



2022



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## WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!

### You are now part of the Post 66 American Legion Family!

We hope your involvement will be a rewarding experience.

Since The American Legion's first meeting in Paris, France, in 1919, Legionnaires, just like you, have been devoted to supporting our four pillars of service: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth



Our devotion to the Legion's pillars of service guides us in our service to veterans, their families, our local communities, state, and our great nation. Post 66's future will be healthier and more rewarding as you join us in our devotion to service.

As you become more involved in our Post, bring any questions you may have to any Post officer; we will do our best to help you. We are devoted to "Mutual Helpfulness."

### Post 66 Mission Statement:

*"American Legion Post 66 exists to support fellow veterans, their families, and our community."*

### Post 66—Location & Meetings

**Location:** 1661 Mill Street, San Luis Obispo, 93401

**General Meeting:** First Wednesday @ 7 p.m.

**Member Dinner:** Second Wednesday @ 7 p.m.

**Post Phone:** 805-937-0651

**Web Site:** [post66slo.org/](http://post66slo.org/)

**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/post66slo>

**Monday Social Nights**(Except 3 day weekends)

The night starts @ 4:30 p.m. and food is served from 5 to 6 p.m.

Post 66 has free Wi-Fi for members and guests.



## CAFÉ 66—MONDAY NIGHT SOCIALS

Our Monday night socials started over six years ago. They have become the heartbeat of Post 66 for members and their guests! It is the night when our Legion Family gathers in a safe habitat to socialize with friends.



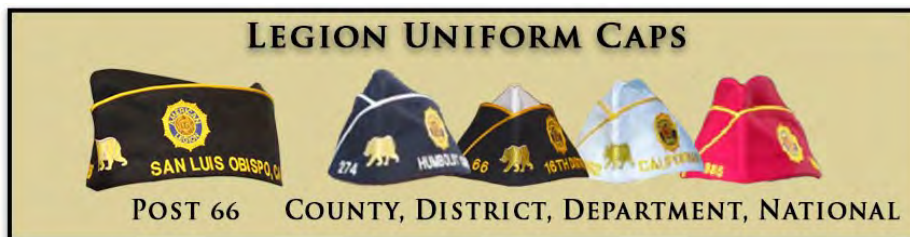
Foodservice cost is a modest \$8.00, and the menu varies each week. The bar is open too. Monthly menus are posted on the “Calendar & Rentals” page .

**Annual Membership Dues are \$45.00** Please set up an automatic payment plan (see adjutant) or pay your due on July 1.

## Legion Uniform = Legion Exposure

What is the official uniform of The American Legion? "A Legionnaire is in uniform if wearing an official American Legion Cap."

Please wear your Legion uniform in public when doing the good work of Post 66. Wearing the Legion uniform keeps us in the public eyes (literally). Being seen in The American Legion uniform cap is a very important element in our public relations and marketing efforts.



There is no benefit to Legionnaires being **invisible** to the public as we do the good work of the Legion, so please expose yourself as proud members of The American Legion and Post 66, wear your uniform cap. Please.

## Name Badges

Every member of the post receives a name badge. We strongly encourage post members wear their name badge (Especially Post leaders.), at all Post meetings and functions. See the post Adjutant to get your name badge.



## LEGION LANGUAGE AND PROTOCOLS

New Legionnaires often find the following information helpful:

**Meeting Conduct:** Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all meetings except as may be otherwise provided by our bylaws.

**Ceremony Dignity.** The ceremonial services of The American Legion must be conducted with the solemnity befitting the dignity of this organization.

### Gavel.

A chair's gavel is a symbol of authority & ensures orderly meeting.

1. **One Tap**—is a message to the members to be seated following the opening ceremony, a finished business item, or announcement of adjournment.

2. **Two Taps**— calls the meeting to order.

3. **Three Taps**— is the signal for all members to stand in unison on the third tap.

4. **Series of Sharp Taps**— is used to restore order in a meeting.

**Legionnaires Standing in Silent Tribute** of departed comrades during meetings or ceremonies will face the U.S. with Legion cap or hand held over their heart.

**PUFL** stands for **Paid-Up-For-Life** membership dues. [legion.org/join/pufl](http://legion.org/join/pufl)

**Transferred to Post Everlasting**— Is a euphemism for a one who has died and transferred to the Post Everlasting.

### No Partisan Politics:

The American Legion is a not-for-profit (501 C19) corporation and is non-partisan and non-sectarian. The Legion can neither engage in partisan politics nor promote the candidacy of any person for public office. Policies Not Partisan Politics has been a guiding principle of The American Legion since our beginning in 1919.



**NO LEGION CAPS WORN**



**AT POLITICAL EVENTS!**

## **POST 66 WEBSITE** [post66slo.org](http://post66slo.org)

Our Post 66 web site is a good and easily available resource for you to find information about our Post and The American Legion.

You can also find links to our Post Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/post66slo>

On our Post 66 web site, you can also find:

- Legion News, Post Activities & Newsletters
- Post 66 History, Photos & Hall Rental
- Information on how we honor our veterans
- Veterans Services and VA Benefits
- Information Resources for Post leaders & members, and
- Post Leader Contact information

[post66slo.org](http://post66slo.org)

### **Vision:**

“The American Legion strengthens America by improving the lives of our veterans, the military and their families.”



### **Mission Statement:**

“The American Legion strengthens our communities, states and nation with programs and services for our veterans, the military and their families.”

### **Motto:**

“Veterans Strengthening America.”

## **Post 66 — A Short History**

The American Legion, Post 66 San Luis Obispo, CA was chartered September 26, 1919, with 43 members. The first meeting was held on Thursday October 2, 1919 at the Old Mission San Luis Obispo Hall. The original 1919 charter of Post 66 is framed and hangs on the wall in our Post. The charter lists the names of our 43 charter members and the names are also listed on the ‘About Us’ page of the Post 66 web site. We have members locally from Orcutt to Paso Robles, with about 50 out-of-state members who still value their connection with veterans in San Luis Obispo, Post 66.



## POST LEADERSHIP

Leadership and governance in The American Legion and Post 66 is provided by volunteer members, like you. They serve in leadership roles as committee members, chairmen and Post officers. Our Post leaders provide honorable and noteworthy service to our veterans, their families and the communities we serve. Leadership is not something you are born with and it cannot be awarded or appointed. True leadership is learned and earned through the hard work of service to others. Legion leaders must have stellar character and transparent integrity. The men and women who accept leadership roles in The American Legion are often self-motivated by a desire to serve others and seek out leadership training. Good leader provide sufficient time and energy to their leadership roles and are often good communicators



A stated in the Post 66 Bylaws ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

*“Section 1 (a) The officers of this Post shall be the Commander, the First Vice-Commander, the Second Vice-Commander, the Adjutant, the Assistant Adjutant, the Finance Officer, the Assistant Finance Officer, the Historian, the Sergeant-at-arms, the Chaplain, the Assistant Chaplain, the Judge Advocate, the Facilities Manager, the Food Service Manager, the Bar Manager, the Booking Manager, the Service Officer, the Junior Past Commander, and the six Executive Committee Members-At-Large.”*

### Who can serve as an officer in Post 66?

*“Every member of this Post in good standing shall be eligible to hold office in this Post unless otherwise provided for herein.”*

The growth or decline in the membership of Post 66 is a reliable barometer of how the Post leadership is doing. An active post where members enjoy themselves creates a “word of mouth” membership campaign. Members are proud to belong. It’s natural for them to talk “Legion” and Legion programs to their friends neighbors, relatives, relatives, coworkers and business associates.



## SUMMARY POST LEADER DUTIES

### Post Commander (Elected)

Shall preside at all Post meetings and have general supervision over the affairs of the post. The Commander shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the post.



### First Vice-Commander (Elected)

He/she shall be in charge of membership retention and growth, annual fund-raising activities, and shall review officer compensation annually submitting his findings to the executive committee by the May meeting.

### Second Vice-Commander (Elected)

He/she is the designated liaison to other veteran organizations, coordinates new member initiations and shall be in charge of Post morale to include entertainment and special programs, and other duties as directed by the Post.

### Adjutant (Elected)

He/She has charge of and keep full and correct record of all proceedings and meetings, keep membership data updated, oversee and delegate with Post Commander all Post reports and filings to District 16, Area 8, Department of California, and National office of The American Legion.



### Executive Committeemen (6 Elected)

He/She shall advocate for the general membership at meetings, assist Post Officers in directing Post business, act as Post representatives in the absence of Post commanders.

### Finance Officer (Elected)

He/She shall be charged with the custody of the funds of the Post, keep its accounts and report thereon at Post meetings. Shall receive Post funds and pay Post bills.

### Sgt-at-Arms (Appointed)

He/She shall preserve order at all meetings, ensures members are properly greeted at the door, makes new members welcome, and is in charge of flag etiquette/disposal, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Post. This office is commonly the first of four steps to becoming Post Commander.



## POST OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES



Our Operational Committees are critical to increasing active membership, new leader development and a key to the long-term success of Post 66. Through their work on committees, members of our Legion Family provide the hard work needed for our success as they plan, organize, communicate, and implement the programs of our Post and The American Legion. Operational committees may be added or removed as the post commander desires.

Work in committees provides opportunities for the member growth and encourages active participation by limiting time commitments. Committee work also functions as a very important training grounds for future Post leaders.

**“MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!”**

## Operational Committee Descriptions

**Americanism**— Inspires love of country and good citizenship through patriotic observances, flag etiquette, civic instruction in schools, community service, and youth activities such as Boys State, Boy Scouts, Oratorical Contest and School Award Medals.

**Facilities Committee** – Responsible for the operation and maintenance of our facility.

**Finance** — Supervises the financial duties of the Post, prepares the annual budget and advises the Executive Committee on financial matters.

**Investment Committee** — Directs, monitors and controls the Post 66 Endowment Funds, insuring continuing financial stability. The Investment Committee reports to the Executive Committee, with recommendations for handling investment services for the Post.

**Media & Communications Committee** –Promotes Post programs and social activities to members and local community. Also responsible for post newsletter, fliers, and all Post online communication tools.

**Membership** — Has charge of all matters pertaining to membership eligibility, growth, acceptance, retention, and renewals.

**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R)** — Responsible for bringing to the attention of members and their dependents the rights and benefits granted them by law. They shall visit comrades who are sick or disabled; to visit and comfort members of the families who are sick or bereaved.

### **CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**

The Constitution & Bylaws define the complete responsibilities of all Post officers. More duties are described in the Post 66 By-Laws, which can be found on the Resources page of the Post 66 website.

[Post 66 Constitution & By-Laws](#)

### **VETERAN HOLIDAYS**

#### **We Remember and Honor America's Holidays!**

Every year we honor the great American holidays. Our holidays help us remember our national heritage and the legacy of hope we offer to all.

We remember, those who served before us, just as we honor those served with us and those who served after us.

- **The American Legion Birthday** – March 15, 1919
- **Armed Forces**— Third Saturday of May – honors those who serve.
- **Memorial Day**— Last Monday of May – honors those who died.
- **4th of July**— Declaration of Independence , on July 4, 1776
- **POW/MIA Day**— The third Friday of September.
- **Post 66 Birthday**— September 29, 1919
- **Veterans Day**— November 11 – honors all who served.



## PROGRAMS

The American Legion programs provide the opportunity for our Legion Family to serve our nation's veterans, their families, and SLO community in many important ways. Post 66 currently supports these Legion programs: Buddy Checks, Sons of the American Legion, Legion Riders', Boys State, and Boy Scouts.



### Buddy Checks

The Buddy Check program is rapidly becoming one of The American Legion's most important programs. Originally this was a "comradeship campaign" for members and former members of the organization. It has proven effective to keep veterans up to date on important issues facing them. As these Buddy Checks continue, our callers are asked to be alert to signs of depression and suicide so veterans can learn about the critical resources available to improve their mental well-being. It's quite possible the information provided could ease burdens face by veterans or maybe even save a life.



The American Legion  
BUDDY CHECK  
Program

### SLO County Food Bank

Post 66 has made a commitment to support our SLO Food Bank. Every time you visit the Post for an event, please bring food to donate. We have a food box at the post for your donations.



They need: canned goods, tomato & spaghetti sauces, pasta, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars & trail mix, salt, pepper & other essential spices.

### Veterans Treatment Court

Post 66 is a strong supporter of the SLO County, Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) which assists veterans who have entered the criminal justice system and receive treatment and rehabilitation from the (VA).



### Honor Flight Central Coast

Honor Flight Network is an organization created solely to honor America's veterans for their sacrifices. We transport our heroes to Washington D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans - World War II survivors along with those other veterans who may be suffering from a terminal illness.



# Post 66 Member Handbook

## THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



### THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

Post 66, as the parent organization, has three other important units in our local Legion Family. This is our Legion Family and they provide much of the support for our Legion programs. They are:

#### American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit

Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) is the world's largest women's patriotic organization.

Every Spring the Auxiliary promotes the red poppy as a symbol of the sacrifices our military have made, a symbol to open people's hearts and inspire them to donate to this important fundraising program.

Meeting: First Monday @ 5:30 p.m.



#### Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion (SAL) squadron consists of boys and men of all ages whose grandparents or parents served in the United States Armed Forces.

Meetings: First Monday@ 6 p.m.



#### American Legion Riders (ALR)

The American Legion Riders (ALR) are Legionnaires, who are also motorcycle enthusiasts. They all belong to the Legion, the Legion Auxiliary or the Sons of the American Legion. American Legion Riders are well known for their charitable work, including the significant funds they have raised for the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Meeting: First Monday @ 6 p.m.



## MyLegion.org

(<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Home>)



Accurate and up-to-date member information is important for any organization. We are very fortunate in The American Legion that **every member** can take an active role in keeping their information accurate and up-to-date, using the myLegion.org a *members-only* web portal.

This requires a Member Account in MyLegion.org. To create your member account, visit the home page of The American Legion website ([legion.org](http://legion.org)) and click on the MYLEGION.ORG link at the very top of the home page.



Once your personal MyLegion.org Member Account is established, select the "MY PROFILE" option to update your information or print a copy of your membership card.

**Exclusive benefits from America's largest veterans organization.  
Join now for access to servicesony available to Members**



**Information and networking through you post**



**Discounts on insurance, car rentals, and more**



**Exclusive content available only to members**

In the dues Renewal Options, we highly recommend the automatic payment option for annual dues. It is an easy and smart way to keep your dues current.

### **THE PREAMBLE:**

Although the Preamble of The American Legion Constitution is printed on the back of our membership cards, having it available in larger text, is helpful to many Legionnaires.

### **The Preamble of The American Legion Constitution**

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

### **POST 66 ADDRESS**

1661 Mill Street, San Luis Obispo, 93401

Post Phone: 805-937-0651, E-Mail: [mail@slolegion.org](mailto:mail@slolegion.org),

Web: ( <http://post66slo.org/> )

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/post66slo/Post 66>

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