Part Time Bartenders: We need to train a few people interested in tending bar at the Post on an "as needed" basis. From time to time, due to illnesses or vacations, we run short of bartenders and we would like to have a supply on hand, so to speak. Anyone interested, and would be available, please leave your name and telephone number at the Post.

1st Vice Commander Report

As I write this article on February 20th, our membership for 2003 stands at exactly 800 or 95% of our goal of 842. To make 4 Star we need only 35 more members. For those who like to keep score, last year at this time we had 705 members. We are now 95 members ahead of last year. As one of our members loves to say, "Makes you wonder what that slacker of a membership chairman was up to last year."

The number of renewals, transfers and new members continue to trickle in. Our Adjutant submitted eight to the Department for the last reporting period. So we are slowly advancing toward making our goal and attaining 4 Star status.

One of the many benefits of membership in the American Legion is the free subscription to The American Legion, The magazine for a strong America. There is a great article in the February issue that I recommend to all of you. It is an interview with the late Joe Foss, top Marine fighting ace of all time. He was a man of few words, but he sure picked the right ones. If you have not yet sent in you renewal dues for 2003, please don't delay. Your subscription to this wonderful publication will soon be terminated and you will miss out on some wonderful reading.

Clif Morvant
1st Vice Commander

(Commander's Note: Congratulations are in order for First Vice Commander Clif Morvant for leading the way in membership. Post 66 won the Southern Maryland District "Oyster Bowl" for having the most membership of any post in our size category as of February 1, 2003. Congratulations, Clif!)



Post 66 Birthday Dinner

Our annual American Legion Birthday Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2003. This event is one of the free festivities provided with your membership and is always a good time. Happy Hour will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 pm. A short program will follow dinner and consist of presenting awards to our Oratorical Contest participants, issuing longevity service pins to some of our members, and a brief initiation program. Please mark your calendar now and join us for one of social events of the year.

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



Squadron 66 Report

Hello, SAL, it's been a while since I last wrote but there has not been much to write about. We are having our Bull and Oyster Roast on March 29th. A good time will be had by all. We need help so I hope to see a lot of members. Remember to pay your 2003 dues. Our meetings are the second Monday of the month. Try to make it if you can.

Joe Clark
 Commander

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Celebrate 
 St. Patty's Day
 With Us!

Monday
 March 17
 5-7 PM
 Corned Beef and Cabbage
 \$6.00

Adjutant's Report

The American Legion traces its beginning to the Paris Caucus of March 15-17, 1919, where representatives of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) gathered to form a nationwide veterans service organization. Today, thousands of Posts worldwide, set aside a time to commemorate the birthday of the American Legion.

What better way to celebrate the 84th birthday of the American Legion than by inviting an eligible friend or neighbor to join with us as members of the largest veterans group in America. Every eligible veteran has earned the right to be a member of the American Legion. Ask one NOW.

For those of you who still have not paid your 2003 dues, National will send you another dues renewal notice this month. Those who have just paid their dues will probably receive yet another notice since the cutoff date has just recently passed. If you have paid your dues and have a 2003 card, disregard the renewal notice. If you have not renewed, what are you waiting for?

As always, should you have any questions on your membership, do not hesitate to contact me either at the Post, 301-464-9814 or at my residence 301-490-6436. 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

Auxiliary Monthly
 Meeting
 Wednesday, March 19
 7:30 pm

Random Acts of Kindness

In connection with our Community Service projects, The American Legion Auxiliary would like to announce that March 19th to April 16th is designated as "Random Acts of Kindness" month. This is a fun community service project in which we perform acts of kindness for friends, neighbors, co-workers, strangers,

etc. These acts can vary based upon your own creativity. Some suggested ideas are: cheer up a friend, pick up litter, make a donation, buy someone a meal, call a lonely person, the possibilities are endless. We just want to pass the kindness on. To any paid-up Auxiliary member, I ask that you keep a list of the acts of kindness you perform beginning from our next auxiliary meeting, March 19th through April 16th. At the April 16th meeting, provide the Community Service Chairperson your list of "Acts of Kindness". The two Auxiliary Members with the longest lists will receive gift certificates, courtesy of Outback Steakhouse of Bowie. This should be a real fun project and the rewards to you for your "Acts of Kindness" should be most gratifying.

Thank you.



American Legion Southern Maryland District Turkey Shoot!

Sunday, March 16, 2003

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

**Plan to Attend! See Post for
Flyer**



Melvin Buck Scholarship

Nominations 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.

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

Oratorical Contest Winners!

The post-level 2003 National High School Oratorical Contest was held at Disney-Bell on February 1. It was a treat to hear the contestants present their speeches on the Constitution of the United States.

Second place was awarded to Patrice Bobowiec, daughter of Christine and Paul Bobowiec, who is a

member of Post 66. Patrice is a junior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. We hope that she will return next year.

She did a great job, especially considering that she had only two weeks to prepare. Patrice was awarded a \$300 scholarship.

First place went to returning local champion Jed Wentz. Jed is a home schooled senior and the son of David and Paula Wentz of Bowie. Jed's presentations gave most of us in attendance a fresh appreciation of the insight of the founding fathers when they drafted our Constitution. Jed talked about his experiences at Boys State, which he attended under the sponsorship of Post 66. Jed won a \$500 scholarship and the right to represent our Post in the Prince George's County contest.

On February 8th, Jed performed at the county-level contest. Believe me the competition was top-notch. Jed did a wonderful job and won first place. He will be representing our post and the county at the Southern Maryland District contest on February 23rd. We extend our best wishes to Jed and hope he can move on to the Department Contest.

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

Life Lesson Number 1 The Cleaning Lady

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say hello."

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.



Post Everlasting

Every April, we observe the American Legion's most solemn ceremony when we transfer members to Post Everlasting. This year, our ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, April 19. At that time, the following members will be officially transferred to Post Everlasting:

Friends and relatives, as well as all Post members, are invited and encouraged to attend. As in years past, a tree will be planted on the Post grounds to honor their memory. A small reception will immediately follow the service.



American Legion Disney-Bell Post 66
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Inside This Issue: Post 66 Wins Oyster Bowl,
Melvin Buck Scholarship, Calender of Events,
Oratorical Contest Winner and More!

POST OFFICERS

Commander: J. D. Larson, 1st Vice Commander: Clif Morvant, 2nd Vice Commander: Vacant, 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.

IN GOD WE TRUST



You may have heard in the news that a couple of post offices in Texas have been forced to take down small posters that say "IN GOD WE TRUST". They claim that the law is being violated: something silly involving "electioneering posters". (Is God running for office?)

Anyway, apparently a radio show host has proposed that we should all write "IN GOD WE TRUST" on the back of all our mail. After all, that is our national motto, and it's on all the money we use to buy those stamps. This is a wonderful idea. We must take back our nation from all the people who think that anything that offends them should be removed.

If you like the idea, pass it on, and DO IT. Let's start a land swell of support for our cherished principles we all love and believe in. This won't cost you anything but a tiny bit of effort, and the results could be priceless. God Bless America!