

Disney-Bell Family News

Volume 2016, Issue 1

February - March 2016

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Drawings are each Saturdays at 8:00 p.m.

Renew your membership online!
www.mdlegion.org

Commander's Corner



Wow! What a weekend. The biggest snowfall in our history hit the area and shut everything down for days, including Post 66. But we are up and running now and moving forward with a great line-up of activities. Winter doesn't slow us down.

Bar Manager Gidget literally has something happening every weekend. Live entertainment, karaoke, Queen of Hearts and more. Football season has ended except for the big Super Bowl Game (hopefully you have already gotten your spot) but NASCAR begins again in earnest with the biggest race of the year, Daytona, on Sunday, February 21. There is always a good crowd, good eats shared by all and drink specials on race day.

Friday night dinners continue to be a big hit. If you haven't been to one lately, you need to get off the stick and sign up. There is always a good crowd, great food, and usually some entertainment. Make sure you check the calendar or your e-blast reminders and the call the Post to make a reservation. Tuesday night dinners are back. While there is usually something good on the menu every week, and while you usually don't need a reservation, it is always good to call ahead at least by Monday to see what's cooking.

Don't be a stranger just because it's winter. Come on by, say hello to an old friend, make a new one, buy a lottery ticket, and relax. I hope to see you there soon.

For God and Country,

J. D. Larson
Commander, Post 66



Miles practicing to be a future Commander ?

Post 66 Officers

2015 - 2016

American Legion

Commander	J. D. Larson
1st Vice Commander	Andy Therrien
2nd Vice Commander	Nick Muller
Adjutant	Brian Frye
Finance Officer	Joe Johns
Chaplain	Toni King
Judge Advocate	Brian Goldman
Historian	Rick McShane
Service Officer	Claudio Poiani
Sergeant-at-Arms	Ryan Wagner
Executive Committee	Ray Hart
	John Delinsky
	John Jones
	Phoebe Larned
	<vacant>

Sons Of The American Legion

Commander	Del Billings
1st Vice Commander	Kevin McMeans
Finance Officer	Tom Fisher
Adjutant	Joe Weik
Chaplain	James Clark III
Sergeant at Arms	Pat Lamb
Historian	<vacant>

American Legion Auxiliary

President	Debbie McMeans
Vice President	Lois Van Sickle
Secretary	Barbara Graham
Treasurer	Anselma Obremski
Chaplain	Agnes Bowersox
Historian	Linda Green
Sergeant at Arms	Fran Sauers

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

Phone: 301-464-9814
Fax: 301-805-6832
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Website: www.alpost66.org

The award-winning Disney-Bell Family News is published bi-monthly (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.

Annual Post Events

Joint Installation of Officers	July
Turkey Shoots	October thru March
Children's Halloween Party	October
Veteran's Day Services	November
Early Bird Dinner	November
Toys for Tots Campaign	November and December
Children's Christmas Party	December
Christmas Eve Party	December
New Year's Eve Party	December
Super Bowl Party	February
Daytona 500 Party	February
St. Patrick's Day Dinner	March
Children's Easter Egg Hunt	March/April
Post Everlasting	April
Memorial Day Services	May
Flag Day Event	June
Fourth of July Picnic	July

Post 66 - Bimonthly Calendar of Events

February 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Feb	2	3	4	5	6
		Groundhog Day 5:30pm - 7:00pm Tuesday Sandwich/Dinner Night			6:30pm Steak/Shrimp Dinner sponsored by the Honor Guard	9:00am Prince Georges County Meeting 1:00pm - 4:00pm DD-214 Party
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Super Bowl 50 7:30am Breakfast - Made to Order 9:00am Turkey Shoots	7:30pm SAL Squadron 66 Meeting	5:30pm - 7:00pm Tuesday Sandwich/Dinner Night	7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting		7:00pm - 10:00pm Karaoke	SMD Oratorical Contest 6:30pm Dinner - sponsored by the Auxillary 7:00pm - 10:00pm Music with Dave McKenney
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Valentine's Day 7:30am Breakfast - Made to Order 9:00am Turkey Shoots	Washington's Birthday	5:30pm - 7:00pm Tuesday Sandwich/Dinner Night	7:30pm Auxillary Meeting		6:30pm S.A.L. 1/2 Baked Chicken Dinner	6:30pm Dinner - sponsored by the Auxillary 7:00pm - 10:00pm Music with The Crayfish
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Maryland DEC 7:30am Breakfast - Made to Order 9:00am Turkey Shoots 1:00pm Daytona 500 Party		5:30pm - 7:00pm Tuesday Sandwich/Dinner Night	7:00pm Post General Membership Meeting		7:00pm - 10:00pm Music with Gene Mitchell	SMD "Oyster Bowl" 7:00pm - 10:00pm Music with Gene Mitchell
28	29					
7:30am Breakfast - Made to Order 9:00am Turkey Shoots						

* Always check the website calendar or call the Post to confirm dates and times. * All Friday dinners run from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
 * See the flyers elsewhere in the newsletter for special event information.

Post 66 - Bimonthly Calendar of Events

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Mar	2	3	4	5
		5:30pm - 7:00pm Tuesday Sandwich/Dinner Night			6:30pm Steak/Shrimp Dinner sponsored by the Honor Guard	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7:30am Breakfast - Made to Order		5:30pm - 7:00pm Tuesday Sandwich/Dinner Night	7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting		6:30pm Dinner - sponsored by the Auxiliary	
9:00am Turkey Shoots						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Start Daylight Saving Time	7:30pm SAL Squadron 66 Meeting	5:30pm - 7:00pm Tuesday Sandwich/Dinner Night	7:30pm Auxiliary Meeting	St. Patrick's Day	6:30pm S.A.L. 1/2 Baked Chicken Dinner	6:00pm Post 66 Birthday Dinner
8:30am Breakfast - Made to Order						
10:00am Turkey Shoots						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		5:30pm - 7:00pm Tuesday Sandwich/Dinner Night	7:30pm Post General Membership Meeting			
27	28	29	30	31		
Easter Sunday		5:30pm - 7:00pm Tuesday Sandwich/Dinner Night				

* Always check the website calendar or call the Post to confirm dates and times.
* See the flyers elsewhere in the newsletter for special event information.

* All Friday dinners run from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

S.A.L. Squadron 66



As we all know, December took it totally easy on us weather wise. January really made up for it. Hopefully, by the time you read this article, everyone will have dug out from the snow storm and are beginning to start our normal activities. Unfortunately, February usually brings with it cold temperatures and more snow. We can start to look forward to March and Spring along with the warm weather it brings.

Thanks to Pat Lamb, our own Santa, our Toys for Tots event was again the top activity for the S.A.L. and Legion family. Thanks to all of you help, we were able to distribute more than \$6,000.00 of toys to needy kids in our Bowie area. Thanks to Pat and his elves in making this project super successful. Thanks to all that turned out for the Christmas Eve and New Year's celebrations. The S.A.L. is honored to help sponsor these events each year.

As far as the New Year goes, the S.A.L. continues to sponsor our usual activities to keep our Post busy and involved. Our scheduled Tuesday Night dinners and our Half Baked Chicken dinners (every third Friday of the month) continue. Come out and support the S.A.L. and our Post.

Our famous Annual Chili Cook-Off is in the planning stage. Please watch the Post notices for the exact date, times, and cost. Contestants, plan on making your best pot of Chili and enter into our contest. We will have both HOT and MILD classes. This is a great fun event and a good way to say good bye to winter and an early hello to spring.

Let's look forward to Super Bowl Sunday. I know that we do not have a local team in the mix. No matter pick a team you like and come out and PARTY ANYWAY!

As we continue into 2016, the S.A.L. will continue to sponsor any number of events, especially as the weather starts to get better in March and into the summer. For those of you that have not participated

in a meeting lately, please plan on attending a meeting soon. We need to hear your thoughts and ideas. New ideas are always welcome.

Many of our members have already paid their 2016 dues. However, we also have a number of members that have not paid their dues. Please pay as soon as possible. Don't forget, in order to enjoy the activities at our Post, your dues must be paid. Reminder, our dues for 2016 are \$15.00, which is still one of the lowest (if not the lowest) in the State. Pay at the Legion, pick your cards up at the Legion (just ask the Bartender) to check the S.A.L. box behind the bar. By paying and picking up your cards at the Legion, we both save postage.

Again, I hope to see as many of our members at the Post as possible. It is only through your active involvement that the Post and our S.A.L. will continue to grow and be strong.

Finally, be sure to keep our active Service members in our Thoughts and Prayers.

See you at the Post!

Del Billings
Commander, Squadron 66



Auxiliary Unit 66



Brrr...Cold Weather Greetings! If you are like me you are counting down to Spring!! On the other hand, snow does have a way of forcing us to slow down and just take in the majesty and beauty of winter. So stay safe and warm.

This year is going fast. We have done a lot already but we have more to accomplish with our programs and membership.

This year we have been given the opportunity to serve dinner every month that has a fifth Friday. The Auxiliary has decided to take each of these Fridays and pick a charity to donate all the proceeds. Last November 27th we raised \$300.00 in funds to donate to the USO. The next fifth Friday dinner is on Jan 29, and will benefit the Youth and Children Programs. Look for a super Pulled Pork dinner!

This year we are taking the lead to raise funds to buy wreaths for Wreaths Across America. This is the organization that provides wreaths to our National and State Veterans' Cemeteries. Our Sons of the American Legion and our Legion members have committed to joining forces with us and raising funds to place wreaths at Crownsville this year. This is a yearlong project. A sad statistic is that last Christmas there were only 1,100 wreaths placed, but 12,000 deserving graves at Crownsville. Let's do our best to buy as many as we possibly can. More info will be available soon.

Membership is doing great but there are still some Auxiliary members who haven't paid their 2016 dues. On that note, I realize on last Veterans Day while I was on Facebook that so many of my friends had family members that served in the military and were eligible to join the Auxiliary. I am spending some of this cold indoor time to ask those friends if they would like to join us. They identify themselves by posting pictures and tributes to grandfathers, fathers, sons, and other eligible relatives. Let's all seek out new members. At the last meeting of the Auxiliary we voted to raise our dues for 2017 to \$25.00. As of 2017, we are being charged more from our Department, so out of necessity we had to raise our dues to be able to keep up with our good work.

Here are some notable dates to keep in mind this month and next month:

January 29 – Fifth Friday Dinner, pulled pork, coleslaw, and potato salad. The dinner will benefit Children and Youth Programs.

January 30 – Music by Chris Sacks in the bar, Steamed Shrimp and hushpuppies. All proceeds are for Wreaths Across America.

February 6 – DD-214 Party at the Post, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., The Auxiliary will have a table set up. Come on out for light snacks, and learn some new membership benefits.

February 13 – Saturday night Auxiliary Dinner, (note change from Friday) Ham, scalloped potatoes, steamed vegetables, or a choice of fresh pan grilled tilapia for those celebrating Lent.

February 20 – Music by the Crayfish. The Auxiliary will be serving steamed shrimp to order and mussels in butter garlic sauce, and hushpuppies. This dinner also benefits Wreaths Across America.

Girls State applications are due by March 18, 2016. If you have a daughter, granddaughter, or friend that is a junior in high school and would like to attend please let us know so we can email them an application.

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be February 17 at 7:30 p.m. See you there!

Once again let me say a huge Thank You to our amazing Auxiliary members. Let's continue to show our community who we are and what we do!

God Bless America,

Debbie McMeans
President, Unit 66

Service Officer's Notes

The **Post Service Officer** is available to help with a variety of different Veteran's programs. Some of the items he can help with include: providing the proper claim 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.

Claudio Poiani, Post 66 Service Officer
301-464-9814 - Post
ServiceOfficer@alpost66.org

Chaplain's Notes

If any Legion member or a member of their family needs the services of the Post Chaplain, please contact:

Toni King, Post 66 Chaplain
301-262-0257 - home; 301-318-1108 - cell;
or 301-464-9814 - Post

Auxiliary Juniors - Activities Corner

We have a small but very active group of dedicated young ladies who are our Auxiliary Juniors. This year for the first time in years we have a Miss Poppy, a Junior President, and a Junior Vice President. These young ladies have participated in both Memorial Day and Labor Day Wreath Ceremonies.

This has been good practice, because we are now waiting for a date from Arlington National Cemetery for our Juniors from Unit 66 to participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown. A huge Honor! We will be sent three dates from which we are to choose one from. I know they will represent all that is good in our youth today and make our Post very proud. More details will be available as they become available to me.

The fleece blankets made by the Juniors and Auxiliary were distributed to children in Children's Hospital, to Casey Cares, and Prince Georges County Foster Parents Association.

Last fall the Juniors had a bake sale that raised \$250.00. The young ladies decided that they will donate the proceeds to SemperK9, a Veterans group, run by a military dog trainer, that provides trained assistance dogs for wounded, critically ill, and injured members of our Armed Forces. This was a most thoughtful decision made after nominating several other organizations.

A Very Proud Auxiliary President,

Debbie McMeans

No one's ever achieved financial fitness with a January resolution that's abandoned by February. *Suze Orman*

"I appeal to you as a soldier to spare me the humiliation of seeing my regiment march to meet the enemy and I not share its dangers."
George Armstrong Custer

Southern Maryland District Youth Camp Raffle

Raffle tickets for the Southern Maryland District Youth Camp drawing are available at the Post. Proceeds go to support upkeep of the facility and the programs of the SMD Youth Camp.

Drawings will be held the last day of the Department of Maryland Convention July 15, 2016. There are multiple winners. You don't have to be present to win. Winners will be notified.



DD-214 Party Coming on February 6

Rarely does a day go by when we are not asked about how to obtain a copy of someone's DD-214. This is arguably the most important piece of paper the military will ever issue, The "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty", affectionately referred to as a DD-214, documents service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Without it, you will not be able to verify your service and receive the multitude of benefits due you and your family. Even something as simple and yet important as obtaining a flag for your casket and loved ones when you pass to Post Everlasting will be denied without a copy of this form.

Studies indicate that more than 50 percent of Veterans no longer have a copy of their DD-214 or know where to find it. There are many ways to obtain one (such as the link at our website: www.alpost66.org) but the easiest of all will be on Saturday, February 6, 2016, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. That's when Post 66 welcomes all Veterans and their families, whether members or not, to come to the Post and register to receive their copy of this vital document. Members from the Post as well as Department of Maryland representatives will be on hand with the appropriate form and laptops to apply directly for you. All you need to do is show up, smile, have a hot dog, and give us the information. Disney-Bell Post 66 is located at 9506 Old Laurel Bowie Road, Bowie, Maryland 20720. Please visit our website at www.alpost66.org for Post information and directions.

We ask that you bring as much information regarding your service, or that of a loved one, as possible in order to make the process go smoother and help ensure that your request will be quickly and efficiently processed. When we complete and submit your form to the Veterans Administration, please allow 2-4 weeks to hear a response.

Please plan this important event. Thank you.

Old Smoke Detectors Cost Lives

Every year people die because their smoke detectors didn't go off during a fire. That's usually because the batteries were dead (or had been removed to stop false alarms) or the detector was past its useful life or was located where occupants couldn't hear the alarm.

Do your present detectors work?

It's really simple to test your smoke detectors to make sure they're working. Just press the test button and the alarm should sound. If it's a battery powered alarm and doesn't sound off, change the battery and retest it. If it's a hardwired unit and doesn't work, replace it immediately.

If they do sound off, check the date on the label so you'll know when to schedule replacements. **Smoke detectors are good for only 10 years.** Some detectors let you know they're due for replacement with an end-of-life chirping sound. But others provide no warning at all—they simply die in silence, leaving you totally unprotected. If yours doesn't have a "replace by" sticker on the outside, rotate the body of the detector and detach it from its base. Then look for a date on the inside label or embossed in the plastic. If the detector is 10 years old or more, or yours doesn't have a date code, replace it now, even if it passed the button test.



Talk About Town - MEMBERS IN THE NEWS.

A hearty welcome from Disney-Bell Post 66 to our new and transferred American Legion members.

The S.A.L. Squadron 66 would like to give a big welcome to our newest S.A.L. members, Hope to see all of you soon with a lot of exciting plans and events in 2016. William Austin, Michael Bonnefond, Dennis Brady, Cameron Cawthorne, James Davis, Richard Gray, Michael Hamolia, Ernest Huff, Charles Kelly, John McGirt, Rick McShane, Michael Morgan, Matthew Reidy, Thomas Rooney, Michael Rooney, Derrick Sewer, Robert Simon, Warren Wiggins, and James Yurko.

Adjutant Brian Frye underwent successful vein surgery on the "other" leg. He is healing fine and almost back to his old self.

Dennis Graham received some good news regarding his cancer. What was thought to be a return of his tumor was instead swelling and scar tissue from a previous surgery and he is doing fine. Great news, Dennis!

Larry Merkel is recovering from knee replacement surgery. Get well soon, Larry.

Condolences go to the Clark family for their loss. Hank Clark passed away and memorial services were held at the Post.

Larry Bartman has recovered from colon cancer surgery and is back to his great service helping Turkey Shoots every Sunday morning. Good to see you back, Larry.

J. D. and Michele Larson returned from a vacation in, where else, Cape Coral, Florida. J.D. actually delivered his mom's cremations to be interred with his dad at Barancas National Cemetery in Pensacola. Together again after 38 years.

Brian and Emily Goldman enjoyed a beautiful Caribbean cruise in January.

Just a personal note from Brian Goldman that he officially turns into a senior citizen at 65 years of age on March 20. (Boy do I feel old! Brian)

Ray and Jan Hart joined the cruisers and are heading on a Southern Caribbean cruise in February.

If you have a special event or other news to share, let us know and we will include it in a future newsletter. Contact us at: newsletter@alpost66.org.

It Is Scholarship Time

Post 66 sponsors several scholarships each year. Details are available on the Post website at:

<http://www.alpost66.org/activities/activities.htm>

The Department of Maryland has announced a scholarship opportunity. Details and application can be found at:

<http://mdlegion.org/Forms/genschlo.pdf>





Disney-Bell Post 66
Bowie, Maryland

Turkey Shoots!

Sundays
Oct 18 - Mar 20
9:00 a.m.
\$80 - 14 Shots



PRE-SIGN UP SPECIAL
REGISTER AND PAY
BY SATURDAY BEFORE
ONLY \$75

WIN CASH!
TURKEYS-BACON
EXTRA SHOTS EVERY WEEK
RAIN OR SHINE
301-464-9814

Saturday
February 6
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



DD-214 Party
All veterans and their families are
welcome to come to Post 66 to
get assistance in retrieving a copy
of their DD-214

Free!!
Hot Dogs, chips, soda
Tell your friends, neighbors,
co-workers and all veterans.

Your DD-214 is **VITAL!**
You need it for all VA benefits,
including your well-deserved burial
flag for your family. **Do IT NOW!**



girl scout
ookies

Get them before
they're **gone!**

A Girl Scout cookie sales booth will be at
the Post on March 4 during Steak night.

Stop by and load up on
your favorite cookies.

American Legion Post 66 Coming Events

Friday, February 12
Karaoke 7-10 p.m.



Saturday, February 13
Dave McKenney 7-10 p.m.
(No cover)

Saturday, February 20
Crayfish 7-10 p.m.
(No cover)



Friday and Saturday
February 26 and 27
Gene Mitchell 7-10 p.m.
(No cover)

2015 Children's Christmas Campaign

Bowie's American Legion Disney-Bell Post 66 and their Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.) conducted their 21st Annual Children's Christmas Campaign this past November and December. S.A.L. member Patrick Lamb served again as the Campaign Coordinator and oversaw the effort for the Post. About \$3,400.00 in cash was raised this year through gift donations and selling chances on a basket of cheer to purchase new toys for local children in need. John "Buzzy" Bussard gave a very nice individual donation. This amount was parlayed by Peggy Fisher into over \$6,000.00 with her shopping expertise using discounts and coupons at local retailers.

The toy donations went to a number of recognized local Maryland children's and Veterans' organizations. These included: Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home; Children's National Medical Center, Prince Georges' Hospital Center Children's Ward; Southern Maryland Women's Shelter; and Ascension Catholic Church in Old Bowie. Ascension directed their gifts to local area families in need.

Pat Lamb wanted to give special thanks to his "elves" this year: Peggy Fisher, Pete Chambers, and Tom Fisher. He also wanted to thank everyone who bought a ticket for a chance to win the basket of cheer. Finally, he says thanks to all who donated individual gifts to make a child's Christmas season a little brighter.

Post 66 hopes that we were able to make this a very merry Christmas and Holiday Season for a number of local area children who otherwise might not have had one.

Boys State Applications Now Available

The Department of Maryland of The American Legion is now accepting applications for all boys entering their senior year of high school in the fall of 2016 to attend Boys State. This year, the program will be held at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland from Sunday, June 19 to Saturday, June 25.

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935 when it organized to counter the Fascist inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for young ladies called Girls State. At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Completion of Boys State is viewed favorably by service academies and colleges.

Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations,

assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs. High school juniors are selected by local American Legion posts to attend the program. In most cases, expenses associated with attending this program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion post, a local business or another community-based organization.

To be eligible for Boys State, a youth must be a male who has successfully completed their junior year in high school and not yet entered the 12th grade by the beginning of Boys State. Any boy who has previously attended a Boys State is not eligible. Participants are also eligible for up to three college credits from Clemson University through the ACE program. Visit <http://mdlegion.org/Forms/BoysStateCollegeCredit.pdf> for more information.

More information regarding this program, along with application, is available at Post 66. Interested applicants may pick up the package at the Post or contact Commander J. D. Larson at 240-350-6839 or e-mail jdcoastie@msn.com. The deadline for submitting applications to the Post is May 1, 2016 and there are a limited number of spaces available. All costs associated with this program are paid for by Post 66 and/or the Department of Maryland, The American Legion.

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



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



Meeting Time Change

The Legion meetings have been held at 7:30 p.m. since... whenever!

The Post has voted to change their Executive and General meeting times to 7:00 p.m.



February 9, 2016



Happy Valentine's Day



March 20, 2016