
The Rising Star

Disney-Bell Post 66 Newsletter

February 1, 2005

There is Always Something Going On

A quick check of my calendar for the past few weeks showed that Post 66 is not suffering from the winter doldrums. Turkey Shoots are experiencing record participation and record fun for all. Sundays bring out some great folks who are truly supportive of the Post. The Auxiliary breakfasts continue to be the talk of the day and the lunches continue to please. Organizing and taking care of all the details involved in running the Shoots has got to be a challenge, but J.D. Larson and his crew of volunteers continue to do an outstanding job. Thanks to all.

Still happening January (I am writing this on the 15th) is the "Cub Scout Space Derby" at the Post. In all honesty, I don't exactly know what this is all about, but it was at 9:00 a.m. on the 22nd. If I can get myself going that early on a Saturday, I found out. On January 23rd, the SAL held a pig roast to coincide with the AFC/NFC championship games.

The Post 66 Oratorical Contest was held on January 29th at 10:00 a.m.. Brian Frye is chairing this year's contest and is again doing an outstanding job. We are expecting to send our Post winner to the County Contest (also at Post 66) on February 12th. Let's hope our Post winner can win County and progresses much further in this national competition.

The Post holds its annual Super Bowl Party on February 6th. Again this year it is a sold-out event, but if you didn't get the chance to sign up for the party, the Post is still a great place to watch the game and enjoy the camaraderie of so many members of our family who will be on hand.

We all have to eat, and if you want a great meal for a great deal you can't beat the Friday night dinners at the Post. The food is always great and the

company couldn't be better. Shrimp Nights continue to be very popular. The next one is February 12th.

The SAL is sponsoring a Sweetheart Dance in February. Please see the Squadron 66 Report for more details. Soon to come events include a Chili Contest, a St. Patrick's Day Party, the Legion Birthday Party and the SAL Bull and Oyster Roast. Your Post is doing a lot of activities to make it a fun place to visit, but also to raise funds for veterans' causes. All of our activities generate profits which allow us to donate to programs that benefit not only veterans but many other civic and humanitarian activities.

Please highlight May 21, 2005, Armed Forces Day, in you plans. We will give you more information in the next newsletter, but it should be a significant day for our Post and our country.

Clif Morvant
Commander



Post 66
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, February 23
7:30 p.m.



2nd Vice Report

What's in your wallet? If its a 2004 membership card, it expired on January 1, 2005. Your support for the Post goes a long way. The National Commander and his staff is always talking to Congress about veterans' programs. None of this would be possible if it weren't for us veterans at the Post level. Please continue your support for the Post by renewing your dues.

If you or any other member you know of is having financial issues and can ill afford to pay their dues, we have a Hardship Committee that deals with such problems. Let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

God Bless America and God Bless her Veterans.

T. D. Murphy

2nd Vice Commander



Adjutant's Corner

With only five months left in The American Legion 2004-2005 Year and at the time of this article, Disney-Bell Post 66 membership stands at 841. This puts us at 91% of our goal of 923, somewhat behind last year. For those who have not yet paid for 2005, National will send two more renewal notices on March 15 and May 1, 2005. Our Post certainly needs your membership, so mail those renewals in today we appreciate it and thanks.

Many of you have paid your 2005 dues but still receive another renewal notice. By way of explanation, there is a large turn around time for processing your renewals. Normally all dues are processed at the Post level and transmitted to Department weekly, who in turn transmits them to

National on a weekly basis. National must have processed your dues at least a month prior to the cut off date of the next renewal notice. For example cut off date for the December 15, 2004 renewal notice was November 10, 2004. Therefore, it is conceivable that you paid your dues and still receive another notice. As I have said several times, If you have your 2005 membership card, follow those instructions printed in red on the notice: "Please disregard if you have already paid your 2005 dues". You do not have to notify me that you have paid your 2005 dues, this will save you 37 cents postage.

When Ric Santos, Greenbelt Post 36, was National Commander of The American Legion, he reintroduced the Blue Star Service Banner. The Blue Star Banner signifies that a member of you family is serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and the war on terrorism, to include members of the National Guard and Reserves called to active duty. These recognize the sacrifice that military family members must endure while a love one is serving away from home. The Post has a limited supply of Blue Star Service Banners and Blue Star Family Pins which are available one per family. Contact the Post Adjutant to obtain either of these items.

As always, should you have any questions on your membership 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. Suggest you try my E-mail or cell phone first.

In service to God and Country, I am.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.

Adjutant



Auxiliary Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, February 16
7:30 p.m.

Unit 66 Report

A few things are coming up in the month of February which I would like to bring to your attention. First Happy Valentines Day to all! Why not send a Valentine to a veteran? In the past I have had some of the Elementary School children make valentines and these were taken to Charlotte Hall. We are hoping this year they will participate again. At least the weather has been in our favor since last year they had too many snow days off to be able to do this.



It is with sadness that I had a report from the Department Chaplain Cass Wheeler that Past Department President Miriam Duvall had passed away on January 6, 2005 after suffering a fall. Those of us who attended the Convention in Ocean City will fondly remember Miriam as a very gracious lady who will be missed.

The annual Day for God and Country will take place on February 20th 2005 at St. Anthony's Church in North Beach Md. This will start promptly at 2:00 P.M. Immediately following, a reception will be held at Stallings-Williams Post #206 in Chesapeake Beach. If you have never attended one of these services you are missing seeing a Tribute to the Four Chaplains who gave up their lives so others might live, when their ship went down. And the young Juniors who present the poppy wreaths do such a fine job.

Turkey shoot breakfasts are going well and we have been having a very good count. Many thanks to all you ladies who are helping out and if anyone is interested, extra help is always needed. Please contact Tammy Planty at 301-352-8027 or Priscilla Sprehe at 301-262-4733.

Our Friday night dinner on February 11, 2005 will be Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Salad, Rolls and Cake. Our March dinner will be Tacos, Salad and a dessert to be decided. I wish to thank all those who remember sign up. It does make it easier for those doing the shopping.

Our membership is getting closer to making our goal of four star. If you have not already sent in your renewal for the year 2005 please consider doing this so we may make goal and make our District President Janie very happy. Remember to keep our troops in your prayers and may they all be home soon.

Priscilla Sprehe
President

We Are Going to Dover. . . Again!



We're going to Dover! Whether you are an experienced NASCAR fan, casual observer or just want to see what the hubbub is about, plan on joining us for the Nextel Cup Race at Dover on Sunday, June 5. We will meet around 7:00 am at the Post for snacks, leave for the race with a full compliment of beer, soda and food, and a ticket to the race. Depending on race time, we should be back at the Post around 8:00 p.m.-ish. The cost for the trip will be \$135 and is all inclusive. Tickets go on sale at the Post on February 1, 2005 and are first come, first served. There are only a limited number of tickets available so don't get shut out.

Squadron 66 Report

Thank you to all that bought tickets on the Shotgun raffle and congratulations to the inn. With the restart of turkey shoots, we will again be selling scatter shots with great prizes. Like they say at the lottery . . . you have to play to win.



We will continue our Friday night dinners every third Friday of the month. February's dinner will be stuffed pork chops. Please sign up and enjoy one of the best dinners in Bowie for the best prize.

On February 12th we will hold a Sweethearts Dance from 8:30 until 12:30 featuring The David Wayne Band. The cost is \$10.00 per person and tickets are available behind the bar. The band is performing just for us as a charitable event and all proceeds are being donated to Fisher House. Come on out for a great band, a charitable event and a good time.

March 26th will be our annual Bull and Oyster Roast. Remember, this is one our most popular events, space is limited and NO tickets will be sold at the door. Watch for further information about tickets sales but mark your calender now.



SAL Squadron 66
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, February 15
7:30 p.m.

The SAL has made our membership goal and earned another four-star ward thanks to everyone who has paid their dues for 2005. If you have not yet paid your dues, then you are not entered in the bar book and may not utilize the Post facilities. We have 15 new members so far this year and I would like to welcome each and every one of them to our Legion family.

Due to Valentine's Day falling on our normal meeting night, the SAL will hold our February meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.. I hope to see many of you there.

Skip Powell
Commander

Melvin Buck Scholarship Award

Nominations to receive the 2005 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, 2005.

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.

E-mail List

So you want to be on the Post 66 e-mail subscriber's list and receive last minute information and important notices? Than just send your name and e-mail address to us at alpost66@bellatlantic.net and we'll add you. Please put "E-mail Subscriber" in the subject line.



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**Tickets
\$10.00
Per Person**

*Proceeds Benefit
Fisher House*

**SWEETHEART DANCE
SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 12
8:30 - 12:30 PM**

See Bartender for Tickets!