

The Rising Star

Volume 2007, Issue 5

September-October 2007

Special points of interest:

- We are at 53% of our goal for 4-star membership status.
- We have a brand new outdoor pavilion for events.
- We're visiting our Veterans at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.
-

Inside this issue:

<i>Commander</i>	1
<i>Adjutant's Call</i>	2
<i>Calendar</i>	3
<i>S.A.L.</i>	4
<i>Unit 66</i>	4
<i>Legion Riders</i>	5
<i>Labor Day</i>	6
<i>Membership</i>	7
<i>Junior Shooters</i>	7

Commander's Message

My Fellow Legionnaires:

It is both a privilege and an honor to serve as Commander for this coming year. Be assured that I take my duties and responsibilities very seriously and I will put forth my best effort as your Commander.

By the time you read this, the new pavilion will be completed marking the end of a four year effort to build this new addition to our Post. The list of volunteers is lengthy and will be recognized in a later edition of this newsletter. Due to the hard work of these dedicated volunteers, this beautiful new pavilion was completed at more than \$20,000.00 under budget.

Among the new activities this year is our monthly visits to Walter Reed Army Medical Center to let our wounded warriors know they are not forgotten. Please sign up for this very important activity; you'll be glad you did.

September marks the beginning of our Friday night dinners also known as the "Best deal in town". Check the en-



closed calendar and call in your reservation.

Speaking of dinners, there are families right here in Bowie that are less fortunate than most of us and rely on the Bowie Food Pantry for food for survival. Our Post is an official collection point for donations. Please check your pantry and drop off a few cans of food for the needy.

God bless you and God bless America.

Dick Lanham
Commander



Post Officers

Commander	Dick Lanham
1st Vice Commander	Mark Ryan
2nd Vice Commander	Brian Goldman
Adjutant	Steve Williams
Finance Officer	<vacant>
Chaplain	Toni King
Judge Advocate	Richard Beckwell
Historian	Ray Hart
Service Officer	Eddie Thompson
Sergant-at-Arms	Sonny Frank
Executive Committee	Brian Frye
	Roger Goll
	Jr. Martin
	Clif Morvant
	Tom Murphy



Adjutant's Call

The new Legion Year has started and we are getting off to a good start, new officers, new ideas and new challenges. One thing that never changes from year to year is the need to be involved in Your Post and make a difference for our Veterans and communities. This year we will offer many new opportunities for your involvement in the Post. Long standing committees and new ones have been instituted and this provides each of us an opportunity to reach out to others. There are changes coming to the newsletter as well, the Commander has some thoughts of ways to make it better and as J.D. Larson moves on to fill the duties and responsibilities of the Southern Maryland District Commander we thank him for his service to our Post and wish him all the best in the future, of course we will still see his "smiling" face at the Post. The membership committee has been very busy since returning from the Convention and has processed more than half of the Post membership renewals. We are currently at 53% of our goal for 4-Star membership status and this will mark our twentieth year as a 4-Star Post, no small feat by any means. But we can't do it alone, if you have received your renewal notice, please return it with your dues as soon as possible. We are doing mail outs about once a week and are striving to get the membership cards back in your hands in 30 days. But the work doesn't stop there; we are actively pursuing those Legionnaires assigned to Post 297 and ask that you bring us one new member each. By doing this we keep the Post alive and vibrant for this year and the years to come.

One of the new areas of opportunity for each of us is the Veterans Visitation Program. Roger Goll has coordinated with Walter Reed Army Medical Center for five members of the Post to visit our wounded Heroes and offer encouragement and friendship. The visits will occur during the week and on Saturdays (dates to be announced) for five people to visit for 1 hour. Please look at the needs of these men and women and find a couple of hours to give something to them that money can't buy - your time and compassion.

As our pavilion goes up and the weather changes, we are looking to have more Post functions and activities. The House committee is working on some creative ideas for Post parties and of course there will be the return of Steak Night, Shrimp Night, S.A.L. Dinners and the like. The Super Bowl Party is already being planned so be sure to come by the Post and check out the latest and greatest at Your Post.

In Service to God and Country,

Stephen J. Williams
Adjutant

POST 66 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2007

Friday	September 7 th	Steak Night - Honor Guard
Saturday	September 8 th	Shrimp Night
Monday	September 10 th	S.A.L. Meeting
Wednesday	September 12 th	Executive Committee Meeting
Friday	September 14 th	Friday Night Dinner - Auxiliary
Wednesday	September 19 th	Auxiliary Meeting
Friday	September 21 st	Friday Night Dinner - S.A.L.
Saturday	September 22 nd <i>Rain Date September 29th</i>	S.A.L. Annual Car Show Registration from 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Sunday	September 23 rd	Recruiting Open House; 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	September 26 th	General Membership Meeting
Thursday	September 27 th	American Legion Riders Meeting

OCTOBER 2007

Tuesday	October 2 nd	Tuesday Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Friday	October 5 th	Steak Night - Honor Guard
Saturday	October 6 th	Crab Feast - S.A.L.
Monday	October 9 th	S.A.L. Meeting
Tuesday	October 2 nd	Tuesday Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	October 10 th	Executive Committee Meeting
Friday	October 12 th	Friday Night Dinner - Auxiliary
Saturday	October 13 th	Shrimp Night
Tuesday	October 16 th	Tuesday Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	October 17 th	Auxiliary Meeting
Friday	October 19 th	Friday Night Dinner - S.A.L.
Tuesday	October 23 rd	Tuesday Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	October 24 th	General Membership Meeting
Thursday	October 25 th	American Legion Riders Meeting
Tuesday	October 30 th	Tuesday Sandwich Night - S.A.L.; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

- All meetings start at 7:30 p.m. sharp!
- Friday night dinners start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m.
- Check the Post web site for more details and breaking information.
- Even if you are not a member of the Auxiliary, S.A.L., or Honor Guard, please come out and support their dinners. They are inexpensive and good!
Call the Post by the Wednesday before to reserve your seat.

S.A.L. News

First off, thanks for all the well-wishes as the new Commander of the S.A.L. I look forward to carrying on the many successful functions the S.A.L. organizes and participates in. Lucky for me, I have a well seasoned (I'm not saying you all are old, but I am younger than all of you) support staff that will make my job that much more enjoyable. Now for a few updates on upcoming events.

Friday Night Dinners will be back in full swing starting September 21 and will continue every third Friday of every month through May. Don't miss out on the now famous "half-baked chicken". Also, Tuesday Night Dinners will begin October 2 and run through April 29. There will be no Tuesday Night Dinner served December 25 and January 1. Tuesday Night Dinners are from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.. Come hungry, leave full!

Unit 66 Report

HELLO LIBERTY BELLES! Let Freedom Ring As Our Pride Is Forever.

A new year is upon us and we are hoping to have many activities to make this a very productive and successful year for the Auxiliary.

First, and foremost the slate of new officers for the Auxiliary are as follows:

President – Lois Van Sickle;
Vice President – Cindy Morvant;
Secretary – Judy Williams;
Treasurer – Anna Thompson;
Chaplain – Emily Goldman;
Sgt-At-Arms – Juanita Thompson;
Historian – Linda Healy.

Something new for our meetings is a membership raffle. At each of our monthly meetings all "2008 paid"

We will be holding our 12th Annual Car Show on September 22 (rain date of September 29). If you have a car you'd like to show, shine it up, get off your asphalt, and come down to the show. Registration is 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. with the show following from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.. Cost is \$12.00 to pre-register or \$15.00 the day of the show. Registration forms can be found at the Post or the Post's website. As always, free admission for all spectators.

Our annual Crab Feast will be held October 6 with a menu to include steamed crabs (of course), fried chicken, potato salad, corn on the cob, coleslaw, baked beans, draft beer, and soda. Tickets will be available at the Post.

In closing, I look forward to working closely with the Legion Family to ensure a fun and successful year. If

you are an S.A.L. member and have not been to a meeting in a while (or ever), feel free to come out the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. for our monthly meetings. It's always nice to see new faces and hear new ideas. We have a lot of exciting new ideas for the upcoming year and could use your help. Don't forget, our 2008 membership cards have arrived and can be paid early. See you at the Post.

James S. Clark III
Commander SAL



members will receive a ticket at the meeting and during the meeting the winner will be chosen.

At our October 17th meeting, we will be having a "Tea & Cookie" Social following a shortened meeting. All Auxiliary members are urged to attend and bring a friend or family member who may be eligible and interested in joining our Unit. This will be a time to get to know your fellow members and learn more about what we have planned for the upcoming year. Just a reminder that the Unit 66 General Membership Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m..

The Auxiliary Dinners will start up again in September with the first on Friday, September 14th. The menu

is: homemade meatloaf, mashed potatoes w/gravy, peas & carrots, rolls and homemade dessert. The October dinner is the 12th and the menu is: Brats and sauerkraut, hot German potato salad, spiced apples, rolls and dessert. Our dinners will continue during the Fall, Winter and Spring and will be the second Friday of each month and the price is a nominal \$8.00 per person. Hope you will come out and join us and support the Auxiliary.

As always, the dinners sign up sheet will be at the bar.

Judy Williams
Secretary, Unit 66

American Legion Riders

The summer is drawing to a close but we haven't put the bikes up for the winter yet! Unless you live under a rock, you know that we have been busy supporting our deploying Maryland National Guard, critically ill children and their families, the local police and their survivors and most importantly our Veterans through Heroes to Hometowns and Operation Landstuhl.

The Post web site has the news articles that our chapter has written and the most recent issue of the Legion Magazine even talks about

Bowie Chapter 66, so we are doing the right things. So what's coming up next? We rode to support the Veterans at Charlotte Hall in August. We will be riding to the Salute to Veterans in September, the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Poker Run in Sep/Oct., the Post Observance of Veterans Day in November and maybe even a Toy Run to help Santa.

Of course we are always looking to have one or two rides just for fun.

Our meetings are on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.,

so come out and see for yourself what the American Legion Family is doing on two wheels.

Ride Hard, Ride Safe,

Stephen "Big Bird" Williams
Director, ALR



Veterans Helping Veterans Charlotte Hall Veterans Poker Run

On Saturday, August 11, 2007, 11 members of the American Legion Riders of Disney-Bell Post 66 in Bowie, Maryland got an early morning start to meet with other Veterans motorcycle groups to help support the Veterans of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in Southern Maryland. The event is hosted by the US Military Vets Motorcycle Club of Southern Maryland. Time was spent visiting with the Veterans and then we took them on a wheel chair tour of the parking lot to see all of the "iron horses" that were there. We heard stories of how they used to ride and a couple of the Vets asked us if we wanted to race, of course we backed down.

National Commander Morin said it best when he said "And now, through the American Legion Riders, with nearly 600 Chapters reported in virtually every State in the nation, the generation that served America so faithfully during the Vietnam War has set a new direc-

tion for our organization, with a renewed call for all Americans to answer: Never forget the warrior. Never forget our POW and MIA. And never, ever forget our comrades.

The riders from Disney-Bell Post 66 provided a total donation of \$245.00 to support the cause and will continue to work with the staff of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home to ensure that we will be there if we are needed .



Front Row (left to right) George Crawford, Aunt Dot, Susan Beckwell, Richard Beckwell, Bev Mills, Carol Williams, Carl Turner, Sonny Frank. Back Row: Steve and Judy Williams

Labor Day (First Monday in September)

Eleven-year-old Peter McGuire sold papers on the street in New York City. He shined shoes and cleaned stores and later ran errands. It was 1863 and his father, a poor Irish immigrant, had just enlisted to fight in the Civil War. Peter had to help support his mother and six brothers and sisters.

Many immigrants settled in New York City in the nineteenth century. They found that living conditions were not as wonderful as they had dreamed. Often there were six families crowded into a house made for one family. Thousands of children had to go to work. Working conditions were even worse. Immigrant men, women and children worked in factories for ten to twelve hours a day, stopping only for a short time to eat. They came to work even if they were tired or sick because if they didn't, they might be fired. Thousands of people were waiting to take their places.

When Peter was 17, he began an apprenticeship in a piano shop. This job was better than his others, for he was learning a trade, but he still worked long hours with low pay. At night he went to meetings and classes in economics and social issues of the day. One of the main issues of concern pertained to labor conditions. Workers were tired of long hours, low pay and uncertain jobs. They spoke of organizing themselves into a union of laborers to improve their working conditions. In the spring of 1872, Peter McGuire and 100,000 workers went on strike and marched through the streets, demanding a decrease in the long working day.

This event convinced Peter that an organized labor movement was important for the future of workers' rights. He spent the next year

speaking to crowds of workers and unemployed people, lobbying the city government for jobs and relief money. It was not an easy road for Peter McGuire. He became known as a "disturber of the public peace." The city government ignored his demands. Peter himself could not find a job in his trade. He began to travel up and down the east coast to speak to laborers about unionizing. In 1881, he moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and began to organize carpenters there. He organized a convention of carpenters in Chicago, and it was there that a national union of carpenters was founded. He became General Secretary of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

The idea of organizing workers according to their trades spread around the country. Factory workers, dock workers and toolmakers all began to demand and get their rights to an eight-hour workday, a secure job and a future in their trades. Peter McGuire and laborers in other cities planned a holiday for workers on the first Monday in September, halfway between Independence Day and Thanksgiving Day.

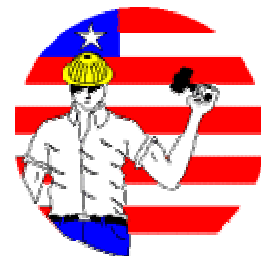
On September 5, 1882 the first Labor Day parade was held in New York City. Twenty thousand workers marched in a parade up Broadway. They carried banners that read "LABOR CREATES ALL WEALTH," and "EIGHT HOURS FOR WORK, EIGHT HOURS FOR REST, EIGHT HOURS FOR RECREATION!" After the parade there were picnics all around the city. Workers and celebrants ate Irish stew, homemade bread and apple pie. At night, fireworks were set off. Within the next few years, the idea spread from coast to coast, and all states celebrated Labor Day. In 1894, Congress voted it a federal

holiday.

Today we celebrate Labor Day with a little less fanfare on the first Monday of September. Some cities have parades and community picnics. Many politicians "kick off" their political campaigns by holding rallies on the holiday. Most Americans consider Labor Day the end of the summer, and the beaches and other popular resort areas are packed with people enjoying one last three-day weekend.

Shamelessly reproduced from:
<http://stockholm.usembassy.gov/holidays>

EIGHT HOURS FOR WORK,
EIGHT HOURS FOR REST,
EIGHT HOURS FOR
RECREATION!"



It's MEMBERSHIP Renewal and Recruiting

It's time once again to renew your annual American Legion membership. Yes, your 2007 card is accepted until December 31, 2007. However, the membership renewal race starts each year on July 1st with a goal of having everyone ready for the New Year by November 11th. Our goal this year is to achieve 4-Star membership status for the 20th consecutive year. To accomplish this we need every post member to renew on time and also continue to recruit new members at every opportunity.

A few post members are still carrying those 2006 cards in their wallets. They have busy schedules, jobs, and family commitments. Folks forget to send in that renewal notice. Please submit your renewal payment to avoid a break in consecutive year membership.

If you are one of the busy folks who don't stop by the post often or forget to answer those annoying renewal notices you might want to just make one payment with a Paid up for Life (PUFL) application. Forms are

available on the web site, from the Commander, Adjutant, or 1st Vice Commander.

Look forward to processing your 2008 card very soon.

Mark W. Ryan
1st Vice Commander

*"The membership race starts
each year on July 1"*

American Legion Junior Shooter Program

The Patriotism & Youth Committee is looking for a motivated Legion member to research the establishment and sponsorship of a Disney-Bell Post 66 Junior Shooter team.

This national level competition competes annually with .177 air rifles and is open to youth. The post needs an adult to lead the effort to research the requirements, cost, rules, and coach (if approved by the membership).

Please contact Brian Frye at 301-860-1717 or pypost66@comcast.net if you are interested.



American Legion
Disney-Bell Post 66
9605 Old Laurel-Bowie Road
Bowie, Maryland 20720

Phone: 301-464-9814
Fax: 301-805-6832
Email: alpost66@comcast.net

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



**We're on the web at
www.alpost66.org**

Outdoor Pavilion Almost Complete !



The new outdoor pavilion is under construction behind the Post home and it should be finished by the time you read this newsletter.