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The Rising Star

November 2006



www.alpost66.org

Commander's Message



It is my sad duty to report that Comrade James L. Pritchett, Jr. has been called from our midst and gone to report to the commander of us all. Normally the newsletter does not list or announce the passing of an individual veteran, but I am making an exception with Jim. He was our Post Adjutant, a past Commander, an Honorary Life Member and held most, if not all, Post officer positions. He was the “go to” guy if you had a problem and he handled all the Post administration duties, membership cards, roster, as well as the Honor Guard, Flag Day, Post Everlasting, and at least a dozen other jobs at the Post. When I said at his funeral that he will be sorely missed, you have to understand what an understatement that was.

At the last Executive Committee meeting, J. D. Larson agreed to assume the duties of Post Adjutant and Steve (Big Bird) Williams agreed to assume the duties of Post Judge Advocate. With those changes in our executive staff, a vacancy was created which was by member Pete Chambers. Pete has been a member of Post 66 for over 45 years and is also a volunteer fire fighter here in Old Bowie, Welcome aboard Pete.

Please renew your dues as soon as you can. The most important goal in our Post is to maintain and secure a growing membership base. You help us reach that goal by renewing your dues.

God bless America and God bless our Veterans.

Thomas D. Murphy
Commander

Adjutant's Call



It would not be appropriate to begin my inaugural Adjutant's Call without remarking about the shoes that have been left to fill. Jim left us much too soon and we will all miss him dearly, not the least of which is me. I ask for your patience and understanding in continuing to fulfill these duties at the high standard that has been a tradition of past Adjutants to Post 66.

At the 88th Annual Convention recently held in Salt Lake City, the membership of The American Legion voted an increase in the amount of dues sent to our National organization. The increase is \$4.50 per member and becomes effective on January 10, 2007.

While this increase does not affect you directly at this time, it does affect your Post and the amount of money available for our operations. Post dues are currently \$25.00 per member. From that amount, we will be required to submit \$20.50 to the Department of Maryland and the National Organization. As you can see, that leaves only \$4.50 per member as income to the Post, which does not cover the cost of printing and mailing our monthly newsletter.

Please consider purchasing the Legion's Paid Up For Life (PUFL) program. This will not only help you but also the Post. In the meantime, you can help us save \$4.50 and by paying your dues now.

If you have any questions concerning your membership, please call my cell phone at 240-350-6839 or, better yet, send me an e-mail to jdcoastie@msn.com.

In service to God and country, I am.

J. D. Larson
Adjutant

Unit 66 Report

Happy to report that our Treasurer Anna Thompson is back and taking care of things with her full enthusiasm and energy as she has always had.

At our October meeting we pulled the winner for our Monthly Mad Money Raffle and our Post Adjutant was the winner. Congratulations JD. Our next raffle will be for \$100 cash money so be ready to buy those raffle tickets to help support our veterans programs and their families. Know all of us can use an extra bit of cash this time of year.

The Turkey Shoots have started again and the Auxiliary is working the kitchen again this year. So come on out for the shoot, even if you are not shooting, and enjoy a nice hot breakfast to start your day.

Just a reminder that our Friday night dinners have started up again. The Auxiliary dinners are the second Friday of each month. If you plan to attend, please sign up by the Wednesday before the dinner.

In our continuing effort to support education the Auxiliary is purchasing ““Need a Lift”” scholarship books for the Bowie High School and the Bowie Library. Also, the Auxiliary is supporting the Whitehall Elementary School with its first community service project. It is ““We Are With You All The Way”” to support our troops in Platoon No. 629 from Maryland stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The students are raising money and taking donations to send individual Christmas packages to our troops there.

Last but not least, membership is an ongoing goal for the Auxiliary. If you know of someone who is eligible to join ask her to sign up. Applications are always at the bar and try to carry one with you so that no eligible member is passed up.

Judy Williams
Secretary



American Legion Riders

Progress is measured and our Post has definitely measured up. When we started the Chapter we were the 400th Chapter nationwide, today there are 529 Chapters throughout the US and two overseas. The Chapter has 882 and 1/2 volunteer hours so far this year and there are still many more opportunities in the future. We participated in the Legacy Scholarship Ride on 30 September 2006, with 10 riders and were responsible for donating \$1,802.32 (\$1,000.66 from the Post, \$200.00 from the SAL and \$601.66 from the ALR). These monies will be added to the over \$177,000.00 raised by the Legion Riders nationwide during the Annual Legion Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Members of the chapter involved with the Patriot Guard Riders have logged over 325 volunteer hours to honor our American Heroes and their families and once again we will be involved in a Mission on Saturday, 14 October 2006 in Finksburg, MD. The Post purchased 10 tickets for the SMD Youth Camp Shrimp Feast on Saturday, 14 October 2006 and allowed the ALR first chance at the tickets, we used 8 and provided the remaining two to a Legion member and his family at the Post.

Many thanks to all the members of the Post that have and continue to support the American Legion Riders and the programs that we reach out to throughout the Legion and our community. Our next major event will be the participation in Veterans Day Observances at Bowie Veterans Park in November. We are still waiting for the candy bars to arrive to assist in our charitable works. We will also be involved in the Turkey Shoots.

Yours in Service,

Steve "Big Bird" Williams, Director

In Memory of Jim Pritchett



The youth leadership of Boy Scout Troop 1688 are raising funds to purchase a memorial brick in front of the National Capitol Area Council Headquarters, Bethesda Maryland in memory of James L. Pritchett, Jr; Charter Organizational Representative, Cub Scout Pack 1688/Boy Scout Troop 1688.

Jim brought the pack and troop under Disney-Bell Post 66 sponsorship over ten years ago and saw them grow into two of the largest units in the Bowie area. This recognition for Jim is well deserved and once again demonstrates that our support of scouting is well placed.

Four logos are displayed in a row at the top of the section. From left to right: the American Legion logo (a shield with a star and the words "AMERICAN LEGION"), the American Legion Auxiliary logo (a star with the words "AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY"), the Sons of the American Legion logo (a star with the words "SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION"), and the American Legion Riders logo (a circular emblem with a rider and the words "AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS").

Meeting Schedule

SAL Squadron 66 - 2nd Monday
Post 66 Executive - 2nd Wednesday
Auxiliary Unit 66 - 3rd Wednesday
Post 66 Membership - 4th Wednesday
Post 66 Legion Riders - 4th Thursday
All Meetings Begin at 7:30 p.m.



Turkey Shoots

It's that time of year again. Turkey shoots began October 22. The kitchen opens at 8:00 a.m. and shooting starts at 9:00 each week. You get the same great deal as last year...20 shots for \$55.00 with added and special shots added as well. This year we will have more cash prizes, plus a new NASCAR 50/50 shoot each week. Pre-sign ups are available at the Post. Sorry, no reservations without cash payment.



Redskin Games Free Buffet

Come join your friends for fund and good food at Post 66 for every Redskin game. That's right, Dick Lanham and the House Committee will be serving different dishes each week and are graciously accepting covered dish donations as well. Check the schedule (available at the Post) and if the Skins are playing, we're eating. See you there.

Squadron 66 Report

First I want to say thanks to all the guys who worked our annual car show and crab feast. Both events went off well and everyone had a great time. We were fortunate this year and had the American Legion Racing Team attend our car show. Hopefully you were able to come out and show your support.



We will be having our annual Holiday Raffles again this year. We will of course be doing our traditional Christmas Train and maybe a Snow Thrower. Please check the Post for details.

Friday Night Dinners are back in full swing and we have the 3rd Friday of the month. We will be serving the half roasted chicken with mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed veggies, and roll for \$8.00 per dinner.

The Early Bird dead line is approaching. Please get your 2007 dues in if you want to attend the Post Dinner. We are leaving cards behind the bar unless you request that it be mailed to you. If so, please make sure we have your current address.

Attending the monthly meetings and participating in our events does pay off. We are planning a SAL fishing trip for spring of 2007. To be eligible you must attend 80% of the monthly meetings and help out w/ our events. Our meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30pm..... hope to see you there.

Joe Weik
Commander

Disney-Bell Post 66 Officers

Commander	Thoms D. Murphy
First Vice Commander.	Nick Muller
Second Vice Commander.	Dick Lanham
Adjutant.	J. D. Larson
Judge Advocate	Steve Williams
Finance Officer.	Bill Carlson
Service Officer	David Cooks
Historian.	Myron James
Chaplain.	Toni King
Sergeant-at-Arms	Brian Goldman

Executive Committee:

Jay Adams, Pete Chambers,
Brian Frye, Roger Goll, Mark Ryan

Unit 66 Officers

President	Juanita Thompson
Vice President	Lois Van Sickle
Secretary	Judy Williams
Treasurer	Anna Thompson
Chaplain	Toni King
Historian	Linda Healy
Sergeant-at-Arms	Cindy Morvant

Squadron 66

Commander	Joe Weik
First Vice Commander	Jimmy Clark
Finance Officer	Darby McNeill
Chaplain.	Joe Clark
Sergeant-at Arms.	Sam Clark
Historian.	Skip Powell
Adjutant	Del Billings



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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