

Disney-Bell Family News

Volume 2019, Issue 1

March-April 2019



Commander's Corner

Well it's March and I can't believe it is almost spring. It sure doesn't feel like it. We've had a nasty winter and I'm sure it isn't done with us yet.

We had great Christmas and New Year's holidays. As usual the SAL Toys-for-Tots campaign was a big success and the Auxiliary sponsored Wreaths Across America had a terrific turnout at the Crownsville Veterans Cemetery. I'm sure Commander Kevin and President Debbie will give us the final figures in their articles. I am so proud our squadrons and unit participation in these great programs. I also want to thank our SAL and Auxiliary's support of our Post during our time of limited financial resources. They really stepped up to the plate and supported our Post.

We had a great Superbowl Party in February as well the Daytona 500 party and the SAL sponsored Chili Cook-off. We had some great chili cooks and everyone ate their fill. As usual we had a lot a chili lovers turn out for the contest and feast.

We have more great events coming up and this March is no exception. We just had our first Winter Formal Dinner/Dance with a good turnout for the first one. Much thanks to our Second Vice Commander Mike Zambito and Tami Bainbridge for masterminding this fun and delicious event. Then we had music by the band "3 to Midnight" on March 8 following the Auxiliary Dinner.

Our Post Birthday dinner is coming up on March 16. Since it is the day before St. Patty's Day, we decided to cook Corned Beef and Cabbage for the nominal cost of \$5 per person. Make sure you sign up by March 13 to be able to attend. Festivities will begin at 5:30pm.

Ed Connell has organized a Bull & Oyster Roast to be held on Saturday, March 30 from 4 to 6pm. If you haven't gotten your tickets yet they are going fast! Tickets are available at the bar; \$40 for adults and \$12 for kids 11 and under. Kids 6 and under are free. We will also be having Karaoke starting at 5pm.

Check out our Post calendar on the Post 66 website www.alpost66.org for our upcoming Friday night dinners and special events dates and times.

Our Legion membership is on track and we should make our 90% membership goal for March or at least very close. Thank you to those that have already renewed. If you haven't paid your 2019 membership dues, what are you waiting for? We need everyone to renew now. Remember no one will be served at the bar or be able to attend any of our events without a 2019 membership card. Most of your dues go to support Legion programs allowing the Legion to continue supporting our Vets in need.

Hope everyone has survived the cold Winter blues to emerge into the Spring sunshine warmth.

For Community, State and Nation,
Commander Brian Goldman

The American Legion

Phone: 301-464-9814

Follow us on Facebook

Disney-Bell Post 66

Fax: 301-805-6832

[The American Legion Disney-Bell Post 66](#)



9605 Old Laurel-Bowie Rd.

E-Mail: alpost66@comcast.net

[Disney-Bell Sons of the American Legion Squadron](#)

Bowie, MD 20720

Website: www.alpost66.org

[Disney-Bell Unit 66 American Legion Auxiliary](#)

National Commander's Visit



Brett P. Reistad, National Commander of The American Legion

On March 24, 2019, The American Legion National Commander, Brett Reistad will visit Post 66 from 1115-1230 . Department wants to show our Post is vibrant and has many programs we support. We will highlight the programs we support, which will also include the SAL and the Auxiliary programs. His stay will be quick, just to allow the Commander to meet another group of Post members. **All Legion Family members** are encouraged to come out and greet Commander Reistad and make him feel welcome during his short visit to Post 66.

After his visit to Post 66, the Commander will go to the Bowie Performing Arts Center, 15200 Annapolis Rd (MD Rte 450) Bowie, MD 20715, to attend the MD Veterans Creative Arts Festival (<http://www.alamd.org/creative-arts.html>) which is sponsored by The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maryland.

The Art of Therapy – National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival has Veterans who are treated in the VA's national health care system, travel from all across the country to compete . The competition includes categories in the visual arts division that range from oil painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. In addition, there are categories in writing as well as the performing arts of dance, drama and music. Local creative arts competition first place winning entries advance to a national judging process and first, second and third place entries in each category are determined. Go to <https://www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival/> for more information on the finals of the competition and festival. The Bowie Art show opens at 12:00 pm --Stage Show at 2:00 pm. Donation for tickets is \$10.00.

National Auxiliary President Kathy Dungan, of Wesson, MS will also be in attendance at this event. This is first time a National Commander has visited, which National Presidents have attended regularly. Commander Reistad will have an opportunity to speak at this event as well. Come out and see the creative work of our Veterans.



S.A.L. Squadron 66

As you can see on our calendars for the upcoming months, there are a lot of events happening at Post 66 this year. New ideas have sparked interest, new faces showing up all the time that are interested in joining the S.A.L. This is great! Keep it going! One of the best ways to keep up with events is to visit www.alpost66.org and join the Post 66 email list.

The great dinners are always worth catching, come out and enjoy the Steak and Cheese Subs, Half Baked Chicken, Fish Fry and all the other dinners hosted at Post 66.

I would like to go back a bit to December and thank all the people that helped with the Toys for Tots drive. We had a caravan of trucks to go shopping with 8,000 dollars. That was fun! We couldn't have done all of that without the wonderful donations from Judy McCoy and her friends. THANK YOU JUDY!



Our annual Chili Cook-off was on February 9th and was a great turnout and delicious! Thanks to all who contributed, competed, judged, helped, and sang. It was a great night. There were some great pots of chili. First place went to Ed Connell and People's Choice to Marie Scott.

Moving on to March??? Yes, March is here, and we have a couple dinners I know you won't miss; the Steak and Cheese Subs on the 12th and the Fish Fry on the 15th. Please bring your friends and family out to the legion.

As a reminder: Our annual dues for 2019 are still \$15. Please mail your dues or, even better, come to the Post to pay.

Kevin McMeans

Commander, Squadron 66

2019 Chili Cook off



Auxiliary Unit 66

Hello everyone, I hope you have survived this crazy cold weather. I've been told that we may have less stinkbugs this coming summer because of the extreme cold we have had, yea...less bugs ! LOL. Hopefully spring is on the way and we can welcome flowers and everything good that comes with warm weather.

On December 16, a very cold and rainy morning, we had about 35 people from our legion family show up to lay wreaths on the graves of our departed veterans at Crownsville Veterans Cemetery and participate in the Wreaths Across America program. I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard this past year to make this such a huge success. It certainly takes a very large workforce to accomplish this year after year. Also I am very proud of the fact that in addition to Crownsville, we took on the task of laying wreaths at Ascension Church Cemetery on the graves of all the veterans there as well. We researched and found 13 interred there. However, as this is a very old cemetery, we uncovered 3 more while we were cleaning up around the graves. We were honored to have Father Larry and other church members participate in our ceremony with us. Thank you to Father Larry for granting us the access to these long forgotten veterans.

We had a great Sunday afternoon making fleece blankets for the Prince Georges county foster care system. These blankets are given to children as they are processed into foster care. So much love goes into these blankets every year, we hope that it is somehow felt by a child when they wrap up in these comfort blankets. Great job ladies!

With the promise of Spring weather we will be planting a patch of poppies at our post. I am hoping to bring a renewed interest in the poppy program by growing our own display of poppies. Planting day to be determined by the weather. Stay tuned.



Memorial Day this year the Auxiliary will be creating a memorial of flags along our front fence. Each flag will be sold for \$5.00 and will have a memorial tag displaying the name of a veteran you would like to honor. These flags will be displayed for a week, starting the Friday before Memorial Day. Sales will begin on April 15th.

Let's cover the whole length of our fence and show our thanks to our departed veterans once again!

We will be participating in the annual City of Bowie Memorial day parade. The junior ladies will again build a float. Plan to come and show what a 100th Anniversary Legion celebration looks like.

Some upcoming notable dates for the Auxiliary:

3/20 Auxiliary meeting

3/24 Creative Arts Festival at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts (15200 Annapolis Rd. Bowie, MD 20715)

3/29 Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner

3/30 The Legion Bull and Oyster Roast

3/31 A Day for God And Country Greenbelt Post 136

4/07 **Children's Easter Party Sunday from 2-4pm** egg hunt, games, food and the Easter Bunny.

Just a reminder, if you haven't paid your 2019 dues yet, please get them in soon. We have a goal to meet and we are close, but not there yet. Every membership counts. Our meetings are always the 3rd Wednesday of the month, come and join us!

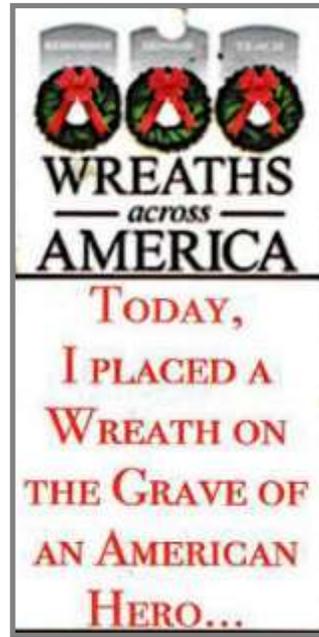
Enjoy the warming weather, the first day of spring is just a few days away!

God Bless America,

Debbie McMeans

President, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 66

Wreaths Across America 2018



Children's Christmas Party 2018



Santa!



Blankets for Prince Georges County Foster System



Winter Formal

(more pictures will be posted on: www.alapost66.org)



Lots of Loot Winners!



Community Service

Warm nights at Ascension Church: our visitors were fed, warm, and watched football with Father Larry. Warms the heart! Thanks to Nick, Lois, Deb and Kevin for representing AL Post 66 and helping the homeless in Bowie.



Join Us at Post 66 for...



American Legion Post 66 **BULL AND OYSTER ROAST**



Saturday March 30, 2019

4pm \$40.00

Children (11 yrs and under) \$12.00



*Pit Beef, Oysters on the half shell,
Fried oysters, oyster stew,
a buffet of side dishes, Games, 50/50, Door Prizes
Draft Beer included*

Tickets on sale at the Bar
call 301-464-9814

9605 Old Laurel Bowie Rd. Bowie, Md. 20720

From the Editor

Please remember this is YOUR newsletter. All news, pictures and ideas are welcome. Send your items and or questions to:

patty216@gmail.com or
newsletter66@alpost66.org

Patty Hathaway

Attention Unit 66 Members

DID YOU FORGET? Your 2019 membership is due now. Please send a check, payable to "Disney-Bell Unit 66" and mail to the Post: 9605 Old Laurel Bowie Road; Bowie, MD 20720 - Attention: Linda L Green. PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR DUES ARE: \$30.00, SENIOR MEMBERS AND \$10.00 JUNIOR MEMBERS (18 and younger). Or you may feel free to drop your dues off at the Post and enjoy a chilled beverage and good fellowship.

With 201 members paid to date, we are so close for goal -- 35 members away? Check your card, is it 2019? **If not, please send us your dues by March 31, 2019.** If there is a hardship, please let us know as we value our wonderful members.

Thank you for your continued support of all of the American Legion Family Programs.

Linda L Green

Membership Chairman

E-Mail: cjsllg@aol.com

Cell: 202-230-2431

Auxiliary Chaplain's Notes

Please contact me with information regarding hospitalizations, births, illnesses, deaths or other needs relating to Auxiliary members. I will be happy to send cards on behalf of our unit.

If you know of anyone needing long term contacts such as nursing home residents and those with long term illnesses, please let me know so we can keep in touch with them.

Agnes Bowersox, Unit 66 Chaplain

301-464-9374 or jabowersox@yahoo.com

Children's Easter Party

**Sunday April 7th
2-4 pm**

Eggs to dye, Easter egg hunt, crafts, games,

The Easter Bunny will be Here

301-464-9814



Our American Legion in Action for Us



THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

Redefine "wartime service" period

More than 1,600 U.S. military men and women since the end of World War II have been killed or were wounded during times of armed conflict not recognized by the U.S. government. History is clear that the United States has been in a continuous state of wartime activity since the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. In fairness to all who have served and sacrificed, not just those who fall within a government-defined window of dates, The American Legion passed Resolution 1 at its Fall 2018 National Executive Committee meeting calling on Congress to direct VA to expand the definition of "wartime veteran" to include all military personnel who served honorably under Title 10 orders for at least one day during this continuous period of armed conflict.
(Resolution 1, Oct. 17-18, 2018)

Support VA's suicide-prevention efforts

An estimated 20 veterans end their lives every day. Most were not receiving care or support through VA that may have saved them. The American Legion supports expanding and promoting mental health treatment for veterans and urges Congress to provide VA necessary funds to hire mental health professionals and proper staffing for its Integrative Health and Wellness Program.
(Resolution 20, May 9-10, 2018)

Implement, oversee new laws

The 115th Congress passed multiple American Legion-supported bills that help veterans and their families, from the backlog-aimed VA Appeals Modernization Act to the omnibus VA MISSION Act. The Legion now calls on the 116th Congress to ensure these measures are accurately and quickly implemented, as designed.
(Multiple resolutions)

Fully fund a superior national defense

The American Legion supports a defense budget that reverses sequestration and its effects, rebuilds U.S. military end strength and weaponry and fairly compensates military personnel, especially in an ongoing time of global warfare.
(Resolution 35, Aug. 28-30, 2018)

Improve health care for women veterans

VA must continue to develop and expand health-care services for the fast-growing population of female veterans, a large percentage of whom do not enroll for VA health care for a number of reasons, according to surveys. Among the factors are limited gender-specific treatment services and awareness of VA benefits. All veterans, regardless of gender, must receive fair and equal VA health-care services.
(Resolution 147, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2016)

Reclassify cannabis for medical research

The American Legion supports increased research on cannabis as part of a larger effort to develop complementary and alternative treatments, as well as therapies, for veterans. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that will remove cannabis from the schedule I drug list and reclassify it to permit research to determine if it has therapeutic purposes.
(Resolution 11, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2016)

Programs to end veteran homelessness

To fully implement VA's pledge to eradicate veteran homelessness, Congress must continue making investments in affordable housing and programs such as Supportive Services for Veteran Families that move veterans and their families off the streets and into stable housing with supportive services.
(Resolution 340, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2016)

Re-employment rights for veterans

Veterans should not lose their jobs while deployed to protect the freedoms all Americans enjoy. When servicemembers deploy, worrying about whether they will still have employment can hinder mission focus. The American Legion urges Congress to prohibit employers from pressuring servicemembers into waiving their employment rights and protections through arbitration agreements.
(Resolution 85, Aug. 22-24, 2017)

Access to business capital via GI Bill

As times change, so must the GI Bill. For veteran entrepreneurs, access to capital for starting, purchasing or expanding small businesses is a serious obstacle. The American Legion supports legislation that would expand GI Bill benefits to assist veterans in obtaining access to small business capital.
(Resolution 150, Aug. 30 - Sept. 1, 2016)

Citizenship for honorable service

Immigrants to the United States often join the U.S. Armed Forces as a route to citizenship. Many veteran immigrants say they have been deported after discharge because they failed to acquire U.S. citizenship while in service. The American Legion supports measures to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed prior to discharge.
(Resolution 15, Oct. 17-18, 2018)

Repeal unfair VA offsets

Many military retirees must forfeit a portion of their pensions to receive VA service-connected disability compensation. It is equally outrageous when VA survivor benefits are offset from military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities. The American Legion supports legislation to repeal both of these unjust offsets.
(Resolution 224, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 2016)

<https://www.legion.org>



Can you believe that March is almost over? It will be APRIL before you know it!

Dedication of the “J. D. Larson Men’s Room” set for March 24

Post 66 has a long history of honoring post members who have contributed to the ideals of The American Legion and Post 66 by honoring their name. The name of our Post, Disney-Bell, honors citizens of Bowie that gave their lives in WWI and WWII respectively. Our main meeting and dining area, Thompson Hall, was name to honor Eddie Thompson who for many years dedicated himself to helping the post and all veterans.

And thus the tradition continues. As many of you probably know, J. D. Larson worked hard for The American Legion, locally, statewide and nationally. The National Commander, Brett P. Reistad will be visiting Post 66 as part of his visit to the Department of Maryland and will officially take part in the naming ceremony for the ***J. D. Larson Men’s Room***. This honor is in recognition of the almost 25 years J.D. dedicated to our post, including wiping up spills, stalling unneeded regulations, filling bowls, providing appropriate seating arrangements and basically ensuring that the Post was flush.

Post Manager, Gidget Gunson, said, “If anyone deserves a name in the men’s room, it’s J.D. I never voiced a problem to him when he didn’t immediately run in there and hurl.”

When informed of the honor, J.D. reportedly said that he wished he could be there for the ceremony but apparently GI issues are preventing travel. What a guy...still working for GI’s even in Florida.



Our turkey shoots are drawing to a close in March...but they will be back in October!

Live Turkey Shoots Returning!

The more things change the more they remain the same.

Post 66 has been hosting weekly turkey shoots since the early 1950's and over the years they have evolved several times over. In those early days, winners of the shoot actually were awarded a live turkey. The winner would take the bird home and was usually "prepped" for dinner. At some point the decision was made to award already "prepped" birds (now frozen), which was good news to committee members whose job it was to purchase, pen and feed those little rascals until the day of the shoot.



But times change and the committee decided it was time to "liven things up" and therefore the return to Live Turkeys to again be awarded to winners of certain shoots. "We expect a certain amount of kickback from the neighbors, due to the added noise of the birds on the property," Commander Brian Goldman said. "But that will only be for a day or so until the little devils are terminated on Sunday."

The shooters actually seem to be excited about the idea, too. Ronnie James, SAL member and longtime shooter said, "Who wouldn't want a chance to bag a live bird? It was getting a little boring winning money anyway."

There are still some local licensing issues that need to be addressed but we never let a little regulation get in the way of a good time.

So look forward to the sounds of gobble, gobble come October of 2019 when the new season of Real "Turkey Shoots" return.



American Legion Disney-Bell Post 66

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Start Daylight Saving Time 8:30am - 10:00am <u>Breakfast - Made to Order</u> 10:00am - 1:00pm <u>Turkey Shoots</u>	7:00pm SAL Squadron 66 Meeting	5:30pm - 7:00pm <u>SAL Steak & Cheese Subs</u>	4:00pm - 7:00pm <u>Happy Hour food</u> 7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting		6:30pm - 8:00pm <u>S.A.L. Fish & Chips Dinner</u>	5:30pm - 8:00pm <u>Post Birthday Dinner</u>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day 7:30am - 9:00am <u>Breakfast - Made to Order</u> 9:00am - 12:00pm <u>Turkey Shoots</u>			4:00pm - 7:00pm <u>Happy Hour food</u> 7:00pm Auxiliary Meeting		6:30pm - 8:00pm <u>Legion Dinner (Not every month)</u>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
7:30am - 9:00am <u>Breakfast - Made to Order</u> 9:00am - 12:00pm <u>Turkey Shoots</u> 11:00am <u>Nat'l Cmdr Visit Post 66</u>		5:30pm - 7:00pm <u>SAL Steak & Cheese Subs</u>	4:00pm - 7:00pm <u>Happy Hour food</u> 7:30pm Post General Meeting	7:30pm American Legion Riders Meeting	<u>Aux Spaghetti Dinner</u>	4:00pm - 6:00pm <u>Bull and Oyster Roast</u> 5:00pm <u>Karaoke</u>

See the flyers in the newsletter, on Facebook and at the Post for special event information.

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. Reservations must be made no later than Wednesday for Friday dinners

All Post meetings start at 7:30 p.m. sharp, unless otherwise noted.

Celebrate our Post Birthday and St. Patrick's Day!

Festivities will begin at 5:30pm

Corned Beef and Cabbage

Only \$5 per person

Make sure you sign up by March 13 to be able to attend



American Legion Disney-Bell Post 66

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Mar	1 Apr	2	3	4	5	6
	7:00pm PG County Council (Public Safety)		4:00pm - 7:00pm Happy Hour food		6:30pm - 8:00pm Steak/Shrimp Dinner	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Children's Easter Party 2 - 4 pm 	7:00pm SAL Squadron 66 Meeting	5:30pm - 7:00pm SAL Steak & Cheese Subs	4:00pm - 7:00pm Happy Hour food 7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting		6:30pm - 8:00pm Auxiliary Dinner 7:00pm - 10:00pm Music by Kevin "The Man"	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			4:00pm - 7:00pm Happy Hour food 7:00pm Auxiliary Meeting		6:30pm - 8:00pm S.A.L. 1/2 Baked Chicken Dinner	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Easter Sunday		5:30pm - 7:00pm SAL Steak & Cheese Subs	4:00pm - 7:00pm Happy Hour food 7:30pm Post General Meeting	7:00pm PG County Caucus (Commanders Roast) 7:30pm American Legion Riders Meeting	Arbor Day 6:30pm - 8:00pm Legion Dinner (Not every month)	
28	29	30	1 May	2	3	4
					6:30pm - 8:00pm Steak/Shrimp Dinner	

All Friday dinners run from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Reservations must be made no later than Wednesday for Friday dinners

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Always check the website calendar or call the Post to confirm dates and times.

All Post meetings start at 7:30 p.m. sharp, unless otherwise noted.

Where have you been?


We have missed you!!!

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



Happy 87th Birthday to Disney-Bell Post
Happy 100th Birthday to the American Legion!

Annual Birthday Party Saturday, March 16, 2019