

THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1, 2003



New Year Off to a Running Start

Summer vacation time is over and the kids are back in school. This time of year also marks the end of the summer doldrums at Post 66.

July is traditionally a slow month at the Post due to the Department Convention in Ocean City. August is the month of organizing the various committees that are essential to running the Post throughout the year and making Post 66 the fun place that it is.

Friday night dinners will begin again in September sponsored by the Honor Guard, the Auxiliary and the SAL. As of this writing it looks like steak on the 5th, chicken on the 12th, pork on the 19th and spaghetti on the 26th. Please don't hold me liable for any menu changes as I am writing this before everything has been firmly set in stone. All of the dinners are served from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and you must make reservations by the Wednesday preceding the dinner.

J.D. Larson will again be chairing the Turkey Shoots — of our Post's more popular activities. Shoots will start near the end of October. The fun begins at 9:00 Sunday mornings, and even if you are not a shooter, the food and camaraderie add up to a nice way to spend a few hours.

Fall also brings our annual Early Bird Dinner, set for the second week in November and Veterans Day observances on November 11th. November 11th is also the deadline for paying your 2004 dues to qualify as an Early Bird and be entitled to the free Early Bird Dinner, which is another of the many highlights of the Post's annual calendar.

First Vice Commander Tom Murphy has the membership drive for 2004 off to a running start. Post 66 is already at 64% of our 2004 goal. This is 84 members ahead of where we were last year at this time. Wonder what last year's First Vice was doing? Congratulations, Tom. Keep up the good work.

Second Vice Commander Jr. Martin is discussing plans for construction of a pavilion on the "back forty." We'll keep you informed of progress for this project. It would be wonderful if we had this job completed for spring and summer activities next year.

I hope you all had a great summer and I look forward to seeing you at upcoming Post 66 events.

Clif Morvant
Commander



Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, September 24
7:30 pm

1st Vice Commander's Report

Thanks to all who have paid their 2004 dues. As I mentioned in my last report, "Benefits for 2004 Paid Members," at the Early Bird dinner, the Post is going to give a life membership (PUFL) to one of our 2004 paid members. Again, this is only for those members who have paid their 2004 dues.

If all our members renewed their dues in July and August of every year, we on the Membership Committee would be able to concentrate our efforts on finding the new members we need every year to continue our 4 STAR ELITE STATUS. We need approximately 90 new regular members every year.

At this coming membership meeting (August 27), I am going to ask for volunteers to join the Membership Committee.

If you have not renewed your dues yet, please give some thought to paying those dues now; by doing so, you would be helping the Membership Committee a great deal.

If you have ever thought about buying a paid up for life membership (PUFL), now is the time to do it. The National Office of the American Legion is going to raise the price of a PUFL a BUNCH . . . in this case 30% or better.

Thomas D. Murphy
First Vice Commander



Auxiliary Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, September 17
7:30 pm

Adjutant's Call

At the 85th National American Legion Convention held in St. Louis, MO. a resolution was passed that will significantly increase the cost of a Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) membership. The increase will become effective January 1, 2004. If you are contemplating purchasing a PUFL, now is the time. The cost is based upon your age and the Post's annual dues, which for Disney-Bell 66 is \$20.00. You may either pay the full amount or use the Time Payment Plan. If you use the plan, 10% of the cost must accompany your PUFL application and National will bill you monthly until the full amount is paid. You must have a current membership for 2003 to purchase a PUFL.

While many Legionnaires have renewed for 2004 and we certainly want to thank those "Early Birds," However, many are waiting to renew, using the reason that since their dues are good until December 31st, if they pay now they will be cheating themselves out of four months dues. This is a version of the old "glass is either half empty or half full" routine. I like to think that you get an additional four months dues for 2004. No matter which, it helps the Post continue our fast start on membership this year. It would certainly be outstanding if we could be 100% by The American Legion Birthday, something we have not accomplished in many years. So come on

and send that \$20.00 in and join the growing ranks of "Early Birds."

As always, if you have any questions on your membership do not hesitate to contact me by leaving a message at the Post or calling my residence at 301-390-6436. My cell phone number is 240-355-6809, Post e-mail is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and mine is jimbarniam@aol.com. I suggest you try my e-mail or cell phone first.

In service to God and Country, I am.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant

**Not one shred of evidence supports the notion
that life is serious.**



Unit 66

Report

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Juanita Thompson for her great job as President for these past two years. Holding down a full time job and still donating all the hours to the Unit shows her love for the American Legion Auxiliary.

All of the Unit members who went to Convention in July found it rewarding I hope. New ideas are presented to help with making the Units better. The new theme is "Dancing the Night Away" and Southern Md. District is the Mexican Hat Dance. So ladies get ready to dance our way into four star again this year. We had a great day for the parade and once again took awards for the Post float and marching. I would also like to especially thank the Post for their support of us.

Installation was held on July 23rd and all the newly elected officers were installed. Dinner was enjoyed by all and again a special thank you to Juanita for the beautiful cake.

Since this newsletter is going to be printed before our Unit meeting a few telephone calls were made to come up

with our Friday night dinner menu. We will start our first dinner on Friday, Sept. 12th at 6:30 P.M. with oven baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, salad and dessert. Cut off date for the sign up sheet at the bar will be Wednesday, Sept. 10th. Please support these dinners at the Post as this is our way of funding program to support our Veterans.

Several of us will be going to Charlotte Hall on Sept. 20th for their "Western Hoe Down" Carnival. The veterans who live there really look forward to all the ladies coming and decorating their booths and playing the different games.

Priscilla Sprehe
Unit President

Act enthusiastic and you will be enthusiastic!



Squadron 66 Report

A rather short report this month due to the time spent by your commander recuperating from about 200 stitches in his head. Don't worry, he has a hard heard.

The SAL will be hosting Friday night dinners this year on every third Friday of the month and we start off September with pork chops. Please sign-up by the 17th so we know how many to buy.

Also, our annual Car Show will be held on Saturday, September 20th from Noon to 3:00 p.m. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. There are flyers for more information available at the Post and also on the Post web site. I hope to see you at one of these events.

Skip Powell
Commander

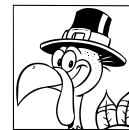
Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

TGI Friday Night Dinner Menu September

Sept 5	Steak
Sept 14	Baked Chicken
Sept 19	Pork Chops
Sept 26	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.

Sept 13	Shrimp Nite
---------	-------------



PLAN AHEAD FOR
TURKEY SHOOTS!
BEGINNING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19





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

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Bowie, MD
Permit No. 30

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 Healy, J. D. Larson, A. H. Sprehe, and Paul Thompson.

Congratulations!



Disney-Bell Post 66 Honor Guard

**NATIONAL
CHAMPIONS
2003
ST. LOUIS, MO**