



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

“The Pride”

Volume 2010 Issue 3

Winter Issue January 30, 2011

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

COMMANDER’S CORNER

BY TOM DEAL

I hope everyone had a good holiday season. Many events are planned in the coming months and I hope everyone can get involved and help to achieve our goals for the year. It takes all of us working together to accomplish great things and I know you all are working very hard and I thank you for all you do. I am getting ready for the great dip in the Bay at the end of the month. Of course I am talking about the Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics. The Legion Family will plunge on January 28th. I will be plunging along with Department Commander Mike Mooney and Department President Patti Lach as well as many members of the Legion family who have been doing this for years. I hope you can join us for the plunge to plunge with us, root us on and/or make a donation to one or all for a great cause. If you can't make it that day you can donate by going online

at http://plungemd.com/sponsor_a_plunger.shtml and Donate to Tommy Deal or anyone on the American Legion Family Team. I am asking each of to work *with* me for The American Legion organization, help us make

a difference to the community, state and the nation. This Pride Newsletter is an introduction to our programs, officers, chairmen and committees. I am also inviting each and
(Continued on page 2)

ADJUTANT’S CORNER

BY BILL MATOSKA

D.E.C.: The next meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee is on Sunday, January 30, 2011, convening at 1:00 P.M. and will be preceded by the Commission & Committee Meetings at noon. This meeting is being hosted by Wicomico Squadron No. 64 at the Legion post home located at 1109 American Legion Road, Salisbury, Md. 21801. The post phone number is 410-749-9814. Directions to the post home from the eastbound direction of US Rt. 50 are as follows. Approaching Salisbury keep to the right and do not take the bypass which is to the left. After keeping

to the right you will see a sign identifying the post after traveling approximately 1.5–2 miles on the right side of the road. Turn right onto American Legion Road and take the driveway to the right before you get to the post. This is the parking area for the downstairs entrance of the post where the meetings will take place.
Training: The Member Training & Development Committee, chaired by PNC Bill Sparwasser, is scheduled to present their 2nd Regional MT & D Training session on January 30th at Post 64
(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

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

CRABBIN' FOR MEMBERSHIP BY BUDDY MASTIN

I hope that everyone is out there "Crabbin' For Membership". Make sure your traps, poles and lines are in working order and haul in those crabs (members). And remember, we even keep the small ones. The goal of each crabber (district) is to have a full pot of crabs (members). The contest to fill your pots with members will be based on percentage as posted on the last Friday of each month which started in August and ends in May. The District with the highest percentage will get 7 points, 2nd place 6 points, 3rd place 5 points, 4th place 4 points, 5th/6th/7th places 3 points each. The first crew to have zero goose eggs will get 3 bonus points. And, the first District to reach 100% will get 3 bonus points. The winning District will get a bushel of crabs. As of Jan. 1st, Southeastern Shore is in 1st place with 38 points and Northern Central is in 2nd place with 30 points. Make sure your pots and nets are in good shape and no crabs (members) get out of your pots. Thank you to all the Squadrons who have sent in membership lately. On the National Report we have fallen to 3rd place in the East. The good news is we are less than 5% behind first place and I believe we can regain 1st place with a little work.

All membership chairmen should be sending out postcards or calling members on the phone encouraging them to renew their membership and remind them they are a vital part of our organization. Everyone please remember the three R's of membership: Recruit, Retain and Reinstate. Recruit new members, Retain the members you already have and Reinstate the members that have been gone for more than a year. You can check out where your Squadron stands with membership at <http://www.mdlegion.org/SALMBRSHIP.pdf>

Upcoming Membership Target dates are: Jan. 20th 2011 – 60%, and Feb. 9th 2011 – 75%. We need your help to make Maryland a 4 Star Detachment this year under my watch. So, get out your traps and poles and Let's Go Crabbin' Hon.

Edward 'Buddy' Mastin
Membership Chairman
1st Vice Commander buddymastin@hotmail.com

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER BY KEN JENKINS

The New Year has started and it's time to get started working on our C&Y programs. The Polar Bear Plunge will be taking place on Friday 1/28/2011 for the Legion Family. Please consider sponsoring one of the many detachment members that are taking this cold plunge into the bay.

The Casey Cares Gala will be taking place on Saturday March 26, 2011 at the B&O Train Museum. This should provide an interesting change from the last several years up at Bonnie Blink Mason's Lodge in Hunt Valley. This is a wonderful night. If you are interested in going, please go to the Casey Cares web site for more information. We are

hoping to raise more money for CWF this year. Chairman Larry Ford is holding a weight loss contest this year called "Pounds For Pennies". Larry and a number of other members are pledging to lose weight and are hoping that you will support them by pledging pennies or dollars per pound. If asked, please help out, for these guys really need to lose the weight anyway.

Yours in Service
Ken Jenkins II,
C&Y Chairman,
kenjen007@yahoo.com
443-204-1776

COMMANDER'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

everyone to our DEC meeting. Come out and see what we are talking about. Listen, learn, ask questions and see what it's all about. Maryland has the best Sons of The American Legion Detachment in the country. We have dedicated leaders and mentors who can answer any question and point you in the right direction. I am asking you to keep

me informed of what you are doing. I would like to visit every Squadron although I know that is an unrealistic goal, but I will do my best to get to as many Posts as I can. I have on my calendar to attend a District meeting in every District this year, so if you haven't seen me at yours yet, I will be there before the year is over. Always remember all of our troops in harm's way serving all over the world. God bless our service members and God

bless America.

Saluting our Wounded Warriors
Tom Deal
Commander
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion
Cell: 443-206-0402
Home 410-642-2561
tom.deal@verizon.net

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOUNDATION BY KEN JONES

The National Emergency Fund needs our help. In recent years, members of our Legion family have received some much needed assistance from the NEF. In order to continue this aid for our members in the present and near future, I ask each squadron to donate at least \$1 per member. I

believe this a very obtainable goal for the great Detachment of Maryland.

The NEF fund has provided over \$6 million in the past for direct financial assistance to Legion family members and posts. The fund has kept posts from closing and enabled family

members to rebuild their homes and their lives.

Yours in Service
Ken Jones
NEF Chairman

TIME AND PLACE REPORT BY BILL STEM

As of this date, the committee has not received any recommendations for a different venue for the 2012 Convention. If the present location suits, we can look into extending our

contract into next year and beyond. Remember, it's your Convention, so if you have any ideas do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the committee.

Your in Service
Bill Stem Chairman
Email: wstem84809@aol.com
Cell: 410 598-9355
Home: 410 526-6559

LEGISLATIVE REPORT BY BILL STEM

One of the key issues on the American Legion's legislative agenda was the Dream Act. The Legion opposed this bill, which would set the stage for amnesty for illegal aliens. I am proud to report this bill was defeated in the Senate.

January is the start of the Maryland Legislative session and the SAL will be joining with the rest of the Legion Family to push for bills that will improve the life of our veterans and their families. We must all be vigilant to protect our

rights and our freedoms.

Yours in Service
Bill Stem Chairman
Email: wstem84809@aol.com
Cell: 410 598-9355
Home: 410 526-6559

ADJUTANT CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

beginning at 10:30 A.M. in the downstairs hall prior to the D.E.C. This session is again open to all members with the primary focus toward squadrons located in the South Eastern Shore District.

Child Welfare Foundation: The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation will continue the 100% per capita Banner Program for the award year 2010-2011. Each squadron donating at least one dollar for each member will receive a banner/streamer suitable for displaying in your meeting room or it may be attached to your squadron colors. The CWF award year ends on May 31, 2011 and began on June 1, 2010.

Date of Birth Information: The capturing and collecting date of birth

MT & D BY BILL SPARWASSER

On December 11, 2010 at Glen Burnie Post 40 the committee conducted it's first of several training sessions to be offered this year to the members of the Detachment of Maryland. The topic for this session was "how to use the Consolidated Report Form". This session was a great success thanks to the 15 members from 4 districts. It is the opinion of our Commander, Tom Deal, that reporting is one of the most important operational tools we can utilize to inform our posts, department

information for the National records of our members has been a slow process. This information is contained on the membership register for every member of the S.A.L. The information is needed for demographic needs as well as actuarial studies used for insurance plans, etc. The information can be submitted accordingly by

as well as the National Organization of our efforts put forth in support of the many programs of The American Legion. Our next seminar will be conducted on January 30, 2011 beginning at 10:30 A.M. and concluding at 12:30 P.M. in Salisbury at Wicomico Post 64. We invite everyone to attend this session as the first date was a great success. Serving for God & Country, Bill Sparwasser, PNC MT & D Chairman

postcards, date of birth form, member data forms, or online at www.sal.legion.org in the change of address area in the section marked on the web page.

Yours In Service,
Bill Matoska
bill.matoska@comcast.net

AMERICANISM REPORT BY BILL HILL

Happy New Year! The Americanism Commission is looking forward to 2011 and continuing to support 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. We are also planning to present a "Flag Folding Review" during this years convention, with the assistance of our junior members, so please plan to attend and see this nice review.

Chairman Jim Alexander

Community Affairs

We are 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 Bob Trueblood

Email: SantaToyShop@AOL.Com

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,
Bill Hill

Americanism Chairman

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM

BOYS STATE BY KEN JONES

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school student. It is a program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. Boys State has been a program of the American Legion since its' inception in 1935. At Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is

objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices.

High school juniors are selected by local American Legion posts to attend this program. In most cases, the expenses associated with attending this program are paid by a sponsoring American Legion post, a local business or another community-based organization. This year's cost is \$300 per student.

In Maryland, Boys State is conducted annually at McDaniel College in Westminster, Md. It starts on Fathers' Day and runs through the following Friday.

Any donation your squadron can make would go a long to offset the expenses.

Yours in Service
Ken Jones

SOUTH EASTERN SHORE HERALD

The next DEC meeting will be held at American Legion Post 64, located in Salisbury, Maryland on Sunday, January 30, 2011 at 1pm.

Prior to the DEC meeting, there will be a training session for members of the SESD. This training session is highly recommended for all SESD officers, All SESD Squadron officers and any members who desires to

become an officer in the future. The training session will begin at 10:30am.

Congratulations to Squadron Commander John Egerson of Squadron 87 for selling the winning raffle ticket that raised money for the Wounded Warrior Project. A check will be presented at the DEC meeting. The SESD remains in first place in the

membership contest. Please continue to get your squadron members dues paid. Each squadron should strive to be 100% of your membership goal by March 9, 2011.

Serving Veterans and Their Families

Ray Edwards
South Eastern Shore District Adjutant
(410) 215-9354
rayjred@verizon.net

COMMANDER'S PROJECT BY JR HALL

Well we are getting closer to our Annual Commanders Drawdown that will be held on March 5th in Perryville. We are hoping for a quick sellout so be sure to get your tickets as soon as possible. Tickets will be \$35.00 each and you have a chance to win \$1000.00 or maybe a smaller cash prize, but there is 15 cash prizes handed out that night out of 150 tickets that will be sold. There will be a dinner served early and a limited open bar. We will have lay downs, raffles, silent auction, horse races and lots more fun for everyone to have. The local hotel also is offering a discount rate for everyone that would like to stay close for the night, so if you need any information on that contact myself or Commander Tommy. All money raised that night will go to Commander Tommy's project, "The Wounded Warrior Project".

I know that these times we are living a challenging for getting donations and it is not as easy as it has been in the past, so I ask you to make a extra effort to try to help us raise money



for this Great program. There is still time to do something simple to help. Maybe one Friday night at your Post

you can have a 50/50 or just take up a collection. Do a lay down at your next function and let that money go to the project. If everyone just works to give something to the project it will all add up to be something big. We would like to have donations turned in the night of the draw down, but that doesn't end it by far. As you saw last year at convention, we collected for Commander Mark to help him reach his goal every day, and we did it!!! I know we can reach our goal this year too with everyone's help, so please join in and do whatever you can to help us raise money to "Salute our Wounded Warriors".

Serving Our Veterans,
J.R. Hall
Project Chairman
dhall1967@verizon.net

MARYLAND SPECIAL OLYMPICS BY MARK GILBERT

One of the two big events is just around the corner; *The Winter Games*. This year it has been moved to Ski Liberty which is a more central location for a lot of us and also a great venue. With the move we are expecting more athletes to

participate and we will need more volunteers. The Games will be held February 27th through March 1st. Even if you can't ski you can help. You will come away feeling great about helping these special athletes. Call me at 410-282-2231 or email me

at markgilbert08@comcast.net, so that I can make sure that we have enough housing for everyone.

In Service to Our Children,
Mark Gilbert

NORTHEASTERN SHORE GAZETTE

Congratulations are in order to Bear Weinzirl for the web site www.squadron135.tripod.com. Our webmaster, Bear was recognized with a third place award for the Mary B. Howard award at the National Convention in Milwaukee. Way to go Bear.

Our membership has to get better, fellas, if we are to grow. The NESD is in 3rd place. We have to put a little more effort in to it. The only bright

spot in the District is Talbot Post 70, who has achieved a 3 Star with 108% goal.

Commander Tom Deal's Draw Down will be in Perryville, Post #135 on March 5th to raise funds for the "Wounded Warriors Project". Tickets are available for \$35 per couple with a chance to win \$1,000. Dinner and open bar included with a lot of fun for everyone. There will be raffles, horse races and a Chinese auction

and a cake wheel throughout the night. If you would like to attend, please let me know by calling 410-829-9974 or email me at jkj41@aol.com. Don't forget the Polar Bear Plunge on January 28 at Sandy Point State Park.

Yours in Service,
Ken Jones
NESD Commander 410-829-9974,
jkj44@aol.com

SOUTHERN MARYLAND TIMES

Now that the New Year has begun I know there are a lot of Squadrons out there that have fundraisers and events coming up and we need to share that information with everyone. So please send your information to both our webmaster for the district Buddy Mastin and Detachment web guru Bear Weinzirl. I, myself, would like to make it out to some of these events, so please forward your information on. Also, I want to stress the importance of documenting your work to raise money and what you do with your money. Last year, the Southern Maryland District again turned in more reports than the year before. However, I believe there are a lot of Squadrons out there that are giving donations and that are doing work that has reportable hours, but are

simply not filling out their consolidated report form. So I ask you please to take time and keep record of your hours and donations, so when you receive the report form, you can and will fill them out and turn them in. PNC Bill Sparwasser gave a great seminar on how to fill out reports and what can and can't be used at Post 40 in December, so if you have questions contact one of your District officers for help. Remember, each Squadron has a DEC and they are there to help, if you're not hearing from your DEC please let me know and I will try to resolve any issues we may have.

As we swing through winter and into Spring, let's all get to work on getting in Membership and doing all we do that makes our organization

the best. Remember, the Sons of The American Legion Southern Maryland District sponsors bingo at Charlotte Hall for our veterans and we need help funding this. It cost \$200.00 a month to sponsor bingo, so maybe your Squadron can sponsor a bingo or make a donation to help sponsor a bingo, for more information contact any District officer.

I hope to see you all soon at our coming meetings or a function.

Please Remember our Soldiers and Veterans,

J.R. Hall

Southern Maryland District
Commander

NORTHERN CENTRAL NEWS

By now all District officer's, DEC s, and Squadron Commanders should have the Districts "Pic 3 Raffle" tickets. These are for the month of February and the winners are designated by the evening three digit State Lottery numbers. Please do your best to sell these tickets. The proceeds will help the District with its many projects. All moneys should be in by January 31st.

It is now 2011, and the District is still second on the membership report. If you haven't paid your dues, you are now delinquent. Help the District to be number one, **pay your dues.**

Our next meeting is February 20th at Rosedale Squadron #180 at 1:00 PM. Please make every effort to attend and offer your valuable ideas to help make the District stronger. All

Squadron Commanders please try to attend or send a representative. We are only as strong as the sum of our parts.

Serving Veterans In Need
Allan Walls
Commander
Northern Central District
410-256-9182

COMMUNITY SERVICE BY JEFF SEILER

We are thinking that the next Community Service day will be on April 16th at Bethesda Naval Base at the Fisher House. The menu is still to be determined. We will need volunteers to help with this event. This is a wonderful time to honor and have good conversation with our wounded veterans. This is an event that is rewarding in many ways please mark this date on your calendars and plan on

attending this worthwhile event.

Please keep in mind that this is the time for blood drives. The Blood banks are low and need to be replenished. Please plan on and if able to go and donate blood. When you do this mark it down in your books and let us know how many times you gave blood, as this goes down in our reports.

Yours in Service

Jeff Seiler

jeffrey.seiler@yahoo.com

301-695.4439

VAVS VARIETY BY JR HALL

Well, we have kicked off 2011 and it seems like 2010 really flew past. As the VA&R chairman I have really enjoyed having the opportunity to go the tour at Charlotte Hall with Commander Deal and others from the Detachment, and then participate in the cook out at Fisher House again with Commander Deal and others from the Detachment and Department of MD ALA. On December 18th, we had a wonderful time as we visited MCVETs and served lunch to all the residents that wanted lunch that day. Commander Deal and his wife Eleanor, myself and my wife Margie, National Vice Commander Gladded, PNC Matoska, Detachment 2nd Vice Bill Hill, Ron Knapp, Doug and our own Santa. I want to Thank our MCVETs rep Bill Hill who set up everything for us and lead the workforce that day. The staff took all who wanted on a guided tour and we all learned more about the great program they have there at MCVETs. Our Detachment has had a long relationship with MCVETs and after learning more about the program and walking thru and talking to the Veterans that are there and being helped, I can see why we keep our relationship going. I encourage everyone to learn more about this wonderful program and support it in

any way you can. MCVET's takes donations of any kind; used clothes, shoes, furniture and foods and it all goes to help our Veterans directly. I ask you all, how hard is it to set up a day or so to gather used items and take them to MCVETs? The little bit of time you give by doing so could help out our Veterans and that is why we are the Sons of The American Legion.

We are working on more visits for the rest of the year to other Veterans hospitals and centers and I am looking forward to learning more about all that is being done for our Veterans. Remember as you are making plans for the rest of the year to make plans for Veterans Appreciation Day in May and make sure you plan on helping a Veteran in some way.

We are currently searching for somebody who is willing to help serve as a volunteer to represent the Son of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland at the Washington VA Center. If you are interested please contact me or Bill Matoska for more information.

Serving our Veterans,
J.R. Hall
dhall1967@verizon.net

Loch Raven VA CLC

I hope everyone had a great holiday. Currently there is not much to report from Loch Raven VA. The three events that took place during December that I'm aware of were as follows:

Department of Maryland Auxiliary had their annual gift selection day which was well attended. Parkville Squadron 183 made their annual trip to the facility on December 9, which included a visit from Santa and his elves along with comfort item and canteen book gifts. On December 24 yours truly helped with the VA gift distribution for both floors. There were a large number of Air Force personnel from Ft Meade that made the rounds with us. The veteran patients had a great time and really enjoyed the visit and gifts.

Some general VA news!!!! On February 12th the VA will be sponsoring a "Valentines for Veterans Concert" at the Joseph Meyerhof Symphony Hall. This event is free and open to the public. To request tickets call the Meyerhof Ticket Office at 410-783-8000.

Bob Filippi
VAVS Representative

CASEY CARES BY DAVE HULLIHEN

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who showed up at the last meeting. We had a family and rep from the Casey Cares Foundation there and I believe it showed them just how much they mean to us and how much we care. Great job by all. It was also great to have so many donations come across the floor, not just for Casey, but for all the other great charities that we support. The SAL just seems to out shine everyone else. With all the other charities that we support, I often wonder how we do so well for

each and everyone. It makes me proud to be an SAL member and even more proud to be the Casey Cares Chairman this year.

Once again gentlemen, thank you all for the great support and for those who have not given yet, there is still plenty of time. See you at the next meeting I will always except any donations, no matter how big or small. God Bless you all and I hope you had a great holiday and please be safe.

Yours In Service
Dave Hullihen
Casey Cares Chairman
dave.bwh@verizon.net



“Saluting Our Wounded Warriors”

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND

3115 Orchard Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234



NEC NEWS BY ANDY DADDS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

I bring you greetings from National Commander David Dew. I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday. Members of the Detachment are getting ready to travel to Plano Texas for the National Commander's homecoming on February 25-26, 2011. Anyone wishing to go please, contact Detachment Commander Tom Deal or Adjutant Matoska for details.

This year we are "Racing for Membership" and the Detachment of Maryland is doing well passing goals set by National. The next goal is 60% on January 20, 2011 and we have already reached target at 60.424% from the January 7, 2011 membership report. This puts us 18th in the Nation and 2nd in the Eastern Region. Our renewal rate for 2011 stands at 53.29%. We are still leading the Eastern Region "Membership Cup Series" even though we finished in 3rd place during the last race. Please keep up the good work and let's cross the finish line in 1st place for our National Vice Commander Joe Gladden.

Here are a few things to remember for the remaining year,

Membership post card renewals, January 27, 2011,
Consolidated Report forms coming sometime in January to the Detachment,
National Vice Commander Joe Gladden's homecoming March 18-19, 2011,
Washington Conference, March 20-23, 2011,
Membership post card renewals, April 2011,
National Executive Committee meetings in Indy, April 29- May 1, 2011,
Veterans Assistance Day May 2011,
National Convention Minneapolis Minnesota, August 26-28, 2011,
The American Legion Day September 16, 2011,
Fall NEC and Detachment Commander/ Adjutant classes, October 8-9, 2011.

Here are a few frequently asked question received at National Headquarters.

How do Sons assist veterans?

The number of possible responses to this question is infinite. Sons assist veterans and their families in many, many ways. There are many programs designed to aid current veterans. Many Squadrons go

out of their way to assist the families of servicemen/women who are away from home on active duty. Sons volunteer untold numbers of man-hours doing chores for veterans who need help around their homes. Sons rack up hundreds of thousands of man-hours volunteering in VA hospitals around the country. The list could go on forever!

What is the National Update?

National Update is the official newsletter of the Sons of The American Legion. It is printed and mailed out to members three times a year. A special issue is also printed at the site of the National Convention each year. The newsletter contains information of interest and importance to members at all levels of the organization. Each issue of the newsletter contains feature stories, news articles, messages from National Officers, updates from National Commissions and Committees. There are also pictures from Squadrons and Detachments around the nation

Andy Dadds, PDC
NEC Committeemen,