



“The Pride”

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

www.mdsal.org

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Commander's Corner

Greetings,

It has been my honor to serve as your Commander this year for the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Maryland. I hope I have carried my grandfather's legacy forward and made him proud of my accomplishment. It's also been a pleasure serving with Ms. Patricia McCoy, Department of Maryland Commander for The American Legion and Ms. Paulette Caron, Department of Maryland Auxiliary President.

I'd like to thank the American Legion Family across the state of Maryland for all the wonderful hospitality and support this year. I'm proud to say together, we have achieved the goal I set at the beginning of the year for my commander project. We purchased a used handicap van and are having it wrapped. We are hoping it will finished and at the SAL convention in Laurel next month.

We are currently looking at several land parcels to purchase. This will be used for hunting and eventually a Veterans retreat/get-a-way. It is my goal to continue to help as many Veterans as I can, even if it is one at a time.

To all the Veterans I have come in contact with, A right hand salute to each of you and Thank you for your service and your sacrifices.

Again, it's been a fantastic year and I “Thank” you from the bottom of my heart for all the support!

God Bless you all and God Bless The American Legion.

“Serving Our Country's Injured Heroes “

Ray Edwards

Commander

Detachment of Maryland

Sons of The American Legion

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Let's Go Fishing for MEMBERSHIP!

Guys, we seem to be getting real tight on this membership. We are over 96% state wide but the last 4% may be tough to get, but I know that we can do it. So, we really need to get out there and fish your butt offs and get them in your nets. The mountain district has stated playing hard ball and has taken over 1st place as of this writing they are now at 100.79 % and the NCD right on their heels at 100.18% great job guys. Everybody seems to be picking up the pace. We have (19) 3 star squadrons and (24) 4 star squadrons along with two (2) – 3 star districts. Judging cut off was May 26th but let's not stop there. Please continue to get your membership into your districts.

We will be judging reports on all membership and all other reports on June 10th so let's not stop now. Keep in mind we continue to take membership all year long so let's keep up the good

work. I would like to take this time to thank everyone for a job well done. I am very proud to serve as your membership chairman and hopefully as your Commander next year.

“Reel ‘em In”



Dave Hullihen

Membership Chairmen

1st Vice Commander

Americanism Report

Hello once again! It's hard to believe the year is almost over. I want to thank Commander Edwards for giving me the opportunity to serve as Detachment Americanism Chair for another year.

It's truly been a rewarding experience. I also want to thank each of the sub-committee chairs for their hard work and dedication towards the Americanism Program.

It was a pleasure working with these gentlemen. Most important I want to thank the squadrons for their continued support throughout this year.

Your generous donations along with countless volunteer hours make me proud to be a part of this organization. Once again the Americanism team wants to thank each of you for your continued support.

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,

Joe Lohman

Americanism Chairman

Boys State

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The last MD Boys State Staff meeting hours prior to this year's program was held on 20 May 2017 at Carroll Post 31 in Westminster MD at 1000 hours. For those that could not attend the meeting in person they could view the meeting by the internet. The staff was very receptive of their training of various topics and discussions. This meeting was also for the city mentors which is something new for this program.

There are changes as in any program that is growing. City mentors is one change. Those young men are MD Boys State Alumni having attended 2 to 4 years previously. They will provide a perspective to the boys as a more recent graduate and how they excelled during their time at MD Boys State with the knowledge and experience of being a City citizen.

Here is another exciting announcement. McDaniel College is a proud to partner with The American Legion, Department of Maryland to offer high school males who are interested in government, politics, and leadership the opportunity to earn two college credits this summer by attending MD Boys State. The course is CEO 1198: Leadership, Citizenship, and Service. This must be done after the boy has completed his application by pre-registering for this course. There are 3 things a student must do, fully participate in Maryland Boys State at McDaniel College, pass the written exam, and they would have to write a service plan showing how they would translate what they've learned at Boys State into positive action for their community.

Whether the boy takes advantage of the credit opportunity, all participants of Maryland Boys State who are admitted to McDaniel College will automatically be considered for a \$40,000 scholarship (\$10K annually,) as well as other merit and need-based aid.

This year's MD Boys State is 18 June

2017 starting at 1 PM with check-in at Gill Gym and conclude with graduation starting at 9 PM and retiring of the colors and dismissal around 12 PM on 24 June 2017 at McDaniel College.

Applications for the MD Boys State program is done now on line. Ensure your Post's Boys State Chairman knows this and they stay in touch with the applicant(s) and give them a briefing about the program.

I can be reached at 410-330-3003 or dawgtrucker@yahoo.com, if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you during the week I am at Boys State.

Dennis J. Renahan
Committee Chairman
Boys State Staff
CIC of Fort City
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. It's never too late to make a donation.

Community Affairs:

I want to thank everyone for another successful year supporting our communities. We had a very successful cookout at the Fisher House last October where we cooked over 50 steaks, burgers and hot dogs. I must give a special thank you for all the volunteers that came out to support that event. Although winter was mild, it was still nice to hear the stories of our squadrons helping veterans and older citizens who were unable to shovel snow or get out to the store. Your generosity was much appreciated. Once again it was nice to see our members support our first responders, community events and local veterans. Thanks again for a great year.

Five-Star Program:

The Five-Star program is a program to teach Patriotism, Citizenship, Discipline, Leadership and Legionism to all members of The Sons of the American Legion. If you would like additional information, please contact PNC Bill Sparwasser.

Yours in Service
Americanism Chairman
Joe Lohman

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

This year is coming to an end and we are in the process of wrapping everything up under our current commander. I want to thank everyone that worked hard to make all of our programs successful. There was many Squadrons and volunteers that participated and we can't do it without all of you pitching in.

Remember, what we do for our community and veterans and how it can influence you and your families as it did me and my family. Are you doing everything possible to get the youth involved? This committee is focused on Children & Youth but is there more we can do to get and keep our youth involved. We, the men of the SAL put a lot to time and effort into volunteering, keep a youth member alongside us and make a difference in their lives? It is amazing how your involvement with the community and our veterans can make a difference in a young mind. 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.

Keep in mind the activities we support and mark them in your calendar so you will be prepared for the new year. Maryland Special Olympics Winter and Summer Games, Casey Cares, Children's Miracle Network and Child Welfare Foundation, this is where your support and additional volunteer are always needed. Continue to represent the SAL and encourage other members of your Squadron to volunteer. We DO make a difference!

Yours in Service,

Children & Youth Chairman
Jim Alexander

Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)

I would to share with you some Child

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Welfare Foundation Facts:

Mr. Garland Murphy Jr. (Department of Arkansas) laid the groundwork, and the Foundation was duly incorporated on July 9, 1954.

Although a separate corporation from The American Legion, its Board of Directors are all Legion members – three from the National Executive Committee, three from the Finance Commission, and three from the National Commission on Children & Youth.

The Foundation was formed to assist non-profit organizations with a way to educate the public about the need for care of children across the nation.

In 1955, CWF gave its first three grants totaling \$22,500.00 to three organizations; The Delinquency Control Institute, the National Association for Retarded Children, and the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness were the first three beneficiaries.

From 1955 to date, many millions have been awarded to assist the children of this country.

The American Legion generously takes care of our overhead costs. As a result, all of the money donated is entered into the Trust Fund to be used for grants. Few, if any, other foundations can make that claim.

Please open your wallets and give to Child Welfare Foundation. This is a very worthwhile charity that our children benefit from!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Service,
Larry A. Ford, CWF Chairman

Special Olympics— Maryland

THANKS !!!

Thanks to everyone that continues to keep the special athletes of The Special

Olympics of Maryland in your hearts and in your budgets!! Because of the work Again of so many of you we have had a great year. Our Legion plunge team again went over \$10,000.00, and Ocean City we had our best year yet with the Drawdown. Your donation also keeps coming in and we appreciate it all the support for this great program. Hoping everyone remembered their bowling raffle tickets and we look to pull the winner at convention.

We have to mention also the great work that goes on for the athletes in your local communities. Cecil Squadron again did their Ice Splash and raised over \$31,000.00, Gold Star 191 had their Annual horseshoe tournament and raised over \$6,300.00 both of their Squadron do these fundraisers for their county Special Olympic programs and should be recognized for what they do. Great job to all involved.

Special Olympic athletes are like no other athlete and there are volunteers that also get out and work the bowling tournament, winter games, summer games, and other competitions we want to Thank. I encourage anyone that can get out and volunteer to do so, it is a experience you will never forget.

Thanks to everyone for all your work and time,

Serving Those that Served,

J.R. Hall

SOMD Chairman

Dhall1967@verizon.net

Legislative Alert!

While we are at the end of our administrative year Congress is not and we need to keep in touch and be vocal with the needs 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. I will still send out e-mails when I get them. Web site for all to take a look at: www.congress.gov. You can look up your representatives with current addresses and e-mail. The information is sometimes overwhelming however it is easily accessible and you can find any current legislation.

Do you know someone in your Squadron involved with legislative process? The

Sons of The American Legion National award for The George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans ' Advocate of The Year Award recognizes a member who has performed outstanding service and made significant contributions of time and effort in Grassroots Veterans' Advocacy work. One award will be presented each year to a member who displays an aggressive leadership role by building relationships with elected officials that directly impact public policy; by actively taking the message of the National Sons of The American Legion to key media outlets; and by developing strong grassroots initiatives. Anyone who has been an individual Sons of The American Legion member for one or more years and meets the criteria for this award is eligible. Active involvement of a legislative committee, including reporting to state/regional legislative chairs.

Initiating a Key Contact program to communicate with legislators. Sponsoring a state "Day on the Hill" or a special legislative day event. Strong liaison with Congressional members, Senators and/or state legislators. Involvement in the formation or continuation of a grassroots Veterans ' Advocate program.

Maintaining good relationships with local media by sending press releases to the newspapers, articles for business publications, letters to editor, etc. Establishing and maintaining a means through which to communicate to the membership on legislative issues (e.g. legislative newsletter/insert, website, and telephone/fax tree or e-mail distribution). Attendance at state and/or national legislative leadership workshops and/or American Legion National Informational Conference (NIC). These are some of the rules for submitting someone for the award. It is awarded annually at National Convention. If you know someone who is working very hard and believes should be recognized for their work feel free to contact me and we will work to recognize the individual. More information can be found on the National Sons website.

For God and Country
Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
tom.deal@verizon.net

VAVS Variety

Little things you do can make a big difference

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to one of our veterans in our VA facilities. Sometimes a smile and a willing ear are all that is needed to brighten someone's day. As we enter the final stretch, take a moment to check your accounts and see if there is any extra left in to do a little more for our veterans. I know you have made a lot of donations and some have still more to come, but it is not just about the donations but what we can do to volunteer to help our veterans to wrap up the year. Also, make sure your squadron is keeping track of the time and monies being donated to all our veteran programs such as Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Fisher House, VA Medical Centers in Perry Point and Baltimore, and MCVETS just to name a few.

Perry Point VA held the ground breaking for the new HELP Veteran Village, this will bring 75 newly renovated or newly constructed apartments for use by at risk or formerly homeless Veterans and their families. If you make donations directly to Perry Point VA please let Tom Deal or I know so that you get the proper credit and don't forget to list all donations for any VA programs you make throughout the year on your reports.

The NCD had a cook out on May 20th at the LRCLC, they served hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, sodas, water and deserts. Great job by all who helped. Quite a few people were served that day even though it was a chilly and overcast outside. Everyone seemed to enjoy their meal. As always each one of these VA centers and or hospitals can always use monetary donations. Again, please take the time to visit our veterans.

Green Street Baltimore VA is still undergoing parking garage renovations so pay attention to signs when visiting the facility.

I hope many of you have signed up on the Maryland Veterans Website and are getting the emails for upcoming activities, job postings and other useful information.

June 14th is Flag Day, remember to fly your flags.

I would like to take this time to thank all my chairmen, without your dedication we would not have had the success we have had this year. I also want to thank everyone who donated money and their time for our veterans. It has been a privilege serving you as the VAVS Chairman and I look forward to continuing to serve this great Detachment and its members in the coming years.

I hope to see you at convention June 23-25.

Yours in Service,

VA&R Chairman
Bob Manzo

Veterans Employment & Education Committee

The Detachment of Maryland now has a Veterans Employment and Education Committee under the VAVS Commission. We are requesting that all Districts and Squadrons now establish their own VE&E Committees or assign an individual to assist us in getting information out on Job Fairs, benefits available, ending Veteran Homelessness and other valuable information to our Veterans. These persons can then assist us by going online and finding local job fairs being held in your communities. Then simply take this info, as well as info received from the Detachment, and place it on your websites and Facebook pages as well as in your newsletters. You can also print out fliers that advertise these jobs fairs and post them on the bulletin board at your Posts and in other locations around your community where local Veterans will see them. If you or another member of your District or Squadron would like to be included on the Detachment's e-mail list, please contact me at nesdsal@aol.com. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Larry "Bear" Weinzirl
*National & Detachment Chairman
Veterans Employment and Education*
"Knowledge is Power"

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is the only Veterans home in the state. The Home has 286 skilled nursing beds and 168 assisted living beds for a total of 454 beds. As of March 31, the Home was at 88% capacity. Of the 401 residents, 14 are female veterans and 33 are female spouses. Ninety one percent of the residents served during war time. If you would like to learn more about the Charlotte Veterans Home check out their website, www.charhall.org.

The CHVH Service Organization Liaison

Committee will hold the CHVH Carnival on September 16. Service organizations from across the state will have tables set up with "give aways" for the residents. This year's theme is the Circus. Everyone has fun and the residents love the "giveaways."

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.

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

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

"It takes the entire community to help a veteran heal!"

On behalf of MCVET and the Board of Directors, we extend our appreciation to the Detachment of Maryland and the entire Maryland Legion Family for their continued support.

MCVET always has a need for basic toiletry items such as; disposal razors, small shampoo & lotion bottles. Men & Women's new socks and underwear (all sizes). These items are primarily used to support the Day-drop-in program. This is where homeless veterans are able to come in and take showers, rest for a bit, get a hot meal.

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

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For God and Country,
Bill Hill
MCVET
Detachment Liaison

Commander's Project / "Heroes Haven"

Hello Once Again,

On behalf of Commander Edwards, I would like to start out by saying Thank you to everyone that has help make this year's project such a success!! We have already purchased a handicap accessible van for Heroes Haven with the help of PDC Deal and have more projects in the works thanks to all the fundraising done by so many across the great Detachment.

I thank Commander Edwards for asking me and others on project committee to serve and spread the word about Heroes Haven. I hope all that read this article will continue to help our fallen heroes after this year. Remember the project is very unique in the fact it touches two of the four pillars of our organization. Most don't think of it that way, VA&R is the one everyone thinks of but Homeland Security covers our first responders just like Heroes Haven. We need to teaching others about this program and all it is doing as it grows each year. This year many participated in the hunt held on the Eastern Shore again. Many were also driven to doctors' visits, hospital visits and spent time with on the phone and in person. It is not just about taking folks on a hunt, it is about helping in any possible that a veteran or first responder needs help. Heroes Haven while has established itself now is far from being set on what it will do to help our fallen heroes. Property is being looked for now to try to build a place for a heroes retreat and have a place for them to just get away. As Heroes Haven continues to grow with support of you and others they will keep looking for ways to serve our countries fallen heroes and keep the commitment to serve them with pride and respect for their service. If you are interested in continuing your support you can always do so even after this year through the Detachment of Maryland.

Thanks again to everyone for your support on this great project, over \$50,000.00 already!!

Commanders Project Committee
Helping Our Heroes,
J.R. Hall

Chairman

Dhall1967@verizon.net

Time and Place Committee

We're here at the DoubleTree by/Hilton for the 44th Annual Convention!

We want to extend our appreciation to Laurel Post 60 Commander Lee Luby and her group for hosting our Superstar, Cook Out, Horseshoe, Kornhole and other afternoon events at Post 60 and supporting the Detachment. We're looking forward to another great convention!

Don't forget that next year is our 45th Annual Convention. So, let's make it a another great event. At this time we are most likely coming back to the DoubleTree by/Hilton, as we have no other locations to review at this time.

Yes this is your reminder for where next years convention will take place.

If you have a location to be considered for future conventions, please contact the Time & Place Committee.

For God and Country,
Bill Hill
Chairman

North Eastern Shore Times

Hello Comrades

As we end another year I would like to congratulate all of the officers and squadrons for their effort that makes the NESD a very strong part of the Detachment of Maryland.

I also want to give a "Right Hand Salute", to squadrons 18, 29, 36, 135, 246 and 296 for reaching 100% of membership. Thank you and as we prepare to begin a new year, my hope is that what we have accomplished this year will make our district more successful next year. See you all at the convention.

"Serving Our Country's Injured Heroes "

Freddie Taylor

Commander: N.E.S.D.

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.

Members of the Detachment traveled to Indy for the Spring NEC meetings. Our members sat in and participated in the various commission and committee meetings. These meetings are where we gain an insight to the running's of our organization as well as the programs we support. We have seven members on these committees, where a lot of great work is done to support the programs of the American Legion Family. During the weekend, we had members in the MNI classes which Vice Commander Dave Hullahen graduated NMI III, congratulation's Dave.

This year beginning with the 2018 membership cards there are some changes to the renewal card. Three new blocks have been added, Phone #, Date of Birth and email. Membership chairman collect this new information from your members, this information is vital to S.A.L..

National Vice Commander Joe Korba is proud that we have passed the 90% goal and gaining on the 100% goal. We are at 92.587% in 29th place in the Nation and 4th in the East. Last membership goal for the year is 105% for July 9, 2017.

This year at our Detachment convention we will be hosting several guests. Visiting us from New Jersey our National Vice Commander East Joe Korba, Leading Candidate for National Commander Danny Smith from Nebraska, Leading Candidate for National Vice Commander East Ken Warner from Pennsylvania and Past National Commander Cliff Smith from Massachusetts. We look forward to seeing these guest at our convention.

Yours in Service,

Andy Dadds



**Sons of The American Legion
44th Annual Convention
Event Locations
June 23-25, 2017**

Convention Hotels:	DoubleTree by Hilton 15101 Sweitzer Lane Laurel, Md. 20707 301-776-5300	Chairman: Bill Hill
Convention Business Sessions:	Double Tree by Hilton	Adjutant:
Saturday:	15101 Sweitzer Lane	Bill Matoska
Sunday:	Laurel, Md. 20707—Maryland Ballroom	
Convention Registration:	Miles Room—1st Floor off Lobby area	Vice Commanders
Junior Evening Activities:	Potomac Room	Chairman: Dave Hullihen
Junior Convention Session:	Chesapeake & Potomac Rooms 1st Floor past elevators	Chairman: Bill Sparwasser Rose Matoska Bob Trueblood
<u>District Hospitality Suites:</u>		
Northern Central: Room 517	DoubleTree by Hilton	
Northeastern Shore: Room 317	Southern Maryland: Room 501	
	Southeastern Shore: Room 417	
Bowling Tournament:	AMF Laurel Lanes 15013 Baltimore Ave. North Laurel, Md. 20707	Chairman: Jerry Saunders
Horseshoe Tournament:	Laurel Post 60 Left Field Ball Diamond Area	Chairman: Bob Manzo