

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

JULY 1, 2003



SUMMER FUN IS HERE!

The annual election of officers for the American Legion year 2003-2004 was held on Wednesday, June 25. It is a pleasure to announce the officers for the coming year: Commander: Clif Morvant; First Vice Commander: Tom Murphy; Second Vice Commander: Jr. Martin; Finance Officer: Dick Lanham; Judge Advocate: Charlie Milstead; Historian: Myron James; Chaplain: Toni King; Service Officer: Eddie Thompson; Sergeant-at-Arms; Nick Muller; Executive Committee (elected five): David Cooks, Dan Healy, Paul Thompson, and Alwin "Major" Sprehe. As Past Commander, J. D. Larson will hold an automatic spot on the Committee.

A Joint Installation of Officers will be held on Wednesday, July 23, 2003 where the elected officers of the Post, Auxiliary and SAL will take their oaths of office. Cocktail hour is at 6:00 p.m., with dinner at 7:00 p.m. with the installation program to follow. There is a sign-up sheet at the post. Due to the high number of invited guests and the limited space in Thompson Hall, please make your reservations early. Don't snooze, or you may lose.

This will be my last article for the newsletter as your Commander. I want you all to know what an honor and a privilege it has been for me to lead this great Post for the past two years. This *is* the greatest little Post in the American Legion. This is not true because of the Commander. It is true because of the hard work and dedication of those the Commander leads. You! The past two years have seen a growth in membership, more activities and dinners, and greater participation in all Legion programs. Our three years in the Department of Maryland Oratorical Contest paid off with Post 66 providing the State Champion. We have witnessed a rebirth of American patriotism which helped us inaugurate a Flag Disposal Ceremony, an event I hope grows into an annual tradition. Our county and our Post survived the devastation of September 11, 2001 and we have all become stronger as a result. Whether things are going smoothly or things are going

tough, Disney-Bell Post 66 has always been there going strong.

Thank you all for being there with me.

J. D. Larson
Commander

Installation Dinner

A Joint Installation of Officers will be held on Wednesday, July 23rd. Cocktails: 6:00 pm, Dinner: 7:00 pm with ceremony to follow.

RSVP to the Post no later than 7-17-03.

1st Vice Report

We were all set to go to Bowiefest 2003 for another fun day of meeting, greeting and signing up new members. Jim Pritchett arranged to have the Department of Maryland recruiting van at the Post the night before. The Honor Guard was spit and polished. We had American flag sets on hand to raffle off. We had a couple of thousand small flags on hand to distribute to children at the fair. Registration materials were loaded on the van. Then, the morning of Bowiefest was like something Noah must have experienced. The city canceled all outdoor events associated with the festival. It was really a let down after all of the preparations. Thanks to everyone who signed up to represent the Post and to those who put in the efforts to prepare for the event.

Tom Murphy took it upon himself to help me get out the annual mailing to members of Post 297 (Maryland's ghost post for members who have not

selected a specific post in the state.) Actually, Tom ended up doing all of the work himself. This was no small task. And I know from past experience. Tom stuffed more than 400 envelopes with transfer forms, a letter from the Commander and pre-addressed stamped envelopes. These envelopes were then addressed, stamped and mailed out. We are still getting responses as of this writing. Thanks, Tom, for all of the work.

This is the beginning of our 2004 membership drive. Potential new members are everywhere, they just have never been asked. I feel great that I already have signed up two new members for 2004. If everyone could do the same, we would reach our four star goal even earlier than we did for 2003. Keep your eyes and ears open for potential members. Also, please be sure to carry a membership application with you at all times. You can never tell when the opportunity to get credit for a new member might pop up.

Thanks to the membership committee and all of you for your help in making the 2003 membership campaign a rousing success. And I wish the next First Vice Commander good luck and happy recruiting for 2004.

Clif Morvant
First Vice Commander

WE'RE AT THE BEACH!

The Department of Maryland of the American Legion will hold its annual department convention in Ocean City, Maryland from the week of July 5-11. During that time, the Post will operate a Hospitality Thunder Island. Hours of operation for the Hospitality Suite will be from noon to 8:00 p.m. daily. If you are in Ocean City during convention week, please stop by and visit. Bradley on the Bay is located just to the left of the Convention Center in Ocean City with plenty of free parking in the Municipal lot.

In the meantime, anyone requiring to reach us for Legion business may do so by leaving a message at the Post.



Unit 66 Report

Well, it's sad to say but this will be my last article. Elections have been held and Disney-Bell Unit 66 will have a new President. It has been a whirlwind term but I have enjoyed every minute of it and now we all look forward to Convention. At our August meeting we will reveal the new membership theme. It's always something to look forward to.

I am very proud to have served as the President of Unit 66 and I know my successor, Priscilla Sprehe, will do a great job. I will have new responsibilities as the incoming secretary of the Unit. At our last meeting we tried to outline some activities for the new year. Madam President will keep you updated with her monthly articles to the newsletter.

Thanks to all of you that made my term in office a joy and a pleasure, and that goes for those members of the Post and the SAL.

And on a personal note, I would like to thank all of you that expressed care and concern during my recent surgery. Everything is going fine. All of my friends at the Post helped make me get back on my feet faster. Again a big THANK YOU.

I hope to see you all at the Installation Ceremony on July 23.

Juanita Thompson
Unit President

**One nice thing about egotists:
they don't talk about other
people.**

Adjutant's Report

American Legion Year 2003-2004 began July 1, 2003 and will run until June 31, 2004. To usher in the new Legion Year, National has mailed each of you the first of five 2004 renewal notices. While your 2003 card does not expire until midnight, December 31, 2003, you are encouraged to become an "Early Bird" and pay your 2004 dues now. This will give the Post a head start on membership and put you ahead of the curve on renewal. All Post 66 Legionnaires are encouraged to become an "Early Bird" so mail your \$20.00 dues using the envelope provided.

If you had recently transferred to Post 66, you have probably received a renewal notice from your old Post. DO NOT, I say again DO NOT, renew in your old Post. If you do, you will automatically be transferred back to that Post and we must do the transfer paperwork again and this time we will not receive any membership credit. If you have any questions on your membership, contact me ASAP at my home 301-390-6436, cell 240-355-6809 or by E-mail to jimabniam@aol.com or alpost66@bellatlantic.net.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.

Adjutant

Can an atheist get insurance against acts of God?



American Legion Baseball

The schedule for the Disney-Bell Post 66 American Legion Baseball Team is printed on the bulletin board at the Post and hopefully will be on line at www.alpost66.org shortly. On your next

visit to the Post, check out the dates and try to make a game or two and support these fine young athletes from our community. The team is doing great with a fine winning record and will soon meet Greenbelt Post 136 at Bowie Baysox Stadium for a double header on Thursday, July 17 at 7:00 pm. There has always been a friendly rivalry between our two Posts, usually with them winning...BUT, not this year. Why not mark your calendar and join our team for a great American Pastime.

American Legion baseball is a great tradition of our organization and all post members should be proud of the support we give them. Try to make a game.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

July 27th has been set aside to honor all Korean War Veterans with small ceremonies taking place around the world. I will be hosting a short ceremony in honor of our veterans at the Post on Sunday, July 27, 2003. Plans are in the development stage at this time; however it is hoped that the Honor Guard will be participating as well as the other Legion organizations. Please join us at 10:00 for this event. A small reception will follow.

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

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.



Disney-Bell Post 66

American Legion Disney-Bell Post 66
9605 Old Laurel-Bowie Road
Bowie, MD 20720
Tel: (301) 464-9814
Fax: (301) 805-6832
Website: www.alpost66.org

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Inside this Issue: Post Officers Elected, Installation
Dinner Planned, Department Convention and More!

POST OFFICERS

Commander: J. D. Larson, 1st Vice Commander: Clif Morvant, 2nd Vice Commander: Jr. Martin, Adjutant: James I. Pritchett, Jr., Judge Advocate: Charlie Milstead, Finance Officer: Dick Lanham, Historian: Myron James, Chaplain, Toni King, Sergeant-at-Arms: Nick Muller, Executive Committee: David Cooks, Dan Healy, John Marshall, A. H. Sprehe, and Eddie Thompson.

Joint Installation of Officers!



Wednesday
July 23, 2003
Cocktails: 6:00 pm
Dinner: 7:00 pm

RSVP: NLT 7-17-03