



# The Pride



Volume 2009, Issue 4 April 5, 2009

Editor: Bill Matoska Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

## Commander's Corner by Mike Gray

Greetings comrades, I would like to start off by telling you about my trip to Washington DC. Maryland was represented by Joe Gladden, Tom Deal, Bill Hill, Buddy Mastin and I. We went to the World War II Memorial and placed a wreath at the Maryland Column. Then we went to the Viet Nam Memorial Wall, The Korean Memorial and The Nurses Memorial. Then we went to the Tome Of The Unknown Soldier. There we watch our National Commander Tommy Cisna place a wreath. It was so breath taking to watch that ceremony that I got goose bumps. It was an experience I will never forget.

Membership in the Detachment is going well. We have been in the top 10 in the Nation all year long. Let's not stop now. We are still short of our goal of 15,500. Now is the time to call all the members that have not renewed their membership. If you have membership send it in don't hold on to them. We need your help, remember membership is everybody responsibility.

National Veterans Assistance Day is May 16, 2009. Now is the time to start planning an event or project that your Squadron can do to show our veterans our gratitude for their service to our

## Spring Issue

country. Plan an event like a luncheon or dinner and invite those veterans in your community and the ones in your post. Thank them for their service to our country. Plan a work day in your community, go to a veteran's home and do some yard work or paint their shed, porch or a room in their house. Ask around your post and see if a veteran needs some work done to their home that they just can't do themselves. You will be surprised at what you can do to make their life easier.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who made my fundraiser such a huge success. We sold all the tickets two weeks before the event. I believe it was the most people we ever had at this event. I would like to thank

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

**D.E.C. Meeting:** The next meeting of the Detachment of Maryland Executive Committee is on April 5, 2009, hosted by Webster B. Harrison Squadron No. 26 at the post home. The meeting will convene at 1:00 P.M. preceded by the Commission and Committee meetings at 12:00 P.M. The post address is 114 East Main Street, Hancock, Md. 21750 and the post phone number is 301-678-6723. To access the post from the eastern part of the state take I-70 W to Exit 3 and merge onto MD-144/W, Main Street making a slight right. The post is approximately 1 mile after exiting I-70.

At this meeting we will have a special guest, National Vice Commander East, David Downey, from the Detachment of New York. Vice Commander Dave will be arriving on April 4<sup>th</sup> and will accompany Detachment Commander Mike Gray and many of the Detachment Officers at a fund raising benefit for the Hemophilia Foundation and time permitting visit some of the local posts. If the opportunity presents itself don't hesitate to introduce yourself to Vice Commandeer Dave and

share with him some of the good works your squadron is involved in.

**Consolidated Report Form:** The Consolidated Report Forms have arrived from National Headquarters and one has been sent to each Squadron Commander along with a complete Convention Package and Squadron Certification Form. Remember, the cut-off date for all forms and registrations is May 29, 2009 and should be sent to me at 3115 Orchard Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21234. Please make two copies of the Consolidated Report Form before you send it to me and give one to your District Commander for their district report and give one to your Post Commander. As a program sponsored by your post all of the squadron's activities should be added into the Post Consolidated Report

**Legacy Run:** For you bike riders out there the Fourth Annual American Legion Legacy Run motorcycle tour, August 18-23, 2009, starts in Indianapolis, In. and ends at the National Convention site at Louisville, Ky.

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## **Commander's Corner by Mike Gray**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Squadron, Post, and Auxiliary of Susquehanna # 135 in Perryville for hosting the event, preparing the meal, donating the hall. I would like to thank all those who made donation at this event

there were so many I don't want to list them all it would take up this whole news letter and I don't want to mistakenly leave somebody out. I would like to send out a special thank you to Tom Deal. For all his help and guidance he made this event the success it was. Also I would

like to thank all those Detachment Officers who not only bought tickets but gave their time in help running the event.

Yours in Service  
Michael Gray  
Detachment Commander

## **We Treasure Membership by Mark Gilbert**

On January 25, 2009 the Pirates of The Chesapeake met at Guy C. Parlett Post #7. I called on District Commanders to take care of the squadrons that have not turned in dues and had not met the national goal of 75% set for February 11<sup>th</sup> target date. Commander Fred Bennett and the Baltimore District have stepped up. Squadron #187 Brooklyn-Curtis Bay is no longer showing a goose egg and the District went from 69.1% to 82.4%. Also, Commander John Jones and the South Eastern Shore crew are up to 77.3%, and the Western Maryland crew led by Commander Mike Mandish have 75%. Thanks for taking care of business and getting your ships closer to full capacity.

Congratulations to the Three and Four Star Squadrons.

**Three Star Squadrons:** #21 Clarence E. Wilson, #172 Beltway, #196 Suitland, #296 Benedict A. Andrew.

**Four Star Squadrons:** #7 Guy C. Parlett, #39 Harford, #126 My Maryland, #166 Synepuxent, #180 Rosedale, #189 Barton, #263 Jackson & Johnson, #295 Vietnam Veterans.

The Crew Race for the 1/30/2009 report still has the NCD and Commander Larry Ford ahead of the pack with 84.1% earning 7 more points. BD jumped up to second place with 82.4% getting 6 points. Commander Ken Jones has the NESD sitting in third at 81.5% picking up 5 points. Earning 4 points at 77.3% is the SESD. Picking up three points each are SMD with 76.5%, WMD at 75%, and MD sitting at 74.7%.

The Detachment is doing well at 85.1%. At one point we were 1000 members ahead of last years pace. We have slowed a bit and are about 320 ahead of last year at this time. Let's start the second half the way began the year. Notify the members that have not paid that they are delinquent and we would like to keep them as members. And don't stop getting those new members on board.

A right hand salute from The Crows Nest on a great job so far!

Yours in the Pirate of the Chesapeake Brotherhood,  
Mark Gilbert  
1st Vice Commander  
Membership Chairman

## **Casey Cares by Larry Griffin**

**Greetings;**

I would like to remind you golfers that the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf & Tennis Tournament

is coming up in July. Help support this event. I want to Thank the Detachment for their support of the Casey Cares Gala.

Yours In Service  
Larry Griffin

## **Children & Youth Chatter by Buddy Mastin**

Well Spring is here, and the weather is beautiful, minus the rain. It is now time to start rounding out our fiscal year supporting the C&Y programs of The American Legion Family. I would like to first thank all of our members this winter that helped support the Polar Bear Plunge, The Deep Creek Dunk and The Winter Games of the Special Olympics. Because of you The SAL is a big part of the success of Special Olympics in Maryland. Don't forget we have the Summer Games coming up in June and we will need support from our members.

Also thanks for all the support at our Commander's Project (Hemophilia Foundation) fundraisers at Post 7 in January and the Draw Down at Post 135 in March. At those two functions alone, we raised close to \$10,000 for the Hemophilia Foundation, wow. Please do not forget to bring your Squadron donation checks to our April 5<sup>th</sup> Detachment meeting.

Now is the time to start getting all of your donation amounts and volunteer hours together for your consolidated year end reports. We need to let everyone know

what a great job our blue cap members are doing for our community, and we cannot do that if the Squadrons do not fill out the year end reports. We have a little over a month until our reports are due, so you still have plenty of time to get out and help the children of our community by supporting all the great C&Y programs of The American Legion Family.

Yours In Service  
Buddy Mastin  
Children & Youth Chairman

## **Americanism Report** by Ken Jenkins

### **Blood Drives**

At this time of year the need for blood is high but donations are low. So try to get your Post to sponsor a blood drive.

### **Adopt-a Road**

Contact your local jurisdictions for information on how you can adopt a road or highway in you neighborhood

### **Americanism Report Forms**

At the next meeting pick-up the form "What Donations and Hours Can I Put On My Americanism Report". If you can't make it to the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, contact me or your DEC for a copy.

### **Flag Replacement Contest**

This year the top two Squadrons in flag replacements for this year will be receiving special prizes.

The Squadron with the most flag

replacements will receive ...

The Spirit of Freedom American Bald Eagle Sculpture

The sculpture stands 7 ½" high clutching a 2008 Uncirculated Presidential dollar coin clad in mg pure 24kt gold

The second place Squadron will receive ...24kt 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary World Trade Center Commemorative Coin

### **Youth Essay Contest**

Dave Tatman, Sub-committee Chairman has set-up the requirements for the Youth Essay Contest...

Essay title : What my parent's military service means to me.

Contest is now open to all Auxiliary Junior members as well as SAL junior members.

Essays must be between 50 and

200 words

Judging will be in three age categories: 6 to 9., 10 to 13, 14 and above

All essays must be submitted by May 29,2009

A plaque and a \$50 gift certificate will be awarded to the winner in each category.

Send entries to ...

Dave Tatman

6402 Ocelot St.

Waldorf, Md. 20603

Email: dtatman@msn.com

For God and Country,  
Ken Jenkins II  
Americanism Chairman

## **Convention Report** by PDC Mitch Gilbert

Convention packets for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention were distributed at the January 25<sup>th</sup> Detachment Meeting and have been sent to each Squadron by Adjutant Matoska and his crew. If your Squadron has not received the packet you can contact Adjutant Matoska or myself and we'll be happy to get this information to you. The Convention is being held on June 26, 27 & 28, 2009 at Francis Scott Key Post # 11, Frederick MD. 21702. We have an agreement with the Quality Inn for rooms at a rate \$84.00 plus tax. Their phone # is 301-662-5141, use the group code "SAL" when making reservations by phone or on line. The hotel will take checks up to **May 26th** after cash or credit card only will be accepted and the cutoff for guaranteed rooms is **May 30th**. Full Convention Registration Packets and complete information can be obtained on line at the Detachment website.

The cutoff date this year for registrations is **May 29, 2009**. The squadron delegate registration must be in by this date to guarantee Convention Packets. Registration for events such as the bowling , pool and horseshoes will have the fees double after this date. The cutoff for Ad Sales to be turned in is **May 11<sup>th</sup>**.

The golf tournament cutoff is also **May 29<sup>th</sup>** (set cutoff for this tournament) with a maximum of sixteen teams (64 players) total. If you have any questions about this event or registration for it please contact Jeff Seiler, Golf Chairman at 301-695-4439 or JEFSEIL@SAFECO.COM

**NOTE: All squadrons must register and pay the Detachment for their eligible delegate strength to the Convention, in accordance with the membership cutoff, also May 29<sup>th</sup>.**

As well as holding our business convention we also hold a mini Jr. Convention for our younger members. Each year we try to have different fun activities, trips or demonstrations to help gain the interest of these younger members in our organization and to teach them about the ideals which we hold dear.

I strongly encourage all our Squadrons to bring their young members to participate, they are our future.

We are working on having internet activities again this year to appeal to this tech generation and as always I would love to have ideas from these guys to

help us make this event as interesting as possible for them.

At the superstars activities we are working to have beverages and better access to a bathroom or rooms for the kids this year. We will be giving out various awards and prizes again this year.

The members of this committee responsible for the various events have all the venues locked down and everything is set. I would like to thank each and everyone of them for doing such an outstanding job on each of their responsibilities and in doing them in such a timely fashion. The members of this Detachment can look forward to another outstanding Convention again this year, due to their hard work. I also want to give these committee members a special thank you from me for making my first year back as Convention Chairman a painless transition.

Yours in Service,  
Mitch Gilbert  
Convention Chairman  
[MUZYA@aol.com](mailto:MUZYA@aol.com)  
443-286-2629

## **Commander's Project by Ken Jones**

Commander Mike Gray's "Sending Kids To Camp" project is coming to an end, but if your Post, Unit or Sons has not made a contribution, there is still time. The Hemophilia Foundation is a nonprofit group that aids the children of Maryland who have a bleeding disorder. This camp is staffed with a medical staff and director which is on duty 24 hours a day. Camp Freedom as it is called builds confidence,

self-sufficiency positive self-esteem, as well as learning to self-infuse. Our Legion family can contribute by sending donations to Sons of the American Legion

Detachment of Maryland  
3115 Orchard Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21284

with a memo "Sons Sending Kids to Camp".

Special thanks to Squadron 135 for hosting the Draw Down. It was a very successful evening.

Yours in Service,  
Ken Jones  
410-829-9974

## **5th Annual Casey Cares Bike Ride by PDC Bear Weinzirl**

Once again this year, motorcycle enthusiasts from around the state will join together for a day of fun and riding at the 5th annual SAL Detachment of Maryland's "Ride for Casey Cares". This year's ride will be held on Saturday July 25th [rain or shine] and will begin at Harford Post 39 in Bel Air with opening ceremonies commencing at 9:00am.

On this day, we will be taking a nice scenic ride through Harford and Cecil Counties, stopping at other American Legion Posts along the way before our

arrival back at Harford Post 39 for food and beverages. The donation to participate in this ride will be \$25 per rider and \$25 per passenger.

Additional details are being finalized at the present time but this year's ride will also be a "Poker Run". Please mark your calendars and consider joining us on this date and please spread the word to other motorcycle enthusiasts about this ride.

Let's make this ride a huge success as

we raise monies to assist the Casey Cares Foundation in providing uplifting programs with a personal touch to critically ill children and their families. For more info, please contact me at [410] 642-2659 or e-mail me at [nesdsal@aol.com](mailto:nesdsal@aol.com)

Larry "Bear" Weinzirl

Past Detachment Commander/Ride Chairman/

Casey Cares Foundation Board Member

## **Legion Baseball & Membership by Mark Gilbert**

The membership of one of our new Posts has requested the help of the SAL. Columbia Post #300 needs assistance starting up a Legion Baseball Team. The team consists of area youth under 19 years old. This also presents a possibility to charter a new SAL Squadron. We have a unique opportunity to attract new members while helping a Post with a

worthwhile program. If your Post does not sponsor a Legion Baseball team here is a great way to cover that part of the report. The cost to start up a team is over \$5,000. With the help of the SAL we can make this team a reality. Please ask your Squadron to help out with a donation to Post #300 earmarked for the Baseball Team.

Yours in Service to our community and youth,  
Mark Gilbert,  
1st Vice Commander

## **Child Welfare Foundation by Larry Ford**

To raise money for the Child Welfare Foundation this year we will be selling CWF Coins and CWF 2008 Christmas Ornaments. They are great collector's items. The CWF Coin and Christmas Ornament are very handsome looking and we will be selling them for \$10 a piece. Hurry and purchase your Christmas Ornaments soon, before they are all gone. I only have a few left.

Anyone who is interested in purchasing these items please let me know by email: [lafitd@comcast.net](mailto:lafitd@comcast.net) or by phone (cell: 443-413-4710 or home: 410-529-1892).

I will have the CWF Coins and Christmas Ornaments available for purchase at the Spring DEC meeting. It will be held at Hancock Post #26 on Sunday, April 5,

2009. Please open your wallets and give generously for a good cause. Many worthwhile programs have been sponsored with the money that has been raised for the Child Welfare Foundation. Let's make the Detachment of Maryland one of the top givers to CWF this year!

Yours in Service,  
Larry Ford, Chairman

## **Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska**

*(Continued from page 1)*

This year local riders will have the chance to join in the ride locally. For the first time the ride will head east from Indiana into Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and into Kentucky. You can register online at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) (click on "Legion Programs") or contact Bill Sloan at [wsloan@legion.org](mailto:wsloan@legion.org).

**Operation Comfort Warriors:** National

S.A.L. Commander, Tommie Cisna, along with the entire legion family is asking all members to Meet the Challenge. Your help is needed in providing nonessential items to the men and women recovering from war injuries while being cared for in the military hospitals. These items range from loose fitting clothing to i-pods which will be provided to the wounded veterans by the American Legion as needed. The goal is to raise \$50,000 before the holidays and contributing to this most

worthy cause has been made effortless. You can use your credit card to make an online donation at [www.legion.org/ocw](http://www.legion.org/ocw) or you can mail a check to Operation Comfort Warriors, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, In. 46206.

Yours In Service,  
Bill Matoska  
Detachment Adjutant

## **Time and Place by Bill Stem**

You can now make your reservations for rooms for this years convention. Call the Quality Inn Frederick at (301) 662-5141. The cost for the rooms are \$84 plus tax per night.

Remember to pay for all delegates you are entitled to.

Even if your Squadron is not attending. Failure to do so will result in you not

getting your 2010 membership cards until they are paid for. The cost is \$15 per delegate.

We are looking for a place for the 2010 Convention.

Convention Requirement Information Sheets can found on the Deataachment website or call/or email me I will see you get one.

Email: [wstem84809@aol.com](mailto:wstem84809@aol.com)

Cel: 410 598-9355

Home: 410 526-6559

For God and Country  
Bill Stem  
Chairman

## **VAVS Variety by Tom Deal**

At the last DEC meeting, PNC Sparwasser asked for our help with the MCVET Center. They are in need of clothing, personnel care items, etc and if you can give a cash donation that would be great also. Let's get busy and bring in anything you can to help them to the DEC meeting. If you need help getting items or have a lot of bulky items give me a call so I can make arrange to transport them to MCVET Center.

National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans week was February 9-13. The Md. VA Healthcare system purchased a gift

valued at \$15 for distribution at Baltimore, Perrypoint and BREC. Over 700 hospitalized veterans received this gift. The gift handed out made a lot of happy faces. National Veterans Assistance Day is May 16, 2009. Promote this day at your Post and in your community, show respect for the grateful nations veterans and the role they had in securing our freedoms. There are plenty of programs to support; Fisher House, Hero's to Hometown, Veterans Suicide Prevention, Bowling Veterans League, National Education for Assistance Dog Service (NEADS), Homeless Veteran

initiatives and the Creative Arts Festival in addition to all our centers: Perry Point VA Center, Baltimore VA Medical Center, BRECC, MCVET, and Charlotte Hall Nursing Home. I hope you will pick a project and make a donation.

My phone number is 410-642-2561 and my e-mail is [tom.deal@verizon.net](mailto:tom.deal@verizon.net) feel free to ask any question or to offer assistance or an idea.

Serving all Veterans  
Tom Deal  
VAVS Chairman

## **Legislative by Bill Stem**

Please, everyone contact your legislator in Annapolis and encourage them to vote for the the non-profit slots bill. We have a good chance of getting it passed this year but we need your voices to be heard. The squeaky wheel gets the oil so be a squeaky wheel.

Also call, email, or fax you Congressman

and have him or her help sponsor H.R. Bill 816. This bill will stop the Dept. of Defense from raising the cost of medical care and pharmacy benefits for our veterans. Once again we need your voice.

If you have legislative questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Email: [wstem84809@aol.com](mailto:wstem84809@aol.com)

Cell: 410 598-9355

Home: 410 526-6559

Your in Service  
Bill Stem Chairman

# District News

## Northern Central News

At our 3<sup>rd</sup> NCD Meeting at Essex Post #148 on February 15, 2009, we had a representative and a recipient of the VetDogs Program to come and speak about the program. They were very informative and interesting. The Annual Pool Tournament was held at Havre de Grace Billiards Club and started at 11:00 P.M.. Everybody had fun and we raised money for VetDogs. Thank you Jerry Saunders for arranging this event. A job well done. Our 4<sup>th</sup> NCD Meeting and Annual NCD Picnic will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at Edgewood Post #17. Plan to attend and bring the family. We will have good food and old fashion games for all. Also mark on your calendars to come and help with our Annual BREC Picnic on April 25, 2009. On May 9, 2009 we will have our Bike Ride to benefit VetDogs. All motorcycle riders plan to attend, but the event is not limited to motorcycles only. Cars are welcomed. The ride starts and ends at Towson Post #22. The NCD Atlantic City Bus Trip on May 16, 2009 has been sold out. This will be our big fundraiser for VetDogs. Please try to attend the NCD meetings and activities.

My Commander's Project is VetDogs. What is VetDogs? "Helping those who have served our country honorably to live with dignity and independence whether they are visually impaired or have other special needs, by using guide dogs, service dogs and innovative

technologies." VetDogs train and supply guide dogs for the visually impaired veterans, service dogs for veterans with disabilities other than blindness, and have trained physical therapy dogs. Also available for visually impaired veterans is Trekker, an orientation aid that uses GPS technology and digital maps to help blinded veterans navigate unfamiliar territory. VetDogs services are provided at no cost to the veteran!

I want to congratulate all seventeen Squadrons in North Central District for the great job they have been doing with membership. We have been #1 in membership until the week of 3/16/09-3/20/09. **The year is not over. Let's get the membership downtown, so we can become #1 again.** We already have four, 4 Star Squadrons, Harford #39, Rosedale #180, Slate Ridge #182 and Jackson and Johnson #263 and many Squadrons close to becoming 3 Star and/or 4 Star. I am so proud of each and every Squadron in NCD and want to personally say thank you for all your hard work!

**Remember all Squadron Reports are due into District Chairman on or before May 29, 2009.**

Be sure to fly your flag.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America.!

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 19, 2009	4 <sup>th</sup> NCD Meeting & NCD Picnic at Edgewood Post #17 – 1:00 P.M.
April 25, 2009	Spring Picnic at the BREC Center
May 9, 2009	Annual NCD Bike Ride – 9:00 A.M.
May 16, 2009	Atlantic City Bus Trip – 11:00 A.M.
May 29, 2009	All Squadron Reports Due into District Chairman
June 6, 2009	District Rally at Joseph L. Davis Post #47 – 6:00 P.M.
June 26-28, 2009	Detachment Convention
Forever in Service to Our God and Our Country,	
Larry Ford NCD Commander Cell: 443-413-4710 Home: 410-529-1892 Work: 410-435-6211 Email: lafltd@comcast.net	

## Western Maryland Tribune

Greetings from the Western Maryland District. Squadrons are in full swing with programs and membership. I would like to congratulate Squadrons 10, 31, 121 and 191 for achieving Four Star status. Hats off go out to Carroll and Frederick Counties for being Four Star counties.

We look forward to having everyone throughout the State of Maryland visit our district at the next Detachment meeting at Webster B. Harrison Squadron #26 in Hancock.

Yours in service,

Michael Mandish

Western MD District Commander

## **Northeastern Shore Gazette**

I want to congratulate Clarence E. Wilson Squadron 21 and Sgt. Preston Ashley, Squadron 228 and Benedict A. Andrew Squadron 296 for achieving 3 Star. Many of our Squadrons are close to becoming 3 Star and or 4 Star. Keep up the good work.

At our last meeting, Tom Deal from Squadron 135 was unanimously endorsed for the high office of Detachment of Maryland as 1st Vice Commander for 2009-2010. There is no doubt Tom will do an outstanding job. Larry Griffin from Squadron 29 was endorsed as the Finance Officer position

for the Detachment and Ken Jones, also from Squadron 29, Denton, MD was endorsed for Detachment Chaplain for 2009-2010.

Bear Weinzerl is still recovering from his nasty fall. Let's all hope and pray for his speedy recovery.

Jeff Davis Post 18 will be hosting a horse shoe tournament on April 4 and a yard sale on April 11. Hope to see you there.

Please remember now is the time to start collecting all the info for your Squadron's consolidated reports which will be due

May 29. Make sure you send a copy to Bear Weinzerl, P.O. Box 578, Perryville, MD 21903. His phone number is 410-642-2659. Our next Northeastern Shore meeting will be June 7, 2009 at Susquehanna Post 135, 300 Cherry Street in Perryville, MD at 10:30.

The district reception is on Sunday, April 26 at Kent Island Post 278 in Stevensville, MD.

Yours in Service,  
Ken Jones  
NESD Commander

## **Southern Maryland Times**

Thank you to all the Squadrons who have sent in membership. All Squadrons should be at 90% membership by April 8<sup>th</sup>. Over half of our Squadrons have not reached that goal yet, so let's get the ball rolling. We have five Four Star Squadrons. They are Squadrons 7, 82, 126, 268 and 295. We have four Three Star Squadrons. They are Squadrons 34,

172, 196 and 259. Thank you to all these Squadrons.

Our next SMD District meeting will be Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> at Laurel Post #60 at 1 p.m. We will holding a class after the meeting for anyone who needs help filling out their yearend consolidated reports. All Squadrons need to make an

extra copy of the report for the District and send it to:

P.O. Box 773  
Crownsville Md. 21032

Yours In Service  
Tom Eloshway

## **South Eastern Shore Harold**

It is spring time once again and it is time for the SESD to spring into action to get our membership rolling hard to move up the ladder towards 1st place. I am asking for all squadrons in the SESD to get rolling on our membership. It's time we make our move to bring on membership to get us to the top. I would like to thank all the squadrons that have been attending the squadron district meetings.

The Sons of The American Legion is

having our Annual Convention at the Francis Scott Key Post #11 in Frederick, MD this coming June. More details on the convention will be coming later. Also all squadrons please keep good records of all of the donations, time, fundraisers, and volunteer services that you have done for the communities during the current and past year in order to fill out your annual reports. Again lets all spring into action to move our membership to the top of the standings. And also to get our reports

completed in full once again.

For God and Country  
John E. Jones Jr. SESD Commander  
133b Mitchell Road  
Salisbury, MD 21801-1492  
410-603-2853-cell  
410-202-8787-video ph.  
[Jjones4749@aol.com](mailto:Jjones4749@aol.com)

## **NEC News** by Andy Dadds

*(Continued from page 8)*

possible. We want to spread the word about what individuals, Squadrons, Districts and Detachments are doing to further the work of The American Legion and the Sons. If you have something you

think should be included in an upcoming issue of the National Update, e-mail it to: c/o Mike Pipher, Editor  
[mpipher@indiana.edu](mailto:mpipher@indiana.edu)

General information and additional questions can be found on the National

web site, [www.sal.legion.org](http://www.sal.legion.org).

Yours In Service  
Andy Dadds  
NEC

# “Sons Sending Kids To Camp”

## Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland

3115 Orchard Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21234

We're on The Web!

Visit It Us At [www.salmd.org](http://www.salmd.org)



## **NEC News** by *Andy Dadds National Executive Committeemen*

I bring you greetings from National Commander Tommie Cisna. The paragraph below is a summary of his recent comments from the National Website:

“We have been doing an outstanding job with membership.” “The fairways are well groomed and the greens are in perfect condition for a fun time.” The Oratorical contests are starting and continuing for the next few months. If you have a chance to help out contact your post or Department/Detachment. If you have not attended a competition you are encouraged to attend. National Commander Cisna had the great honor of representing The Sons of The American Legion at the Inauguration of The President of The United States. He will wear The Sons emblem proudly. National Commander Cisna sends his thanks to the Sons for stepping up to donate to Operation Comfort Warriors. He encourages us to continue to help. “Remember that Veterans, Our Priceless Heritage, are what we are here for and

helping them is the right thing to do.” Commander Cisna wants us to keep spreading the word about The Sons and what we do. We are encouraged to check out the consolidated report for 2008.

Membership for the Eastern Region is doing well with several Detachments at or above goal. As of February our Region stands in at 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Nationally Detachment of Maryland stands in 13<sup>th</sup> place at 82.575% of goal and 2<sup>nd</sup> in our Region. Our renewal for 2009 is 75.35% which puts us in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Keep up the good work.

Here are a few more FAQ's that the National Chairmen receive taken from the National Website:

**How large is the Sons of The American Legion?** Each year since 1982, the Sons of The American Legion have set a new all-time high in membership. Currently, there are more than 300,000 members of the Sons in this country and abroad.

**Why would someone want to join the**

**Sons?** Different people have different reasons for belonging to organizations. For many, membership in the Sons has allowed them to become involved in American Legion programs alongside their fathers. Others belong out of respect for their parents' and grandparents' service to our country in the military. Many younger members get involved and learn valuable leadership skills involving organization, public speaking, negotiating, budgeting and fundraising skills. Membership in our organization also provides individuals with opportunities to forge lifelong friendships with people who share a common bond.

**Can I submit information about my Squadron/Detachment for publication?**

Yes! Anyone is welcome to submit ideas, stories, newspaper clippings, photos, etc for consideration. We can never guarantee that everything sent in will get published, but we do our best to include information from as many sources as

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