



“The Pride”

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

www.mdsal.org

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Winter Issue - January 31, 2016

Commander’s Message

Wow it is hard to believe that half of my year is already over and what a GREAT time I am having serving this Detachment. We are just right around the corner from our plunge and our Winter DEC meeting. I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Holiday Season and are off to a Great New year.

We had a very successful meeting at Chestertown in November, and I would like to thank The American Legion Family of Post 36 for hosting the meeting and making it a success. Thanks again

The Special Olympics of Maryland Bowling tournament for 2015 has now come and gone and I was so proud to be there for the final in Gaithersburg to represent the Sons of The American Legion as the presenting partner of the tournament. We had a good number of our Legion Family that showed up to Volunteer and I want to Thank all of you. The event was a great success and I hope next year you will be able to make it out and see what a great experience it is for these wonderful athletes.

Our Mid-Winter meeting is coming up very soon and I hope to see you all in Ocean City. We will be honored to host our National Commander Kevin Collier for the weekend. Commander Collier may be taking the cool dip into the Chesapeake Bay on Friday with our Legion Family and be with us for Saturday and Sunday’s events and meetings.

Please help to make him feel welcomed to our great state. Our Department Commander of the American Legion Lou Trott and Department President Doris Reynolds will also be at the plunge and may attend our meeting...

PNC Sparwasser has some great classes for us scheduled on Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon there will be a drawdown at Post 166 and Sunday we are going to have another great DEC meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Membership is going crazy and our First Vice Commander Ray Edwards is doing a phenomenal job and I will not take his thunder away from him. Please read about how well he is doing in the latter part of this newsletter.

Please help in Supporting the Project MCVET this year with a contribution so we can buy a van and wrap the van with The American Legion Family Emblems.

We can do this and I know everyone is behind this 100%. I would like to thank the American Legion Family of Post 40 for hosting a Steak Dinner fundraiser for the project and those steaks were delicious!! Thanks again.

“Sons Helping Vets Build a Better Future”

Jeff Seiler

Commander
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion

Adjutant’s Corner

Winter D.E.C.: The upcoming Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Seiler, on January 31, 2016 at **12:00 P.M.**

The meeting is being hosted at Synepuxent American Legion Post

No. 166, located at 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD 21842.

Winter DEC Training Session:

The following Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will include Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training at The Grand Hotel on January 30th, 2016 which begins at 9:30 AM. The training is being held in the meeting room off the lobby in the Grand Hotel. Past National Commander’s Chuck Gannon and Bill Sparwasser will be the facilitators for this session. Members will receive information and instruction on the mysteries of a Resolution, the Do’s and Do nots of the Squadron Consolidated Report Form and time permitting a Question and Answer period regarding administrative activities for squadron leaders.

Also on January 30th the Detachment of Maryland Draw Down @ Post 166 will take place from 3-7 PM. Tickets are \$40 which admits 2 people and includes soda, draught beer and dinner. All proceeds from this event are for the Detachment of Maryland’s Sponsorship of the Special Olympics Maryland Bowling Tournament. Contact any of the Detachment Vice Commanders for tickets to this event. Remember, you do not need to be present to win any of the cash prizes including the \$1000 grand prize.

National Homecoming Banquet:

The Detachment of Maryland is hosting a

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Testimonial Dinner honoring our own, William (Bill) Hill, on Saturday, February 20, 2016, at Glen Burnie Post No. 40. Tickets are \$35 each featuring a roast beef and crab cake platter at 6:00 PM followed by the Testimonial Program and music beginning at 7:00 PM. Many guest from around the nation will be present for this special event welcoming Bill back to Maryland. For your convenience a ticket reservation form has been enclosed. Cut off for reservations is February 5, 2016, so do not delay securing your tickets showing our support for Bill's service to the National Organization serving as the National Vice Commander for the Eastern Region this 2015-2016 administrative year.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant
matoskaw@yahoo.com
443-710-9664

Get your Game on for MEMBERSHIP!

As 2015 came to a close, the last membership report for the year was incredible. The Detachment of Maryland had 800 paid members more than the previous year. We finished 2015 at 66.69% percentage of goal, which is above our January 2016 goal of 60% percent. Leading the way is Northern Central District at 73.99% with 2,062 paid members. Second place is North Eastern Shore District at 72.79% with 1,220 paid members. Third place is Southern Maryland District at 68.97% with 2,747 paid members. Fourth place is South Eastern Shore District at 63.21% with 974 paid members. Fifth place is Western Maryland at 62.01% with 3,189 paid members. Sixth place is Baltimore District at 56.74% with 181 paid members. Last place is Mountain District at 55.69% with 357 paid members.

With the beginning of the new year, my New Year resolution is to continuing to work hard with all of the district commanders, and continue the momentum that we started the

first part of the year. Another resolution is to recruit one more new member than the previous year, per squadron. We must reach out to as many of our members who we will soon drop from the books.

Lastly, continue with our monthly conference calls. Happy New Year and a very prosperous 2016 to all.

"Taking Aim at Membership "

Ray Edwards
Membership Chairman
1st Vice Commander

rayjred@verizon.com

(410) 215-9354

Americanism Report

Happy New Year. Americanism commission is looking forward to 2015 and continue supporting all the programs under Americanism. NEF is one of our National Commanders, Kevin Collier's programs this year. I know the Detachment will embrace this program and donate generously.

Look for upcoming information for our next lunch at Fisher House so you can come help us provide a wonderful lunch to our veterans and their families.

Please read the updates on all of the Americanism programs throughout the next few sections of the Pride for additional details, and if you have new ideas or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the members of the Americanism Committee.

Yours in Service,

Americanism Chairman
Jim Alexander

Flag Replacement Program:

How many flags has your Squadron replaced or given out? Start thinking about how you can help your Post with purchasing flags for Veteran's Holidays and the laying of the flags on the graves of our veterans or out in your community. Make sure to track your efforts and keep a record of the replaced flags as indicated on the replacement form. If you are looking to do a Flag Retirement Program/Ceremony, and need some help, please contact me.

Also, please let me know if your need Flag Replacement Forms. Let's get out there and replace those worn out flags.

For God and Country

Larry Ford

Flag Replacement Program Chairman

Email: lafitd@comcast.net

Boys State

Greetings and it is time to help this great program, The American Legion Department of Maryland, Inc., runs every year. Maryland Boys State will be back at McDaniel College in Westminster MD for the 2016 Boys State. The Boys State program will begin on Sunday June 19th 2016 at 1 PM. Graduation exercise is Saturday June 25th 2016 at 9 AM. During that week feel free to visit Maryland Boys State and see what these young man are learning and accomplishing. The cost to send a candidate(s) to Boys State is still \$300.00 per candidate(s).

If you give your Post a donation to sponsor a candidate(s) to this program, please bring a copy of that check to a Detachment Executive Committee meeting so your squadron can get credit and remember your squadron can report the amount on your squadron consolidated report. The other way is to directly give a donation at a Detachment Executive Committee meeting. Just ensure the check is earmarked Boys State.

How can we afford this you ask? Have a fundraiser, a 50/50 raffle, or put a jar on the bar in the social quarters. Don't forget you can go out in your community and solicit funds from Businesses and Trade Organizations, Civic Groups, Fraternal Organizations, Religious Organizations, other Veterans and Military Organizations, Political Organizations, Labor Organizations and Youth Organizations may cosponsor a young man to Boys State through your Post.

Also, 3 credits are being offered by Clemson University this year. More info can be found at <http://www.theacenetwork.com/ed190>.

Boys who attend in 2016 may apply for the Samsung Scholarship grant and there is an opportunity to receive up to \$20,000.00 if selected the National winner. More info and the application can be found at www.legion.org/scholarships-application.

Ask your Post Commander if there is a Chairperson for the Boys State program for

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the Post. If the answer is no, ask the Post Commander to appoint someone to this chair. If the answer is yes, ask who chairs that position. The chairperson would be the liaison between their Post, Schools, and the Boys State Committee.

Let that chairperson know your squadron is interested in sponsoring a boy to Boys State. The objective for each Post in the state with the help of their squadron should be to send at least one student to this program. Remember this is can only happen with the support of all The American Legion Posts and or their Sons of The American Legion Squadrons in the state.

The next Boys State Meeting will be held at Howard L. Turner Post 276 in Severn on January 16, 2016 at 10 am.

Remember Boys State attendees are tomorrow's leaders.

If you need information concerning Boys State, please contact me or Mr. Roger Butt, Director of Maryland Boys State.

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

National Emergency Fund:

As we all know, we started our new year with Hurricane Joaquin which left many of Families homeless or thousands of dollars' worth of damages. Some of these families mostly likely were an American Legion family. At a time like this is when we appreciate a foundation like The National Emergency Fund. NEF is there to help out The American Legions and families of The American Legion. This is why it is the utmost importance that we as a member either give or help to raise money to give to this great Fund. So I am asking as a Squadron if you could match the National Commander's challenge to donate \$.50c per member to NEF, and as a member ask around your community for donations. You may be surprised of how many people never hear of it. All donations of any amount would be gratefully appreciated.

Yours in Service,

Jerry Saunders,
NEF Chairperson

Community Affairs:

I hope the holidays were a great time for relaxation and community activities for all. This article will be a bit short this time as we are preparing for the second half of the administrative year. Keep an eye out for the rescheduled Fisher House Cookout at Bethesda, I will be contacting Bethesda to set a date for this coming spring.

Remember with the coming winter weather that there may be older members in our Legion Family that may need assistance with snow removal or getting to local stores, etc. Now is a good time to reach out and help those who need support. If you have a chance, support a plunger for the upcoming Polar Bear Plunge for MD Special Olympics, there is a Legion team participating again this year.

Look forward to seeing you at the Winter DEC in OC on the 31st!

Yours in service,

Bob Manzo
Chairman

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. Congratulations to Baltimore District members, Drain Plummer-El, Aaron Robinson and Nathaniel Russell for successfully testing for their Patriotism Star on January 9, 2016 prior to their District Meeting. District Commander Plummer-El reached out to PNC Sparwasser requesting a class before their District Meeting convened and these three members from the Baltimore District are the first to receive a star from the Five Star Program during this administrative year.

Yours in Service,

Americanism Chairman
Joe Lohman

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

Child Welfare – CWF Chairman Clavell has asked for support this year as he would like to see each squadron donate \$ 1.00 per member if not as much money as each squadron can afford.

Children's Miracle Network – CMN Chairman Jerry Sykes is asking that if possible all squadrons donate \$1.00 per member this year. We have been and will always be a big supporter of CMN so please continue to support this great cause.

Special Olympics

I believe all of our annual raffle tickets have been given out, so please reach out to a District Commander and Detachment Officers if you would like to support this fundraiser by purchasing some tickets. This fundraiser goes to help support the bowling tournament. This is a big fund raiser and we want to continue to be the big sponsor for this tournament each year. Let's sell them all. We have until the convention in June to get them sold. 2015 Annual Bowling Tournament Finals where recently held in Gaithersburg, MD at the Bowl America Lanes. Commander Jeff Seiler, Past Detachment Commander JR Hall, Past Detachment Commander Tom Deal, Past Western Maryland District Commander Robert Hill, National Vice Commander East Bill Hill, myself and others from the American Legion Family were in attendance to show our proud support of the Special Olympic athletes and this great event. What a great show of support.

So once again let's continue to support all of our children and youth projects this year

Thank you

David Hullihen
Children & Youth Chairman

Laps of Love

It is time again for everyone to plan to attend our 5th Annual Doug Henley Laps

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of Love.

The date this year is May 14, 2016 and the location is Mount St. Joe High School. We are adding a Coed Cornhole Tournament that will be going on at the same time, so you can walk and also participate in the tournament. The fee for the tournament is 20.00 a team. For more information you can contact me directly. There will be a cash prize for the Tournament. So get you a partner and sign up for some fun.

We are also looking for event sponsors, for a \$200.00-dollar sponsor you will have your name on the back of the even t-shirts.

There will be a website set up by February so you can register and have friends sponsor you online to make it easy. Last year our numbers were down, help us have a great year for our Children and Youth charities. We are looking forward to seeing you there on May 14th.

Registration begins at 10:00 and the walk and Tournament will start at 11:00am.

J.R. Hall

Chairman

Casey Cares Newsletter

Happy New Year everyone, I hope your holidays were pleasant and peaceful. For some families and children, it was anything but. Casey Cares is one project that is very near and dear to me. I can remember when I first got involved with the SAL and hearing about this program. I wondered what is Casey Cares and why are we involved with a non-veteran program? Well one of the American Legion's pillars, more specifically the fourth pillar is Children and Youth under which is Catastrophic Illness of our nation's children.

Casey Cares Foundation was created 16 years ago by Casey Baynes who wanted to make a difference in the community. Today Casey continues to head the Foundation, guiding its mission and growing their programs across the region which makes a positive difference in the lives of children with life threatening illnesses and their families. The Casey Cares Foundation understands that even though they can't

cure the numerous life-threatening illnesses that face children and their overburdened families, they can support them in thoughtful, compassionate and creative ways. When families with critically ill children don't have the resources, funds, time or energy to plan activities for themselves Casey Cares is there to help by providing fun experiences that make a big impact. The encounters and support for families are not just once in a lifetime, or once in a year. These experiences and interactions are planned throughout the year when families and their child need an escape from treatment. With the support of Casey Cares, families have the opportunity to go to a movie, have a pizza party, and go to professional sporting events, experience weekend getaway vacations and much more. Casey Cares serves families whose child has been diagnosed with a life threatening illness and continues to work with them until that child reaches their 18th birthday. This is unique and unlike any other charity. *It is the belief of the Foundation that little pleasures in life make a big impact on families that must make every day count.*

Donations are down this year which I am sure is due in part to tough economic times. But what better way to support one of the four pillars then to do so in your own back yard. Please remember to bring your donations to the Winter DEC in Ocean City on the 31st of January.

For more information on Casey Cares please visit the web site at [www. http:// caseycaresfoundation.org](http://caseycaresfoundation.org)

The next major event is the Casey Cares Annual Gala on March 19th.

Yours in Service
Kraig Dean
Casey Cares Chairman
kraigdean@yahoo.com

410-440-2449

Child Welfare Foundation

"Dedicated to the betterment of all children"

Mission: Though created by The American Legion in 1954, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., is a separate 501 (c) 3 corporation. Our foremost philanthropic priority is to

provide other nonprofit organizations with a means to educate the public about the needs of children across this nation.

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.

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.

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.

Yours In Service,
Larry Ford—CWF Chairman

Toys For Tots

The toy collection at our last DEC at Post 36 in Chestertown, MD was great.

We made this one of our best year ever and I am positive there were many smiling faces on Christmas do to the generosity of this Detachment.

Now in closing, I simply want to say how proud that I am to be your chairman this year and proud of all the officers and blue hats in this great organization.

For God and Country,

Eddie Souder

Toy for Tots Chairman

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Special Olympics— Maryland

Well it is a busy time of the year for Special Olympics of Maryland. With the Polar Bear plunge coming up at the end of the month everyone is preparing for the cool dip in the Chesapeake Bay. On Thursday the 28th there is an opportunity for anyone wanting to volunteer and help set up at Sandy Point, if you interested please contact me. Friday January 29th will be our Legion Family Plunge at 1:00 and we are happy to be a part of the first ever Military plunge at the same time. If you have not signed up yet just go to plungemd.com and get signed up today. If you can't plunge but want to help you can sponsor me or anyone else that will be plunging to raise money for Special Olympics of Maryland. After the plunge a lot of the Detachment will be headed to Ocean City for our Winter training and DEC. While there on Saturday we will hold a Drawdown to benefit Special Olympics of Maryland Bowling tournament that is sponsored now by The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland. If you need a ticket, contact one of the Vice commanders. We are also looking for items for the silent auction at the drawdown, so if you can donate anything please contact Ray Edwards.

February is Winter games time and the athletes are training hard and getting ready. I as many others look forward to volunteering for the games. They will be February 22nd and 23rd and a lot of us head up on Sunday February 21st to check in and see if help is needed in setting up. If you have never done this before I can tell you it is very rewarding and you will enjoy yourself. If interested again, please contact me early so I can try to set up things ahead of time.

I hope everyone is enjoying their New Year, why not make it a great year and get involved.
You won't regret it.

Serving Those that Served,

J.R. Hall

SOMD Chairman

Legislative Alert!

Here is a 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. If you go to the site search boxes appear, one is Current Legislation the other is Search Within. If you type in "Veterans" and hit search it will come back with over 800 bills currently in the House or Senate that list "Veterans". If you are looking for a particular issue you don't need the number, but the title helps greatly in narrowing down what you want to see. It also has a Top 10/ Most View list that is shown. I believe one of the top items is to get a budget signed. In the past I have asked for everyone to sign up for legislative alerts on the National web site and I know many have. I want to put another push for everyone who said I will do it but never got to it. I hope you will consider signing up right now and when you get that alert voicing your opinion to our representatives for our Veterans. The American Legion will let you know the specific issue and where it stands on the issue. All you need to do is click on the take action and submit. We need to help take care of our Veterans.

Get involved, take action, stand up and be counted fighting for our Veterans. The American Legion website <http://www.legion.org/legislative> scroll down to LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER and go to the Take Action page. I will still send out e-mails when I get them but most of the time we need to act fast and e-mails are not the way to do business.

For God and Country

Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
tom.deal@verizon.net

VAVS Variety

The holiday season is over and I hope you were able to visit with veterans over the holiday season. The Holiday Gift

program at the VA centers was a great success, the gift bags that were handed out brought happiness to our veterans. On December 19th, the Post 40 family along with Post 191 family members and Commander Seiler and his wife Julie had a wonderful time as we visited MCVETS and served lunch to all the residents that attended. We also handed out Christmas cards with a few dollars to the veterans who attended the lunch. I would like to thank everyone for the hard work that day, all the residents were extremely grateful.

We are working on more visits for the rest of the year to other Veteran's hospitals and centers. I'm looking forward to seeing and learning more about all that is being done for our Veterans and how the Sons of The American Legion can help.

Remember as you are making plans for the rest of the year please include a visit to a veteran's home.

Yours in Service,

VA&R Chairman
Jim Alexander

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-

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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

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

Jeff Seiler (Commander, S.A.L. Detachment of Maryland) and Neal Sprucebank (Squadron 40 Glen Burnie) and Squadron 82 members Gale Willett, Kyle Mower, Ed Tatman and Dave Tatman helped at the annual Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) Ice Cream Social on Dec 12. During the social each CHVH resident received bottomless servings of ice cream and a Christmas card with \$5 inside.

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 or making a donation contact PDC Buddy Mastin or myself. Additional help is always welcome.

The following is an excerpt of a letter to the Editor of the Maryland Independent, a local Southern Maryland newspaper, from Carole Lewis, Director of Marketing for the CHVH. "This summer, American Legion Post 91 of Cambridge donated a 2015 seven passenger Dodge Caravan to Charlotte

Hall Veterans Home. The van, valued at over \$21,000, will be used for resident transport and for state staff to attend various meetings and events. The Sons of The American Legion Post 91 donated the lettering and logo shown on the van as well. ... Thank you again to American Legion Post 91, Sons of Post 91 and the American Legion Auxiliary Post 91 for all you do on behalf of the veterans at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home." Congratulations to the Post 91 Legion family. Job well done.

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

For God and Country,
Dave Tatman
CHVH Representative
tatman_david@comcast.net

301-645-1537

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

Saying "Thank you" to the Glen Burnie Legion Family once again for sponsoring and preparing a Christmas luncheon for MCVET, along with Gold Star Unit 191 sponsoring the ice cream desert.

This year we had an nice add-on to the luncheon and that was the musical talents of Commander Seiler's wife Julia Seiler and her wonderful guitar playing and Christmas song sing along.

When we all sang "Silent Night" as the last song, I am pretty sure everyone in the crowd joined and sang proudly and expressed their overall happiness through voice.

The conversations and interactions with the students, the fun in the kitchen preparing the food, watching everyone playfully fighting over who's going to walk around serving the ice cream and who get's to share the topping has to be

seen for yourself. Overall it's a humbling experience of having an opportunity to help our Veterans' during the holiday season and anytime throughout the year. If you would like to know more about how you or your squadron, post, unit or ALR is able to help support this program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

For God and Country,

Bill Hill

Chaplin's Corner

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

A New Year's Prayer

As the old year comes to an end, let us ponder on what it has held for us. Let us be thankful for the rich experiences it gave us....for every sympathetic smile, for every tear....for moments which brought laughter's melody....for nature's loveliness, and for friendship's beauty. Let us also ask forgiveness for thoughts and deeds unwise. As we stand on the threshold of a New Year....let us be thankful for the opportunity to stand and peer intently, eagerly beyond the door to so many challenges that lie ahead. May we have the courage, truth and faith to meet them without flinching and thought of self. In Thy Name we pray. Amen.

For God and Country

In His Service,

Larry Ford

Email: lafld@comcast.net

Cell: 443-413-4710

Commander's Project / MCVET [Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training]

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As everyone knows this years Commander Project is in support of MCVET. Let us all step up to the plate as "SONS HELPING VETS BUILD A BETTER FUTURE" and help our honored Brothers and Sisters who wore the great uniform of the US Military and not forget them and the sacrifices they made. These are our Brothers and Sisters who just happen to be down on their luck and just need the boost to get back up again and that is what MCVET does. Therefore, I would like to ask that each Squadron help out and make a donation of just \$365 towards MCVET to help support our Veterans.

"LETS DO IT "Let's help our Veterans out and make the donation. Make the checks Payable to the Detachment of Maryland and put a note in the memo section on the check, Commanders Project. Let's show without a doubt that the Detachment of Maryland has not forgotten about our Veterans.

"Sons Helping Vets Build a Better Future"

Yours in Service,

Mike Obremski

Project Chair

Time and Place Committee

We're heading to Laurel for the 42nd Annual Convention! Specifically Laurel Post 60!!

We want to extend our appreciation to Laurel Post 60 Commander Lee Luby and her group for putting together a great proposal and supporting the Detachment. We're looking forward to another great convention!

Details for the hotels, bowling and other events will be detailed in the convention packages being distributed shortly after the new year and will be updated on our website www.mdsal.org.

For God and Country,

Bill Hill
Chairman

North Eastern Shore Times

Hello to everyone in our Legion Family. I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday. As we begin a new year I would like to congratulate all of the NESD squadron's on the great job they have done with membership. Our district has three 3 star and one 4-star Squadron. Also thanks to our DEC for doing a fine job contacting or visiting other squadrons so let's continue to get in your Membership by the May 30th cut-off date.

Upcoming events in our District:

Susquehanna # 135

Cooler of cheer raffle Feb.7th

Detachment draw down March 5th

Fliers are on the detachment website

Benedict A. Andrew # 296

Wildlife dinner Feb 20th 4-9 PM

Cost per person -\$25.00

NESD District Meeting

March 6th @ Kent Island #278

Meeting starts at 10:30 AM

"Sons Helping Vets Build a Better Future"

Freddie Taylor

Commander: N.E.S.D.

South Eastern Shore Gazette

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I congratulate all the district members for helping the district meet the January's Membership Target of 60 % by the cutoff date of January 20th 2016. There is lots of work left for all squadrons to help this district

meet the remaining cutoff dates. Now is the time to roll up our sleeves and get those members who wait till the new year to pay their dues. Also remember those members that are about to be dropped off your membership roster, they are the ones who haven't paid their dues for 2 years. Get in touch with them and see what can be done to get them to pay at least 2016 dues. If due to a hardship help them out if possible by paying their dues for this year and get them involved in what your squadron is doing. I know we all can succeed in this and making this a very great year for membership.

The Polar Plunge is later this month. This event will be held at Sandy Point State Park on the 29th of January at 1 PM. Our First Vice Commander Leon Miller will be plunging again this year. Please show your support by supporting him for this great event. The next Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training is being held in Ocean City at the Grand Hotel on the 30th of January, starting at 9 AM. That same night there is a Detachment Draw Down at Post 166. This event supports Special Olympics of Maryland. Please see any of the Detachment's Vice Commanders for tickets. Cost is \$40.00 and admits two people and includes dinner from 3 to 7 PM. That ticket also includes draft beer, sodas, with a chance to win \$1,000.00. Squadrons and members please support this event. It is a great evening. On the 31st of January at Post 166 there is the Winter D.E.C. Meeting starting at 12:00 PM. I hope to see more Squadron officers and members attend. This is your chance to see what this meeting is all about.

One way the district is raising money this year is by raffling off a Henry Golden Boy 22 rifle. All squadrons should have tickets now, if not or your squadron needs more tickets contact Leon Miller. Also the district is having their annual Chili Cook Off. Need info please contact Leon Miller.

Squadron's please support these three

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events when it is being hosted at your Squadron's Post. It is a great time and great food.

Don't forget if your Squadron is having an event post it on the Detachment's webpage by contacting Larry (Bear) Weinzirl at NESD@AOL.com.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

Dennis J. Renehan
Commander
South Eastern Shore District

Southern Pride

Greetings and Happy New Year from the SAL SMD,

Since my last article I have had the opportunity to visit 10 Posts/Squadrons. I would like to thank Laurel Post 60 for hosting our Annual Draw Down and Glenarden Post #275 for hosting our Fall District Meeting. On November 21st I attended The American Legion Chaplain's Seminar at the SMD Youth Camp. It was an excellent seminar and I encourage anyone thinking of being a Chaplain to attend the next one if possible? I was honored to attend the Veteran's Day Program at Veteran's Park in Bowie, Maryland on November 11th and the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Dinner at Greenbelt Post #136 on December 7th. On December 21st I was able to deliver toys for the Veterans at Charlotte Hall as part of the Squadron 66 Children's Toy Drive. While there, I was able to help out with the monthly Bingo... a good time was had by all.

I am happy to report that we are doing very well with Membership. So far we are 280 members ahead of where we were this time last year (A Record Setting Year) and have surpassed the Jan. 20th target of 60%. As we ended 2015 we were in 3rd Place at 68.97% with (3) 4-Star and (1) 3-Star Squadrons. Keep up the good work! My 2016 Resolution is to eliminate any remaining "Goose Eggs" and have all Squadron dues paid prior to our next District meeting.

Don't forget that we have the 2016 Polar Bear Plunge right around the corner. I have signed up to plunge and need your help if I'm to make my goal! Please check out the web page if you care to make a donation. After the Plunge we have our Mid-winter Training and DEC in O.C. MD on January 30th and 31st.

Our Annual Shrimp and Beef Feast will be held on April 2, 2016 at Greenbelt Post #136. Flyers and tickets will be available shortly so see your assigned DEC or SMD officer for tickets. (Time and Cost will be on the flyers once everything is finalized)

Our Winter SMD meeting will be held on February 21, 2016 at Wheaton Post #268 starting at 1pm. All Squadrons should have their Commander or his assigned representative in attendance. Please invite your Squadron Advisor or Post Commander as well. Have a Great 2016 and I look forward to working with everyone in the New Year.

Yours in Service,
Joe Weik
SMD Commander

Western Maryland Glory

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and good new year so far. We've had some challenges this year with attendance and participation, however hopefully this year be a better. The first meeting in 2016 is going to be at Clear Springs American Legion on February 13th and I expect to see a lot more attendance at these meetings. I'm still holding folders for a lot of squadrons that have a lot of important information in them to help you with all your questions so I need all squadron commanders to make some type of effort to reach out to me to get this information. There are important SAL materials in each package, which you're not using.

Again the next meeting in on Saturday February 13, 2016 @ 1:00 please be there. If anyone in any squadron would like to help support the WMD, we are

organizing a corn hole tournament to be held at the Thurmont American Legion in the Spring. I'll be sending more information to each Squadron and submitting it to be posted on our Detachment web-site and Facebook page. The tournament will help to raise money to help benefit the WMD and our donations for our vets and our kids. Please show some support.

Nominations for the new administrative year "2016-2017", will also be held at this upcoming meeting in Clear Springs. If you are interested in a position, please attend and show your interest and be nominated. I myself am looking forward to being nominated for a second term, and if elected we can work together. Your support is welcomed and appreciated. Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

For God and Country

Tom Clavell

WMD Commander

Northern Central News

Comrades,

I hope that by now you have heard of the passing to Squadron Everlasting of the Northern Central District Commander Gene Nicholes. Gene had many plans and goals for the district for his year as commander. It will now be the District's goal to carry these plans out for Gene. At the meeting on December 12, 2015, we held a Memorial Service for Commander Gene. Please keep Gene's family in your prayers.

Due to the passing of Commander Gene, as First Vice Commander, I accepted the position of Commander, Larry Ford was appointed First Vice Commander, Tim Culp advanced to the position of Third Vice Commander from Sergeant-At-Arms and Jim Sullivan accepted the appointment of Sergeant- At-Arms. All positions and appointments were

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approved by the membership at the December 12, 2015 meeting.

First, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Our next meeting will be held on Saturday February 6, 2016 at Joseph L Davis Post # 47 at noon. Please try to attend. Some of the upcoming events are as follows:

Annual Pool Tournament February 28, 2016 at Rogers House Tavern in Havre De Grace starting at 11:00 am. This event is open to the Legion Family. We will also be holding a Cue Stick Raffle to support the Commander's Project. I hope that by now everyone has their raffle tickets for the drawing, which will be held on 2/28/16 as well. You may contact Jerry Saunders Sr. for info. Jerry can be reached at saljerry@verizon.net.

The NCD's next big event is the MCVET's St. Patrick's Day Luncheon, which will be held at MCVET on March 12, 2016 at 11:00 am. Your help and donations are needed to make this event possible.

For God and Country,

Bob Keys

NCD Commander

keysrak@verizon.net

NEC Update!

I bring you greetings from National Commander Kevin Collier. Commander Kevin hopes everyone had a great holiday and we are looking forward to a wonderful 2016. Remember the slogan "**R.O.C.K.E.D.**" "Remembering Our Commitment Keeping It Every Day", through Duty, Honor and Service to The American Legion programs.

National Vice Commander Bill Hill is proud of Maryland for reaching and surpassing goals set by National. We are currently at 60.325% already passing the January 20, 2016 goal of 60%, this has us standing at 17th in the Nation and 3rd

in the Eastern Region. Keep up the good work and let's try to retain the members who are letting their membership laps. The final membership for 2015 has Maryland at an all-time high and with a renewal rate of 92.76% which places us 5th in the Nation. Hats off to all of our members for helping us reach this goal.

During the winter DEC we will be having two special guests, from the Detachment of Alaska, National Commander Kevin Collier and from the Detachment of Arizona, Leading Candidate for National Commander 2016-2017 Jeff Frain. Commander Kevin and leading candidate Jeff will join members of the Detachment at Sandy Point State Park supporting Maryland Special Olympic for the annual Polar Bear Plunge. Please extend hospitality to Commander Kevin and Jeff as they will be in Ocean City for the weekend attending the training session and other have made significant donations to the CWF. Awards are also given out to recognize the Detachments which has made the largest per capita donations. These awards are given out at the National Convention:

Here are a few frequently asked questions:

How does an organization get a grant from the CWF?

Any organization interested in being considered for a CWF grant must obtain a Grant Application Form from the National Headquarters, fill it out and return it.

Can we get awards for selling CWF items?

Yes. Every year at the National Convention, the National Chairman gives out certificates to Detachments, Districts, Squadrons and individual members.

Can I submit information about my Squadron/Detachment for publication?

Yes! Anyone is welcome to submit ideas, stories, newspaper clippings, photos, etc. for consideration. We can never guarantee that everything sent in will get published, but we do our best to include information from as many sources as possible. We want to spread the word

about what individuals, Squadrons, Districts and Detachments are doing to further the work of The American Legion and the Sons. If you have something you think should be included in an upcoming issue of the National Update, e-mail it to:

c/o Mike Pipher,
Editormpipher@indiana.edu

Yours in Service,

Andy Dadds

Nat'l Executive Committeeman (NEC)

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:

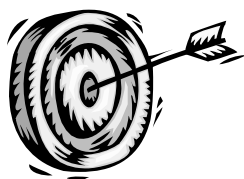
Bill Hill (PDC)
Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM



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



2016 Membership Target Date:

September 9, 2015	10%
October 14, 2015	25%
November 13, 2015	35%
December 9, 2015	45%
January 20, 2016	60%
February 10, 2016	75%
March 9, 2016	80%
April 13, 2016	90%
May 11, 2016	100%
* July 26, 2016	105%

Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2015—2016

Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training at The Grand Hotel

Special Olympics Maryland Draw Down @ Post 166

January 30th, 2016

Winter D.E.C. Meeting & Training Session

January 31st, 2016 / Synepuxent Post 166 @ 12pm

Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown

March 5th, 2016 / Susquehanna Post 135 @ 5pm

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 3rd, 2016 / Rockville Post 86 @ 1pm

43rd Annual Detachment Convention

June 24th to 26th

Laurel Post 60