



**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Maryland**



“The Pride”

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

Volume 2014/2015: Issue 4
Spring Issue - April 12, 2015

Commander’s Corner

Hello Again,

Where has this year gone to? We go about doing our work as Sons and look up and it is time to start planning to wrap up the year. Since our last Pride we had a wonderful weekend in Ocean City in January and I believe the Detachment as a whole shined for the weekend. Friday kicked off with the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge and as a Legion family we raised over \$21,000.00 for the athletes of Special Olympics. It was a great honor to have our National Commander Mike Moss come into town early enough to take the plunge with us. Then came Saturday and we started the day off with some great classes instructed by PNC Bill Sparwasser. I want to thank all that attended and I know you got a lot out of the class. Thank you to PNC Sparwasser, you did a wonderful job and I appreciate your commitment to our organization. We didn't stop there; the South Eastern Shore Sons of The American Legion were host to our drawdown to raise money for Special Olympics and when the day was done Chairman Ray Edwards reported just about \$5,000.00 raised . Great job to everyone involved. Sunday we had our DEC meeting and it was again a full house at Post 166. We had 21 guest with us and a room full of members as over \$10,000.00 in donation came across the podium for the programs of this great Detachment. Gentleman of the Detachment let me say again, WOW what a weekend. Thanks to everyone.

Even with all the cold and snow we did not slowdown in February. I had the opportunity to speak at the Department of Maryland’s DEC in Greenbelt and

enjoyed the fellowship with our Legionnaires, Thank you Commander Baker for that opportunity. We had some great fun on the North Eastern Shore as I visited for a weekend and want to Thank the members from Post 77 and Post 296 for all their hospitality they showed to me and my wife. On Sunday February 22nd I attended the bus trip at Washington Conference, along with all three Vice Commanders and our Legislative Chairman – PDC Tommy Deal. This could be the highlight of my year as I was able to place a wreath at the Korean Memorial in honor of my grandfather’s service in Korea. I Thank the Detachment for that great honor given to me and I Thank all those that were with me that day. When we left Washington we didn’t head home, but we headed up to the Special Olympics Winter Games at White Tail. The games were a great success and we appreciate the volunteers that showed up to help with the games.

Now March rolled in and the snow gave way to some sun to help melt away all that snow. The Detachment of Maryland had a great showing at the National Commanders banquet and I was proud to represent us by giving two checks for \$1,000.00 each to NEF and the Endowment Fund. March is a busy month for us all and as I write this we have plans to attend Casey Cares Gala, National Presidents Banquet, a couple receptions and of course the Commanders Drawdown in Perryville at Post 135. Thank all of you for the work you do as Sons of The American Legion, together we have a great brotherhood of love for our organization. As we start to make our plans please make sure you do the most important part of the work that has to be done and report it. Let’s show

everyone all we do as a great organization by reporting the work and celebrating another great year for the Detachment.

“Stepping up to The Challenge”

JR Hall

Commander
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion

Adjutant’s Corner

D.E.C./Spring: The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander, JR Hall, on April 12, 2015 at 12:00 P.M. The meeting is being hosted at: Mason Dixon Post #194, 338 East Main St., Rising Sun, Md. 21911, and the post phone number is 410-658-9078.

Directions: From I-95 North take Exit 93 toward MD-222/Perryville/Port Deposit. At end of ramp turn right onto MD-222/ Perrylawn Drive. Continue on Perrylawn Drive which becomes MD-275. Turn right onto Jacob Tome Memorial Hwy/MD-276. Enter next roundabout and take 1st exit on MD-273 which becomes Main St. Post is 1.6 miles after this turn.

Training Seminar #3: There is a Training Module scheduled to precede the D.E.C. meeting at Post #194 beginning at 11:30 AM. PNC Sparwasser will be facilitating this session which is “Time Management”. All members of the Legion Family are welcome to attend and participate in this seminar.

CSR: The Squadron Consolidated Report Form has been received and sent to every Squadron Commander with this mailing of The Pride. The cut off date for Detachment Awards which are determined from the information on these forms is May 29, 2015.

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Once received an electronic copy of all reports will be sent to the respective District Commanders in order for each district to assimilate their District Report.

Sons Celebration: One June 13, 2015, Detachment Commander, JR Hall, will recognize every Squadron Commander that has stepped up and met the Commander's Challenge this year at a special recognition ceremony hosted at Parkville American Legion beginning at 5:30 PM. At the conclusion of the recognition ceremony each recipient of the Commander's Challenge Award will also receive 2 tickets to the "Sons Challenge Celebration Dinner & Dance" which begins at 7:00 PM. All proceeds from this Dinner & Dance will benefit the Commander's Project, Special Olympics of Maryland. Tickets are \$25 per person which includes dinner, soda, draft beer, and a limited open bar. For tickets to this special event contact Commander JR, Challenge Chairman Tom Deal or myself. Information for this event in on the Detachment web site and a flyer with details has been sent to every squadron commander. A special thank you to Parkville Post for donating the hall to host this event, The Band "Oracle" for donating the music, and to Convenience Catering for the dinner.

Yours In Service,
Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant
bill.matoska@comcast.net
443-710-9664

Get your Game on for MEMBERSHIP!

For this Pride article I had to include some of our Commanders thoughts and I wanted to reiterate what he stated in the last membership report to everyone. What our Commander states is true and to the point. I made a couple of changes but these are the words of our Commander.

"We want to Thank everyone for the job they are doing for the Detachment, and districts, it is also helping the Squadrons. Last year was a record year for membership and this year we are running ahead of last year's numbers and that is not to be taken lightly. This just doesn't happen.

This comes from a team of people working together. We can go around in our travels and talk about membership, we can hold conference calls and send out emails, but

without the work from our district Commanders and Squadrons it does not mean a thing. I am beside myself each week when I watch for the membership report, and I wonder can we continue this trend? I know we can, but I know we have reached our hardest bit of work to do. That last 10% is the hardest. March 13th report set the Detachment at 90.39. That is over the April 8th National goal of 90% which is FANTASTIC!!!! It also gives us 9.61 to go to get to the May 13th National goal of 100%. Now if you do the math that adds up to us needing just over 1% each week to get that done. Over the last four weeks we as a detachment have gain 1% each week. Let's keep it up. Send out letters to members that have not paid for this year, and make calls also. If you ask Squadrons to make calls to their members and help us push, we can make this happen. I am asking each one of you to take on the challenge of 1% a week for our great Detachment. Let's spend the time and get this done for our detachment, we CAN do it. If we don't it will not be a failure, but if we don't give it our best shot it is a failure to try. Thanks for everything you have done in serving your districts and the detachment, Lets finish strong!!!!"

I would like to thank the Commander for his words of wisdom as this is all true. We CAN and WILL, if we all work together to reach that May 13th National goal of 100%!!

Our commander stated the Detachment is at 90.39 which is past the April 8th goal of 90%, and this is GREAT!! We are 191 members ahead of last year!!!. We need to see who has not been up to bat and make sure we get everyone in the lineup and make sure that they all get their chance to Step up to the plate and take a swing at the pitch for Membership. We need to dig deep and stay focused as we head into the World Series.

Out of our seven districts, Western Maryland (the largest district) is in 1st place at 92.58 they now have been in first place for 6 weeks. They only need another 487 members to make goal. District Commander Robert Hill is looking for that Crab Cake Dinner from now 2nd place District, Southern Maryland (the 2nd largest District) which is sitting at 89.75%. Southern Maryland District has moved from 5th place to 2nd place. Commander Joe has hit some grand slams last week and he pitching strikes. Southern Maryland only needs another 528 members to make goal. In 3rd place is North Eastern Shore District at 89.62 % and District Commander Karl is running from third to home right on the heels of Southern Maryland by only .13%. They need another 179 members to make goal. In 4th place is South Eastern Shore District at 89.11% and they also need another 179 members to make goal. In 5th place is Northern Central District at 88.81% and in 6th place is Mountain District at 88.71% All 6 of these districts have made the March 11th goal of 80% and

Baltimore district in 7th place is at 79.94% just a couple members (runs) away and I know by our next meeting they will have met that April 8th goal of 90% as Jerry has and is working hard to get those runs in.

We have 6 Districts that are all within 3.87% of each other. The race to the World Series is Tight and will be a run race to watch to the final. Over the last 6 weeks there have been changes in the lineup and I am sure there will be more to come!!

Yours in Service

Jeffrey Seiler
Membership Chairmen
1st Vice Commander



Americanism Report

This year is almost over and soon we will be at our annual Detachment Convention. This is the time to start collecting your Squadron and District notes in preparation for completing the consolidated reports. Remember this report is the one opportunity to brag about what the blue cap members have done all year. Let's make this another outstanding year. We've always been and will continue to be a Detachment that shows its great support to all Americanism programs. Such as supporting local blood drives and helping to replenish food at our local food banks or raise money for our national emergency fund that will help veterans and their families in a time of need after a natural disaster. Let's not forget about our flag replacement program. This is a program about American flags in the community that are worn, torn or faded. These flags can be replaced by new ones and all you need to do is contact your local Post or Squadron and they'll help you replace it.

There will be more information about our next lunch at Fisher House at our Detachment meeting so you can come out and help us provide a wonderful lunch to our veterans and their families. Please read the updates on all the Americanism programs throughout the next few sections of the Pride for additional details; if you have any new ideas or questions please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the members of Americanism committee.

Yours in Service,

Americanism Chairman
Jim Alexander

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Flag Replacement Program:

Do you have a Flag Replacement program in your Post? This is a worthwhile program that your squadron should consider implementing in you Post. Implementing the Flag Replacement program in your Post is easy to do. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, information is at the bottom of the page.

This is a program whereby flags in the community that are worn, torn or faded can be replaced by new flags. Squadrons can advertise in their communities that old flags can be brought to their Post and be replaced with a new flag. The person bringing in the flag must complete in full a Flag Replacement form. That is, for every flag that is replaced a form must be completed. For example, if a person requested five flags, five replacement forms need to be completed. Several squadrons already have purchased flags.

Squadrons can sponsor fundraisers in their Post to raise monies to buy flags. Squadrons can purchase American flags at all Detachment meetings. Remember, Memorial Day is fast approaching.

Awards will be given to the two top squadrons who have replaced the most flags at the next DEC meeting at the Rising Son Post. The same rules apply as last year. Please make sure you indicate on the form, the size of the flag. Five points will awarded for 3x5 flags and smaller flags will count for 1 point. Again, the Flag Replacement form must be completed with each flag given out. Replacement forms will be available at all Detachments meetings, as well as, flags. Also, you can down load the form on-line under Americanism at the bottom of the page. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Yours in Service,

Gregory Taylor,
Flag Replacement Chairperson
gregohl1@verizon.net

BOYS STATE

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland members it's not too late. The applications have been sent to all the schools in the state, to all American Legion posts within the state and to the Boys State Staff. Now we need to get the word out about this number one program of The American Legion.

The service academies along with most of the four year colleges are looking for Boys State

graduates. This program provides life long memories in the United States of America's government process. Since we are a program of The American Legion all squadrons should support their American Legion post by helping out any way they can with this number one program.

Also we are looking for counselors so we can build this program. If you are interested in becoming a staff member, please contact myself, Mr. Roger Butt, Director, or any Boys State Staff member. Finally I would like to say "Thank You" to all the squadrons who have contributed to the Commander's Project "Americanism" pillar.

Dennis Renehan
Committee Chairman &
Boys State Staff member

(410)-330-3003

dawgtrucker@yahoo.com

National Emergency Fund:

In our last newsletter I asked for every Squadron to donate .50 per member to the National Emergency Fund. This will put the Sons in Maryland where we should be and the strength we have here. We are a little over 1/2 way thru this year and the NEF Fund continues to gain momentum in assisting our American Legion Family's in emergency situations. So if your Squadron hasn't made it's donation this year yet, I am begging you to do so. Also remember that 100% of the donations go to the Fund there is no administration cost. Mike Moss's goal for NEF is to raise \$50,000 and when he was at the DEC meeting in Ocean City he was astonished with what we can do here in Md. So let's don't let him down now, Get the donations in ASAP and show the Sons in Maryland never, I mean Never Stop when we get started. Any questions feel free to e-mail me at saljerry@comcast.net

Yours in Service,
Jerry Saunders,
NEF Chairperson

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

The American Legion recognizes that the community is an important part of our way of life. Many programs start at the community level such as; baseball, scouts, shooting sports, flag education. Some others are teen centers, park districts, hiking, and concerts. The best way for any Post, Unit, and Squadron to help ensure these program success and sustain its longevity is being in service to the

community. Many programs have high success rates when properly planed and when The American Legion Family is actively involved. It only takes one person to spark the movement to go forward.
Yours in Service,

Chris Dadds
Chairperson

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 learn more contact PNC Bill Sparwasser.

Yours in Service,

Americanism Chairman
Jim Alexander

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

With spring just around the corner, it's that time of year again. The "Doug Henley Memorial LAPS of Love" is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2015 at Mount Saint Joseph High School located in Baltimore. Registration at 9:00am with event kick off at 10:00am. Again, all funds raised will go to benefit three of our Children and Youth Programs; Special Olympics of Maryland, Casey Cares and Child Welfare Foundation. Let's get out and get your sponsor on board.

By now, every Squadron should have received your Special Olympic of Maryland Bowling Raffle tickets. Once again, we are hoping that each Squadron will purchase a ticket for every member on your roster. First prize will receive \$500.00 with a second prize \$250.00. The drawing will be held on Saturday June 27, 2015. Good luck to all.

Ray Edwards

Children & Youth Chairman

rayjred@verizon.net

(410) 215-9354 Cell

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Casey Cares Newsletter

As you read this, some of us have returned from the Annual Casey Cares Gala, representing the hard work that you have done to support this great organization. As our year as a Detachment comes to a close, please do not forget Casey Cares for donations and then include them in your end of year Consolidated Reports.

So there are two more events planned by Casey Cares before that, and a busy summer, so that you may start out the new year, "Making a Difference" for Critically ill Children, and bringing smiles to them. Mark your calendars now for the upcoming events planned for the summer.

The first is for the DC area, featuring an evening with Washington Bullets legends Kevin Grevey and Phil Chenier, being hosted by NBC sports anchor Steve Buckhantz as the emcee. This exciting event for you Bullet fans, will be held at Grevey's Restaurant & Sports Bar, in Falls Church, Va. on April 11th from 5:30-8PM. If interested in attending please contact me. The second event is still being finalized for the Baltimore Area, which last year presented the great Brooks Robinson. Hopefully, details will be available for our DEC meeting.

Next on the agenda would be our Annual Laps of Love, to be held on May 9th, at a new location, Mt. St. Joe's High School, Baltimore. More to follow from Commander Hall.

June is also a busy month with back to back events prior to our convention. The first is the Annual Golf Tournament, June 8th, once again held at the Rolling Rd. Golf Course. To all of golfer's out there, contact Adjutant Matoska if interested. The following weekend is our Annual Casey Cares Bike Ride on June 13th. Details still being finalized and see PDC Stem's article on this.

And last but not least, on August 1, 2015, the Annual 5K Walk/Run will once again be held at Oriole Park, Camden Yards, sponsored by the Baltimore Orioles. This event usually draws about 2,500 participants, and much help is needed on that day. A very good chance to represent our Detachment for this program.

Finally, for those that have supported

Kami's Jammies program, Casey has been asked to assist John Hopkins Hospital with their Kidney Camp weekend. They are very excited about this; however it leaves them in the need for adult size pajamas. Any donations or help would be greatly appreciated.

This is a lot of information, so please mark your calendars now. This will again be highlighted at our DEC, and I am hoping that I will be able to answer any questions and accept your donations. If not, PDC and current member on the Board of Directors for Casey Cares, Tom Deal, can assist with more information.

Serving Maryland's Children

Ed Steininger Sr.
Casey Cares Chairman
edwardsteininger@yahoo.com
443-807-1495

Child Welfare Foundation

"Dedicated to the betterment of all children"

Mr. Garland Murphy Jr. (Department of Arkansas) laid the groundwork, and the Foundation was duly incorporated on July 9, 1954. 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. From 1955 to date, over \$5 million has been awarded to assist the children of this country.

I would like to see each squadron set a goal, for a donation based on the number of members in your squadron. Set a goal that you feel you can achieve and have fundraisers to achieve that goal. If you need help with ideas on fundraisers, please let me know. Also I have CWF Cans, Piggy Banks, and brochures on Child Welfare Foundation. If you need any of these tools for your fundraising for CWF, please call or email me

100% per Capita Banner Program 2014 - 2015: Each squadron donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year will receive a beautiful banner/streamer. To qualify a

squadron must donate one dollar per member based upon its official membership total as of June 1, 2014. The squadron has from June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015 to complete its donation to CWF. Please see me if you need a Banner Request Form.

Yours In Service,
Larry Ford—CWF Chairman

Casey Cares—Annual Ride

This years ride will follow the same outline as last, with a new twist this year. We will have a 5" Patch, with the logo and a separate rocker panel, with the year. This is in place of a t-shirt. Ride details will be provided at the next DEC meeting, along with being posted on the Detachment website, Facebook and Emailed to as many ALR groups as we have contact information for. Note: If you have not received t-shirt for last years ride, please email PDC Bill Hill at: Hill1062@MSN.COM with a good phone number or means to contact you.

Looking forward to another great ride. Keep those tanks full and bladders empty.

"Stepping up to The Challenge"

Chairman
Jr. Past Detachment Commander
Bill Stem

Doug Henley Memorial—Laps of Love

It Is That Time Again!!!!

As April rolls around you know it is time to sign up and start getting sponsors for the 4th Annual Laps of Love.

This year will be a very special year as we have voted to dedicate this event in Memory of a great Legionnaire and friend, Past Department of Maryland, American Legion Commander, Doug Henley. I ask you all to please come and join us as we raise money for three great programs of the Sons of The American Legion. Special Olympics of Maryland, Casey Cares and CWF. For the first three years we have went over \$10,000.00 each year and with any luck we will reach a four year total of \$50,000.00 for the event. To do that we need to raise \$13,000.00 this year.

This year we have a change in venue and we will be at Mount St. Joe High School in

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Baltimore. We will again have families of Casey Cares there with us along with athletes from Special Olympics. The website is setup and ready for you to get on and sign up, so what are you waiting for. The date for the event is May 9, 2015 and we will start registration at 9:00am, with the dedication and walk starting at 10:00am and going til 12:00. If you need a sponsor sheet to take to your post and talk to your friends with just email me at dhall1967@verizon.net. Feel free to send me any other questions or concerns that you may have. I hope to see you May 9th at Mount St. Joe.

Here's the website: www.sallapsoflove.com

JR Hall
Chairman Emeritus &
Commander
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion

Legislative Alert!

I did attend the Washington Conference on February 22-25 this year. The Bus tour of Arlington National Cemetery, Viet Nam and Korean War memorials were again a great experience. Sunday Feb 22 Detachment Commander Hall, Vice Commanders Seiler, Edwards, Hullihen and I attended the tours of Arlington National Cemetery witnessing National Commander Mike Moss placing a wreath at the Tomb of The Unknown, the Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam Wall Memorial. Detachment Commander Hall placed a wreath at the Korean War Memorial in honor of his Grandfather's service. Over fifty members of the Sons from all over the country were on hand that day to make a presence and a very memorable time.

A legislative Priorities list was distributed at the conference and I have e-mailed it out with full information but here are the headlines; 1) Fully fund a superior national defense and protect troops from sequester cuts. 2) Oppose further increases in TRICARE fees, including prescription drug fees. 3) Continue reform efforts to build a strong VA. 4) Provide help for Veterans struggling with mental health and brain injury. 5) VA Claims backlog. 6) Work opportunities for Veterans in the private sector through government incentives. 7) Ensure transition programs are not adversely affected by sequestration. 8) End Veteran homelessness. 9) Education and opportunity – the Post

9-11 GI Bill. 10) Disables Veterans Tax/ Widows Tax. 11) American Flag Amendment. These are just the top priorities of The American Legion and have distributed the drop sheets for senators and congressmen. I do have more in depth talking points if you want them prior to talking to your representatives. I highly encourage EVERYONE to get involved, don't sit by and watch someone else, voice your opinion and make it count, you do make a difference. The American Legion web site has a wealth of information about legislative issues, action center, alert system, point papers and priority sheets at <http://www.legion.org/legislative>. Also for up to date information on representatives, voting calendars, legislation and much more dealing with the legislative process: <https://www.congress.gov/>. If I can be of assistance feel free to call or e-mail me. Let's all be Sons stepping up to the challenge and help our Veterans. For God and Country

Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
tom.deal@verizon.net

VAVS Variety

Visit your vets. If you do make donations put this and all donations for any VA programs you make throughout the year on your reports. Keep in mind just because the holidays are now over let's not forget our veterans they need help all year round.

Perry Point: Chairman PDC Tom Deal
Will be having their annual car show on June 14 2015. They will need someone to help cook hotdogs that day. They will also need donations for this. I believe Tom told me the SAL from the NCD will be doing hamburgers. Please stop by and give us a hand. As always we are looking for donations at Perry point Hospital throughout the year. If you make donations directly please let me or Tom Deal know so that you get the proper credit.

Loch Raven: Chairman Bob Fillipi
The SAL from the NCD are planning a cook out at the facility in May and can always use help with that. What a great feeling for the men who would love to have visitors. Again please take the time to visit our veterans.

Following are a list of items always in need at these facilities. Miscellaneous items such as large puzzles, lap robes, magnifying lenses and reading glasses any strength. Comfort items, shaving cream, lotion, shampoo. Visit the VA's as much as you can. These guys and gals are there all the time and could use some company. If you do make donations put this and all donations for any VA programs you make throughout the year on your reports. Keep in mind and let's not forget our veterans they need help all year round.

Yours in Service,
Dave Hullihen
VA&R Chairman

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

Volunteers are an important part of the CHVH. Volunteers are a constant reminder to the residents that we appreciate the sacrifices they made for our Country. If you are interested in learning more about the CHVH Volunteer Program, contact Director of Volunteers/Community Outreach LaDonna Mohler at lmohler@hmm.com or visit the website, www.charhall.com.

Copies of the current CHVH Wish List and the CHVH Donation/Event Form are available at the sign table.



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. If you are interested in donating to the CHVH Bingos, send your donation to SMD Finance Officer Al Rhodes, PO Box 56521, Virginia Beach, VA 23456, earmarked for CHVH Bingo. If you are interested in volunteering your time contact PDC Buddy Mastin (our Bingo caller) or myself. Additional help is always welcome.

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

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

Spring is in the air, or at least we hope so by the time you're reading this article, so it's time to get out and start walking around. MCVET will host their host their annual 5k/10k Race or Walk, on May 24th, starting at 7am. Details are available on their web site.

Www.MCVET.Org. Starting point is the War Memorial Building in Baltimore.

Appreciation also goes out to the members of the NCD SAL for hosting the annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon on March 21st. The Corn beef & Cabbage was a hit and your time and effort to provide this great meal is a wonder sign of the generosity of this Detachment. Additionally, the Northern Central District purchased a new stove for the McVet Center which is now installed and working great. The old stove is still a functionally sound stove and the NCD is donating this stove to Camp WestMar as they are in need of a replacement in their kitchen facility at the camp.

If anyone is interested in more information or a setting up a group tour of MC VET, please contact me.

For God and Country,
Bill Hill
MCVET—Board of Directors
Detachment Liaison

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.

Jerry Sykes
Detachment Chaplin

Commander's Project / Special Olympics Maryland

There's nothing easier than asking someone to do something they already feel passionate about. You don't have to be a Member of The American Legion Family very long before Special Olympics becomes one of those passions. Many of the projects, we as SAL members support benefit people we may never meet. This isn't the case with Special Olympics Maryland. The results of our efforts can be seen in the smiles of the 7000+ athletes competing around the state and sometimes right around the corner.

Many of us just came back from Winter Games at Whitetail where we watched a few hundred athletes brave the cold and compete for the Gold!

As we enter warmer months even more opportunities will be available for volunteering. Check out SOMD.ORG for an up-to-date schedule.

As we continue to raise funds for Commander Hall's project, at nearly every turn, there is something as small as a tip jar to as big as a Casino Night to help bring attention and donations. Be sure to follow the SAL web site for upcoming events and submit anything you might have going at your Post so we can all know about it.

February 28th was The Annual "Ice Splash" benefitting Special Olympics Cecil County in Charlestown, MD. Cecil County Squadron 15 always puts on a good show and this year was no exception.

March 28th was the Detachment Draw Down in Perryville, MD - Susquehanna 135. Please put on your calendars Special Olympics Summer Games, June 5-7 in Towson.

"Stepping up to The Challenge"
Yours in Service,

Eddie Souder
Project Chair

Time and Place Committee

You heard is correctly in the last Pride! We're heading to Laurel for the 42nd Annual Convention! Specifically Laurel Post 60!!

By now we should all be preparing to attend this great annual event. The finance officer and adjutant should be getting together with the Squadron and District Commanders to go over the work they've done this year so they can capture it on the Consolidated Report. The registration forms should be filled out, or at least laying on the desk getting ready to be filled out. Hotel reservations should be made, and Bowling teams should be practicing at the local lanes. Of course we should all be practicing our hand-shakes, smiles and the occasional hugs, for that opportunity when you see a comrade of the Legion Family and you want to just say hello in your own way.

Without the Consolidated Reports, we're not able to show anyone all of the great work the "Blue Cap Members" of this Detachment accomplish in support of our SAL Shield. Don't wait until the last minute to complete these. If you have any questions around how to complete them, or what item may go where on the form, please reach out to any of the current Detachment Officers, or your local District Officers for assistance. Also, all of your Past Detachment Commanders are available to lend hand if needed.

Note: The Consolidate Report must be turned in to the Detachment Adjutant **"No Later" then May 29th, 2015.** The last Friday in May. Also send a copy of your report to your District Adjutant, so they may work with the appropriate District Commander in order to submit the District's Consolidate Report. A copy must be provided to your Post Adjutant, for use in their Consolidated Report.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Laurel.

For God and Country,
Bill Hill
Chairman

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North Eastern Shore Times

With Spring in the air, it is time to take care of membership. As of 3-13-15, our District is in 3rd Place and eight memberships ahead of last year. Now is the time to call those who have not yet paid and get them back in the fold. EVERY Squadron should aim to reach their goal. Minimum of Three Star from everyone, please. Congratulations to Squadron 296 for being a Four Star Squadron again this year. Great job by Squadron's 18 (108.08%) 21 (100%) 246 (100%) for being Three Star Squadrons. ALL Squadrons: Remember to take care of sending in your Consolidated Report Form by May 15. Make two extra copies. Send one to District Adjutant Larry "Bear" Weinzirl PO Box 578 Perryville, Md 21903 and give one to your Post Adjutant. Also be sure to send in your Squadron Certification Form and the Delegate information for the Convention and your Delegate dues to the Detachment. A right hand salute goes out to Squadron 15 for their "Ice Splash" fundraiser for Cecil Co. Special Olympics. Over \$54,000 was raised. Great job by all!!!! The N.E.S.D. Reception will be held on Sunday April 26 starting at 2:00 P.M. at Post 135 in Perryville. For tickets at \$25.00 per person, please contact Cyndie McMullen at 410-378-4156. Our next District meeting will be held on Sunday June 14 at Post 135 in Perryville starting promptly 10:30 A.M. EVERY Squadron should have someone in attendance. Squadron Commanders: Part of your job is to attend District meetings!!!!!!!!!!!!

Upcoming Squadron events:

April 3 Good Friday Fish Fry at Post 77 starts at 11:00 A.M.

Saturday April 4 Squadron 135 will be having a Texas Hold em' Tournament. Registration at noon. Starts at 1:00 P.M. \$25.00 buy in equals 25,000 chips.

Saturday May 30 Squadron 296 will do their annual chicken BBQ at Friel Lumber Company on Route 301 starting at 11:00 A.M. until the chicken is gone. \$8.50 for 1/2 chicken, roll, and a bottle of water.

Saturday June 20 Squadron 77 will hold a dance with live music at the Easton Fire Hall. Call Post 77, 410-822-4486 for more information.

Squadron 278 on Kent Island opens up their Crab Palace on July 10-11-12 and will be open on weekends throughout the summer. You are invited to enjoy Eastern Shore hospitality and it's best and great crabs.

It has been a pretty good year so far. Let's make the rest of this year the best ever. Get

your membership involved. Support your Post!!!

Sons Stepping Up To the Challenge

Karl B. Kibler
Commander: N.E.S.D.

South Eastern Shore Gazette

The SES District is certainly growing, and rests at #4 in the detachment. Congratulations to squadrons #166 and #237 for achieving 4 star!

And squadron #94 has achieved #3 star!

Keep sowing those seeds!

Dor-Wic Post #218 Sharptown is proud to have had the opportunity to host PNC William Sparwasser for a training that will certainly help us all transition to the new consolidated reporting. Thank you to everyone that came out, your participation provided an enhanced learning opportunity for us all.

"Stepping up to The Challenge"

Dennis J. Renehan
Commander
South Eastern Shore District

Southern Pride

As we move into Spring I would like to go over some major accomplishments that our district has achieved since the last publication of the Pride.

I am very proud to announce all 36 squadrons in the 'Great' Southern Maryland District are current with their district dues. I want to give a special thanks to all the post and squadron officers, our DEC men and district officers for making this milestone. This is the first time since I have been a member where all squadrons are paid up on their district dues.

We are doing an excellent job with membership as we hit each of our monthly goals during the last nine months. At the time of this article, we still need to turn in another 475 to make goal. This is the toughest part of the year when it comes to membership as we need to work extra hard by making phone calls and sending letters to those members that have not renewed their 2015 dues. Taking these extra steps will pay off in the long run as we move forward to reaching our goal. More importantly, we will continue to grow and support our veterans

and community.

Our next district meeting will be Sunday April 19th (1:00 PM) at Post 175 in Severna Park. All squadrons should have a representative in attendance so we can pass along any information from the Detachment of Maryland. After the meeting we plan on assisting squadrons who may have questions regarding certification forms, delegate fees and consolidated reports.

Keep in mind the Commanders Challenge to support the four pillars of The American Legion. Squadrons who are participating in the challenge should be close to completion within the next 30 days. Any squadron that has questions regarding the challenge can contact their DEC man or any SAL SMD district officer.

Until next time, enjoy the warm weather and keep working on membership.

Yours in Service,
Joe Lohman
SMD Commander

Western Maryland Glory

Wow what an amazing year we are having so far! We've been in 1st place in membership for over a month and a half. Remember that consolidated reports are coming out soon, so make sure to turn in everything you've done for the year to get credit. I want to commend each and every one of you for the hard work you have put in throughout the year so far. Remember that convention is just around the corner and we would like as many representatives as possible there. If you've never been it's quite an experience that you'll truly enjoy. Our last meeting of the year will be held on May 24th, 2015 @ Kumps Dam at 1PM. Elections will be held on this day so it is important to be there, even if it's just to see how the process works.

I have truly enjoyed my year as your Commander and I truly appreciate all of the help I have received from the Past District Commanders and Past Detachment Commanders. I look forward to finishing the year on a strong note and seeing you all soon!

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,

Robert Hill

WMD Commander
Cell: 240-678-8742
BigRob90@MSN.COM

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Northern Central District

Greetings from Northern Central District. I hope all is well with everyone.

I want to congratulate the NCD Squadrons on the hard work that they are doing with membership. We may not be #1 in membership at this time, but I am still proud of the good job that you are doing with getting renewals and new members. Keep up the good work and I feel we will be #1 again!

We just had our Annual NCD Pool Tournament on February 15, 2015 at Rogers House Tavern in Havre de Grace. The tournament was successful and fun was had by all. Proceeds from the Pool Tournament go to our Veterans and Children and Youth Programs. On March 21, 2015 we did our St Patty's Luncheon serving corn beef and cabbage at the MCVET Center in Baltimore. The Veterans at the Center always enjoy this Luncheon.

One of our upcoming events will be our NCD Bus Trip to Atlantic City on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 11:00 am. The tickets are \$45 and lunch and drinks are included in the price. If you are interested in going, please see me or Dave Hullihen (Cell: 410-446-5468). Proceeds from the Atlantic City Bus Trip will go to my project "Hero Dogs, Inc".

Our next Northern Central District Meeting is Sunday, April 26, 2015. It will be held at the Dundalk Post #38, starting at 1 pm. On May 9, 2015 our NCD "Hero Dog" Bike Ride will take place, starting at the Towson Post #22. Registration starting at 9:00 am and kick stands up at 10:00 am. We will be doing our VAVS-Spring Cookout at the Loch Raven VA on May 16, 2015, starting at 11:00 am. Please come out and participate in our activities. We would appreciate your help.

Don't forget about the Spring DEC Meeting, Sunday, April 12, 2015 at the

Mason-Dixon Post #194, starting at 1:00 pm. On June 26-28, 2015 the 42nd Annual Detachment Convention will be held at the Laurel Post #60, 2 Main Street, Laurel, MD.

We have a lot of exciting activities planned for the rest of the year. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Yours in Service,

Larry Ford
NCD Commander
Cell: 443-413-4710
Email: laf1td@comcast.net

Baltimore District Update:

This is the first article I've written since I covered a sporting event back in Junior High School.

Let me start off saying how much I enjoy being part of an organization whose sole purpose of helping veterans and supporting The American Legion as well as the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Riders in their efforts of taking care of these vets and service members that are still serving and their families that are left behind. Not only that but the other charities such as Casey Cares and the Special Olympics. But my mission goes deeper than that. I want to talk about membership. I'm extremely proud of Brooklyn-Curtis Bay 187 for getting 100%. Where that is great news for us, but as a district we're way behind in our numbers of being one of the top districts in the State of Maryland. We already lost one squadron, and hopefully they'll find some way to turn things around come aboard again. Another one is fighting to stay alive. This is the time for all of the posts, units and squadrons to come together and help each other out. We need to have an ongoing membership drive, so that way every squadron benefits from this. I once saw a very unique tee shirt that read "Get'er done. See a son." In the middle was the S.A.L. logo. These are tools that will help with boosting membership. Also it's time for all squadrons in the Baltimore District to earn their Five Stars and Ten Ideals, another recruiting tool. I guess what I'm trying to say is "Let's all roll up our sleeves and get to work in making our district tops in the Detachment of Maryland." We can do it. Who's with me?

Yours in comradeship,
Nathaniel Russell,
Brooklyn-Curtis Bay Squadron 187
on behalf of ~
Baltimore District Commander Jerry Sykes

NEC NEWS

I bring you greetings from National Commander Mike Moss. "BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE" is this year's theme by working together to enhance our organization and programs. Increasing membership and working the 4 pillars of The American Legion. At the January DEC, National Commander Mike traveled to Maryland to attend our winter meeting. Before arriving in Ocean City, National Commander Mike along with Detachment Commander JR and other members of the Legion Family took a plunge in the Bay for MD Special Olympics. National Commander Mike says Thank You for the great Maryland hospitality that weekend. Thanks to all who helped make this visit for him one to remember.

National Commanders project are the National Emergency Fund and American Legion Endowment Fund. **The National Emergency Fund**, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy. The fund provides up to \$1,500 for qualified Legion Family members and up to \$5,000 for posts.

American Legion Endowment Fund, in 1025, World War I veterans, widows and children continued to struggle to return to a regular life. The members of The American Legion, aware of the grave responsibilities entrusted to them by those who had served, knew the time had come to take action. Since those early days, tens of millions of dollars have been distributed to disabled veterans and children of those who served our great nation. More information can be found on The National American Legion and National Sons of The American Legion web sites.

Detachment Officers and others traveled to the Washington Conference February 22-24 to attend the various wreath laying and attend meetings on Capitol Hill with our Legislators and the American Legion Family.

Membership in the East Region is doing well with a goal of 73.616% which puts us in 4th place in the nation. Vice Commander Gibbs is very proud of everyone sending in

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membership to get us out of last place. Maryland is already ahead of the March goal of 80% with 82.859% which puts places us 2nd in the East and 9th in the Nation. April 8th goal is 90%; we are less than 8% away from reaching this goal.

Yours in Service,

Andy Dadds

Nat'l Executive Committeeman (NEC)

Commander's Challenge

Sons Stepping up to the Challenge

Commander Hall has issued a Challenge this year and I want to ask; "Have you stepped up to the Challenge yet?" The four pillars are what The American Legion is based on and we need to make sure we are doing our part to teach more about these four pillars. Completing the Commander's Challenge will accomplish that for you. I know it's still early to complete the challenge however you can start by checking off the easy ones, such as ordering a plaque from Detachment. Send in your check for \$100 for your Squadron, get that one out of the way. More detail is available in complete letters sent out however here is the Plain and Simple:

- ◆ Special Olympics of Maryland Donate \$200.00
- ◆ VA&R: Purchase a Plaque dedicated to Vietnam Veterans from Detachment \$100
- ◆ Americanism: Sponsor Boy or Girl to State Program \$200 or teach a flag etiquette program at local school.
- ◆ National Security: Submit a Police Officer/Firefighter of the year for the Dave Barr Jr. Memorial Trophy

For each Squadron, District, or others meeting the Commanders Challenge they will be honored for "Stepping up to the Challenge" at the Commanders banquet at the end of the year. For Posts and Auxiliary Units who want to Step up to the Challenge: The only difference will be the Plaque to donate to the Post can be any war or conflict you want to recognize. If a Squadron wants to donate a second plaque you can also specify what the second plaque will be dedicated to WWI, WWII, Korea, etc.

All plaques need to be purchases through the Detachment of Maryland.

Once you have completed the challenge all you need to do is fill out the form available online or at the DEC meeting and send it to me by e-mail or snail mail. You will be notified and receive 2 tickets to the awards banquet held on June 13th at Parkville Post 183. I hope we can pack the place and make Commander Hall very happy you have accepted his challenge and learned a little more about The American Legion. The Challenge form needs to be filled out and returned to me by June 1, 2015.

On behalf of Commander "JR" Hall I want to Thank You in advance for participating in our first ever "Commanders Challenge"

Challenge Chairman

PDC Tom Deal

Tom.deal@verizon.net

443-206-0402

Public Relations Advisory

We want to brag about you!

If you are hosting an event, or have had a successful one which you just want to brag about, please send an outline. It may be about either what's taking place or what has taken place. Provide some details around what the event may be supporting, such as a Draw Down to raise funds for a scholarship program, or a Dance to support the Detachment Commanders Project and an event, which may be purely held in your community to support a local program such as a food bank, or children's clothing drive. We'll do our best to publish them on the Detachment website in advance of the event and we'll help get the word out to the Detachment and Legion Family. One article will be published in each upcoming Pride in this section and will highlight the event, those who supported/hosted it and whatever final goal was achieved. Let's get the word out around the fantastic things this great Detachment of Maryland does to support the Four

Pillars of the American Legion. A good pat on the back for your local Squadron or District in print is always a great way to say "Thanks"! Please send all articles to:

Bill Hill (PDC)

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM

Junior Member Forum

Although there is not an official distinction between the levels of membership within the SAL, we recognize the age differences and associate those under the age of 18 as Junior members. This section will be to dedicate articles and information specifically addressed to these members. So, as a challenge moving forward we are asking the following of not only the Juniors, but to the parents and grandparents.

Send in articles or questions, which come directly from or are addressing a younger member's interest or questions. As many articles as possible will be published in this section of the Pride.

Some things to think about or consider are; what would make a younger member interested in coming out to a Squadron, District or Detachment meeting or event. Do you/they attend meeting/events today, if not, why not? Do they want more things geared toward their interest and if so, what are they? Tell the Officers what you want to see. Junior members are the future of this great organization and without your contribution moving forward, we run the risk of becoming an extinct organization. We want to hear from you, the Junior members who will become the future leaders of the Sons of The American Legion. Send in articles or questions to the Detachment Officers. Please submit articles and comments to:

Sr. Assistant Adjutant

Bill Hill (PDC)

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM



“Sons Stepping up t The Challenge ”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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



2015 Membership Target Date:

<i>September 10, 2014</i>	10%
<i>October 8, 2014</i>	25%
<i>November 13, 2014</i>	35%
<i>December 10, 2014</i>	45%
January 21, 2015	60%
February 11, 2015	75%
March 11, 2015	80%
April 8, 2015	90%
May 13, 2015	100%
* July 23, 2015	105%

Delegate Strength Target Date

Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2015

Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown

March 28th, 2015

Susquehanna Post 135 @ 5pm

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 12th, 2015

Rising Sun Post 194 @ 1pm

Sons Challenge Celebration Dinner & Dance

June 13, 2015

Parkville Post 183

2301 Putty Hill Ave., Parkville, Md.

42nd Annual Detachment Convention

June 26th to 28th

Laurel Post 60

2 Main Street, Laurel, MD