



“The Pride”

Volume 2009 Issue 2

Fall Issue November 15, 2009

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

COMMANDER’S CORNER

BY MARK GILBERT



“MARYLAND COMMITMENT”

To all Squadron Commanders, seminar packets have been given out and are available from your District Commander. Included in the packet is the Detachment handbook which provides all Detachment officers and chairmen information as well as meeting information. Also, included in the packet is instructions on how to fill out the consolidated report form. If you haven't already, now is the time to start keeping track of volunteer hours and donations to be included in the report.

In order to help inform and promote the

importance of The Fisher House all District Commanders were given a DVD. I encourage all members to view this DVD and use it along with available brochures to help reach our goal of \$50,000.00 for this vital program. I know the DVD will touch the hearts of those who see it. The Fisher House is part of our "Maryland Commitment" to our veterans and their families.

Another area of

commitment are the community service programs. One of the official programs supported by The American Legion is Special Olympics Maryland. I am going to take the plunge at the 14th Annual Polar Bear Plunge. I am asking all members of the Legion Family to join me in braving the icy waters of the Chesapeake. So far only 8 members have signed up. I know we can

(Continued on page 2)

ADJUTANT’S CORNER

BY BILL MATOSKA

D.E.C.: The next meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee is scheduled for November 15, 2009 convening at 1:00 P.M. hosted by Glen Burnie Squadron No. 40 at post home. The post address is 500 5th Ave. SE, Glen Burnie, Md. 21061 and the post phone number is 410-761-9869. Preceding the DEC, all Commissions and Committees are scheduled

to meet at 12:00 P.M. If you are a member of a Detachment Commission or Committee and unable to attend please communicate with your respective chairman. The simplest driving directions for Gen Burnie Post from any direction is to work your way to Governor Ritchie Highway.MD Route 2, and then coming from

(Continued on page 6)

Inside this issue:

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY TOM DEAL

Greetings harvesters.

Congratulations all districts are over the goal of 25% by October 14, however we are still behind last year's numbers. We are 12th in the nation at 33.5% as of the October 14 report. All the District Commanders keep pressing for those members, let's pick up the pace and get harvesting those members. Squadrons should be sending in membership weekly, don't hold membership. Congratulations go out to Western Maryland District for getting rid of all their goose eggs and joining NCD. The rest of the districts need to get busy and get rid of those goose eggs and start pressing those grapes. Everyone needs to be a recruiter and renew and sign up new members. As for the membership Race it's still anyone's bottle to win. NCD is back in front for the moment but SESD is right on their heels and were ahead for a few weeks.



Can they take back over? Will another district get pressing? Another bottle will be awarded at the DEC meeting, who wants it? NCD has 2 bottles already, will they get more? Again it's still up for grabs. On November 17th the goal is 35%, let's all strive to exceed it and all subsequent goals, don't wait get them renewed and every member try to sign up 1 new member. If each of us did that we would just crush all the goals.

Tom Deal
Membership Chairman
1st Vice Commander
Detachment of Maryland

tom.deal@verizon.net

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHATTER BY KEN JENKINS

For the year 2009-2010, the Detachment of Maryland would like to make a continuous effort to achieve the goals of our Children and Youth programs of The American Legion Family. This is not something that one squadron should do alone. We need the support of all squadrons, if we are to have an outstanding year. It is indeed a great privilege to have been given this opportunity. I would like to thank Commander Mark Gilbert for the honor of chairing this commission. Below are listed some of our larger programs, but anytime a child is in need you can be sure the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland will be there to help.

Child Welfare Foundation (CWF): Child Welfare Foundation's foremost philanthropic priority is to provide other nonprofit organizations with a means to educate the public about the needs of children across this nation. Though created by The American Legion in 1954, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is a separate 503(c)3 corporation. Last October, in its 51st year of service the Foundation awarded \$611,381 to 21 organizations. In 2008-2009, the SAL was once again the single largest contributor to CWF with just under \$344,000 in donations. This brings the SAL's total donations since they began supporting this program to over \$4 Million Dollars. For more information about the Child Welfare Foundation, visit their website at www.legion.org/cwf

Children's Miracle Network (CMN): The Sons of The

(Continued on page 4)

COMMANDER'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

do much better. It will be a day of fun with a tent set up so that we can tailgate and enjoy comradeship from around the state. If you can't plunge please consider sponsoring me or another Legion Family Plunger. To sign up as part of the Legion Family Plunge Team or to be a sponsor go on line to www.plungemd.com. Sponsor donations can also be made by check. Make the check payable to SOMD and earmark it to your favorite plunger. Mail the check to the Detachment Adjutant so that we can keep a record of all donations. Mail to: Bill Matoska at 3115 Orchard Ave. Baltimore, MD. 21234.

First Vice Commander Tom Deal is stomping around the state working to fill those membership

vats. We have met the goal of 25% for this period and are on our way to meeting the 35% goal set for November 17th.

Check out the Detachment web site at www.mdsal.org. While there, go to the News & Events link. This link can be used by all Squadrons and Districts to promote events and inform members of news from around the state. The more information we share the stronger we become.

Show your "Maryland Commitment" and attend Detachment and District meetings.

Yours in Legion Service,
Mark Gilbert
Detachment Commander
markgilbert08@comcast.net

VAVS VARIETY BY BUDDY MASTIN

I am looking forward to a great year serving the Detachment of Maryland as your VAVS Chairman. I would first like to thank Tom Deal for the great job he did as VAVS Chairman last year. The Detachment reported 1,412 visits to Veterans Homes and VA Centers and 13,940 total hours spent helping our veterans. The total cost and donations supporting our veterans was \$59,941 and that was with only 48 Squadrons turning in reports. Thank you to all our blue cap members. Your hard work never ceases to amaze me. I would like to see our Detachment top all those numbers by at least 120% this year and that is a very attainable goal with your help.

It is now time to set in place, a plan of action at your Squadron to help the veterans of our community. There are many veterans programs which your Squadrons could adopt. There is our Detachment Commanders' Project, Fisher House, which you will read more about in this issue. Loch Raven VA Center needs a blanket warmer at a cost of over \$3,000. You can sponsor a bingo at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for \$200. Perry Point VA Center needs new recreational items at a cost of over \$1,000. There are many more pro-

grams like Heroes To Hometown, USO, MCVET's, that you and your Squadron can support. If you need any help or suggestions, please contact me at 443-370-7870 or buddy-mastin@hotmail.com. The main thing is to make sure your Squadron somehow gets involved helping our veterans through one of our many Legion Family programs. Remember, we are "Proud possessors of a priceless heritage" and that heritage is our veterans.

Yours In Service,
Buddy Mastin
Detachment VAVS Chairman

BRECC Report

The Loch Raven VA Community Living & Rehabilitation Center (Formerly known as BRECC) has a 10 bed Hospice & Palliative Care unit. Collectively. This unit represents a continuum of comfort-oriented and support services for the veteran patients. These beds are constantly filled but unfortunately for a short term by each veteran patient. The Hospice unit is in need of a "Blanket Warmer" for the veteran patients to make there last days a bit more comfortable. This piece of equipment,

which costs around \$3,000, is not normally supplied by the VA Health Care System.

The Detachment of Maryland is sponsoring a short term fund raiser to enable the Hospice

Unit to obtain this much needed piece of equipment. The drive will run from the DEC meeting of September 19, 2009 through the DEC meeting of November 15, 2009. I am asking that each Squadron consider giving whatever they can to this most worthy cause.

Please make checks out to Detachment of Maryland, earmarked for "Blanket Warmer".

Mail to Detachment Adjutant, 3115 Orchard Ave., Baltimore, MD. 21234. You may also bring your checks to either the September or November DEC meetings.

The reason for the shortness of the drive is to get this item to the patients as soon as possible.

Thanking you in advance,

Bob Filippi,

VA Representative Loch Raven Center.

bobcass@aol.com

MARYLAND SPECIAL OLYMPICS BY JR HALL

The American Legion Family Team is organized and we are ready for everyone to get signed up now for the Polar Bear Plunge. The actual advertised date for the Plunge is January 30, 2010. But we will have a special American Legion Family Plunge on Friday January 29th in the afternoon. You can sign up for the Plunge by going on Maryland Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge. There is a place for teams already listed. Click on the American Legion Family Team, and it will take you to our team link. From there you can just click on join the team, or if you

cannot Plunge with us you can pledge a sponsor for any team member or to the Team. Mark Gilbert, our Detachment Commander, is already on the team and trying to raise money for the Special Olympics of Maryland. So let's all back him and The Special Olympics and sign up or sponsor a plunger today. It would be great to take the plunge with a lot of members from our Legion Family. If you need any information about the plunge please contact me at dhall1967@verizon.net or call me at 410-365-7758 and I will try my best to help you. The more members we

have plunge the more money we can raise for the Special Olympics of Maryland. Also anyone interested in going to the Winter Games please contact me as well. I will be trying to set up housing for all our volunteers ahead of time. It is a great time and you get to work with the best athletes in our state.

Yours In Service

Don "JR" Hall, Jr.

dhall1967@verizon.net

AMERICANISM REPORT BY BILL HILL

The Americanism Commission has kicked off a new year of supporting the many programs within the focus of this commission, and we look to the members of this great Detachment to help where they feel most comfortable. Our success this year will be through the continued support we provide to our Community, State and Nation. Continue to follow these articles for suggestions on what has been successful for others within the Detachment.

Flag Replacement Program

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, (3x5 flags will count as 5 points and smaller flags will count as 1 point). If you are also looking for a Flag

Retirement program/ceremony, please contact committee chair, Chairman Jim Alexander.



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. More information will be provided at future DEC meetings and on this site in the near future. Chairman Ken Jones

Community Affairs

We're once again coordinating the many undertakings of this program by asking for your support throughout the year. This program is very broad in range, and is one of the best ways to reach out to your local area and show them the many benefits the American Legion provides. So if your squadron helps clean up a local park, adopt-a-highway, participates in a church fund raiser, or sponsors a local scout troop, it is considered supporting your community and is part of this committee.

Chairman, Past Detachment Commander & Alternate NEC, Bob Trueblood

Email: SantasToyShop@AOL.Com

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,
Bill Hill
Americanism Chairman
Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHATTER

BY KEN JENKINS

(Continued from page 2)

American Legion's established partnership with the Children's Miracle Network, seeks to enhance its efforts to provide quality healthcare to children. Children's Miracle Network is associated with 170 hospitals that treat children with all types of afflictions; rendering treatment based on need and not just the ability to pay. For more information about Children's Miracle Network visit their website at www.cmn.org

Special Olympics: We are kicking off a new year and getting ready for the Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Maryland Special Olympics. We have already formed the American Legion Family team and Commander Gilbert will be leading the way. So please go to

<http://www.somd.org/> and register to be a part of the team and start getting your sponsors together.

Casey Cares Foundation: Casey Cares has become a large program of our Detachment over the last few years and Past Detachment Commander Larry Weinzirl also sits on the Board of Directors. Casey Cares Foundation provides uplifting and heartwarming programs with a special touch in order to enhance the lives of critically ill children and their families. All critically ill children under the age of 18 are eligible to participate. We will be holding our 6th annual Casey Cares bike ride on July 24, 2010. The 2009 ride raised over \$5,100 for this truly special charity. For more information about the Casey Cares foundation visit their website at

<http://www.caseycaresfoundation.org>

Toys for Tots: The Toys for Tots program collects new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distributes those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community. For more information about Toys for Tots, or to find a drop off location near you visit their website at www.toysfortots.org

If you have any questions or ideas about our Children and Youth programs please contact me or that particular Committee Chairman listed below.

Maryland Commitment,
Ken Jenkins
Detachment Children and Youth Chairman

COMMANDER'S PROJECT BY PDC ANDY DADDS

As many of you know the Fisher House program was established to help our service men and women along with their families during their time of need. These homes provide a warm and caring environment. The homes have a living room, dining room, kitchen and many extras. Each family has their own private bedroom and bathroom which will accommodate a small family.

On October 24, Bob Trueblood, Bill & Michelle Hill and myself traveled to Andrews Air Force Base to visit Fisher House. We had the opportunity to meet several families staying at the house and to thank them for their service and sacrifices

they have made to keep our Nation free. While at the house we



prepared lunch which consisted of T-bone steaks, hot dogs, baked beans, pasta salad, corn, baked potato and

desserts. Special thanks to Squadron #191 for donating the food. We will be planning another visit in the Spring to the Fisher House in Bethesda.

We are planning a fundraiser for March 6, 2010 to be held at Susquehanna Post #135, more details to follow later.

More information can be found on the Fisher House web site, www.fisherhouse.org

Andy Dadds, PDC
Commanders Project Chairman
BDADDS@broadband.net

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT BY BOB TRUEBLOOD

On Saturday, October 24, 2009, the cook-out, at the Fisher House, at Andrews Air Force Base, began with a tour of the facility and meeting of the guests that were currently staying there. They all had their own problems that they were dealing with, so it was of great comfort to the residence for the Sons of The

baked beans, barbequed chicken sandwiches and desserts. There was even a special treat for the children of Halloween candy for their Halloween Party that evening.

Many thanks to Andy Dadds, who came from Centreville, Md., to cook the steaks, which were cooked to perfection, and to Michelle Hill and Bill Hill, for their assistance in preparing the corn, baked beans, pasta salad, barbequed chicken, hot dogs, and desserts. They were Extremely Delicious. And to Commander Mark, a big thank you. Your steak was particularly delicious. I was forced to eat your steak since we didn't want it to go to waste. It would have been a real Sin to do so, so I forced myself to eat it. I just hope that all my jobs can be that enjoyable. WELL... BACK TO THE NORTH POLE ...on a full stomach!

WESTERN MARYLAND TRIBUNE

I would like to say Thank You to Michael Mandish for everything he has done for the Western Maryland District and his squadron Hampstead #200. I would also like to say Thank You to everyone who elected me district commander for 2009-2010. Please join us for our district meeting

Yours in Service,
Michael B Thomas
Western Maryland District
Commander



American Legion to provide a wonderful meal for them.

With the generous donation from Gold Star Squadron #191, we were able to purchase steaks, baked potatoes, corn, hot dogs, pasta salad,

In Service to Our Communities,
Bob Trueblood
santastoyshop@aol.com

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

BY BILL MATOSKA

(Continued from page 1)

the north turn right onto 5th Ave. and coming from the south turn left onto 5th Ave.

Legion Web Site: A brand new American Legion National Headquarters Web site (www.legion.org) launches November 9, during the week of Veterans Day 2009. Lively, frequently changing news items, interactive features, useful links, access to blogs. Videos and social-media connections are all part of it. New micro-sites within Legion.org include a Veterans Benefits Center, a Veterans Career Center, a new landing page for Legion Riders and more. A couple of hot links from the site right now are www.clarencehill.legion.org which is also a blog site. This domain offers visitors the opportunity to comment on the National Commander's official visits, join his Facebook friends and Twitter followers, see photos and link to videos. The site also includes an index of his most recent speeches, videos,

press releases, commentaries, and media contacts. Visitors are welcome to comment on the site as well. Another is the Burn Pit @ www.burnpit.legion.org which is described as The American Legion's slightly irreverent new blog site. Frequently updated news, commentary, photos and videos make this a great place for anyone to let his or her thoughts be known. The Burn Pit is a blog site for visitors to sound off on some of the most controversial and poignant issues of the day. These new sites are not only of interest to us as members of the Legion Family, but can serve as a recruiting tool for new members, especially younger members, for both The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. It only stands to reason that before we can sign up a new potential younger member in the S.A.L., we must first interest that younger veteran sponsoring that potential S.A.L. member to sign up in The American Legion. Kudos to National Headquarters for giving us some long needed tools for the recruitment of the younger and digital savvy generations.

NORTHEASTERN SHORE GAZETTE

Our District is moving in the right direction with membership, but some squadrons have to spend more time cultivating more members and getting this years' membership up to date. It's only as tough as you make it.

I have been trying to attend all of the squadrons' meetings in the district, so if I have not been to your post yet, I'll be there. Squadrons that I have visited are planning a lot of events and fundraiser. Keep up the good work.

Our next NESD meeting will be held on November 22 at Post 135 in Perryville at 10:30 A.M. Hope to see you there.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, you may contact me at 410-829-9974 or email me at jkj44@aol.com.

Yours in Service

Ken Jones

CASEY CARES

BY DAVE HULLIHEN

As chairman of the Casey Cares Foundation I know that in the past we have supported this great cause and will continue to do so in the future. With Bear in charge once again with the Casey Cares ride on July 25th we managed to raise \$ 5,100.00. Great job Bear and I hope he will do so again this year. I hope to have either Casey or a representative at our next DEC meeting in Glen Burnie . Unless you have made other donations before or since our last meeting there has been very limited funds for Casey this year. Let's show them at the next meeting that we still support them and bring lots of money . If you have donated money please let me know so you can get the credit you so well deserve . Please try and donate \$1.00 per member with in your squadron , if not, try and give as much as possible .Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Yours In Service, Dave Hullihen, Chairman

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOUNDATION

BY KEN JONES

As most of you know, we did well collecting donations at the last DEC meeting, but I know we can do a lot better. I am sure you are making other donations, which are great, but the NEF Foundation still needs us.

As you have heard and read, there was heavy flooding in Atlanta recently and this could happen to us. The NEF was established for the Legion Family as all of this money

can be used by the American Legion, the Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion for emergency assistance.

Please feel free to call me or email me if you are not sure where to send your donations. My number and email address is in the tan book.

Yours in Service

Ken Jones

jkj44@aol.com

SOUTHERN MARYLAND TIMES

Hopefully, you, the blue cap member, will roll up your sleeves with me and get to work supporting the programs of The American Legion Family. SMD is in 4th place in membership. We have 3 Squadrons though with zero membership which is getting better. Let's send in that membership.

If you have any suggestions how our District Officers and DEC could help you, or your Squadron, please let me know.

We will be holding our 4th Annual SMD District Draw Down Saturday Nov. 14th at Glen Burnie Post #40. The grand prize winner gets \$1,000 with many other cash prizes to win. Tickets are \$35, which gets 2 people in for dinner and drinks.

This will be the night before our Fall DEC meeting, and we will have a block of hotel rooms at a reduced rate. Tickets will be available at our District and DEC meeting. For more info contact 'JR' Hall at Squadron #40. I hope to see you at an SMD District meeting soon.

This year I would like to see more members attending the meetings so the information gets back to the Squadron. This is vital for not only the continuation of what we have accomplished, but the advancement of the SAL. I look forward to meeting as many members as I can this coming year and please remember the reason, we do what we do.

Serving Those Who Served.
Tommy Bryant
tommilesglass@aol.com

LEGISLATIVE REPORT BY BILL STEM

It will probably be another tough year for Legion priorities at the next State Legislative Session. With the budget shortfall and cuts it will mean we will have to redouble our efforts to push for our programs.

As the Legion sets its legislative agenda, I will be relaying all information back to our members. For more information you can also visit the National Legislative website on the National SAL website at www.sal.legion.org.

Email: wstem84809@aol.com

Cell: 410 598-9355

Home: 410 526-6559

Your in Service
Bill Stem Chairman

TIME AND PLACE REPORT BY BILL STEM

We have finalized the location of the 2010 Convention. The convention will be held at the Hunt Valley Marriott in Hunt Valley, Baltimore County. Just up Route #83 from the Baltimore Beltway.

The date will be June 25,26 & 28, 2010.

Details of the Golf, Bowling, Pool, Horseshoes, and Superstars will be forth- coming at our November DEC meeting.

Email: wstem84809@aol.com

Cell: 410 598-9355

Home: 410 526-6559

Your in Service
Bill Stem Chairman

NORTHERN CENTRAL NEWS

I would like to let everyone know that my Commanders Project for the year 2009-2010 will be the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House has been helping to improve lives of children and their families for over thirty five years. They have been successful due to countless donations from donors from all over. The Ronald McDonald House is now located in fifty-two countries and regions. So I felt that with the support of The Sons of The American Legion, it will help them to improve lives of many more families. All donations to my project will be recognized.

Congratulations to all squadrons of the Northern Central District for being number one in membership and not only the first district to have no goose eggs, but the first district to have no goose eggs before our Detachment Seminar. Great Job! We are currently at 51.6%. Remember that membership is the life blood of our organization.

The NCD meetings will be
November 29, 2009 @ Post 195
@1.00p.m.—January 31, 2010 TBD—

April 25, 2010 @ Post 116 @ 1.00p.m. And finish our year at Post 130 on June 5, 2010 for the District Rally.

We will be holding the Bragging Rights Pool Tournament @ the Billiards Club in Havre De Grace, Md. on November 22, 2009. Then we will finish up the 2009 year doing the MCVET's Christmas Party @ MCVET's Center in Baltimore around the middle of December.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America!

Yours In Service;
NCD Commander
Jerry Saunders
saljerry@verizon.net

“Maryland Commitment”

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND

3115 Orchard Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234



NEC NEWS BY ANDY DADDS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

I bring you greetings from National Commander Mark Arneson. Commander Mark spoke about his goals for this year. We will promote membership as always and he has asked each Detachment to recognize 10 Posts in their State who do not have a Squadron and try to charter 5 new squadrons this year.

Seventeen members traveled to Indy to attend the National Executive Committee meetings.

Congratulations to Commander Mark and 1st Vice Commander Tom for completing the Commander's class. While there our members attended the various commission meetings. A meet and greet was held on Saturday for the leading candidates for National Vice Commander. Our very own Joe

Gladden is the leading candidate for the Eastern Region, the Detachment is very proud of Joe and we all stand with him to help him reach his goal.

Membership in the Detachment is doing well. We have surpassed the October goal of 25% and at this time we are at 33.571% which puts us in 12th place. We are only 1.429% behind the November goal of 35%. The Eastern Region is currently in last place.

If your squadron has a successful fundraiser or community event please share this with the National Organization. I am sure PDC Bear who is Vice Chairman for the Public Relation Commission will be able to help you submit your article to the National Update. Let's spread the

word and show everyone how proud we are to be members of the Sons of The American Legion.

General information and additional questions can be found on the National web site, www.sal.legion.org.

Yours In Service

Andy Dadds

NEC

BDADDS@baybroadband.net