

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1, 2003



Happy New Year!



No, this isn't a January Newsletter that was lost for months at the Bowie Post Office. This is the beginning of the "Legion Year" and the beginning of the term for the newly elected Executive Committee.

I would like my first article as Commander to begin by congratulating J.D. Larson for two outstanding years as Commander of our Post. J.D. had to deal with constant changes over the past two years and made appropriate adjustments and contributed the extra time needed to see that everything kept running smoothly. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank J.D. for his continuing efforts to get this newsletter out each month. His work on the turkey shoots have contributed significantly to the profit margin of the Post. Thankfully, he has agreed to continue both as publisher/editor of *The Rising Star* and as Turkey Shoot Chairman.

I announced at the Installation Dinner on July 23rd that I have asked, and Jim Pritchett has accepted, to serve as Post Adjutant for another year. Jim is one of the best in the business and I am happy that he has agreed to serve.

Congratulations to all the newly elected members of the Executive Committee. We have a big year ahead of us with, hopefully with no major surprises.

Editor's Note: You can tell it's summer. People out of town and the Legion organizations are in the middle of changes. This month's edition of *The Rising Star* will be abbreviated. A full edition complete with Calender of Events will be released before Labor Day. Thank you!

Convention in Ocean City was a hoot. Post 66's Department of Maryland Oratorical Contest champion, Jed Wentz, was on hand to deliver his presentation to the delegates. He was greeted by a standing ovation from the hundreds in attendance. Following his performance, he received a resounding standing ovation for a job well done. All members of our Post can take pride in the job he did representing us.

I am looking forward to serving as Post Commander and I am expecting an exciting year. I am humbled by the honor bestowed on me and recognize the responsibility and trust that come with the job.

Clif Morvant
Commander

Having a Bad Day?

The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska was \$80,000. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensively saved animals were being released back into the wild amid cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later, in full view, a killer whale ate them both.

Unit 66 Report

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. I accept the position of President with great honor and I will try to do my best to fulfill that position and make the Unit proud of me. We made four star this year and we work hard to achieve that again.

We have some new ideas to present in the coming months and working along with the Legion and SAL we will become a team as usual. Coming up in September, is the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Carnival, on Saturday 20, 2003, being held rain or shine. The theme this year is "WESTERN HOE DOWN". And September, 26, 27, and 28 is Fall Conference at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City, Md. Reports on these will go into the newsletter at the conclusion of these functions.

Our new Unit Officers are as follows who were installed on July 23, 2003. President- Priscilla Sprehe; Vice President - Barbara Goshin; Secretary - Juanita Thompson; Treasurer - Anna Thompson; Chaplain - Toni King; Historian - Linda Healy and Sergeant-at-Arms - Lois Van Sickle.

We at the Unit are looking forward to a great year with lots of membership coming in so ladies please renew as soon as possible.

Priscilla Sprehe
Unit President

Still a Bad Day, Huh?

Two animal rights protesters were protesting at the cruelty of sending pigs to a slaughterhouse in Bonn, Germany. Suddenly, all 2,000 pigs broke loose and escaped through a broken fence, stampeding madly. The two hopeless protesters were trampled to death.

Chaplain's Corner

I wish to thank everyone for their support the past year and for yet again honoring me to serve as post Chaplain. It is a very rewarding position and while most of the time members contact with me is under less than joyous occasion, I am pleased to be of service to the members and families of our Post.

If you know of any veteran or their family who needs our help, please leave a message for me at our Post Home, or call me at 301-262-0257, or send an e-mail message to rweik53164@aol.com.

Toni King
Chaplain

1st Vice Commander Report

Hello. Do you know me? That's why I carry the American Legion Membership Card for 2004! What year is on your card?

Your 2003 Legion Membership Card is valid until December 31, 2003; but, if you renew your dues before November 11 of this year, you will be an Early Bird and entitled to attend, FREE OF CHARGE, the Post Early Bird Dinner on November 15, 2003. Only 2004 card holders may attend this dinner.

As your First Vice Commander, I plan on proposing several more benefits for members who renew their membership prior to Veterans Day. Disney-Bell Post 66 is a Four-Star Membership Post, an award bestowed by the Department of Maryland for Posts who achieve their highest membership. Post 66 has achieved this goal for 16 consecutive years. With your help, we will continue our being in this elite club for our 17th year.

Thank you to all who have responded to the first renewal notice by sending in your 2004 dues.

Thomas D. Murphy

1st Vice Commander

Adjutant's Call

The response to the first of five renewal notices, that will be mailed by National to all members of Post 66, has been very good. The large response, coupled with my attendance at The Department of Maryland Convention and a National Work Shop in Indianapolis has caused a backlog of renewals. But as the Good Book tells us, "Each shall be served in their own turn" and so it will be with your renewal. My staff and I are working very hard to process your renewals as quickly as possible and mail your 2004 membership card.

Unfortunately, some of your renewals will not have been processed at National by August 11, 2003, which means you shall receive another renewal notice on October 1, 2003. If you have paid your 2004 dues and receive another notice, do as is printed on the renewal notice "Please disregard if you have already paid your 2004 dues". There is no benefit to paying your dues a second time and save yourself 37 cents by not mailing me a note reminding me that you have paid 2004 dues. Again, if you transferred to Post 66 this year and receive a renewal notice from your old Post, DO NOT pay them. If you do, you will automatically be transferred back and we must do the transfer process all over again, only this time Post 66 will not receive any credit for your transfer.

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

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant

Chips in the News

Notice! The red and blue drink and beer chips currently used in the Post lounge will be replaced effective at the start of business

(noon) on Monday, September 1, 2003. There will be NO EXCHANGE of old chips for new. All members are notified that you have until close of business on Sunday, August 31, 2003 to use any old chips you may have. Drink up!

Still Having a Bad Day?

A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen shaking frantically, almost in a dancing frenzy, with some kind of wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she whacked him with a handy plank of wood, breaking his arm in two places. Up to that moment, he had been happily listening to his Walkman.

e-Records Update!

In the May issue, we provided information for veterans to request records over the internet. As you recall, I stated that I requested my own just to see how long it would take. I am happy to report it works! Copies of my DD-214 (all four issued during my career) were sent to me on July 8, about 7 weeks time. The address again is: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>

A Bad Day, But Who Cares?

Iraqi terrorist Khay Rahnajet didn't pay enough postage on a letter bomb. It came back with "return to sender" stamped on it. Forgetting it was the bomb, he opened it and was blown to bits.



Disney-Bell Post 66

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POST OFFICERS

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



**PREAMBLE
TO THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION**

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and good-will on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.