



“The Pride”

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

www.mdsal.org

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Commander's Corner

Guys, hope everyone has been doing well. I need to report that donations have been coming in for the Boys Scouts and I really appreciate that, please keep them coming. My chairman Joe Weik is doing a great job. Thanks Joe.

If you have any events that you want me or Joe to attend, please let us know and we will do our best to get there. Keep in mind we still have tee shirts for sale. My goal is to get as many scouts to be able to attend Broad Creek in the summer for a 2 week stay. What a great experience this would be for them. They say they can build character and become better leaders in life. Hence our logo helping scouts become leaders. At this point I am hoping to have at least 1 troop from each District to go there. We are basing this on each troop having from 10 to 15 scouts in each troop. We could send up to 105 kids to this camp. Let's see what we can do, with a little hard work maybe even more.

We have decided to continue the Commander's challenge this year we will give plaques for the **Persian Gulf Wars**. Tom Deal has stepped up and decided to be our chairman for this project. Thanks Tom.

My year is progressing very well thanks to all the help I have received. We are having our next DEC meeting at Post 77 in Easton Md. on November 18th at 12:00 pm. There are some of us that will be going there on Friday night, Freddie has said they will be doing something for us that night and then we can attend the meeting the next day, so try and be there on Friday if you can, there are plenty of Hotels around. I also need to remind everyone that we are collecting toys for the Toys for Tots Program on our meeting day.

Chairman Tim Culp will be there to collect all toys and monetary donations. We have inquired to see if a representative from the Marine Corp will be in attendance and as of this writing we have not received confirmation.

Also keep in mind for the Winter meeting in OC. There is a block of rooms, so just tell them you are with the Sons of The American Legion to get the rate, and don't forget the Special Olympics, Polar Bear Plunge with the American Legion Family (details within this Pride article) at Sandy Point beach before going down. The American Legion Family will be plunging for the kids.

I want to also let everyone know the American Legion Family Christmas party will be held December 10th at Dewey Lowman Post 109 at 1610 Sulphur Spring Rd. Arbutus Md. 21227 Time is 4 pm to 7 pm please attend, the cost is only \$5.00 per person. Please see me for a flyer, fill out and cut off the bottom of the flyer and send to Department Sgt-At-Arms, Ron Holcombe. Let's have some fun and enjoy the holidays together. Hope to see you all at our next meeting.

Thank you and bless you all for a job well done.

“Sons Helping Scouts Become Leaders”

Dave Hullihen
Commander
Detachment of Maryland

Sons of The American Legion
daveh.195@hotmail.com
(410) 446-5496

Adjutant's Corner

D.E.C. : The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Hullihen, on November 18, 2017 at 12:00 P.M. The meeting is being hosted at Blake-Blackston Post 77, located at 102 Glenwood Ave., Easton, MD 21601. The post phone number is 410-822-4486.

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 27th, 2018 For Draw Down tickets or general information, please contact First Vice Commander Jim Alexander, Second Vice Commander Bob Manzo, Third Vice Commander Mark Fayer or Event Chairman PDC Ray Edwards. Special hotel rates have been arranged with the Grand Hotel, so please contact them and ask for the SAL rates.

Detachment Executive Committeemen:

Please be advised that Karl Kibler has accepted the position as Detachment Renewal & Retention Chairman to work in conjunction with the District Commanders and the Detachment 1st Vice Commander, Jim Alexander. He will be in contact with you soliciting your co-operation and support working with your assigned squadrons.

Yours In Service,
Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant
matoskaw@yahoo.com
443-710-9664

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Commander's Project

Boy Scouts of America

Commander Dave Hullihen's Project this year is the Boy Scouts of America. His main goal is to provide the means for scouts throughout the 7 Districts in the Detachment of Maryland to be able to attend a camping event over the next year. We will be asking the local Scouting Leaders to contact our District Commanders and POC's to provide a list of possible scouts or troops that may not be able to attend otherwise. The six District POC's are Joe Weik – SMD, Leon Miller – SESD, Mark Fayer – NESD, Tim Culp – NCD; Drain Plummer - Baltimore, and Bill Hill – Mtn & WMD.

I am happy to report that we have received the back ordered T-Shirts and have some kid's sizes and Adult sizes Medium to 4XL. Shirts are only \$20.00. Please contact me if you would like to buy or help sell shirts. The SMD will be hosting their Annual Chuck Wagon Cook-Off Saturday October 21st at Post #7. The winner gets bragging rights for the year and the money raised will all go to Commander Dave's Project. If you have an event planned, please let us know and Dave or I will be happy to attend. I look forward to seeing you at our November DEC.

"Sons Helping Scouts Become Leaders"

Yours in Service,

Joe Weik

Project Chairman



Trucking for Membership !

Breaker/Breaker Truckers

I would like to congratulate all the trucking companies who delivered 25% of their membership by October 12th, however we are still 159 members behind in last year's numbers at this time of the year. As a Detachment we're at 30.25% as of the October 13 membership report. Not bad but we can do better. Commanders, get on your CB Radio and call your distribution centers and let them know how important it is to get any 2017 and 2018 memberships in.

A big shout out goes NCD Trucking who is

running away with membership this year at 49.06% delivery of membership, they also have two squadrons 122 and 263 who already made four-star outstanding job truckers.

NCD Trucking needs to keep moving in the fast lane because NESD and Baltimore truckers are on your bumper and they're going to be passing you soon. SMD and SESD truckers are right behind them and the other trucking companies need to get out of the granny lane and put the hammer down, get a hold of your distribution centers and get those memberships in.

Remember we need have 35% of are membership in by November 15th.

Jim Alexander
Membership Chairmen
1st Vice Commander
jimalex831@verizon.net

Americanism Report

Here we go starting off another year and we are very happy that our Commanders Project this year is one from the Americanism committee. Commander Hullihen has picked the Boy Scouts as his project and Joe Weik will be serving as his chairman. You can find more information under the Commanders Project in this newsletter for the Boys Scouts.

Yours in Service,
Mark T. Fayer Sr.
Americanism Chairman

Flag Replacement Program:

As published on the website, The Detachment of Maryland will present awards to the top two Squadrons for their support of the Flag replacement program. Same rules apply as last year, make sure that the size of the replaced flag is indicated on the replacement form (3x5 flags will count as 5 points and smaller flags will count as 1 point). Flag replacement form can be downloaded at mdsal.org/. Also, forms will be available at the next DEC Meeting November 18th, 2017 @ Post 77.

It is very important to get out there and replace the torn/faded Flags when possible as well as placing flags in your community where there is none but only with permission. This can be done through your Squadron or District as long as the funds permit. It will show our respect to our Country and mainly to our Veterans.

If I can assist you in any way you can contact me at saljerry@comcast.net or at 443-807-1131

Jerry Saunders, Sr.

Flag Replacement Program Chairman

Boys State

The American Legion Boys State program began in 1935. It was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card. The first Boys State was held at the Illinois State fairgrounds in Springfield.

It is a program in which students become part of the operation of the local, county and state government. The participants learn the rights, responsibilities and privileges of citizens.

Squadrons should start holding fund raisers now to help offset the cost to the post instead of waiting till March or April. Also you can use funding from businesses in your communities to also help offset the cost. The cost is still \$300.00 per boy.

Ask your Post Commander if they have appointed a Boys State Chairperson. Remember that all male students will have completed the eleventh grade and will be in the twelfth grade when school starts in the following August.

If you have any questions about Boys State, you can call, email, or text me.

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

National Emergency Fund:

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, Nate, the wildfires in California, all natural disasters affecting Legions and Legion Family members. The National Emergency Fund (NEF) was set up to assist in these situations.

Now more than ever we have to stand up and come to the aid of our comrades. I'm asking all Squadrons, Posts, Riders, and Auxiliaries to donate as much as they can to the NEF. We can make a difference. My own Squadron, Reisterstown #116, has made a \$500 donation. I know some can't afford to

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match it, but give what you can.

Also, if you know of anyone affected by these disasters and is in need of help the details are listed below. You can download an application from the Legion.org website under Nation Emergency Fund.

Let's make a difference!

Eligibility open to Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members (up to 3,000 Legion Posts (up to \$10,000).

Applicant must have been displaced from their primary residence due to a declared natural disaster and provide proof of out-of-pocket expenses. Not meant to replace or repair items, only to meet most immediate needs (i.e., temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.)

Does not cover insurance compensation or monetary losses from a business, structures on your property (barns, tool sheds, etc.) equipment or vehicles. Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.

Application requirements

Application must be received within 90 days of disaster.

Disaster must be a "declared" natural disaster for Legion Family members. -Supporting data (photos, receipts, repair estimates, etc.) should be included if at all possible or statements (testimony) from post/district/department officers attesting to damages.

Only one grant per household. Post grants must derive from a declared natural disaster and substantiating documentation must provide that The American Legion post will cease to perform the duties and activities in the community due to losses sustained.

Yours in Service,
Bill Stem (PDC)
NEF Chairperson

Community Affairs:

As we approach the holiday season now is a great time to participate in activities for the holidays. Work with your Posts and Units to host a children's Christmas Party or Breakfast with Santa. Remember the Toys for Tots drive is starting and you can participate in that worthwhile program.

I wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday,

and I hope to see at the DEC.

Yours in Service
Bill Yeagy—Chairman

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

Gentleman, summer has given way to fall and that means Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here before you know it. Do you want to help make a child's Christmas morning special? You can help by bringing in a new, unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots to our next Detachment meeting on November 18th, encourage your fellow Post members to donate a toy for you to bring also. This will help a child to have a gift to open on Christmas Day. My home Post and Squadron does an Annual Christmas Basket Outreach with our local schools to help needy families have a good holiday meal. It is easy and makes you feel good knowing you are helping a family to enjoy a holiday event many of us may take for granted.

The Maryland Special Olympics is gearing up for the annual bowling Tournament with regionals being held in November and the finals on December 3rd. This event is proudly sponsored by your Detachment and there are volunteer opportunities available. Sign up is done through the Maryland Special Olympics website. The Winter Games are right around the corner so be on the lookout for more information!

I would like to thank Squadron 135 for the thoughtful donation of coloring books, crayons and informational pamphlets for the Detachment Campout held September 29-October 1. These informative pamphlets and coloring books are available through the American Legion Emblem Sales, and cover all facets of patriotism, flag etiquette and good citizenship. A right-hand salute to Squadron 135!

I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

Children & Youth Chairman
Bob Manzo

**Special Olympics—
Maryland**

On Friday, January 23rd, plan to join us for the Military Plunge. If for some reason you can't make it, we'll plunge for you, and the donations you've collected will still go to a very worthy cause.

If you want to join the Legion Family, then please do the following:

Go to- plungemd.org
Click- Police Plunge "Register"
Click- Join a Team
Enter- American Legion Family Team
Click- Join
Choose options and enter info

The SAL sponsored Bowling competitions are as follows-

November 12 – Regional competitions – Glen Burnie, Frederick, Ellicott City, Gaithersburg

December 3 – State Competition – Gaithersburg

Please make an effort to visit one of these events to see the fruits of our labors.

Better yet, plan to volunteer, go to SOMD.ORG and register

Other upcoming events include The Winter Conference in Ocean City, January 23-25. Included in the weekend of fun are Fridays Polar Bear Plunge on January 23rd and Saturdays Draw-Down benefitting Special Olympics

The Doug Henley Memorial Laps of Love will be convention weekend and signing up for this event is a great way you can help Special Olympics of Maryland along with other children and youth programs. Sign up yourself or make a team. Sponsorship for the event start at \$200.00 and will get the sponsors name listed on the back of the shirts given to participants raising over \$75.00.

So, "Get your hands out of your pockets and reach into your friend's pockets". Show them the great feeling we all get from helping the wonderful athletes of Special Olympics Maryland

Helping others makes your Heart feel good,

Eddie Souder ~ Chairman
eddie.souder@verizon.net
301-706-3960

Casey Cares Newsletter

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

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JR's Journey for National Vice Commander

Comrades,

We are once again blessed to have one of our own running for a National Office. If all goes according to plan, our very own Don "JR" Hall will be elected National Vice Commander for the East Region at the National Convention in Indianapolis in August 2019.

JR is extremely excited about this opportunity, and looks to fill the shoes and probably split the seams of the other National Leaders from Maryland that have gone on before him, but doing it the way that only JR could do it. To accomplish all that JR wants to do, he is going to need the help of all of us here in Maryland. JR is looking forward to traveling around Maryland and the East Region to share his vision and to get the opportunity to get to know each one of you better.

To accomplish this task, we are going to need to raise the funds necessary to help make not only his campaign for National Vice, but his year in office a success. So, you ask, how can I help? Well the answer to that question is simple, but requires some work and dedication. During this next year and a half, there will be a number of fundraisers to help raise the necessary funds that your squadron and district could help with. Or, your squadron could have its own fundraiser for JR or simply donate to his campaign.

This December will be the start of another fundraiser held by the campaign. We are currently selling a 30 Lottery Calendar for \$10.00 to kick off on December 1st. These tickets will have a daily payout of at least \$50.00 and ranging to \$250.00 on Christmas Day if your number hits straight on the MD daily evening pic 3 drawing. We need your help by selling these tickets to your friends and family or by having your squadron purchase several of these tickets.

As the Campaign Chairman for JR, I have set a goal of \$10,000.00 to be reached by June of 2019. This will allow JR to travel the East and around Maryland and to help with other costs during his year as National Vice Commander. As a Past National Vice Commander and Past National Commander, I know what it takes to do the job correctly. I also know that the members here in Maryland have always supported their own and it's time once again to support another one of our great leaders on his rise to the top. It's time to support JR Hall for National Vice Commander.

Please show me and more importantly, show JR that you are behind his journey. If you can help, please contact me. The Campaign Team will be more than willing to travel to your Post to discuss how you can help or to attend a fundraiser that you will have to support JR. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your support.

"United In Service"

Joe Gladden

Campaign Chairman-JR For National Vice Commander

Past National Commander

Joeglad123@aol.com

443-742-0842

Detachment of Maryland

Sons of The American Legion

Message Points & Operational Procedures

- The Sons of The American Legion was established as a non-political, non-sectarian civilian organization at the 14th National Convention of The American Legion in Portland, Oregon, September 12-15, 1932.
- The Sons of The American Legion is a **Program** of The American Legion with over 6,100 Sons of The American Legion Squadrons located throughout the United States, France, and the Philippines with a total membership of nearly 370,000 members.
- The major goals of the Sons of The American Legion is support to our nation's veterans and their families as well as support to The American Legion and the programs represented by the Four Pillars of which The American Legion was founded.
- The Sons of The American Legion annually contributes over 1.6 million dollars in cash and goods to our nation's veterans in VA Homes and Medical Facilities and over 450,000 volunteer hours.
- The Sons of The American Legion **Program** has proven to be a key component to the Legion Family in support of The American Legion programs and all veterans.
- As a **Program** of The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion is accountable to the sponsoring body of The American Legion that empowered the Sons of The American Legion program to operate at that level. (i.e. Squadron to Post, District to AL District, Detachment to Department, & National to AL National)
- The American Legion as a non-profit organization must follow the guidelines set forth by the Internal Revenue Service governing non-profit organizations which include every post filing a 990-series tax form on an annual basis which must include **all** of the financial activity sponsored by a post including that of any programs the post sponsors. This by default includes all financial activity of the Sons of The American Legion squadron or any program that post sponsors with the understanding that all financial accounts opened within the structure of the post can only exist utilizing the post FEIN number which therefore makes the post accountable.
- Failure to follow the IRS guidelines could result in substantial fines and penalties including the forfeiture of the post's non-profit status which would inevitably cause the post to close.
- Recommendations for a squadron to be proactive and establish a strong working relationship with their sponsoring post understanding the ultimate goal is all our support for our veterans and our communities:
 - Understanding that one of the first actions of a newly elected Post Commander is to appoint a Squadron Chairman from the post to oversee the Squadron activities, reach out to that Chairman and establish a cohesive working relationship from the start.
 - Establish a Constitution and By-Laws if one doesn't exist.
 - Elect a slate of officers and have Chairman/Post ratify at beginning of each administrative year.
 - Present Financial Budget to post to approve at the beginning of each administrative year. Understanding that any non-budgeted items will need your Chairman's approval before disbursement.
 - Maintain minutes of monthly meetings which should include squadron financial statement.
 - Give copy of said meeting minutes to post commander and/or adjutant monthly.
 - Make sure any financial accounts opened utilize the post FEIN number.
 - Understanding that squadron account can only exist utilizing the post FEIN number, the Post Treasurer or Finance Officer must be one of the signatories on the account.

By working together in harmony and following some simple guidelines will result in our continued success.

Yours In Service,
William E. Matoska, PNC
Detachment Adjutant and Detachment Internal Affairs Chairman

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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

DOUGLAS HENLEY MEMORIAL LAPS OF LOVE

Why Not Start Now?

You don't have to wait til the first of the year or til you can register on the website, why not print out a flyer and hang it up at your post now? Maybe you can start talking to your Squadron, Post and Unit about being a sponsor for this great event each year. Sponsoring the event and getting your name on the shirt is a great way of letting everyone know that your supporting the Children and Youth Programs of The American Legion.

This year's event will be much like last years, it will take place on Saturday of convention weekend for the Sons. We will be again trying to have athletes from Special Olympics there along with families from Casey Cares. It is always great when you see individuals and families that benefit from the work we all do. Not all programs have that kind of accessibility, this gives everyone a chance to feel great about the work we do to help others.

Think of holding a raffle to be a sponsor, think of having one or two of members participate, or think of building a team from your post to help us raise money for the children and youth programs. If you have any question, need a flyer or sponsor sheet just email dhall1967@verizon.net and we will help any way we can.

JR Hall
Chairman

Toys For Tots

As you all know, the Sons of The American legion has actively supported the Toys for Tots organization for many years. This organizations mission "is to collect and distribute new toys as Christmas gifts to children in need in our community. For more than six decades, the U.S. Marine Corps has distributed over 452 million

toys to more than 209 million children." They rely heavily on the generosity and support of individuals and organizations.

I would like to see the SAL be an even stronger part of the Toys for Tots success. Therefore, I challenge each and every squadron to the following:

Collect either 100 new and unwrapped toys OR donate \$100 towards the Toys for Tots organization. If all of the 110 squadrons meet that challenge we could potentially collect 11,000 toys or \$11,000.

You can turn in monetary donations at any District or DEC meeting. To help streamline the toy collection process I ask that each squadron arrange a pick up or drop off on their own and turn in their final collection count to myself or their District Representative, who can turn the count into me at a DEC meeting. You can find local pick-up / drop off locations on the Toys For Tots website (www.toysfortots.org).

I hope that everyone keeps Toys for Tots in mind ALL year long and not just at Christmas time. Once this year's collections have been turned in you can start collecting for the following year.

Toy for Tots Chairman
Timothy Culp

Legislative Alert!

I want to start out by saying thank you for everyone who contacted your Senators and Congressmen about The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act of 2017. It has passed the Senate and House and the President signed it. The American Legion National Commander Denise Rohan commented; "There are those who question why The American Legion put so much energy and focus into passing a centennial coin bill. The answer was rather simple and veteran-centric: The funds generated from the coin will directly help our nation's heroes and their families. Without Legion family members getting active, calling their members of Congress – and sometimes it was more than just once – this would have never happened." This shows we can help when we get involved, again thank you all.

The Washington Conference will be February 25-28, 2018. The wreath laying tours will be on Sunday February 25. National Commander Danny Smith will lay a wreath at the tomb of The Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery at 9:15 am. He will also be accompanied by members of the Sons and Legion family members to lay wreaths at both the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the World War II Memorial. Members of The American Legion, American

Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, friends and families will attend and show respect for the sacrifices made by our Nation's military in the defense of liberty and freedom. We have added a second bus for the tours this year due to the increasing numbers of Legion Family Members attending. If you would like to attend let me know.

The web site for all to take a look at: www.congress.gov. The information is sometimes overwhelming however it is easily accessible and you can find any current legislation. I will still send out e-mails when I get them. Everyone needs to contact their representatives and express the need to keep taking care of our veterans. Let them know we are supporting the military and our veterans. Using the web site above you can look up your representatives and send them e-mails or call them. Schedule a meeting with them and sit down for a few minutes and ask questions about their support for our veterans.

For God and Country

Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
tom.deal@verizon.net

Homeland Security

Hello Comrades,

Let us take a moment and reflect on some words that all of us are familiar with from our Preamble :

"Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of the American Legion: for the following purposes-

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism. To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation. "

As everyone knows there has been much happening since the last newsletter with the turmoil not only here in the USA but also around the world. It is up to each one of us to take a moment and set aside our own personal thoughts and emotions about things and be unified as one for the common good. Our Homeland Security. The safety and protection of our country is and should always be foremost in our hearts and minds. It is healthy to have debates and exhibit our first right amendment to freedom of speech but remember this still does not give us the right to cause civil strife and unrest.

I, like many others, swore a military oath to

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uphold and defend the constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic when entering the military service. Our own Preamble even takes part of that oath. The Constitution and its amendments are the law of the land and is a guiding doctrine to our homeland security. We may not always agree with things but we do need to go by the law of the land. If we don't go by the law then all we have is chaos and I am sure that is the last things any of us wish to have happen.

In closing I would like to quote a great American these words 154 yrs ago that was profound back then and even more profound now " That this nation, under God shall have a new birth of freedom- and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth"- (Abraham Lincoln)

Mike Obremski
Legislative Commission
Homeland Security

VAVS Variety

November brings on the change of A number of events are scheduled throughout the State of Maryland. On October 28, 2017, Perry Point VA Hospital had a Fall Festival from 1:00 – 3:30 pm. The Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Service Organization Liaison Committee will hold their annual Christmas Ice Cream Social on December 9, 2017 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

Also, there will be activities at MCVET, Loch Raven VA CLC, and other VA Facilities that you can get involved in.

A number of Districts/Squadrons are already helping with these events. Future dates of these activities will be announced when they are confirmed.

Monetary Donations are used to support a variety of patient activities and services throughout the VA Maryland Health Care System. When making a monetary donation, the donor is asked to specify how they would like their contribution to be utilized in support of our hospitalized Veterans.

Some of the Patient Projects that can be supported by your generous contributions include: Patient Televisions & In-Room Movies, Patient Recreation Activities & Supplies, Patient Holiday Activities & Gifts, Patient Comfort Items, and Hospice Program Activities.

Every contribution, whether from an

individual, corporation, organization or private foundation, makes a difference. All monetary donations to the VA Maryland Health Care System are tax deductible and there are no administrative costs associated with processing your contribution. One of the staff members in the Voluntary Service Office will be happy to assist you in answering questions about making a monetary donation or the various Patient Projects that are currently in need of your support.

In-Kind Donations

The VA Maryland Health Care System accepts in-kind donations of certain toiletries, books, magazines, lap robes, clothing and other miscellaneous items.

These donations are used for the comfort and enjoyment of our veteran patients while they are receiving care at any one of our facilities.

The need for in-kind donations varies at each facility, so we ask that you contact one of the staff members in our Voluntary Service Office for a listing of their current needs.

We can make a difference.

Please consider donating now to the Veterans Centers, Hospitals, Homes and Veteran Programs.

Together We Can Make A Difference! Thank you!

Yours in service,

Larry Ford, VAVS Chairman
Email: lafldt@comcast.net
Cell Phone: 443-413-4710

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

The CHVH Service Organization Liaison Committee (SOLC) will hold their annual Christmas Ice Cream Social on December 9 from 2 to 4 PM. All residents who attend receive a Christmas card with \$5 inside in addition to the ice cream. Volunteers to help serve the residents are always welcome. Donations to help cover the cost of the food and the \$5 gifts to the residents should be sent to Richard Bamberger, Treasurer, CHVH SOLC, 2209 Pinefield Court, Waldorf, MD 20601. Make checks payable to CHVH/SOLC with Christmas Ice Cream Social in the memo line.

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. Remember, the CHVH is the only Veterans Home in the state. Currently there are residents from Baltimore City and 18 of the 23 counties in the state.

If you would like to learn more about the Charlotte Veterans Home check out their website, www.charhall.org. Check out the wish list and the volunteer opportunities.

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

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

Their mission is to provide homeless veterans and other veterans in need with comprehensive services that will enable them to rejoin their communities as productive citizens. Here are the five distinct programs within The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET)

- ◆ Day Drop-In Program
 - ◆ Emergency Program (13 weeks)
 - ◆ Transitional Housing Program (up to two years)
 - ◆ Follow-up Program, and 80 Single Room Occupancy apartments (SRO).
- A natural progression will be to go from the Day Drop-in Program, to the Emergency Program, to the Transitional Housing Program, to the SRO.

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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EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION COMMISSION "Remember"

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

"Where to find this information and how we can get it out to the Veterans?" By going online and finding local job fairs and benefits available in your state. Then by taking this info, as well as info received from National or Detachment, and placing it on your Squadron/Post websites and Facebook pages as well as in your newsletters. Also by printing it out and posting it on your Post's bulletin board and in other locations around your community where local Veterans will see it. You can also request that your Post e-mail this info out to their members. Be creative with your distribution.

When you leave the military, the biggest question is **"What's next?"** Your Squadron can help with the answer to this question by providing this information to our Veterans. Please assist us in making this new Sons of The American Legion Commission a successful one nationwide while assisting the "Heroes" who have kept America and everyone in it free and safe.

Larry "Bear" Weinzirl

National VE&E Chairman

Chaplin's Corner

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

Gracious Father, grant us The strength and courage to "from the heart" just give it a start to set new goals and achieve greater heights. Be with us as we go in Thy Name to work in Service for God and Country and programs of The American Legion and The Sons Of The American Legion.

In Thy Name we pray. Amen.

For God and Country

In His Service,

Bill Yeagy

Time and Place Committee

We're heading back to Laurel for the 45th Annual Convention!

However this time, we will hold the Convention at the DoubleTree, by Hilton. This was our guest hotel last year. All meetings and convention registration will be at the hotel.

Details for the DoubleTree hotel, bowling and other events will be detailed in the upcoming months as well as part of 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

Southern Pride

Greetings from the Great Southern Maryland District,

We have had a very busy 3 month... to date I've had the opportunity to visit with 14 Squadrons and attend various functions throughout the District. I want to Thank Beltway Squadron and Post #172 for hosting our first SMD meeting on October 8th. We had a good turn-out. The "Blue Books" were delivered to all the DEC Men and should have been passed out to the squadrons by now.

We are doing well with Membership, but can do better. So far, we are 32 members ahead of where we were this time last year and are currently in 4th Place at 30.08%. Our November 15th goal is 35% so please keep working Membership. Also, please don't forget to send in any 2017 memberships that you may have. We are in danger of breaking the streak of +30 years of "ALL Time High's". We still have 9 Squadrons with "Goose Eggs". Please reach out to those Squadrons and see if we can't eliminate them by our November DEC Meeting.

My Commander's Challenge is back... The Squadron with the largest Membership increase from Friday 8/25 to Friday 12/1 will get a free ticket to our Annual SMD Drawdown. But wait... there's more. The Squadron with the largest % increase also wins a free Ticket as well. That's two ways to

win and gets you a dinner for 2 and a chance for your squadron to win up to a \$1000.00.

Speaking about the Draw Down... It will be held on December 2nd at Clinton Post 259 from 5pm to 10pm. There are only a few tickets left so please contact Gary Castleman or myself for tickets. Tickets are \$35.00 each.

Our next SAL SMD meeting is scheduled for December 3rd at Damascus Post #171 starting at 1pm. All "Blue Caps", Post Commanders, and Advisors are encouraged to attend. Our District can only become better if we get new people and ideas. Please remember our Veterans on November 11th and have a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday Season.

Yours in Service,

Joe Weik

Southern Maryland
District Commander

Northern Central News

Greetings from the Northern Central District!

Membership renewals are coming in at a good pace with the NCD in first place at 49.06%, at the time of this writing. My commanders project, Boy Scouts of America, is under way; please remember to support this vital project. Your donations will go a long way to helping scouts who may not otherwise get to go to camp have a fun experience. If you are planning any fund raisers let me know so I can attend to support your activity.

Our trip to support the Annual Perry Point Carnival will be on October 28th. Chairman Jim Sullivan is organizing our districts' effort and I am sure he can use more help and donations to bring off yet another successful event, helping our veterans.

Toys for Tots collection will be coming up at the November DEC, please remember to support this worthwhile program. You can help brighten a child's Christmas morning with your thoughtful donation of a new unwrapped gift. Also, reach out to your local food banks and schools to see what you can do to help a needy family have a great holiday.

The district meeting dates for the coming

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(Continued from page 6)

year are:

Sunday Oct 29, 2017 at Essex #148 at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 2, 2017 at Aberdeen #128 at 12:00 p.m.

Sunday February 11, 2018 at Dundalk #38 at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday April 22, 2018 at Harford # 39 at 1: 00 p.m.

I hope to see more attendance at the District meetings this year, as we are only successful if we all participate and work together. I also would like to see more participation at the DEC meetings. These meetings are important to our organization and a lot of good information is disseminated at the DEC meetings. For example, the January meetings are held in Ocean City and there is a fantastic training session held on Saturday morning at the Grand Hotel followed by a Draw Down to support the Special Olympics of Maryland. I will have Drawdown tickets available if interested.

Finally, DEC Representatives assigned to each of the Squadron's and they 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 need my assistance at any time please call me at 410-952-6471.

Yours in Service,

Bob Manzo
NCD Commander

Baltimore News

Greetings,

We've been doing well here in the Baltimore District. Membership is going quite well, 3rd place in the Detachment and steady improving. Definitely working on getting 2017 paid up before the December 31st deadline.

In September, I held my first meeting as district commander, a nice turnout. Special thanks go to Detachment Commander David Hullihen, Detachment 1st Vice Commander Jim Alexander and Detachment 2nd Vice Commander Bob Manzo for attending and keeping us informed on what's happening within the Detachment.

As far as membership, we exceeded the 10 percent goal with a 21.35 percent. I know we still have a long way to go, but we're off to a good start. Big thanks to my D. E. C. men and 1st Vice Commander. I have also laid out my agenda for how I would like to raise money for the district and my commander's

project, The Baltimore Station. One of the things I mentioned was having a Steak Dinner night, Seafood Dinner night as well as having District Masquerade Ball. Also I plan on having a draw down. Any advice or ideas anybody have would be greatly appreciated. Speaking of The Baltimore Station, on September 16th, a barbecue was held at Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Post 187 for the residents of the station. A chance for them to get out and have fun, which they did as well as the members of the post, squadron and unit. Also, Squadron 187 had a GoFundMe page where they raised over \$2100 for purchase a commercial washer and as well as bed sheets, toiletries and other items.

I also plan on having a Thanksgiving Dinner for them in November. Also during this time I would also like to do a clothing drive, if possible. Right now, the residents need coats and jackets, all sizes. If anyone would like to help with this, please let me know. If anyone would like to learn more about The Baltimore Station, please go to: www.baltimorestation.org, or call 410-752-4454. They can always use volunteers and donations. Whatever you can do is greatly appreciated. I am honored to be a part of an organization that does all they can to help our veterans. That's why my motto is "Helping Veterans To A Brighter Future." For God and Country and Serving Our Veterans,

Nathaniel "Nate" Russell

Baltimore District S. A. L. Commander

North Eastern Shore Times

Hello Comrades,

As we have completed the first quarter of the year, I would like to thank all of our NESD squadrons on their continuous efforts concerning membership. As of 10/0/17, we are at 47.59% of goal, which is 41 members ahead of last year's statistics. Congratulations to squadron 21 for reaching 100%, 808 memberships were turned in during the first quarter. Let's keep in Trucking!!

On November 18th, the Detachment meeting will be held at Blake Blackston Post 77 in Easton, at 1:00pm. I would encourage that each squadron of the NESD have a representative present at this meeting.

Upcoming events:

December 10th, NESD meeting at Post 77 starting at 10:30am
Squadron 77 – Basket of Cheer raffle tickets \$5.00
NESD monthly lottery beginning January 2018. Get your tickets now.
Squadron 135 Texas Hold Em, January 13th.
Flyer can be found on the Detachment Website.

Freddie Taylor
Commander: N.E.S.D.

NEC Update!

I bring you greetings from our New National Commander Danny Smith from Nebraska. Commander Smith's theme this year is

"FOLLOWING THEIR FOOTSTEPS.....MAKING HISTORY" and the membership theme is

"PIONEERING SPIRIT: COURAGE, FAITH, TEAMWORK, PERSEVERANCE".

Commander Smith is focused on all of the programs of The American Legion and focus on membership and how we can retain our membership and sign up new members. This is also the year of change at the National level with the retirement of John Kerestan, and new Liaison Mr. Paul Brown and a new National Adjutant Anthony Wright from PA. With these changes came a new format on how the Fall NEC meetings were held. While at the fall NEC our members sat in and participated in the meetings that were held. A lot of good work was done in the two day's where we were in Indy. Congratulations go out to our newest graduate of the Detachment Commanders class our Commander Dave Hullihen.

Eastern Region welcomes Ken Warner from PA as our National Vice Commander. He is very proud to be our Vice Commander and is looking forward to a great year. Vice Commander Ken talks membership and thanks all the Detachments that have made goal. We are at 28.060% and second in the East and 20th in the Nation and overall the Nation is at 20.154%. We need to keep this momentum going, now is not the time to slow down. Our retention rates are low and we need to figure out how to get these members back. One way is to ask them and explain to them the importance of their membership and what we do as a Veterans organization, VA&R, Americanism and Children and Youth programs we donate to and support by volunteering. Sometimes you just have to ask.

Yours in Service,

Andy Dadds

Nat'l Executive Committeeman (NEC)



“Sons Helping Scouts Become Leaders”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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

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Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland



2018 Membership Target Date:

September 13, 2017	10%
October 12, 2017	25%
November 15, 2017	35%
<i>December 13, 2017</i>	<i>45%</i>
January 18, 2018	60%
February 14, 2018	75%
March 14, 2018	80%
April 11, 2018	90%
May 9, 2018	100%
* July 18, 2018	105%

Delegate Strength Target Date

Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2017—2018

Fall D.E.C. Meeting

November 18th, 2017 / Blake-Blackston Post 77 @ 12pm

Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training at The Grand Hotel

Special Olympics Maryland Draw Down @ Post 166

January 27th, 2018

Winter D.E.C. Meeting & Training Session

January 28th, 2018 / Synepuxent Post 166 @ 12pm

Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown

March 3rd, 2018 / Susquehanna Post 135 @ 6pm

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 15th, 2018 / Harry White-Wilmer Post 82 @ 1pm

45th Annual Detachment Convention

June 22nd to 24th, 2018

DoubleTree by Hilton

15101 Sweitzer Ln, Laurel, MD 20707