



“The Pride”

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

www.mdsal.org

Volume 2016/2017: Issue 4
Spring Issue - April 2, 2017

Commander’s Corner

Dear American Legion Family Members,

With 2016 behind us, I’d like to thank all the blue cap members, all squadron officers and District Commanders within the great Detachment of Maryland. At the conclusion of 2016, it was reported by our National headquarters, as The Detachment of Maryland hit an all-time high in membership, surpassing 17,000 members. Keep up the great work growing our origination. As a reminder, our National Commander Jeff Frain, from Arizona, has issued a challenge to all of us. There are 22 million Veterans in this country who are not members of The American Legion. We must take it upon ourselves and ask each Veteran, would they consider joining The American Legion. This will grow and expand our American Legion Family.

At the end of January 2017, our American Legion Family here in Maryland, had a great turnout for the polar plunge in Annapolis, Maryland. The money raised benefits Special Olympics of Maryland. Following the polar plunge we then traveled to Ocean City for an action packed weekend. The Detachment of Maryland officers hosted a hospitality room at the Grand Hotel. On Saturday morning at the Grand, PNC Gannon and PNC Sparwasser provided a comprehensive training class on the “Knowledge of Power”, the theme of National Commander, Jeff Frain.

National Commander Frain spoke to members of the class. Then Department of Maryland Commander Pat McCoy addressed the class and “thanked” the SAL for their support. Paulette Caron, Department Auxiliary President spoke to the class as well. Later that day, a fundraiser held at American Legion Post 166 was held. Proceeds directly benefits Special Olympics of Maryland, bowling tournament.

On Sunday, I held my third DEC meeting at American Legion Post 166. It was reported that the fundraiser held the day before, raised more than \$8k. An addition, \$16k in donations for my Commander’s project and all other programs of The American Legion were collected. A grand total of more than \$24k that weekend was raised. I would like “thank” everyone who donated and helped make this weekend a huge success.

On Sunday February 26th, The Washington Conference kicked off with nearly 75 members of the Sons of The American Legion from around our great country. We started that day visiting Arlington National Cemetery. I attended with National Commander Frain at Arlington National Cemetery who laid a wreath at the Tomb of The Unknown. I had the privilege of laying a wreath at the Korean War Memorial. Later that day, I traveled to the winter games for Special Olympics of Maryland, in which I volunteered for two days.

In addition to the Commander’s challenge, I am issuing an American Legion Family challenge to all squadrons. This challenge will require additional donations to American Legion Baseball, which is the project of choice of Department Commander for The American Legion Ms. Pat McCoy, Heroes Haven the program of my choice and “Veterans Suicide Prevention” project of choice for Department of MD Auxiliary President Ms. Paulette Caron. Please sponsor Boy state and Girl state. Even if you can’t find candidates, the Department will accept donation in support of these programs. And of course, The Department is always looking for volunteers to work these programs.

Our next DEC meeting will be held on Sunday, April 2, 2017. Time is 1pm at American Legion Post 194 in Rising Sun Maryland. Hope to see everyone there. Thanks for all your support.

“Serving Our Injured Heroes”

Ray Edwards

Commander
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion

Adjutant’s Corner

Spring D.E.C.: The upcoming Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Edwards, on April 2, 2017 at

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1:00 P.M.

The meeting is being hosted at Mason Dixon Post 194, located at 338 E Main St, Rising Sun, MD 21911

Phone: (410) 658-9078

Spring Training Session:

The following Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will include Training at the post, prior to the meeting. We will review Consolidated Reports and how to complete them. Bring your finance reports, meeting minutes and questions. We're positive there's not a question about the Consolidated Report that you can ask, that can't be answered. Try and stump the trainer!!

Yours In Service,
Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant
MatoskaW@Yahoo.Com

443-710-9664

Commander's Project

Heroes Haven

Hello Again,
Our Commanders Project Heroes Haven is such a worthy cause and yet there is still so much more it can and will do. More can happen with your help!! More trips to hospitals, more trips to doctors, moving our injured Heroes around during the trips sponsored by Heroes Haven, all this can be made easier with a purchase of a vehicle that would belong to Heroes Haven. That is a big way that you can help. Your donations this year to the Commanders Project will help buy the vehicle they need. Hopefully even more than just a vehicle.

Heroes Haven has shown some great hospitality to our injured Heroes on hunting trips, fishing trips, trips to Dover to watch a car race carrying the name and logo of Heroes Haven on it. But that is not all Heroes Haven is

about, the program is willing to do all it can for our wounded Heroes and help our veterans that are not wounded also. This program was started by people that believe in assisting our soldiers and veterans and has now expanded to our first responders. A great program very worthy of all your donations and support.

We want to Thank Squadron 135 and Post 135 Legion Family of Perryville for holding a great night of fun this past March 4th and we raised a lot of money too. Over \$22,000.00 was turned in and raised to support the Commanders Project, Heroes Haven. Thanks Squadron 135 and all of those that traveled to support this great yearly event for all you do.

We still have a couple more events coming up that can help us raise money. On April 14th Squadron 40 will hold their Annual Steak dinner to support the Commanders Project. It's a Friday night special at Post 40 and you will want to get your tickets in advance. Tickets are only 15.00 each and you can contact PDC JR Hall if you want them. Cut off for tickets will be April 8th. There will also be more fun and games of chance to raise money that evening at Post 40.

The Heroes Haven Annual Crab feast will be held June 17th in Sharptown and as many of you know this is a sellout every year. Do not wait to get your tickets for this great event. See Commander Edwards or a member of Heroes Haven for ticket information.

We have started coming down the home stretch folks and time to get those donations together and help the programs we support. Help support our Commanders Project, Heroes Haven.

Serving Those that Served,

Don "JR" Hall
Project Chairman

Let's go Fishing for MEMBERSHIP!

Guys, we seem to be getting real tight on this membership, NCD is still in 1st at 91 % but man the mountain district came out of nowhere and moved all the way up to 2nd place at 89.29%, look out Commander Keys they are right on your heels . Great job Mountain district keep up the great work. I went to the Baltimore district meeting and they assured me they are working on membership they know what they need to do and will correct it by the cut -off date. We are looking pretty good as a Detachment at 85.83% right now but I know we can do better.



So let's continue to fish for those members and get to 100% before our next meeting in April. Thanks guys for all your hard work.

"Serving Our Country's Injured Heroes "

Dave Hullihen, Membership Chairman

1st Vice Commander

DaveH.195@hotmail.com

Americanism Report

Although we had a mild winter in Maryland, spring is around the corner and soon the squadrons will need to start preparing for the year end consolidated reports. This is your chance to make your squadron shine by demonstrating and reporting all your accomplishments over the last year. For those of you that still want to make donations to the Americanism program, now is the time to send them in. Also make sure you tally all your volunteer hours and ensure they are entered on your consolidated report. We want to make sure your squadron receives credit for their generosity at convention.

The Americanism team wants to thank each of you for your continued support.

Yours in Service,

Americanism Chairman
Joe Lohman

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Flag Replacement Program:

Try to help your Post out by purchasing Flags for our Veterans, for the Veteran's Holidays, local businesses and homes in our community. You should think about doing a Flag Retirement Program/ Ceremony that properly disposes unserviceable or torn Flags.

Please keep a record of Flags that you have replaced. Forms are also on the Detachment of Maryland website. Let's get out there and replace those worn out flags.

For God and Country,
Leon Miller
Chairman

Boys State

The online registration of boys for the program has netted 12 completed applications as of the end of January. There were 41 that have created an account and 34 that are working on the application. Remember all applications must be done on-line. If any boy has turned in an old form please advise them to go online and do the form, they can scan and upload what they already have. The boy can go to www.mdlegion.org/boysstate and apply.

Now is the time for the squadron to ask their Post, what can we do to assist in sending a boy to this great program or if the squadron sponsors a boy here are some ideas. Have a fundraiser, a 50/50 raffle, or put out a jar in the Post's lounge with the Post's permission. Also, don't forget you can go out in your community and solicit funds from businesses or alumni of this program to get sponsors for Boys State.

Remember if you give your Post a donation to sponsor a boy to this great program, please bring a copy of that check to the next Detachment meeting so your squadron gets credit and don't forget to report the amount on your squadron consolidated report. If your squadron would like to give a donation at

the next detachment meeting you may do so. Remember to earmark your check MD Boys State.

How many squadrons know who their Post's Chairperson for Boys State is. That person is usually very knowledgeable about the program and you may find out that person is on the Boys State staff. Also, they are the liaison between the post, schools, and the Boys State Committee.

The objective for each Post in the state with the help of their squadron should be to send one boy to this program. If your post or squadron cannot afford the donation do not quit there have the boy send in his application. The committee will find a post or squadron or somebody to sponsor him. The next Boys State meeting will have already been held at Post 276 in Severn on March 11 2017 starting at 10 am. If you need information concerning Boys State, please contact me.

Dennis J. Renahan
Committee Chairman
Boys State Staff
Fort City CIC
dawgtrucker@yahoo.com
410-330-3003

National Emergency Fund:

The National Emergency Fund continues to need our help. The National Emergency Fund has been quite busy supporting our fellow members from all the recent natural disasters around our country. In February we had a tornado in Southern Maryland. We were fortunate enough that no one was hurt and damage was minimal. However, with your continued support, the NEF would have been able to assist if the tornado was more severe and caused significant damage to our community.

Yours in Service,
Chairman Drain Plummer-El
NEF Chairman

Community Affairs:

Mother Nature was nice to us this winter and we did not get a chance to help our community and older veterans with shoveling snow of the driveways this winter, but we can now focus on spring activities. You can start by supporting your local little leagues, softball leagues

and other youth sports programs! Many areas are in need of community clean up and "Adopt a Road" programs.

Remember to keep an eye on our older veterans as the days begin to warm up.

Yours in Service,
Leon Adkins—Chairman

Five-Star Program:

The Five-Star award program is for all members of The Sons of The American Legion who show dedication and knowledge in the Five-Point program of service consisting of the following: Patriotism, Citizenship, Discipline, Leadership and Legionism. More information will be provided at the DEC meeting.

Yours in Service,
Americanism Chairman
Joe Lohman

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

I was giving some thought on what we do for our community and veterans and how it has influenced me and my family. With this in mind I would like to ask, are we doing everything possible to get our youth involved?

This committee is focused on Children & Youth but I was wondering is there more we can do to get our youth involved.

We, the men of the SAL put a lot of time and effort into volunteering but do we invite the youth to volunteer alongside us?

Do we really show them how rewarding it is and how they can make a difference? I am asking each of you to give this some thought and to think of how you can get a junior member more involved so they get the same rewarding feeling we do, this will help us prepare them as our future leaders.

Would like to send a thank you to all the volunteer that helped out with the Maryland Special Olympics Winter Games. The athletes practice so hard for the games and we should be proud in helping them get the opportunity to participate. You still have a chance to let our youth watch the athletes smiles at the

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Summer Games, look for more information in the coming newsletters?

Remember to encourage our members to involve our youth when we collect pajamas for Casey Cares, donate movie tickets, dinner certificates or sporting event tickets so the families could get out and forget about their problems for the evening.

Don't forget about the donations needed for other American Legion programs that we also support like Children's Miracle Network and Child Welfare Foundation so The American Legion can issue grants to needy families to help their children.

There are is always a way to help, just mark your calendar and make it happen! So once again let's continue to support all of our children and youth projects this year

Yours in Service,
Jim Alexander
Children & Youth Chairman

Casey Cares Newsletter

The Casey Cares Foundation provides ongoing programs to the critically ill children and their families. You can check every program on www.caseycares.org for many ways to make a difference to many children.

Casey Cares is always in need of pajamas for all ages for children and adults. Please keep collecting pajamas or make donations for the KAMI Jammies program or just a monetary donation for Casey Cares.

A donation to Casey cares would go to some of their programs like providing tickets to shows, concerts and sporting events. Another example of their programs is a celebration vacation which would provide a weekend away to relax.

There are many things a donation could be beneficial. Please find in your hearts to donate soon.

The Casey Cares 7th annual Gala will be held on March 25, 2017! Get info and buy tickets by going to caseycares.org.

Robert Keys (Bob)
Chairman-Casey Cares
Cell 443-756-1152
keysrak@Verizon.net

Child Welfare Foundation

"Dedicated to the betterment of all children"

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's purpose is:

"To contribute to the physical, mental emotional and spiritual needs of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and their programs."

"To make wider, more effective use of the knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations to the end that such information will benefit youth and be more adequately used by society."

Try to set a goal for your donation to Child Welfare Foundation. Set a reasonable amount per member in your squadron, that you feel you can achieve. Each squadron donating a least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year will receive a beautiful banner/streamer.

Have fundraisers to reach your goal. Please contact me if you want some ideas for your fundraisers. Also, if you need promotional materials, please let me know.

Let's all work together for this worthy cause.

Yours In Service,
Larry Ford
CWF Chairman

Special Olympics— Maryland

Hello Once Again to All,
Folks let's start out by Thanking everyone that came down to Ocean City

and helped Saturday afternoon as we raised over \$8,000.00 towards next years bowling tournament for Special Olympics. What a great weekend, as it kicked off with Commander Edwards and National Commander Jeff Frain presenting a check for \$18,000.00 to Special Olympics CEO Jim Smutz in front of thousands at the Polar Bear Plunge on Friday. Speaking of the plunge, let's also Thank all the members of the Plunge team that braved the cold waters of the Chesapeake to raise over \$10,000.00 for Special Olympic athletes. We hope next year to see you out there again.

The Winter Games just wrapped up and the Sons of The American Legion had great representation at White Tail Resort to work the games. This is a tradition of love that has been going on for many years and we are all glad to see many of our volunteers make the trip up to help work the games. Thank to all that gave their time and efforts to make the Winter Games a success.

Summer games are just around the corner in June and are not that far away in Towson. If you are interested in volunteering at the Summer games just let us know and we will happy to get you signed up.

Don't forget to sell those raffle tickets to support the bowling tournament. On behalf of all the great athletes of Special Olympics of Maryland, Thanks for all you do to support this great program.

Hope to See Ya Soon,
Serving Those that Served,

J.R. Hall
SOMD Chairman

Legislative Alert!

Washington Conference was February 26th to March 1st with the tours of Arlington National Cemetery, Korean War Memorial and Vietnam Memorial on Sunday February 26. National SAL Commander Jeff Frain placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns to start out the day.

(L to R) 2nd Vice Commanders Jim

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Alexander, Commander Ray Edwards, PDC Bear Weinzirl and PDC Tom Deal represented Maryland on the tours.

Commander Edwards placed a Wreath at the Korean War Memorial in honor of his father's service.



(L to R) PDC Bear Weinzirl, PDC Tom Deal, Nat'l SAL Commander Jeff Frain (AZ), Commander Ray Edwards and 2nd Vice Commanders Jim Alexander.

Twenty-Five Detachments were represented laying Wreaths and visiting the memorials during the day. At the conference, American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt revealed the American Legion's Legislative Agenda for the 115th Congress.

Here are the topics in no particular order: Fully fund a superior national defense as the global war on terror continues; Limit outsourcing, unify VA's programs; Reform VA's claims appeals process; Institute gender-specific health care for women; Reclassify cannabis for medical research; Support those who care for wounded veterans; Provide mandatory end-of service exams for reservists; Repeal unfair offsets that penalize disabled veterans and widows; Defend veterans education benefits; Ensure those returning from active duty retain re-employment rights; Support veteran-owned small business; Continue funding programs to end veteran

homelessness; Create an American Legion Commemorative Coin; Protect the American Flag.

I will have a brochure on the table at the DEC meeting with more information on each of these objectives. I can also e-mail a copy of it if needed. Pick 2-3 that you can speak to your representatives about and help push for better care of our veterans. We need to get involved and help our country get stronger with better representatives that are for the people and our veterans. For those running for reelection you can see how they voted at the web site below but it does take a little digging. Web site for all to take a look at: www.congress.gov.

The information is sometimes overwhelming however it is easily accessible and you can find any current legislation. <http://www.legion.org/legislative> scroll down to LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER and go to the Take Action page. I will still send out e-mails when I get them but most of the time we need to act fast and e-mails are not the way to do business.

Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
tom.deal@verizon.net

VAWS Variety

The holiday season is over and I hope you were able to visit with veterans over the holiday season. The Holiday Gift program at the VA centers was a great success, the gift bags that were handed out brought happiness to our veterans. Perry Point VA: Our upcoming event is Salute to Veterans Week, February 12-18, each veteran will receive a gift bag. We are looking for donations. I am looking forward to seeing and learning more about all that is being done for our Veterans and how the Sons of The American Legion can help. Remember as you are making plans for the rest of the year to include a visit to a veteran's home.

Yours in Service,

VA&R Chairman
Bob Manzo

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION COMMISSION

"Remember"

"How your Squadron help?" By assigning members of your Squadron to your own VE&E Commission/Committee to assist us in getting this info out to your local Veterans that can benefit from it.

"Where to find this information and how we can get it out to the Veterans?" By going online and finding local job fairs and benefits available in your state. Then by taking this info, as well as info received from National or Detachment, and placing it on your Squadron/Post websites and Facebook pages as well as in your newsletters. Also by printing it out and posting it on your Post's bulletin board and in other locations around your community where local Veterans will see it. You can also request that your Post e-mail this info out to their members. Be creative with your distribution. When you leave the military, the biggest question is **"What's next?"** Your Squadron can help with the answer to this question by providing this information to our Veterans. Please assist us in making this new Sons of The American Legion Commission a successful one nationwide while assisting the "Heroes" who have kept America and everyone in it free and safe.

Larry "Bear" Weinzirl
National VE&E Chairman

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is now accepting online donations. All online donations go to the Veterans Assistance Fund, which is used to assist residents with such needs as dental and optometry costs, Final Honors arrangements, personal care items, various sponsorship projects, and activities in and outside the Home. If you are interested in supporting the veterans and their

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spouses, visit the Donations page on the website, www.charhall.org.

The Southern Maryland District continues to hold a bingo at the CHVH on the third Monday of each month. Two hundred dollars are given out to residents at each bingo. The Bingos hand out \$2,400 a year, so please consider making a donation. If you are interested in volunteering your time contact PDC Buddy Mastin or myself. Additional help is always welcome. To make a monetary donation, send checks to SMD Finance Officer Al Rhodes at P.O. Box 56521, Virginia Beach, VA 23456, with a copy to Detachment Adjutant Bill Matoska. If you would like to find out more about other opportunities to help, contact me or visit their website, www.charhall.org, and look under donations. All donations should be accompanied by a Donation Form which can be found on the website.

For God and Country,
Dave Tatman
CHVH Representative
tatman_david@comcast.net
301-645-1537

Maryland Center for Veteran's Training & Education (MCVET)

Thank you goes out to the Northern Central District for preparing and serving a fantastic lunch during the St. Patrick's weekend. Spring is knocking on our door and so will the additional support for programs like MCVET. So please take a moment to extend a helping hand to Our Veterans, and make a donation of any kind. As always all donations and support are greatly appreciated and as we come to the end of our administrative year, I would like to extend a "right hand salute" to all of the American Legion Family, who have supported MCVET's over the years! You are GREATLY APPRECIATED!

MCVET 5K / 10K Walk-Run

May 28, 2017 — Come out and support this great event. Run, walk or stroll at your own pace. Information is available on the MCVET website: www.MCVET.org

If you would like to know more about how you or your squadron, post, unit or ALR is able to help support this program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

For God and Country,
Bill Hill
Detachment Liaison

Chaplin's Corner

Please let me know if anybody is sick or has passed away. Also, contact me if anybody would like a service at the funeral home or at the grave site.

For God and Country
In His Service,

Mark Fayer
Email: markfayersr@outlook.com
Cell: 443-413-4710

Time and Place Committee



We're heading back to Laurel for the 44th Annual Convention!

Reminder this time, we will hold the Convention at the DoubleTree, by Hilton.

Each notification within the "Time and Place Committee", which outlines the location, date and times for the convention, are considered "Official Announcements" to all eligible members in good standing within the Detachment of Maryland. Therefore, you have been advised if you are reading this article.

Now with that said, let the planning begin. Each squadron should begin to look at their accomplishments to-date, so they may capture them on their "Consolidated Report Form", which will be sent to them shortly from the Detachment. Along with determining who is attending as a delegate from their squadron.

Delegate Allowance: Article V – Legislative Body

Section 3. -- In the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Maryland Convention, each Squadron in good standing with at least ten (10)

active members shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one additional delegate for each additional twenty-five (25) members.

Reminder, that a "Delegate at Large from your Squadron is any member who is either a; District Commander, Detachment Officer or a Past Detachment Commander.

Also, each squadron is required to pay for their "full delegate fees" in order to receive their "new" membership cards, as well as submit a 2017–2018 Squadron Certification form, which identifies your new officers. "No Exceptions"

Details for bowling and other events will be detailed in the convention packages being distributed shortly after the new year and will be updated on our website www.mdsal.org.

"Serving Our Country's Injured Heroes "

Bill Hill (PDC)
Chairman

North Eastern Shore Times

Hello Comrades,

As we get closer to the end of 2016-2017 year, I would like to Thank You for your commitment to the American Legion programs and Our Veterans.

As you all know our Detachment Commander, Ray Edwards project this year is Heroes Haven, and his goal is to raise enough money to purchase a van to transport Our Veterans to events hosted by Heroes Haven. I am asking for all squadrons in the NESD to give their support to this project. The District voted to done one thousand dollars to Heroes Haven.

NESD held their District meeting on February 26th at Caroline Pot 29. Our meeting was well attended. Our guest where; NESD American Legion Commander Larry Crouch and Detachment 3rd Vice Commander & VAVS Chairman, Bob Manzo. At the meeting, I asked that all squadrons in our District participate in a Pajama drive for Casey Cares. We Pajamas for the children and adults, please make this a Legion Family effort. I would also like to thank you all on your participation of the Lottery Raffle, which was a huge success and a special Thanks to PDC Tom Deal. Great job!

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Karl Kibler has distributed the convention packages to all squadrons along with the consolidated report forms. At the next DEC meeting on April 2nd, at Post 194 PNC William Sparwasser will be holding a seminar on how to complete the report correctly. I encourage all Commanders and Adjutants to attend. This will begin at 11:00 a.m. Please bring your meeting notes and finance reports. Remember, membership is still the number one goal. We are in 2nd place at 86.89%. Let's pick up the pace guys, we need 286 members to reach 4 Star.

Upcoming Events:

Squadron 296 - Fish Fry on April 8th
Squadron 77 - Fish Fry on April 14th

“Serving Our Country's Injured Heroes “

Freddie Taylor

Commander: N.E.S.D.

Northern Central News

Greetings from Northern Central District. I want to thank all Squadrons for getting their dues turned in. As of writing the article NCD is in 1st place. NCD had a membership rally and awarded everyone with 90 % and above for paid membership. Congratulations to all. A special thank you to Rosedale Post 180 for hosting the NCD Rally and thank you to the Rally committee.

On Sunday February 26, 2017, the NCD annual pool tournament took place. The first, second and third place winners were awarded cash prizes. There were 23 pool shooters. It was a great turn out. Thank you, Jerry Saunders, for another great fund-raiser. The winner of the pool stick was Squadron 130. Thank you to all who participated, volunteered and donated to the McVets St. Patty's Day luncheon which was held on March 18 at MCVET. Great job Bill Yeagy and all the volunteers.

Our next event is Heroes Haven Charlestown Casino bus trip. On April 22, 2017. Anyone wanting to go on the bus trip please contact Dave Hullihen at 410-446-5468. There will be locations for bus departure. There will be cash back for gambling with your ticket, a small

box lunch and drinks for the trip. It is a great time on the ride to the casino. If you don't feel like gambling in the casino there will also be horse racing available. Call Dave for all details. All donations are appreciated.

May 13, 2017 there will be a VAVS spring cook-out at Loch Raven. Volunteers and donations are needed. Anyone that wants to join us, it is a great time. Please contact Bill Yeagy at 443-619-8797. We need food donations and soda donations and plenty of help.

Our next NCD meeting is on Sunday April 9, 2017 at 1:00 pm at Harford Post 39. Please, please try to attend. Please bring all your donations.

For God and Country,

Bob Keys

NCD Commander

keysrak@verizon.net

NEC Update!

I bring you greetings from National Commander Jeff Frain. Commander Jeff's theme this year is “Knowledge is Power.” Commander Jeff wants to emphasize the importance of training S.A.L. members from the squadron level all the way up through the national level. Commander Frain enjoyed Maryland's hospitality during his visit to Ocean City for our Winter DEC. Commander and his Aid sat in on our training Saturday at PNC Sparwasser and PNC Gannon educated our members, Knowledge is Power. National Commander and other National members, Legislative committee and other S.A.L members traveled to The Washington Conference, February 26- March 1, 2017 to remind our elected representatives that we need to take care of our Veterans.

National Vice Commander Joe Korba says the East is slowly moving up, but we are getting there!! Keep your eye on the next target date March 8th 80%. Congratulations France at 92% Great Job!! Vermont, Delaware and Maryland are all within a percent or so of making that 80% and then we have many in the

70% range. We will have passed the 80% goal by the time you read this. Nationally we are in 20th place and 4th in the East. The Eastern Regional Unofficial Gathering and Testimonial Dinner honoring National Vice Commander Joe Korba will take place on March 31 and April 1, 2017 in Sommers Point NJ 08244.

Here are a few frequently asked questions;

I am moving to a new town and want to transfer my membership there. How do I get a new card?

Be sure to report your new address. You can do that in person through your new Squadron Adjutant, or you can do it electronically by going to The Legion's Web site and filling out an electronic form.

I hear the S.A.L. is a major contributor to the CWF. Is this true?

Yes. The Sons of The American Legion is the single largest contributor to the CWF. This past year, the S.A.L. contributed more than \$360,510 to the CWF. In 28 years the S.A.L. has accounted for more than \$6 million to the CWF.

If the S.A.L. is such a large contributor, why isn't there a designated Foundation Board seat for the S.A.L.?

The current CWF Constitution and By-Laws do not provide for the addition of an S.A.L.-specific Board member. Such a change would impact the CWF's standing before the IRS which could cost the Foundation thousands of dollars. Perhaps it's important to note that the National Chairman of the CWF is David Ridenour, an active member of the S.A.L. who also serves as Chairman of the S.A.L. National Child Welfare Committee.

Yours in Service,

Andy Dadds

Nat'l Executive Committeeman (NEC)

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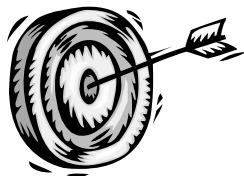


“Serving Our Injured Heroes”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

We're On The Web visit us at: www.mdsal.org

Or on Facebook at: *Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland*



2016 Membership Target Date:

September 14, 2016	10%
October 12, 2016	25%
November 16, 2016	35%
December 14, 2016	45%
January 19, 2017	60%
February 8, 2017	75%
March 8, 2017	80%
April 12, 2017	90%
May 10, 2017	100%
* July 19, 2017	105%

Delegate Strength Target Date

Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2016—2017

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 2nd, 2017 / Mason-Dixon Post 194 @ 1pm

Detachment Cut Off for Convention Registration

Membership Awards & Consolidated Report Forms

May 26th, 2017

“The Douglas Henley Memorial Laps of Love-2017”

All proceeds benefitting the Big 3 Children & Youth Groups

Casey Cares Foundation--Special Olympics Maryland--Child Welfare Foundation

June 24th @ Laurel American Legion Post #60

4:00 PM at the Baseball Diamond

Donations can be made directly on line @ The Special Olympics Md. site

Or by check payable to The Detachment of Md.--earmarked Laps of Love

44th Annual Detachment Convention

June 23rd to 25th, 2017

DoubleTree by Hilton-Laurel

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