



# “The Pride”

Volume 2011 Issue 2

Fall Issue November 20, 2011

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

## COMMANDER’S CORNER BY BUDDY MASTIN

It has been a great year so far, supporting and promoting the programs of The American Legion Family and representing the Detachment of Maryland as we are “Serving America’s Veterans Every Day”. I have been meeting and making new friends throughout the Detachment as I see our blue cap members hard at work. I have already signed up for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge in January and I challenge all District and Squadron Commanders and Officers to sign up also. It is a great time and a great cause. If you are not plunging please try and support myself or one of the other members of the Legion Family Plunge Team.

I am happy to see everyone working hard supporting my Commander’s Project this year as we try to buy a handicapped accessible bus for Charlotte Hall Veterans Home at a cost of \$65,000. This may seem like a lot of money but if every Squadron, Post and Unit in the state donated \$175 we

would easily reach that goal and remember our veterans deserve it. So let’s all work together to make this project a success.

Please remember, membership is the lifeblood of our organization and without it we could not do the job we do supporting all

the great programs of The American Legion Family. So let’s get those members signed up or renewed and sent in as soon as possible. All Squadrons should be at 35% membership by Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. You can check how your Squadron is doing in

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ADJUTANT’S CORNER

BY BILL MATOSKA

### D.E.C.:

The next meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee is scheduled for November 20, 2011 and is to convene at 1:00 P.M. All Commission and Committee Chairmen will meet with their respective members at 12:30 P.M. The host for this meeting is the squadron of Jackson & Johnson Memorial Post No. 263 located at 151 Winters Lane, Baltimore, Md. 21228. The post phone number is 410-869-7750.

### Driving Directions:

From I-695/Baltimore Beltway to Post #263 take Exit 15B and merge onto US-40W/Baltimore National Pike. (Exit 15B is

the same exit number from either direction traveling on I-695) From US-40W after approximately .5 mile turn left onto Winters Lane and the post home will be on your right.

**Member Training:** PNC Bill Sparwasser will be hosting a training session prior to the D.E.C. from 11:30 AM until 12:30 PM for all Detachment members interested. The topic of this session is Administrative Membership Processes. The training team will review the membership application, member data form, the membership cards and the membership

*(Continued on page 5)*

### *Inside this issue:*

Americanism Today	3
Casey Cares	6
Children & Youth	4
Community Service	3
Commander’s Project	5
Legislative Report	2
MD Special Olympics	5
Membership Report	2
Northern Central News	6
NEC Report	8
NESD Gazette	7
SES Herald	7
Southern MD Times	6
Time & Place	7
VAVS Variety	4
Western MD Tribune	7

## MEMBERSHIP BY BILL HILL

From the Clubhouse!!! The race is on and it's a close one. The current membership updates have the Detachment at 38.9%, which is exceeding our next membership target goal of 35% by November 16<sup>th</sup> and keeps us well on the way toward making the next goal of 45% by December 14th. We are 60+ members ahead of this time last year. Outstanding job gentlemen!! Keep up the fantastic work.

The race is going strong with *Southeastern Shore* remaining in 1<sup>st</sup> place by a nose over 2<sup>nd</sup> place *Northern Central*, North Eastern Shore in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, closely trailed by *Southern Maryland*. This has been a great race to watch and I can only imagine that we'll have everyone on their feet cheering on their District, when we come across the finish line in May 2012.

Outstanding job to the squadrons listed for reaching the 4 Star Goals for this year at such an early stage of the race. (Beltway-172, Corporal Herman Hughes-87, Dor-Wic-218 and Jackson & Johnson Memorial-263). It's great to see and too have the opportunity to brag about it in this article. Thank you for setting the pace and we're all looking forward to reaching this goal!

There are a few squadrons that are sitting at 0 membership submittal at this time, not to embarrass anyone but so we can possibly help each other and reach out to a member of that squadron to see if they can get the membership in. I know we have our District pride, but if a fellow "Proud possessor of a Priceless heritage" can help out one another and it benefits the entire Detachment, then my goal was achieved!!

Quick Recap of the program this year: The final membership standing at the end of May 2012 will place the top three Districts in a Win, Place, or Show position. The program is a straight-up race towards the finish line! There are no extra points for "no goose eggs" (although having none will help push you towards your goal), no weekly or monthly points for being in the lead, and no special consideration for having the

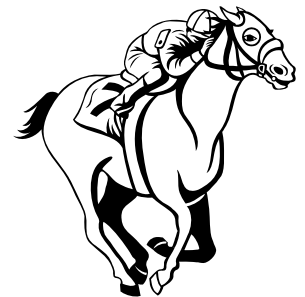
largest membership count (bragging rights for this is acceptable though).

Any District Commander who finishes the race with 100% of their membership goal will receive a customized polo shirt, with the wording "Membership Cup Race, 2011 – 2012, 100% Achievement" and, if they reach the 105% goal, the percent will be adjusted to what they achieved and printed in larger letters.

One of the best approaches to building those membership numbers is to keep the three R's (Recruit, Retain & Reinstatement) of membership in mind at all times. So, I encourage every squadron member to go out and keep the three R's of membership moving and help your District Commander ride that membership horse across the finish line.

Follow the Detachment's membership target dates and current membership status on our website at [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org), the membership track is on the left hand side. There will also be monthly updates on the Detachment of Maryland's Facebook site and Emails sent out to the District Commanders. If you have any question, are looking for suggestions or want some general information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Service to God and Country,  
 Bill Hill  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – Membership Chairman  
[Hill1062@MSN.COM](mailto:Hill1062@MSN.COM)  
 Home: 301-540-9205  
 Cell: 301-928-1411



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT BY TOM DEAL

I have sent out some e-mails with the legislative updates from The American Legion Legislative Commission. They have asked to remind ALL members of the Sons Organization to watch for discussions of budget cuts. As the Super Committee is looking into making cuts, we need to stand strong in support of our Country and our Veterans. If there is talk

of reducing the DOD budget, we need to remind our representatives that will hurt the security of our Country and hurt our Veterans. In the past, spending was reduced after WW I, WW II, Korea and Vietnam and we cannot stand and watch it happen again.

I will keep you informed and updated of current legislation and important issues

with Veteran's issues. I am listing several web sites below for specific information. We all need to contact our Senators and Congressmen to let them know where we stand on the issues.

Library of Congress-  
<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php>  
 , United States Senators-  
<http://www.senate.gov/general/contact>

# AMERICANISM REPORT BY JEFF SEILER

We've always been and will continue to be a Detachment that shows its great support to all the Americanism programs. Our success this year will be through the continued support we provide to our *Community, State, and Nation*. You can reach out to a local organization and just ask what we can do to help. Supporting Local blood drives where the blood banks are low due to the natural disasters we are having, or by supporting a scout troop. **Flag Replacement Program**, We have Veteran's Day right around the corner so please plan on attending or having a Veteran's Day program in your area, check to see if any flags have fallen at the cemeteries or are in need of replacement. The Detachment continues to sponsor an award to the top squadron for Flag Replacement. Make sure to track your efforts and keep a record of the replaced flag as indicated on the replacement form. (3 x 5 flags will count as 5 points and small flags will count as 1 point) If you are looking for a Flag retirement program/ceremony, please contact com-

mittee Chairman Chris Dadds. **Community Affairs**, October 22 was "Make a Difference Day" and we made a difference at Andrews Air Force Base by serving the wounded warriors and residences of Fisher House a wonderful afternoon lunch of Buddy's famous crab cakes and BBQ chicken. It was quite a rewarding experience. You all do not know what you are missing when we visit these Fisher Houses and provide fellowship to the veterans and their families. Fisher House, as you know, is very important to the families and military by giving them a place to stay in their time of need. It is truly a home away from home. It's a warm setting for them while their love one is being treated in one of the VA hospitals. Chairman Andy Dadds PDC. **Boys State**, This Legion program is very rewarding for those young men who are chosen to participate. We are encouraging each squadron to support your home post by providing any level of support necessary. This is the time that Guidance Counselors at schools need to be contacted with the appropri-

ate information. Chairman Jerry Saunders Sr. **National Emergency Fund**, The National Emergency Fund continues to need our help. With the continued economic challenges we face as a world, the support this program provides to so many, is greatly appreciated. Please continue your aid or our Legion family. We are asking each squadron to donate at least \$1.00 per member. I believe this is a very obtainable goal. We need to help in this time of needs where there are so many natural disasters, the fires in Texas, The flooding in the Northeast and South just to name a few. Thank you again for your continued support. Chairman Larry Griffin. Thank You to every member of the Detachment and all of our Legion Family members for supporting the programs, which fall under Americanism.

For God and Country  
 Jeff Seiler  
 Americanism Chairman  
 Jeffrey.seiler@safeco.com

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

*(Continued from page 1)*

membership at <http://www.mdlegion.org/SALMBRSHP.pdf>

I would like to invite all Squadron Commanders to come to our Fall Detachment meeting on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> at Jackson & Johnson Post #263 in Catonsville and our Winter Detachment meeting on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> at Synepuxent Post

#166 in Ocean City. We also are having a Detachment Travel Club Soiree at Post #166 the night before on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>. We have reserved a block of rooms for this event at the Grand Hotel across the street from Post #166 for \$59 a night for ocean view or \$65 for ocean front. This would be a great time to meet and talk to your Detachment Officers and DEC in a friendly social setting and have a great time while you are at it.

Thank you for allowing me to serve this organization. Remember, it is you, the Squadron blue cap member who makes this organization work. If I can be of service to anyone one of you, please let me know. Please visit and use our Detachment website [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org) and our new Detachment Facebook page. I am only a phone call or e-mail away if I can be of assistance. Let's get out there, roll up our sleeves and support the programs of The American Legion Family.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE BY ANDY DADDS

On October 22, 2011 seven members of the Detachment traveled to Andrews Air Force Base to visit the Fisher House and cook a Maryland style picnic. The menu consisted of barbecue chicken, crab cakes,

coleslaw, potato salad, assorted chips and sodas. We had enough food to feed the 14 residents and volunteers with leftovers for them to enjoy later. Praises to all from the residents and staff of Fisher

House for us taking our time to spend a few hours with them, it truly was a wonderful day. I want to thank all who donated and helped with the picnic.

Andy Dadds, PDC,  
 bdadds@baybroadband.

Serving America's Veterans Every Day,  
 Edward 'Buddy' Mastin  
 Detachment Commander  
[buddymastin@hotmail.com](mailto:buddymastin@hotmail.com)

## CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER BY JR HALL

Hello Again to all of Our Legion Family,

Well the Holiday time is coming quick and in the Children and Youth world we all start thinking about children during the holidays. We need to make sure we do all we can for all of our programs to help families and children deal with the many different issues they could be dealing with. Toys for Tots jumps right at you during this time of year and I hope we all do our part to support the Marines that do a wonderful job with a great program. Please think about the children that are suffering during the holidays and their families that are trying to keep their spirits up. Just like all the wonderful people that work for Casey Cares Foundation, they can use all the help we can give to them during this time of year too. Children's Miracle Network here in our area is working at Johns Hopkins and again they are working hard to take care of all of the

patients that are dealing with many different problems. Think of how great it is to be with the children in your family during the holidays and try to do all you can to help the many programs that we support in the Detachment and at your home Squadrons.

The Maryland Special Olympics do not stop working thru the holidays either. They will be busy having games and setting up for the Winter Games that are just around the corner, along with making plans for the Polar Bear Plunge. So while you're visiting with family talk to them about making a donation top one of our plungers or plunging along with us.

News coming back from the Fall NEC was that the Sons of The American Legion are only \$32,000.00 away from hitting the \$5,000,000.00 for Child Welfare Fund. WOW, now that shows

what great work is being done by our Squadrons all over the Nation. Grants over \$400,000.00 were given out this year to programs picked by the Child Welfare Fund.

As you see there is a lot to do and think about during the holidays and I hope to find that all of our members and Squadrons are doing what they can to make our Detachment the Best. If in any way I can help you contact me [dhall1967@verizon.net](mailto:dhall1967@verizon.net) and I will try to help you in any way I can.

Please Remember our Soldiers,  
Veterans and Children,  
Don "JR" Hall  
410-365-77 58  
[dhall1967@verizon.net](mailto:dhall1967@verizon.net)

## VAVS VARIETY BY RAY EDWARDS

I'm always aware of my surroundings. I enjoy walking up to a veteran and saying "Thank You" for your service. The joy of seeing a smile on the face of that veteran makes my day. I enjoy giving back to those who have served. Remember that each of us can make a difference, if we chose to do so.

As mentioned at our September DEC meeting, The Pocomoke VA Clinic, a satellite office of the Cambridge VA clinic, will be relocating in late spring 2012. The current lease agreement, not only does the VA lease the building, but they lease all equipment and furniture in the facilities. The needs for the new Pocomoke VA center are simple. There is a need for cash. They need to purchase medical tables, vital machines and furniture. The estimated budget is approximate \$12K. It is not the amount that you give, its the though that you gave and helped those who

need help. As promised, the first batch of letters are being mailed. Within the next few weeks, all letters will be mailed. Donations can be mailed directly to the Cambridge VA Clinic, please earmark for Pocomoke VA Clinic, at 830 Chesapeake Drive, Cambridge, MD 21631, Attention Karen Windsor. Please make a copy of your check and turn it in at the next DEC meeting. Or you can make your check payable to the Detachment of Maryland, earmark for Pocomoke VA Clinic and present it at our next DEC meeting. Thank you!

Serving Veterans and Their Families,  
Ray Edwards  
VAVS Chairman 2011/2012  
[rayjred@verizon.net](mailto:rayjred@verizon.net), (410) 215-9354

**Loch Raven VA CLC**  
With the Holiday season fast  
approaching many activities are being

planned at the center. If your District or Squadron may want to get involved please call either phone number below for more information; Recreation Services 410-605-7000 x 4659, Voluntary Services 410-605-7000 x 5877.

The MD VA Healthcare System is currently looking for donations to the Holiday Account (1097). This account is used to purchase gifts, which each veteran patient receives in December. With a donation of \$50 you can supply one patient with this Holiday gift bag. For more information on this donation please call Voluntary Services 410-605-7000 x 5877.

Have a happy and safe Holiday Season  
Bob Filippi  
VAVS Representative

## COMMANDER'S PROJECT BY BILL STEM

I'm asking the entire Legion Family to get behind Commander Mastin's Project and help purchase the bus for the residents of Charlotte Hall. We know the figure of \$67,000 is daunting but reachable with the support of everyone. Remember, Charlotte Hall is the only home for veterans in the state and the residents come from all districts in the Detachment.

All monies can be sent to ...

Bill Matoska  
Detachment Adjutant  
3115 Orchard Ave.  
Baltimore, Md. 21234  
Please put Charlotte Hall Bus in the Memo section.

There will be a Draw-Down at Susquehanna Post #135 on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to benefit the Commander's Project. Tickets will be \$35 each and are good for two attendees. Tickets will be available

soon.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Yours in Service  
Bill Stem  
Email: [wstem84809@aol.com](mailto:wstem84809@aol.com)  
Cel: 410 598-9355  
Home: 410 526-6559

## MARYLAND SPECIAL OLYMPICS BY JIM ALEXANDER

American Legion Family,

This year I will be participating in the 2012 Maryland Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Special Olympics. I am writing to ask you to join the American Legion Family Team in taking the plunge on Friday, January 27, 2012 at Sandy Point State Park. In order to participate you make the commitment to raise \$50 or more by asking for donations or making the donation yourself. So, if you're willing

to grin and "bear" it for just a few minutes, we can work together and make a lasting difference for Special Olympics. Sign up today at [www.plungemd.com](http://www.plungemd.com), I hope you'll be there with me. If you're unable to join me, please visit the plunge website and go under American Legion Family Plunge Team make your donation.

Also, the 2012 Winter Olympics will be held at Ski Whitetail in Pennsylvania, February 26-28, 2012. Let me know if

you're interested in volunteering your time at the event so I can ensure lodging is available.

Districts, please check in your community for any Special Olympics volunteer opportunities. Please volunteer and make a difference.

Our children are our future!  
Jim Alexander  
443-623-9907  
[jimalex831@verizon.net](mailto:jimalex831@verizon.net)

## ADJUTANT'S CORNER BY BILL MATOSKA

*(Continued from page 1)*

roster. This session will review the administrative process of record keeping regarding what information is required and where that information is recorded on each form and finally where to transmit the copies of these forms.

**D.E.C. Dress Code:** Since we are not scheduled to have any distinguished guests at this D.E.C., it is requested that all officers, chairmen, commission and committee members wear the Detachment Commander's dress "S.A.V.E.D." shirt for this session.

**Day/Child Care:** The National Commission has requested feedback from each detachment to determine the feasibility of running a day/child care operation at the site of the National Convention. If interested, give your input to National Executive Committeeman, Andy Dadds, and he will relay your thoughts to National Headquarters. At this point, we are trying to determine if there is an interest for national to proceed to determine the feasibility of such an undertaking.

**Emblem Trademark:** FYI-Please be advised that several departments received announcements from an organization called "Vet Cards" which produces a personal business card with your organizational emblem on the card. Vet Cards has no license agreement with The American Legion, has no permission to use the legion trademark, and has previously been advised by The American Legion to "cease and desist". The American Legion is currently pursuing legal action to force this firm to discontinue using the legion trademark.

**Homecomings:** National Commander, Jim Roberts, will have his homecoming March 16 & 17, 2012 in Lakeland, Florida. National Vice Commander East, Jim Noble, will celebrate his homecoming March 9-10, 2012 in Somerset, New Jersey. If you are interested in attending the event; details, costs, and agendas are available by contacting myself or N.E.C. Andy Dadds.

Yours In Service,  
Bill Matoska  
[Bill.matoska@comcast.net](mailto:Bill.matoska@comcast.net)

## SOUTHERN MARYLAND TIMES

The holiday season is approaching, and we still have troops in harms way . Let us not forget them or their families. Congratulations to Beltway Squadron 172 on making Four Star. Membership is still coming in slowly. SMD is right now in fourth place. DECmen keep up the good work.

Thanks to Squadron 172 and 60 on your recent fundraisers for Buddy's Bus, and by the time you read this Southern Maryland District will have had their draw down.

Our next district meeting is Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at Stalling-

Williams Post 206 located at 3330 Chesapeake Beach Road Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732. The post phone 301-855-6466.

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US  
DAVE SPRUCEBANK  
SMD COMMANDER

## NORTHERN CENTRAL NEWS

I want to thank all those members of the NCD for coming out in September for the Carnival at Perry Point. If I attempt to name all that helped I know I will forget someone. We served about 400 hamburgers to the residence, staff and family that day. I believe everyone had fun and it was appreciated by all in attendance. I want to also thank those squadrons that donated food and money for this great event.

Make sure you check out our group page: Northern Central District is on Facebook. Everyone is doing a great job posting their upcoming events. November there's the Pool Tournament and our next meeting is on December 4<sup>th</sup> at Essex Post are examples of the types of functions that are being listed.

Feel free to post your Squadron's upcoming activities.

Here it is November already, the leaves are changing and falling, we have had our first snow fall and the heat has been turned on. It is never too early to think about our upcoming holiday seasons. As we sit down to our Thanksgiving dinner in our warm homes, be sure to remember our veterans and service men and women who are not able to spend their holiday season with their families, those soldiers and veterans that are lying in hospital beds with injuries sustained in the many conflicts around the world both past and present and those still serving overseas.

Many of you may remember my project this year is replacing equipment at

MCVET's. This is a good time to remember our veterans that are not in the spotlight, but those who are less fortunate and most in need of our help. I am also asking for unwrapped toys to be donated for the Toy's for Tot's Program, cash is also acceptable. So for that friend or relative that has a lot of stuff and you are just not sure what to get them, how about making a donation to one of the many worthy Veteran projects. If you need any help on deciding which project to give to, send me an email and we can discuss it.

For God and County  
Kraig A. Dean  
kraigdean@yahoo.com  
410-440-2449

## CASEY CARES BY ED STEININGER

As we start off our new year, I am very excited that Commander Mastin has chosen me to chair our Casey Cares Program. The only problem is that you guys have supported this program from day one, and for me to try to raise more donations than last year is going to be a real challenge. In just the couple of months that I have been involved, we have done two events for Casey. The help and personal contact from the office staff at Casey Cares goes above and beyond. The attitude of the children involved in this program is amazing, and the smiles that you see from the parents

of these battling children during one of these affairs makes it all worthwhile.

The wheels are starting to turn already. Plans are in the making for a Cash Prize Pool Tournament to be sponsored by the NCD, but the decision now is do we make this a single format, or a team format. Bring your suggestions and/or comments to the seminar so that they may be discussed. I am open to all suggestions. How about a softball tournament? These are the only areas that I am familiar with, but like I said, I am open to all suggestions.

I look forward to working with one of the most successful chairmen in the Detachment for many a year, and can see why you guys picked him to be our 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander this year. I do not want to let him or Casey Cares down. Keep the donations coming, and remember the figure, 20,000. With everyone involved, we can make that and more.

For Casey Cares,  
Ed Steininger Sr.  
[edsteiningersr@Comcast.net](mailto:edsteiningersr@Comcast.net)  
443-807-1495

## NORTHEASTERN SHORE GAZETTE

Welcome to fall. With that comes our membership drive. As of 10-7-11 our District is in 4th place in the Detachment in membership. 33% of our goal. We must work harder to find new members for our squadrons and hold on to the current ones. Congratulations to Squadrons 21, 70, 246, and 296 for being

over 50% in dues paid.

Our next District meeting will be held December 4, 2011 at Post 36 in Chestertown at 10:30 A.M. Squadron Commanders PLEASE ATTEND!!! If you can't make it, send a representative in your place

Please remember our Detachment Commanders project (Buddy's Bus for

Charlotte Hall) when you plan your events. All Squadrons will have to help to make this worthwhile endeavor a reality.

Yours in service,  
Karl B. Kibler  
North Eastern Shore District  
Commander

## SOUTH EASTERN SHORE HERALD

Over the past several months, I have visited with many of my squadrons within our district. There are a couple of visits that remain on my schedule. I continue to see progress in some squadrons, while other squadrons are barely hanging on. Remember, we must swallow our pride and work for the good of the Legion. Times are hard and everyone has been effected, one way or another. If we remain focus with our

goals, we can make a difference in someone's life.

Congratulations to Squadron 87 and Squadron 218 for becoming four star squadrons. The SESD remains in first place in the membership race. The SESD will be holding the first annual SESD draw down to be held Saturday, May 12th at Cambridge Post 91. All proceeds will benefit our Detachment Commanders Project. Stay tuned for

more details.

The SESD is also raffling off a Scooter that will be given away on Sunday, December 11th. Tickets will be available at the next DEC meeting.

Serving Veterans and Their Families,  
Ray Edwards  
South Eastern Shore District  
Commander 2011/2012  
Detachment of Maryland

## TIME AND PLACE REPORT BY BILL STEM

There is no change for this coming year's Convention .You still should plan for the State Detachment Convention on June 22nd thru the 24<sup>th</sup> 2012. It is again at the Hunt Valley Marriott with all the activi-

ties at the same locations, barring scheduling problems.

If you have any suggestions for the 2013 Convention please contact me for a convention specification packet.

Your in Service  
Bill Stem Chairman  
Email: [wstem84809@aol.com](mailto:wstem84809@aol.com)  
Cel: 410 598-9355  
Home: 410 526-6559

## WESTERN MARYLAND TRIBUNE

One half year is almost gone by and things are moving on. The Western Maryland District has 18 squadrons, and of those 18 squadrons, we only have 1 that needs to send in some membership cards. Please let's get rid of this goose egg before our next meeting. Our second meeting is December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at Dixon-Troxell Squadron #211 in Funkstown, MD. Please plan on attending this second meeting and all the others. The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting is February

19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at Cascade Squadron #239 in Cascade MD and our final meeting is being held at Kumps Dam by Emmitsburg Squadron #121 May 20, 2012. I would like to thank all the squadrons for hosting out district meetings. I hope everyone makes an effort to attend our meetings.

Please be aware that Western Maryland District does have a Facebook page where one can join and see what is going on at our local squadrons. Please

let's get those members renewing and get new members as we are the largest district in the state of MD. Now is the time to start recording what is being done for the end of year reports. I would like to see all 18 squadron's turn in a report this year! And Please do all you can to support Buddy's Bus!

Thank you  
Jeffrey Seiler  
WMD Commander  
[Jeffrey.seiler@safeco.com](mailto:Jeffrey.seiler@safeco.com)

“S.A.V.E.D.”

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND**

3115 Orchard Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21234



NEC NEWS BY ANDY DADDS

National Meeting Dates

**National Convention**

Aug. 24-30, 2012-Indianapolis  
Aug. 23-29, 2013-Houston  
Aug. 22-28, 2014-Charlotte  
Aug. 28-Sept.3, 2015-Baltimore  
Aug. 26-Sept. 1, 2016-Cincinnati

**Washington Conference**

Feb. 21-29, 2012  
Feb. 19-27, 2013  
Mar. 18-26, 2014  
Feb. 17-25, 2015  
Feb. 16-24, 2016

**Spring NEC**

May 4-10, 2012  
May 3-9, 2013  
May 2-8, 2014  
May 1-7, 2015  
April 29-May 5, 2016

**Fall NEC**

Oct. 12-18, 2012  
Oct. 11-17, 2013  
Oct. 10-16, 2014  
Oct. 9-15, 2015  
Oct. 7-13, 2016

I bring you greetings from National Commander Jim Roberts. Congratulations were given to all Detachments who met or past goal during the first leg of his membership ride. This year we are getting back to the basics for membership, Renew, Retain and Reinstate our members. We are doing a great job at signing up new members but we are losing members because we fail to keep them interested in the Legion Family. This is where we need to “**Toot Our Horn**” and show them this is why we joined the Sons of

The American Legion.

A large delegation from the Detachment of Maryland traveled to Indy for the fall NEC held on October 7-9, 2011. During the NEC our members attended the various commission meetings. Commander Buddy and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bill both attended the Detachment Commanders class held on Saturday and both graduated.

The membership of the Eastern Region is coming in very slow this year. Maryland has done a good job by

passing the goals set by National.

Currently we are at 33.576 which puts us in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the East. Vice Commander Jim Noble congratulated the Detachments who have met goal. The East Region can be found on the web at [saleast.org](http://saleast.org).

Andy Dadds, PDC  
NEC Committeemen