

Disney-Bell Family News

Volume 2011, Issue 4

October - November 2011

Special points of interest:

- Post renewals are at 61%
- We're back from Summer vacation and there are all kinds of activities planned. Check out page 3!

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Commander's Corner



Another newsletter? I thought I just wrote one. My, how fast 2 months has gone by. And what an unusual 2 months they were. We had an earthquake and a hurricane within a week of each other and ended up without power at the Post for many days. Thanks to many members of the Post and the generosity of Ascension Church, we saved the beer but lost our frozen and refrigerated foodstuffs. We also had to postpone the first Honor Guard steak night until October. The first 2 months of my term as Commander and the facility is falling apart! We've had some minor outside damage, but we are recuperating. Is this an omen or what?

We had a successful Labor Day fun day with a great turnout thanks to you all. Hope you enjoyed it. It was a last minute decision but thanks to a great team of volunteers, we pulled it off. Thank you one and all for the support. I hope to have a couple of more fun days added to our schedule as the year goes on.

The next 2 months will be even busier. We have the S.A.L. Crab Feast, the restart of the Turkey Shoots and Children's Halloween party in October, followed by Veteran's Day and the Post Early Bird dinner in November. Wow! Be sure to check our online calendar for the most up-to-date information about upcoming events. Make sure you have paid your 2012 dues by November 10 so you can participate in the Early Bird Dinner. I hope to see a big turnout this year.

We are working on some new exciting projects for the Post in the upcoming months including a new audio visual system for the Post Hall. We will keep you informed as things proceed.

Stay tuned for more.

Brian Goldman
Commander

Post Officers

2010 - 2011

Commander	Brian Goldman
1st Vice Commander	Phoebe Larned
2nd Vice Commander	Tom Murphy
Adjutant	Brian Frye
Finance Officer	Charlie Milstead
Chaplain	Toni King
Judge Advocate	Richard Beckwell
Historian	James Edwards
Service Officer	David Campbell
Sergeant-at-Arms	Richard Lamrouex
Executive Committee	Ray Hart
	John Delinsky
	J.D. Larson
	Larry Bartman
	Mark Ryan

The American Legion
Disney-Bell Post 66
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Disney-Bell Family News is published every other month (6 issues per year) and is published on the Post 66 website.

If you need your copy mailed to you, please send a note to newsletter@alpost66.org or contact the Post at 301-464-9814.

We welcome your news, ideas, suggestions, comments, or questions for future issues of the Disney-Bell Family News.

E-mail us at: newsletter@alpost66.org, or drop it off at the Post to the attention of the Newsletter Editor.

COMMITTEES AND EVENTS LEADER

Finance Committee
Audit Committee
House Committee
Membership Committee

Charlie Milstead
Richard Beckwell
Tom Murphy
Phoebe Larned

Patriotism and Youth Committees

Baseball Commissioner
Flag Education
Oratorical Contest
Scholarships
Scouts
ROTC/JROTC
Boys State

Brian Frye
(Please volunteer!)
Brian Frye
(Please volunteer!)
Brian Frye
Mark Ryan
Brian Frye
Brian Frye

Veterans Committees

Honor Guard Commander
Veterans Support
Blue Star Banner Delivery
National Defense

Darby McNeill
Brian Goldman
Richard Beckwell
Brian Goldman

Post Publications

Newsletter
Website

Ray Hart
Ray Hart

Annual Events (In Order by Legion Year)

Joint Installation of Officers
Turkey Shoot Committee
Army-Navy Game Event
Children's Halloween Party
Veteran's Day Services
Early Bird Dinner
Toys for Tots Campaign
Children's Christmas Party
Christmas Eve Party
New Year's Eve Party
Super Bowl Party
Daytona 500 Party
St. Patrick's Day Dinner
Legion/Post Birthday Dinner
Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Post Everlasting
Memorial Day Services
Flag Day Event
Fourth of July Picnic

Outgoing Commander
Dan Healy
Brian Frye/Mark Ryan
Auxiliary Unit 66
Legion
(Please volunteer!)
Pat Lamb
Auxiliary Unit 66
(Please volunteer!)
(Please volunteer!)
Tom Murphy
J.D. Larson
Honor Guard
(Please volunteer!)
Auxiliary Unit 66
Legion
Legion
Honor Guard
J.D. Larson

Committee/Event Volunteer Opportunities.

We are looking for a few good men and women to head up several committees and events this coming Legion year (see above). We are also looking for folks to help with the routine work of the committees. If you don't have the time to volunteer with the ongoing work of the committees, please consider coming out to help at one of the one-time events that appeals to you.

You can contact the committee leader or the lead individual for the event to help out. If there is not a person listed, you can contact us by sending us an e-mail at: alpost66@comcast.net or by calling the Post at 301-464-9814.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER! Volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization, and you can have fun by becoming more involved in the activities at the Post.

POST 66 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the calendar on the Post website or contact the Post at 301-464-9814 for the most up-to-date information.

Organizational Meetings - 7:30 p.m. Sharp!

Monday	October 10	S.A.L. Meeting
Wednesday	October 12	Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday	October 19	Auxiliary Meeting
Wednesday	October 26	General Membership Meeting
Thursday	October 27	American Legion Riders Meeting
Wednesday	November 9	Executive Committee Meeting
Monday	November 14	S.A.L. Meeting
Wednesday	November 16	Auxiliary Meeting
Wednesday	November 23	General Membership Meeting
Thursday	No Meeting	American Legion Riders Meeting

Post Special Events

Every Sunday	Until March	Turkey Shoots in the backyard - 9:30 a.m. Cooked-to-order Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
Saturday	October 1	Annual S.A.L. Crab Feast
Saturday	October 15	Karaoke in the Lounge - Adult Halloween Party - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 29	Children's Halloween Party - 6:30 p.m.
Friday	November 11	Veterans Day Ceremony - Veterans Park, Old Bowie - 11:00 a.m.
Friday	November 11	Legion Family Dinner and Dance - <i>with the proceeds contributed to the audiovisual upgrades for the Hall</i>
Saturday	November 19	Early Bird Dinner - 6:00 p.m. (Must have paid your 2012 membership by November 10)

Post Meals

1st Friday of each month	October 7 November 4	Steak and/or Shrimp Dinner 6:30 p.m.
2nd Friday of each month	October 14	Auxiliary Taco Bar Dinner and Family Night
3rd Friday of each month	October 21 November 18	S.A.L. 1/2 Baked Chicken Dinner
every Tuesday	October November	Chef's Surprise- 5:00-7:00 p.m. Dinners and cheesesteak and coldcut subs. Call by the prior Sunday to check the menu and to sign up for the dinner or sandwiches.

Friday Night Dinners

Please call the Post to sign up for the Friday night dinner by the previous Wednesday before. We want to make sure we have enough meals for everyone to enjoy! Carry out is available if you cannot eat at the Post and want to take your meals home to enjoy. You are more than welcome to bring guests with you to enjoy your meals!

S.A.L. Squadron 66



What a summer--heat, rain, earthquakes, hurricanes! What will the Fall bring? One thing for sure is our Tuesday Night dinners which will begin in October. Our Annual Crab Feast is also being held on October 1.

One change in our Tuesday night dinners—we will have a hot main dinner with a sandwich selection also available. We will have a sign-up sheet for the dinners/sandwiches, which will help us better plan our purchases and preparations. Look for the sign-up sheets behind the Bar.

I want to thank everyone who helped plan, participate in, and enjoy our annual Car Show. I don't want to name individuals, since I know I would forget someone, but the Legion family made this work. This year's event was even bigger than last year's. We had 67 great looking motor vehicles. I can't say cars, since we also had a roll-back truck and a fire engine from Bowie. Congratulations to all the winners. Take a peek online to view these great vehicles. Although I said I would not name names, in particular I would like to thank our Auxiliary for the excellent idea of conducting a bake sale in association with the Car Show. All of the bakery items were excellent and the project made more than \$200.00, which the Ladies graciously are donating to the S.A.L. Detachment Commander's project to purchase a new bus for the Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home. Thanks Ladies!!

Believe it or not, in November we will again sponsor the Toys for Tots drive. This is always a most successful Legion family activity. It looks like the need this year will be as great or even greater than in previous years. Let's make sure that our young prospective Legion members will have a great Holiday season. Perhaps when they become adults, they will remember that the Legion family helped them and they then would want to help others and join the Legion, S.A.L., or Auxiliary.

Our 2012 Membership Drive has successfully started. Please try to get your dues to us as soon as possible. Your 2012 membership will ensure that you maintain your consecutive membership years intact and will ensure that you are able to enjoy all of the benefits of being a part of our Legion family. Come to the Post, pay your dues, and enjoy friendship, meals, and entertainment.

As we enter the Holiday season, I wish each of you a meaningful Thanksgiving. Please remember our Veterans and active Service members in your thoughts and prayers.

See you at our meetings and at the Post,

Del Billings
Commander, Detachment 66



Auxiliary Unit 66



Our first Family Night was enjoyed by all present. The food was great and special thanks to Debbie and Joe for providing the Delicious Pot of Chili. And, thanks to all of the kitchen helpers. Hope to see you next month for the all you can eat Taco Bar. It is \$10.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Children. And if you're up for Dessert Ice Cream will be for sale at 8:00PM.

The "new" National computer system is a mess. All of the data was entered manually, and there are numerous errors. Many names and addresses are incorrect. And, the number of years are incorrect. National indicated it is the years paid to date, when the cards were printed. The count doesn't include 2012. And, the return address for sending membership renewals is an address in Gambrills. The Correct address is ALA Unit 66, PO Box 614, Bowie, MD 20718. If you want a new card with corrections, contact me. And, if you have not received your renewal, send your name, address and dues (\$15.00 Seniors & \$5.00 Juniors) to Auxiliary.

Thank you for the WONDEFUL support of the Back to School Supply Drive. Anselma, Richard and I delivered 9 large boxes of school supplies and a large package of paper towels to Heather Hills Elementary School Principle Patsy Hosch. She was overwhelmed by the amount of supplies, and was in tears when we gave her a check for \$400 and the gift cards. Money contributions were received from the S.A.L., a Legion Member, and the Auxiliary. The gift cards were from Giant, Safeway, and Target. Once again the generosity of the American Legion Family has been demonstrated. Thank you again for supporting the Children and Youth in the Bowie community.

The Bake Sale during the S.A.L. Car Show was a great success. We raised over \$300.00 for the Charlotte Hall Bus. Thank you to everyone for bringing the goodies, and for all of the buyer's donations. And Special Thanks to the S.A.L. for the Donation of the Tips collected from the Food Sales. There was \$53.43 and a Spider J in the Tip Jar. Once again, the generosity of the Post members has been demonstrated.

The Auxiliary has pledge a \$300.00 for the new audio visual equipment in the Hall. We are also going to

have a fund raiser hosted by the Legion, S.A.L., and Auxiliary members. The 2nd Friday in November will be a Dinner & Dance, instead of the Auxiliary Family Night. The menu will be Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad Bar, Breads, etc. And, there will be a DJ for us to dance the night away.

October is breast Cancer Awareness Month. Have you had your monogram this year? The Auxiliary will be selling raffle tickets for Pink Lemonade Pocket Knives. The Knife is in the shape of a boot, the toe lifts open can tabs, and the heel opens bottles. A generous Legion member donated multiple knives, so the odds are good that you might win. The tickets will be 1 for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00. Proceeds will be given to Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Susan M Beckwell
Unit 66 President



Dinner / Dance

November 11, 2011



- Dinner
- Dancing
- DJ

Proceeds from the evening to help pay for the audiovisual upgrades for the Hall

Check the website,
e-mail, or call the Post
for further details.



1st Vice Commander

Due to your support, we are currently ahead of schedule on our membership goals with 637/958 renewed/new/transferred members equaling 67 percent as of September 23, 2011. We still have 25-28 members and transfers pending. We are looking forward to the Early Bird Dinner on November 19 – so be sure to pay your dues prior to November 10 to join us.

Membership renewal has reached the technological age.... Try our on-line renewal it is very user friendly/easy. If you have paid your bills online, then you know just how quick and painless this process really is. We encourage you to try it. Our

Membership Committee currently has five members, if you have an interest in joining our Committee, please contact me. The more members on our Committee, the more successful our efforts to surpass our membership goals will be. We hope you will join.

Thank You,

**1st Vice Commander
Phoebe Larned**

Coming Soon to Post 66 !
Watch the website and e-mail for details.



- Free popcorn
- Cheap refreshments
- Movies will be held inside in the Meeting Hall
- Bring your own chairs or use ours
- Fun and friendship!

Veterans Day History

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 an armistice between Germany and the Allied nations came into effect. On November 11, 1919, Armistice Day was commemorated for the first time. In 1919, President Wilson proclaimed the day should be "filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory". There were plans for parades, public meetings and a brief suspension of business activities at 11am.

In 1926, the United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I and declared that the anniversary of the armistice should be commemorated with prayer and thanksgiving. The Congress also requested that the president should "issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples."

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) was approved on May 13, 1938, which made November 11 in each year a legal holiday, known as Armistice Day. This day was originally intended to honor veterans of World War I. A few years later, World War II required the largest mobilization of service men in the history of the United States and the American forces fought in Korea. In 1954, the veterans service organizations urged Congress to change the word "Armistice" to "Veterans". Congress approved this change and on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor all American veterans, where ever and whenever they had served.

American Legion License Tags

Have you seen cars with American Legion license plates and wondered how you might get them for your vehicle? Here is some basic information about the program.

Organizational license plates are available for display on cars, trucks, SUV's, and motorcycles. You must be a member in good standing, and remain in good standing, with your organization to qualify. The Legion charges a \$2.00 processing fee and the MVA will charge a one time \$25.00 fee for the plates. Thereafter, you pay your regular registration fee with no surcharge for the plates.

Legion organizational license plates are available for members of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and now the American Legion Riders.

The specific instructions for acquiring the license plates are too long to print here in the Newsletter, so they are posted on our website at www.alpost66.org/legion-tags. You can also contact the Adjutant of your organization for complete information or with any questions about the program.



Meeting Hall & Pavilion Rental

The Post 66 meeting hall and outdoor pavilion are available for you or your friends to rent.

Consider the hall or pavilion for your life celebrations, such as wedding rehearsals, receptions, family reunions, birthday parties, and picnics.

For more information contact Gidget at 301-464-9814 or by e-mail at: businessMgr@alpost66.org



iPAD 2 Raffle

Tickets are \$10 and available from the bartenders at the Post. Only 100 tickets will be sold for this raffle and the winner will be drawn the Friday after the tickets are sold. *Proceeds will be used to offset the new audio visual equipment in the Hall*



The American Legion

Disney-Bell Post 66 - Bowie, Maryland

Presents



Saturday

October 15, 2011

(Adult Halloween Party)

9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Come out and sing, watch, cheer,
or just enjoy the "show!"



Are You Prepared?

Are you prepared for the next weather emergency or disaster? Hopefully we won't have a week with an earthquake and hurricane in it again any time soon, but the reality is that disasters can and will strike, often without any advance warning.

September was National Emergency Preparedness Month and it was also the height of hurricane season. Make sure that you have basic supplies to handle power outages, and other types of emergencies. At a minimum your supply kit should have food, water, battery operated radio, flashlights, and first aid supplies to see you through the first 48-72 hours following a disaster.

To receive email and text message updates during emergencies, register for Alert Bowie by calling 301-809-3032 or visiting the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org.

Post 66 Turkey Shoots

The “world famous” Disney-Bell Turkey Shoots are returning to the Post again on Sundays this fall.

What are turkey shoots anyway? Trust us; no actual turkeys are shot during the shoots! The Post operates turkey shoots to make a little money to help with expenses. There are various prizes that can be won by the participants, including meats like hams and five pounds of bacon, and cash prizes.

Turkey shoots are held beginning October 16, 2010, and last throughout the winter until March. You will need a 12 gauge shotgun to participate and some warm clothes (during the winter). The Post will provide the ammunition, targets, and all of the scoring and prizes.

You can spend a few hours outdoors and enjoy the sweet sound of gunfire and hopefully “bring home the bacon” for a nominal fee.



Not a shooter? You are still welcome! An inexpensive made-to-order breakfast is cooked each Sunday morning before the Turkey shoots, starting at 8:00 a.m.

Visit the Post website for additional details

The Turkey Shoots are looking for some additional help this season. If you are interested, call and leave a message at the Post for Dan Healy.

Talk About Town

Commander Goldman and his wife Emily took a cruise to Bermuda in September. Brian said “...it would probably rain on us the whole time again. We just don't seem to have any luck.” No after-action report on the cruise as of press time.

John and Beth Delinsky recently took a cruise with their daughter. Must be something in the water...!

Past Service Officer Linda Ryan is now in Kansas for a year long training assignment.

Post member Edward P. Ciesielski, Jr., had his debut novel, *IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING*, published in August. The novel is a murder mystery that takes place in large part in Bowie. For more information contact Edward or search the Barnes & Noble website.



A large turnout of the Legion Family for the Labor Day cookout.

Information regarding the Bowie Food Pantry

There is a basket for donations of non-perishable items for the Bowie Food Pantry at the Post under the popcorn machine . Donations will be greatly appreciated.

If there are any members of the Post needing food or financial assistance, they may go to the Pantry for help. An application will need to be filled out when arriving at the Pantry. Papers needed at that time will be ID's for everyone in the family and proof of income to receive food. Anyone needing financial assistance will have to fill out other forms and will be required to bring in additional information.

The Pantry is located at 3120 Belair Drive, directly behind the Christian Presbyterian Church. It is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

If there are further questions please contact me at 301-464-0740.

David Campbell
Service Officer

Going to church doesn't make you a
Christian any more than standing
in a garage makes you a car.
anonymous

Do not argue with an idiot.
He will drag you down to his level
and beat you with experience.
anonymous

Paid Up For Life (PUFL)

Become a **Paid Up For Life (PUFL)** member of the American Legion, the Auxiliary, or the Sons of the American Legion.

Contact the Officers of your group at the Post for additional information or help.

Avoid inflation by never paying a dues increase!

Service Officer

The **Post Service Officer** is available to help with a variety of different Veterans programs. Some of the items they can help with includes: providing the proper claims forms for VA benefit claims; assisting with VA claim applications; assisting with State and Federal Burial benefits registration; and assisting with VA medical benefits registration.

You can contact the Post 66 Service Officer by e-mail at: ServiceOfficer@alpost66.org.

Post 66 E-news

Do you have an e-mail account? If you would like to receive occasional e-mail messages about Post events and activities, then you should sign up for the Post list-serv program: "*66news*."

Our list-serv is an announcement-only e-mail group. Messages can only be sent by designated persons. Your e-mail address is completely confidential and is not shared with anyone.

If you want to add (or remove) your e-mail address, log on to the Post website and click on the e-mail sign-up link on the home page and follow the instructions. It will only take you a couple of seconds and you will begin receiving occasional e-mail updates about The American Legion and our Post and its programs.

If you don't feel comfortable signing yourself up, send a note to webmaster@alpost66.org and request that your name and e-mail be added.

ONLINE RENEWALS



Five American Legion departments have tested it over a three-year period. In each of those departments, the number of Legionnaires using the Internet to renew their membership has grown.

As of July 1, the ability to conveniently and safely renew a Legion membership online is available nationwide. Wartime veterans have been able to join the organization through The American Legion website for several years, but the renewal process was more complicated, because dues vary by post and a method of dues processing had to be developed and approved.

"Now, in response to member demand, The American Legion offers online renewals to everyone," National Commander Jimmie L. Foster said. "I want to emphasize that this is an offer and not a mandate. Members can still renew using the traditional paper method. However, we have found that a growing number of people prefer to renew their memberships using their computers or phones."

All it takes is a credit card and access to the Internet for a member to re-up for another year in the nation's largest veterans organization. At www.legion.org/renew, a member can pay dues, read a pop-up thank-you message from National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler, and receive a printable, temporary membership card that they can use until issued their regular card by their post. For information on how it all works, visit www.legion.org/renew, where tutorial videos are available to explain the option to members, department officers and staff, and post officers.

"This is an offer, not a mandate. However, we have found that a growing number of people prefer to renew their memberships using computers or phones."

National Commander Jimmie L. Foster

www.legion.org/renew

"The online renewal program has worked really well in the Department of Maryland. An unforeseen positive was that it made it easier for posts to process membership."

Department of Maryland Adjutant Tom Davis



Printable cards

Those who choose to renew online will be able to print membership cards using their computers. They can use the card right away, and until their listed post replaces it with a permanent card.

The evolution of myLegion.org

The American Legion's members-only area of the website has recently added:

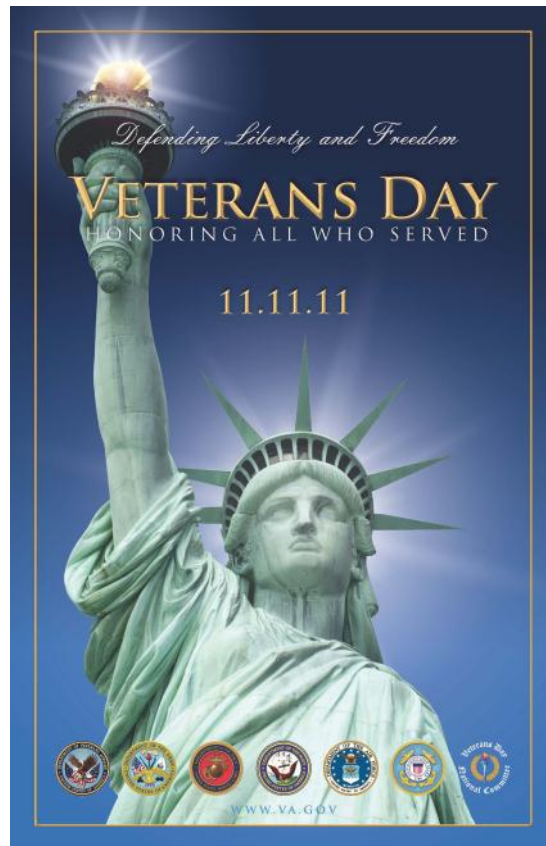
- A "Find-a-Friend" feature
- Electronic files of your post
- Forums; search by war era, branch, state
- Post calendar

myLEGION.ORG
Go to www.legion.org and sign up today.

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



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



'Why You Should Belong' booklet available online

Every year, Legion DSOs help thousands of veterans receive the VA benefits they have earned. The Legion conducts, promotes and supports hundreds of career fairs for veterans and transitioning service members, bringing employers face to face with job hunters. Through OCW, the Legion raises funds to provide comfort items for recovering U.S. troops worldwide. Legion staff lobbies Congress for a better quality of life for U.S. military personnel.

Through Legion Baseball, nearly 100,000 young men have the opportunity each year to experience teamwork and competition. The Legion provides more than \$138,000 in scholarships through the Oratorical Contest. And Legion Riders, through the annual Legacy Run, have raised more than \$2 million for the Legacy Scholarship.

None of these facts are news to active Legionnaires, but most prospective members often don't realize all that the Legion does for Americans of all ages at the local, state and national levels. Now, it's much easier to share that information with veterans who have yet to join the Legion. The Legion's "Why You Should Belong" booklet, available for download or by contacting your department headquarters, is a one-stop recruiting tool that provides information on several Legion programs of interest to potential members.

To download the booklet: www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/why_you_should_belong.pdf

(American legion Magazine August 2011)