



“The Pride”

Detachment of Maryland

www.mdsal.org

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

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Commander’s Corner

Greetings,

As we start the fall season, I would like to recap the first several months of my term as Detachment Commander. The month of July started with a busy week at the ocean during The American Legion convention. I’d like to thank everyone who purchased my t-shirt and sweat shirts that benefit my Commander’s project. Upon the conclusion of the convention, we hosted a reception at American Legion Post 218 honoring Department Commander Pat McCoy, Auxiliary President Paulette Caron and myself. It was a wonderful time with great food and refreshments. I traveled to several different Post to perform Squadron installation of Officers, attended the SMD SAL Cook off at Post 60 in Laurel and was able to bring a couple of wounded warriors and we judged the brisket cooked by several squadrons within the Southern Maryland District. Then we traveled to Cincinnati for the National Convention for The Sons of The American Legion, and completely enjoyed the hospitality of Ohio and time with SAL comrades from across the Nation.

I’d like to thank everyone who attended the commander’s preparatory retreat at the Southern Maryland District Youth Camp after Labor Day. Afterwards I attended a breakfast in Ocean City honoring some wounded warriors and had the opportunity to talk with them

and thanked them for their service and sacrifices. Thank you Sarge Garliz for the invitation. I attended the Fall Conference for the Department of Maryland Auxiliary in Frederick Maryland. I will now start traveling around the state to visit District and Squadron meetings.

About my Commander’s project. I am supporting Heroes Haven, a 501c 3 corporation that works with our country’s injured heroes. These heroes are combat wounded military veterans, firefighters and police officers. The money raised will be used to purchase a fifteen passenger van. This vehicle will be used for several purposes. Trips to the VA or medical appointments and taking our guest to and from events in large groups. Any funds left over will be used for sponsoring future events for our heroes. Our goal over the next 5 to 10 years is to purchase some land, build a lodge and use it as a veteran’s retreat.

Our next DEC meeting is approaching within the next few weeks. I’m asking all squadrons that can help, to please support Department Commander Ms. Pat McCoy’s project, which she selected is American Legion Baseball. Also, please support Department President Paulette Caron’s project as well. President Caron (Paulette) has selected The Veterans Suicide Prevention Network. All three projects are very important and very worthy of your donations.

Our Winter DEC will be held in January in Ocean City Maryland. The weekend is January 27th through the 29th. Starting on Friday, January 27th, there will be a hospitality room at the Grand Hotel.

On Saturday, January 28th there will be a training session at the Grand Hotel followed by a fundraiser for Special Olympics of Maryland, held at American Legion Post 166 in Ocean City Maryland.

This is a wonderful event and will be a lot of fun.

I appreciate your trust in me to serve as your Commander for this great detachment. Many Thanks!

“Serving Our Country’s Injured Heroes “

Ray Edwards

Commander

Detachment of Maryland

Sons of The American Legion

rayjred@verizon.com

(410) 215-9354

Adjutant’s Corner

Fall D.E.C.: The upcoming Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Edwards, on November 19, 2016 at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting is being hosted at Glen Burnie Post 40, located at 505 5th Ave., Glen Burnie, MD 21061.

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Winter DEC & Training Session:

The following Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will include Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training at The Grand Hotel and Special Olympics Maryland Draw Down @ Post 166 January 28th, 2017

For Draw Down tickets or general information, please contact First Vice Commander Dave Hullihen or Second Vice Commander Jim Alexander.

Special hotel rates have been arranged with the Grand Hotel, so please contact them and ask for the SAL rates.

Knowledge is Power: National Commander Frain is committed to further the education of all Sons of The American Legion members with the administrative aspects of our organization. Members that are better informed about the inner workings of the S.A.L. and the programs we support in our local communities will enable us to grow and become more effective helping those in need. The Detachment of Maryland adopted this same philosophy years ago with the primary focus for training our members at the mid-winter DEC in January. This training is open to all members of the Legion Family and will once again be facilitated by PNC Sparwasser.

With this same theme, The American Legion is encouraging every member to get involved in your local communities during American Education Week held in each November and this year will be from November 13 thru the 19. This year the 2016 theme is "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility". The special observances for each day during the week long celebration are as follows:

Monday, Nov 14-**Kickoff Day**

Tuesday, Nov 15-**Parents Day**

Wednesday- Nov 16-**Education**

Support Professionals Day

Thursday, Nov 17-**Educator for a Day**

Friday, Nov 18-Substitute Educators Day

If you have children or grandchildren in either public or private schools seek out more information on this week locally and get involved to support your children, grandchildren, or the children of your community and the educators that are shaping all those lives. The American Legion has always encouraged a National standardized curriculum including the importance of physical education. More information to support this initiative is readily available on The American Legion website.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant

matoskaw@yahoo.Com

443-710-9664

Let's Go Fishing for MEMBERSHIP!

Guys every year we seem to get better and better at membership and hopefully this year will be no different. I am hoping to bring some fun into membership this year, so my theme will be fishing for members. Our goal is to go to all the big oceans, to those lakes, all the way down to the small streams and fish for those members. We seem to be doing just that. As a Detachment we are ahead of our 25% goal and sitting at 31.24%. Great job Commander Keys as NCD is back in 1st place sitting @ 47.81 % with Baltimore right on your heels at 44.79%.

Western MD has just moved out of last place, but Commander Tom has assured me they are picking up the pace and plan to take over first place by the end of the year. Go get em Tom and everyone else. As we all know membership is the life line of the SAL and we need to continue getting membership in.

Thanks to all of you for the hard work and hope that we continue to have some fun with this year's theme. Continue to get that membership in.

"Reel 'em In"

Dave Hullihen
1st Vice Commander /
Membership Chairman

Americanism Report

I would like to start off by wishing all our veterans a Happy Veterans Day on November 11, 2016. The Detachment of Maryland Americanism Commission thanks you for your service.

This year our National Americanism Commission is concentrating on several programs that includes American Legion Baseball, Scouting, The 5 star/10 Ideals Program, Flag Education and Flag Etiquette. In addition, the Detachment of Maryland will continue to support Flag Replacement, Community Affairs, Boys State, NEF and Youth Training.

Youth Training - Our SAL National Commander's theme this year is 'Knowledge is Power'. This is the perfect opportunity to teach our junior members Flag Education and Flag Etiquette along with the 5 star/10 ideas program. Last convention we set the bar high with attendance at junior convention.

As you can see we are very busy at the Detachment of Maryland Americanism Commission. Your support will allow us to continue the success needed to ensure we have a very productive year.

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,

Joe Lohman
Americanism Chairman

THE BOYS STATE UPDATE REPORT:

Attended Boys State Staff meeting on the 10th of September at Post 228 in Rock Hall, Maryland. Roger Butt who was the Director of Boys State for many years resigned at the end of 2016's program. The Department of Maryland

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Legion DEC made changes to the way the Boys State committee is run. The Boys State Committee will be run by an Executive Committee. The members of this committee are the two assistant directors, Chief Administrator, Education Officer, Political Officer, and two staff members at large. As with this change there are other changes coming to this committee.

One change to be implemented this upcoming 2017 year is a Junior Counselor program. These members will be boys who attended and graduated from the program and have been out of the program for two years. More to come on this change.

The staff also had two potential candidates for staff members. One is a Legionnaire and the other one is a graduate of Maryland Boys State and a Sons of The American Legion member.

Other news to come out of this meeting unfortunately is the cost of sending a boy to this program will increase by \$50.00. The new cost is \$350.00 instead of the \$300.00 that has been the cost the last few years. Due to the rising costs in running the program the staff voted to increase the fee. We the Boys State staff hated to do this but the program loses money every year but the loss is getting smaller every year. This is still the best program that The American Legion has.

For some good news, 2016 's test score averaged 82 percent. That is the highest average in many of years of this program. Also we are still looking for Legion or Sons members to become counselors.

The dates for the 2017 Boys State program are the 18th of June thru the 24th of June. It will be held on the campus of McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland.

This can and is happening because of you, your squadron, and with your Post supporting this great program. I like to thank all the squadrons who donated towards this great program last year.

If you want to see firsthand what is happening at Boys State, please feel free to visit McDaniel College while Boys State is in session.

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

National Emergency Fund:

The National Emergency Fund (NEF) has provided the American Legion Family members and their posts over 8 million in financial aid due to national disasters since 1989. Once again we are asking squadrons to donate \$1 per member to support the National Emergency Fund. With recent national disasters such as Hurricane Matthew, it's the NEF that provides support to our members to help them get back on their feet after a crisis.

Community Affairs:

Take the time out of your busy schedule and lend a helping hand to a veteran in your neighborhood, especially Veterans Day on November 11. It would be a nice gesture to help a neighbor replace a worn or torn flag. We also support the Flag Replacement Program and it would be a nice gesture to replace a weathered or torn flag in front of a neighbor's house.

On October 22nd, members from the Detachment of Maryland visited the Fisher House in Bethesda and provided the residents with a cookout that consisted burgers, dogs, steaks and sides. It was a rewarding experience helping our veterans and their families.

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.

If you would like additional information, please contact PNC Bill Sparwasser.

Yours in Service

Americanism Chairman

Joe Lohman

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

Gentleman, with our days getting shorter and our nights getting colder that means winter isn't that far away.

Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here before you know it and this is where I need your help. We all know how precious a child's smile is but unfortunately there's going to be a lot of children out there without a smile.

This is where the Sons of The American Legion comes in! You can help by bringing in a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots at our next Detachment meeting on November 19th, encourage your fellow Post members to make a donation for you to bring also. This will help a child to have a gift to open up on Christmas Day.

Volunteering for the Maryland Special Olympics so our athletes can participate in their games that they practice so hard for, have you ever watch the athletes smiles at the end of an event?

Here's another way we can make a child smile and even a parent, bring in pajamas for the children of that Casey Cares or donate movie tickets, dinner certificates or sporting event tickets so the families could get out and forget about their problems for the evening.

We also need donations 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 several ways to help so please participate!

Yours in Service,

Children & Youth Chairman
Jim Alexander

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Child Welfare Foundation **(CWF)**

I would like to share with you some Child 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

Casey Cares Newsletter

Thank you Detachment of Maryland for your support of a Bull Roast fundraiser hosted by August J Raveio Unit 195, for Casey Cares this past August by purchasing two (2) tables for the affair. Also, thank you Unit 195 for the generous donation of \$1600.00 to Casey Cares. One of the families who are support by Casey Cares was there and stated they were so happy with all that Casey Cares does for all families.

Reminders to keep collecting pajamas, too support the Kami's Jammie's program. We hope all Squadrons participate in pajama collection and bring them to the DEC. I look forward to talking to anyone in attendance at the DEC about we can talk about any suggestions or ideas you may have about Casey Cares fund raising.

Remember the Holidays are approaching and what better way of celebrating then to help make a special day for a child.

Robert Keys (Bob)
Chairman – Casey Cares
Cell: 443-756-1152

Toys For Tots

Hello, I hope everyone is having a Great Fall, but don't let this warm weather fool you. Winter and the Holiday Season are quickly approaching. That being said, a big part of the Holiday Season is giving to others... especially the children. The Sons of The American Legion have long supported the Marine Toys for Tots Program.

The 2016 Drive officially kicked off in October and below are some important dates: (Some dates may differ according to what county you live)

Oct 17 – Dec 1 Drop Boxes Delivered
November 27 -- Last Day to Request Drop Boxes & Submit for Event Request
December 4 -- Last Day to Submit for

Family

Dec 15 – 16 Pick-Up all Drop Boxes
Dec 17 – 22 Distribution of Toys

I have a contact list for the different counties if you would like to set up an event or be a designated drop off site. Maybe your Squadron could do a dinner or 50/50 with the proceeds going to help purchase a toy or two? Our next DEC meeting will be on Saturday November 19th at Glen Burnie Post #40. We are asking that everyone coming to the meeting to each bring a toy. I have some boxes and posters available if anyone is interested. Thank you and have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Toy for Tots Chairman

Joe Weik

Special Olympics— Maryland

Hello To All Once Again,

Activities for Special Olympics are really picking up and we will be needing volunteers several times in the next couple of months. Remember you do not have to do them all but if you can help us with any of them please do so. First starting in November the Regional bowling tournament will be held thru out the state. We are asking for volunteers at Glen Burnie Bowl America on November 13th. Bowling starts at noon so it is best to show up around 10:00 to register and get your assignment if you need more information contact me. December will be the finals in Gaithersburg and we will give information at our DEC.

At the DEC meetings for all District Commanders that have not received the tickets for our Special Olympics bowling raffle we will hand them to you. All

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Squadrons can then get them from your district commanders and help us to raise money for the sponsorship of the bowling tournament. The drawing will be held in June at our annual convention.

The American Legion family plunge team has been formed and you can sign up and start getting sponsors now. We will be plunging Friday January the 27th at 12:00 with the Military Plunge. We will have our own tent to be able to change in there at the beach of a Sandy Point. I recommend most get there by 11:30 and register and change. We will plunge at 12:00. To sign up just go to the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge site, on the right side it has the top teams listed. Under that click on show all teams and find the American Legion Family Team. Just click on it and sign up to help us raise money. After the plunge we will be headed to OC for our weekend with the SAL. On Saturday there is a drawdown and proceeds do benefit the SOMD, so get your ticket from one of the Vice Commanders for this great event.

Don't forget more Information on Winter games will be coming your way in the next Pride, if you are interested contact me.

Serving Those that Served,

J.R. Hall
SOMD Chairman

Dhall1967@verizon.net

Legislative Alert!

My message is like a broken record, IT IS an important election year. Get out and VOTE, very important. We will elect a new President, a new Senator for first time in a while and many other delegates and congressional representatives as well. Listen to your local districts also to see who is running and learn what their campaigning for and against. 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 look at www.congress.gov. The information is sometimes overwhelming however, it is easily accessible and you can find any current legislation.

One Caution on supporting candidates or campaigning.

As published in National Update:

The Sons is a program of The American Legion and is bound by the same rules as our parent organization. The following information was prepared by the National Headquarters and, although written for dissemination to Legion Posts, applies equally to the S.A.L. The National Charter of The American Legion, approved by Congress, stipulates that the organization is nonpolitical, which has been interpreted by the National Judge Advocate as "nonpartisan" in modern lingo. Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is prohibited from contributing, helping or endorsing a candidate. However, a member, as a private citizen, and not representing the organization, can employ whatever legal and ethical means to advance his or her candidate. The Legion cap is considered the official Legion uniform. It is not an individual Legion member's decision on the appropriate usage of the cap and emblem. If attending a political event, The American Legion cap, or any clothing with the emblem visible, should be removed so as not to imply endorsement by The American Legion. The problem is the assumption of endorsement by those who see the emblem or name worn at an improper location, such as a partisan rally. When using post facilities to host candidates, post should remove emblem and Legion flag to avoid any impression of endorsements. Candidates for all parties must be presented equal opportunity at

the same time to use the facilities on the same terms and conditions as other competing candidates. The American Legion must avoid any perception of supporting any candidate or political party. The American Legion values its independence and effectiveness on veterans' issues. This stance is best maintained by neutrality on individual candidates or political parties.

The American Legion by legal definition is non-partisan and supports only issues, which impact your Four Pillars.

"The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." -

American Legion Constitution Article II, Section 2

<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.

For God and Country

Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
tom.deal@verizon.net

VAVS Variety

November brings on the change of seasons and ushers in the start of the holidays. Veterans Day will soon be here and there are various remembrance ceremonies scheduled throughout the state. Please plan on taking part in your posts ceremony and honor your forbearer's service to the nation. I plan on attending the NESD Reception being held at Mason-Dixon Post 194, and encourage you to likewise attend a local service.

The holidays are a time of family and gift

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giving, please remember our veterans in the VA hospitals and Charlotte Hall at this time of year. Contact the staff at the facility near you and see what you and your squadron can do to brighten up the holidays for these men and women.

Having said that, Perry Point VA is holding their Holiday Gift program and are in need of donations. The gift bags have a value of \$55 each and every veteran there will get a gift bag on December 24th. If you are interested in participating contact Perry Point and find out what you need to do to help this program.

If you have any information that you want to share concerning your work with our veterans, please send them to me at bmanzo1085@yahoo.com and I will include your information in the next Pride Issue. Until next time, thank a veteran!

Yours in Service,

VA&R Chairman
Bob Manzo

Loch Raven VA CLC

There are plans to add a second floor above the robotics center at Loch Raven Campus. This new space will then be utilized for a larger hospice center. This addition will then connect the two buildings, making transport to each building much easier for Veteran patients, volunteers and staff.

Veterans Day events will be held at Loch Raven between November 6-11, 2016. If you are interested in a group visit or activity please call the Voluntary Service office as soon as possible. And speaking of Voluntary Services, Rich Maichle has left Loch Raven and is now at Perry Point in Patient Safety. His replacement is Rachel Childress, who comes from 2 ½ years at a VA facility in Washington, DC.

On November 5 the annual VA Maryland Memorial Service will be held at Towson

American Legion. This program honors all veterans who died in a VA Maryland facility during the past year. The Detachment will again provide the refreshments for this affair.

Bob Filippi

Detachment Representative

Loch Raven VA CLC

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

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—PNC Bill Matoska.

The Veterans Home has initiated a new **Music and Memory** therapy program. The greatest needs at this time are donations of iPod Shuffles, over-the-ear headphones and iTunes gift cards.

If you would like to find out more about other opportunities to help, contact me or visit their website, www.charhall.org.

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 to MCVET for honoring our junior Past Detachment Commander, Jeff Seiler [for making MCVET his project last year, which provided them two multi-passenger vans] as well as posthumous recognition of Maryland American Legion Family members; Past Department Commander & Honorary Life Member of Gold Star Squadron 191—Doug Henley, and one of the founders of MCVET, Past Department Commander—Doug Johnson. Also, Past National President of The American Legion Auxiliary and President of the Board of Directors for MCVET—Sandi Dutton at their first 21 Gun Salute banquet/fundraiser to honor those whom have helped build and sustain the foundation known as MCVET. Thank you!

Glen Burnie Legion Family will once again sponsor a Christmas luncheon for MCVET, along with assistance from the extended Legion Family within Maryland.



The giving by so many Legion Family members during this event is awesome. The conversations and interactions with the students, the fun in the kitchen preparing the food, watching everyone playfully fighting over who's going to walk around serving the ice cream and who get's to share the topping has to be seen for yourself. Overall it's a humbling experience of having an opportunity to help our Veterans' during the holiday season and anytime throughout the year.

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

MCVET

Detachment Liaison

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Chaplin's Corner

Please keep those who are home recovering in your prayers.

Let us Not forget to finish the course we have begun.. Let us keep in our Memories the passing of our comrades!

Thank you and God Bless.

Mark Frayer
Detachment Chaplin

Commander's Project / "Heroes Haven"

Calling out to All Members of the Sons of The American Legion and Legion members,

Help us help out injured veterans and first responders !!!

Our Commander's Project for the year, Heroes Haven, is a wonderful project that helps our injured heroes that have risked their lives to help us. How can you let them know you appreciate the work they have done and are concerned about their injuries? By supporting this great project. There are many opportunities for you to help and show your support. Perryville Squadron 135 will be holding its annual drawdown to support the Commanders project the first weekend of March and we ask everyone to get involved. If you cannot attend you can still buy a ticket, or maybe you can donate an item to help raise money through the silent auction. PDC Tommy Deal is always looking for items and if you can help it would be great.

Squadron 40 in Glen Burnie is currently holding a gun raffle for a Remington 870 Express Combo 12 gauge.

Tickets are just \$5.00 each and you can pass on the gun and take cash value if you do not care for a shotgun. There are

also \$150.00 and \$75.00 prizes with only 350 tickets being sold. All proceeds will go to the Commander's Project, Heroes Haven. Tickets will be at the DEC in Glen Burnie and you can also contact JR Hall if you need to purchase them.

We are looking for more fundraisers to be held to help us raise money, if you are interested please let your District Commander's Project Chairman know and we all will assist in any way needed. Maybe you can have a raffle, dinner or another type of event. We could possibly have some of our wounded Heroes come out. Let us know and we will help support this in any way we can.

Helping Our Heroes,

J.R. Hall

Chairman

Dhall1967@verizon.net

Time and Place Committee

We're heading back to Laurel for the 44th Annual Convention! However, this time we're going to host the meetings, registration and such at the same DoubleTree by Hilton; 15101 Sweitzer Ln, Laurel, MD 20707. The same hotel as last year.

Horseshoe, Kornhole and Superstar events will be held at Laurel Post 60, along with a special surprise for our junior members.

Details for the hotels, 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.

For God and Country,

Bill Hill

Chairman

The torch has been passed on and as I assume the duties as Commander for the Southern Maryland District I must first and foremost give my thanks to Past Commander Joe Weik. You have left your mark on the District and on behalf of the Southern Maryland District, BRAVO ZULU. Job Well Done. Secondly, I need to say Thank You for the vote of confidence that has been bestowed upon me to lead this Great District. I have big shoes to fill and will be taking a page from all previous Commanders to continue the high standards of exemplary service that we all share in the Great Southern Maryland District.

There are many goals to be set but as everyone already knows membership is always a permanent goal. As a dual member I know the importance of membership. Without a strong roll call roster, we cannot prevail. We ended 2015 strong but I feel that we have nowhere to go but higher. We are the 2nd largest District in the Detachment of Maryland and need to lead the way. I would like to challenge each squadron to push membership hard and get your renewals in by the end of December so we are all at 100% membership. Let's be the first District to ever do this and set the bar high for other Districts to try and meet. Yes, this is a lofty goal but I have confidence in all of you and know that all efforts will be made. But always remain cognizant of the chance to increase our ranks with new members. New members bring in new ideas and new ideas never hurt for continued growth. The more members both renewal and new helps support our continued effort to assist and support our Veterans and the Four Pillars.

I wish to pass along that one of the first major accomplishments already completed is the annual Audit of the District. I can firmly state all is in order. The Annual drawdown is being held on 5 November and is already shaping up to be yet another huge success. The Bull

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and Shrimp feast for next year is also already in the beginning of the planning stages and sites are being looked at to hold this event.

I have already started my tour of the District to personally visit each squadron to see how everything is going and what I can do to help answer any questions or concerns that may be out there. I will be helping to spread the word of the Detachment Commanders Challenge to all Squadrons and have the highest expectation that each of you will respond as usual showing your support.

As the saying goes, "You are only as strong as the weakest link", I make this promise to you to not be a weak link for the District. I will do what I can and the best I can for you. My question is, will you do the same for your Squadron, Post, and District? I believe you will.

In closing, there is a phrase I used in Iraq while leading my troops which summed up everything.

LET'S DO IT.

We were banded together in a common goal in a hostile environment and under stressful conditions but still found a way to have fun.

Well we are all banded together here in the SAL together for a common goal and thankfully not under hostile conditions. So simply put LET'S DO IT.

Mike Obremski
Southern Maryland
District Commander

Western Maryland Tribune

Gentleman greetings;

First my apologies. I don't know what happened but dates for the meetings never made it into the blue book in time so here they are; Our next meeting is

going to be held at Sykesville Post 223 at 1:00p.m. December 3rd; the next meeting will be held at Clear Spring Post 222 at 1:00p.m. on February 4th, 2017 [Nominations will be held at that meeting; all positions will be open. WMD needs some new guys to step up and take charge.]; Fourth and final meeting will be held at Emmitsburg @ Kumps Dam, May 7th @ 1:00p.m. The WMD reception will be held at Woodsboro Post 282 on April 8th. The cost will be \$25.00 a person. Social hour is 3p.m. to 4p.m. and dinner is 4p.m. to 5p.m. I'll have more information on how to obtain tickets after the first of the year. Membership is not doing well. We're currently in last place as of 10/20/16 that should change by next quarterly report comes out. This year's theme is fishing for membership, so get your rods out and go catch some new members or reel in some of your members that have let their membership laps. Bring them in and bring them back, so go fishing. If anybody has any ideas for a fund raiser this year to raise money for WMD call me or let me know at the next meeting.

There's going to be a fundraiser for MCVET which will honor Jeff Seiler on Nov 7th 2016; my wife and I will be attending to represent the WMD. Once again I want to apologize for not attending some of your meetings and see how you guys are doing but I do want try to get out to visit with as many as I possibly can before my term is up but if I don't get to see or meet you maybe I'll see you at Sykesville in December.

The next DEC meeting will be November 19th at Glen Burnie Post 40 @1:00. We need to have all of the WMD DEC representatives attend that meeting to represent our District. Till we meet again have a great Thanksgiving and I hope to see you in December.

For God and Country

Tom Clavell
WMD Commander

Northern Central News

NCD is up and running again to get membership in. We are having a great start. Northern Central was in 1st place last year and we are working hard to be in 1st place this year. With the help of all

NCD Squadrons I know we can do it again.

Now for getting down to other business, My project for Northern Central District this year is Heroes Haven right alongside of Detachment Commander Ray which serves our country's injured heroes. 100% of all monies raised goes towards the aid, comfort and support for these injured heroes. The goal this year is to raise money to purchase a vehicle to transport the guest to and from hunting and fishing trips, trips to medical appointments and any other transportation needs.

Perry Point carnival took place on September 16. Thanks to the Chairperson (Bill Yeagy) and everyone that participated in any way to make it another great success. Our next VAVS event is on March 18, 2017. Volunteers are needed for MCVET's St. Patty's Day Luncheon.

I would like to see more of our Squadrons at our NCD meetings and with the assistance of Larry Ford we were able to schedule Saturday and Sunday meetings. Hopefully to accommodate more people to attend a meeting and take back all the info and share with their group. We appreciate input and support from each NCD Squadron. The meeting dates are Saturday Oct 29, 2016 at Overlea Perry Hall # 130 at 1:00 p.m. Saturday December 3, 2016 at Liberty # 122 at 12:00 p.m. Sunday February 12, 2017 at Slate Ridge # 182 at 1:00 p.m. And Sunday April 9, 2017 at Harford # 39 at 1: 00 p.m.

I would love to see attendance at the winter DEC in Ocean City on Jan 27. 28 and 29. It is a great time for all. Business and pleasure is planned for that weekend.

In closing there has been DEC assigned to each of the Squadron's which will be visiting your meetings. If you do not see them please notify me and I will get all the info to you. I am planning on visiting the Squadron's also. If you want to see me at any particular time please call me at 443-756-1152.

Yours in Service,
Robert Keys (Bob)
NCD Commander
Cell: 443-756-1152

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North Eastern Shore Times

Hello Comrades

I would first like to thank all of the NESD Squadron commanders and their members for the effort that they have accomplished with membership. We were the first District in the Detachment to have no "Goose Eggs" and all of our Squadrons with 2016 paid members as of 10/21/16 our district is at 45.09% of goal this is tremendous keep up the good work.

I would like to thank squadron 296 for the invitation and hospitality I was shown at their annual crab feast. As we move forward, I encourage all of our members to focus on the American Legion programs and especially our Detachment Commander's project.

Past NESD Commander Ken Jones has recently been to the hospital but is now home and said he is feeling fine please keep him in your prayers.

Upcoming events:

Squadron 135 Texas Hold'm tournament Saturday November 5th. Registration starts at noon games begin at 12:30

American Legion 194 family Veterans day program November 11th at 6:00 PM

NESD District meeting December 4th at Post 18 beginning at 10:30

Fred Taylor

NESD Commander

NEC Update!

The 2015-2016 administration year came to a close in Cincinnati Ohio on August 26-29 at the 45th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion. Commander Kevin Collier congratulated all Detachments on a job well done, with donations for the CWF

reaching over \$7Million dollars since we started contributing to the foundation. Other donation high lights are Children & Youth \$1,310,035 and hours 236,338, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitations \$1,618,370 and hours 455,656, Americanism \$2,441,124 and hours 792,121. These are numbers we as blue cap members can be very proud of. Membership Nationally stands at 100.659% with the East coming in 3rd at 100.398% and the Detachment 33rd Nationally and another all-time high at 100.062%.

Congratulations go out to LaPlata Squadron #82 for once again having the best Scrapbook in the Nation. The Detachment also received a certificate for a renewal rate over 90% with a rate of 92.7%.

As the Nation said good bye Commander Kevin, on Sunday August 29, 2016 we elected a new National Commander- Jeff Frain from Arizona. Commander Jeff's theme this year "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.

We also said good bye to National Vice Commander Bill Hill who did an excellent job representing the National Organization. We elected Joe Korba from New Jersey as our National Vice Commander representing the East.

At the post-convention meeting we accepted Commander Jeff's National Commissions and Committees appointments with several members from our Detachment receiving appointments.

Andy Dadds, NEC- Sub Committee on Resolutions

Larry Ford- CWF Committee Member

Bill Hill- Finance Commission Chairman

Tom Deal- Legislative Co- Chairman

Larry Weinzirl- Veterans Employment & Education Chairman

JR Hall- Internal Affairs Commission

Bill Matoska, PNC- S.A.L. National Committee's on Committee's

On October 7-9, 2016, members of the Detachment traveled to Indy to attend the Fall NEC meetings. While there we will be participating in the various commission meetings. Conducting business for the good of our organization. Congratulations to Commander Ray for completing the Detachment Commanders Class. Three new blocks are being added to the 2018 membership cards, D.O.B., Email and Duel members. By adding the D.O.B. this will give us the average age of our membership. We had 8 resolutions submitted to The American Legion for consideration and 1 was passed, SAL NEC 1-16 which states, Constitutional Change to add "War on Terrorism" under eligibility criteria.

The East Region fell short of the October goal of 25%. The East was at 15.699% and in last place and Maryland passed goal at 29.031% which has us 2nd in the East and 15th in the Nation. Please let our members know what we do, Service to our Veterans, Children & Youth and all the programs of the American Legion. Remember we, Sons of The American Legion do make a difference in the lives of our Veterans and Children by contacting legislature on V.A. bills and providing grants through the Child Welfare foundation.

The Eastern Region Unofficial Gathering and Testimonial Dinner honoring National Vice Commander East, Joe Korba, will take place on March 31 and April 1, 2017 at American Legion Post #352. The post is located on 1st and Pennsylvania Aves., Sommers Point, NJ 08244. More information on cost and lodging will be on our web site.

Yours in Service,

Andy Dadds

Nat'l Executive Committeeman (NEC)

adaddspdc0607@gmail.com

410-708-4144



“Serving Our Country’s Injured Heroes ”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

We’re On The Web Visit Us At www.mdsal.org



2017 Membership Target Date:

September 14, 2016	10%
October 12, 2016	25%
November 16, 2016	35%
<i>December 14, 2016</i>	<i>45%</i>
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

Fall D.E.C. Meeting

November 19th, 2016 / Glen Burnie Post 40 @ 1pm

Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training at The Grand Hotel

Special Olympics Maryland Draw Down @ Post 166

January 28th, 2017

Winter D.E.C. Meeting & Training Session

January 29th, 2017 / Synepuxent Post 166 @ 12pm

Detachment Commander’s Project Drawdown

March 4th, 2017 / Susquehanna Post 135 @ 5pm

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

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

44th Annual Detachment Convention

June 23rd to 25th, 2017

Doubletree by Hilton

2 Main Street, Laurel, MD