

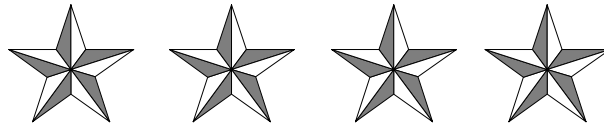
THE RISING STAR

DISNEY-BELL POST 66 NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1, 2004



Post 66 Four Star . . . Again!



Sweet Sixteen! For the sixteenth year in succession, Disney Bell Post 66 has reached four star in membership. Last year, we thought we did a great job when I announced that we had reached four star in the April 2003 newsletter. This is February!

DISNEY-BELL POST 66
HOME OF
2003
NATIONAL CHAMPION COLOR GUARD

Congratulations and a huge “thank you” to our Membership Chairman, Tom Murphy and Adjutant Jim Pritchett for the tremendous effort put forth to reach our membership goal so early in the year. No one that I have asked can remember ever being so far ahead so soon. I know that Tom was on the phone for hours at a time trying to get renewals. Jim was processing papers and bringing them to Baltimore like there was no tomorrow. I also would like to thank each of you who have recruited new members. Unfortunately we lose members each year and to keep our membership at the current level we need to bring on new members. Thanks to all of you who renewed in a timely manner. This achievement is not accomplished without the hard work and dedication of our members. It is a credit to our Post

that not only do we have people willing to recruit (21 of you have recruited at least one new member), but an asset to all of you that many people want to join us. The Sons of the American Legion have also experienced great growth this year and I am sure that the Auxiliary is also experiencing better than average numbers in their ranks as well.

New members to the Post help us to remain strong in the programs we support. From the Boy Scouts to Epilepsy, Maryland Special Olympics to Legion Baseball, all of these programs and more will benefit from the increase in our membership. More members mean new ideas and new ways to help us be a better organization and a more enjoyable place to visit for all members of our Legion family.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a letter we recently received from the Cub and Boy Scout Troops we sponsor. This letter is the epitome of why the American Legion exists and a great example of results shown by just one of the programs we support. When someone asks you, “Why should I join the American Legion?”, give them this. This is why our membership is so important.

The cold days of winter tend to slow down a bit, but not at Post 66. Turkey shoots are going strong in spite of some frigid Sunday mornings. How do you folks stay warm? Oh, I forgot. The shoots are as popular as ever.

Super Bowl Sunday at the Post is sure to be another event to remember. I know I am looking forward to the party.

Please see the article in this newsletter regarding the Melvin Buck Scholarship Award if you have child or grandchild who is a graduating senior in high school this year. All you have to do to win the \$1,500 in financial assistance is enter.

By the time you read this, the Oratorical Contest will have been history and next month I can report on who the winner was. This year is special because the County contest will also be held here. If you have some time, please drop by on Saturday, February 14 at 2:00 p.m. and listen to some very talented young people make their speeches. Believe me, it will be an experience you will enjoy. And don't forget, when they are done speechifying, why not stick around for shrimp night?

Also, the Southern Maryland District Oyster Bowl will be held at our Post on Saturday, February 28 at 6:00 p.m.. This event is the annual award ceremony for Posts in the District that have earned membership awards. Tickets are \$20 and anyone in the Post may attend. Tickets will be available soon and if you are interested in attending, give Jim Pritchett a call and he will make sure you get a ticket.

Make sure you check the calendar for the upcoming events because this is the time of year that things really start to move. We have the St. Patrick's Day dinner coming in March, as well as our annual Post Birthday Celebration. In April we observe our most solemn ceremony when remember those members of our Post that were transferred to Post Everlasting during the previous year. As always, there are great dinners every Friday night and our Facilities Manager Kim Prendable promises new items and fun things at the bar.

Happy Mardi Gras to all (February 24th).

Clif Morvant
Commander

NASCAR POOL FORMING

Winston? Nextel? Who cares? If it's February then it's racing season and time for the big pool. There are some changes, this year. First, it's being run by Darby and Elaine McNeil (thanks, guys).

Second, there will be four seasons, nine weeks each, \$50 per season (or \$200 for the year). \$50 First Place each week, last place payoff (where else can you lose and win???) And other changes.

Some other details will change (check the bulletin board in the poolroom for details), but if you are interested, contact Darby or Elaine for more information. Rules, regulations and format will be available by Daytona in plenty of time for the first race. Please, serious NASCAR fans (or diehard gamblers) only need apply.



Unit 66 Report

The American Legion Auxiliary is noted for the many wonderful projects that we do. Somehow I missed getting the result of the National Family Week project into the newsletter in January. Cindy Morvant is Chairman and works hard to see that these projects are successful. She received permission to put a box up in the Post and many members contributed bringing in the food that was requested throughout November. In December Loveyann and Jack Calloway delivered this to the Bowie Food Bank. Many thanks to all who had a

part in this project which was a success and I apologize for the delay in reporting this. The next Community Service project is National Blood Program Awareness for the month of February. The need to donate blood is always great, especially during war time.

Our Turkey Shoot breakfasts are going well despite all the cold weather. But help in the kitchen is always needed so please contact Linda Healy, Chairman if you can give your support.



Auxiliary Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, February 11
7:30 p.m.

The National Chairman of Unit development and Revitalization will be in Maryland from February 12-15. The Southern Maryland Seminar will be held on Sunday, February 15 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. If you would like to attend, please let me know as we need to make reservations for lunch.

Sunday, February 1st, is District Day for God and Country. This will be at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Glen Burnie at 2:00 p.m. This is a very worthwhile event, particularly if you have never attended one in the past. It is a tribute to the three chaplains who gave up their lives to save others during World War II.

We are changing our Friday night dinners so that you who are tired of chicken can have another choice. This month's dinner on February 13th will be lasagna, garlic bread, salad and a surprise desert. So come on out and join us.

Priscilla Sprehe
Unit 66 President



Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, February 25
7:30 p.m.

Adjutant's Call

My Fellow Legionnaires:

By the time you receive this newsletter, Post 66 will not only have made four-star status, but obtained an all time high in membership for the 16th year in a row. Hopefully, we will also have received the Southern Maryland District's Oyster Bowl for the second year in a row. If not, we certainly gave it a heck of a try. Thanks to all who have renewed their membership this year, the 21 members who have recruited new members to our Post, 1st Vice Commander Murphy who worked the 297 members and yours truly who did the Direct Mail Solicitations. We all "Done Good." If you have not yet renewed, it is the time to do so NOW. Become part of Post 66's membership team.

The Post maintains a limited supply of American Legion Uniform Service Caps for sale. Basic cost of a lined, Style 2 cap is \$30.95 which includes Bowie, Md. on the left side and 66 on the right. The mandatory Maryland State Insignia is an additional \$6.00. The optional "God and Country" patch is \$1.95, armed forces tack is \$4.95 and a plastic cap cover is another \$1.95 for a total cost of \$45.80. Should you desire to purchase a cap contact the Post Adjutant. If ordered through the Post, we will pay shipping and handling.

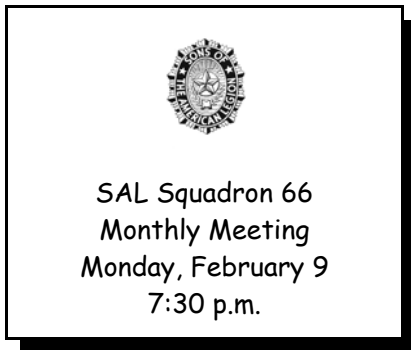
Traveling this spring or summer and visiting other American Legion Post? The Post currently has plastic "Post 66" license plates to trade. Purchase one for \$5.00 and trade it to another Post and we will replace it for the one you swapped. Legion

plates previously traded are on display in the game room. See if your hometown Post is there and add to our collection.

As always if you have questions on your membership contact me either at the Post 301-464-9814 or my home 301-390-6436, cell 240-355-6809. Post E-mail address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net and mine is jimabniam@aol.com. suggest you try my E-mail or cell first.

In service to God and Country, I am.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant



Melvin Buck Scholarship Nominations Now Being Accepted

Nominations to receive the 2004 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 2004.
2. Be a child, stepchild or grandchild of a member in good standing of the American Legion, SAL or Auxiliary of 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, 2004. This is just one of three scholarships Post 66 awards annually to high school seniors to pursue their education and yet another example of one of the many programs we support.

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.

Squadron 66 Report



The new year is off to a great start. Wow! We are number three in the state and still going as this article was written. We are currently at 126% of last year's membership and still growing. New members are just coming out of the woodwork. Don't forget to put your name on the space of the application for the recruiter's name when you sign up a new member. We want to be able to recognize the hard work done to help our membership grow. Remember, keep asking people to join.

The Bull and Oyster Roast will be held on Saturday, March 27th and cost \$25 per person. Attendance will be limited to the first 100 people who purchase tickets. Tickets will be available soon so check the message board at the Post. We hope many of you can make it and enjoy great food, music and dancing.

We need your input of ideas to help us continue to raise funds in support of the many projects in which we are involved. Come to a meeting and express yourself. Everyone is important. Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and only last an hour or less.

Skip Powell
Commander

St. Patrick's Day Dinner
Wednesday, March 17th
Corned Beef and Cabbage
Green Beer
5:00 to 6:30 PM
\$6 per person
RSVP: 3-14-04

Hey Honey! Where's my 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.

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!)

If you haven't seen on of these signs, maybe you should have:

At a military hospital-door to endoscopy:
"To expedite your visit, please back in"

On a maternity room door:
"Push. Push. Push."

In a podiatrist's office:
"Time wounds all heels."

In the front yard of a funeral home:
"Drive carefully. We'll wait "



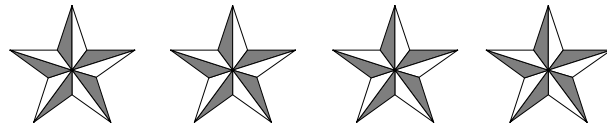


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Congratulations!

Post 66 and SAL

Keep Those News Members Coming!