



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND**

“The Pride”

Volume 2009 Issue 3

Winter Issue January , 2010

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

COMMANDER’S CORNER

BY MARK GILBERT



My best wishes go out to the American Legion Family for a Happy New Year. As the New Year begins I look back at the first half of my year as Detachment Commander. I've been traveling around the state meeting with the Legion Family. The Sons Commitment to the Legion programs is evident wherever I go. We need to inform everyone of our activities. Use the Detachment website and newsletter to promote Squadron and District events. Also, include news from the Detachment in your home post newsletter. Tell your post members of our activities such as; Fisher House, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, McVets, Special Olympics, Casey Cares, etc. as well as upcoming meetings.

Donations for the programs have been coming in slowly.

I hope that we can pick it up in the second half. We have yet to reach \$10,000 for the Fisher House, with a goal of \$50,000 we have a long way to go. The Fisher House is there to support our Veterans and their families so that they can be together in a time of need. The Sons Commitment to our Veterans is vital especially in a time of war. The Fisher House is able to keep their doors open through donations from organizations such as the Legion Family. This is the least we can do for our Veterans. The Special Olympics Polar

Bear Plunge is just around the corner. It is not too late to join the American Legion Family Plunge Team. It is guaranteed to be a great time. Also, get those sponsorships in; let's support the plunge team members.

We still have a lot of members who have not paid their 2010 dues. If you do not have a 2010 card you are delinquent. Please get your dues paid as soon as possible. Your membership is important to us and it helps your squadron support the Legion programs.

(Continued on page 2)

ADJUTANT’S CORNER

BY BILL MATOSKA

D.E.C.: The next meeting of the Detachment of Maryland Executive Committee is scheduled for January 24, 2010 hosted by Gold Star Squadron No. 191 at the post home convening at 1:00 P.M. The post address is 801 Prospect Road, Mount Airy, Md. 21771 and the post phone number is 301-829-9161. Preceding the DEC, all Commissions and Committees are scheduled to meet at

12:00 P.M.

D.E.C. Directions: From Interstate 70 westbound take the MD-27 S exit, Exit 68, toward Mt. Airy/Damascus. Stay straight to go onto Main Street and after 1.4 miles turn left onto Prospect Rd. The post is .6 of a mile on the right. From Interstate eastbound take MD-27 N exit, Exit 68, toward Mt. Airy. Turn left onto MD-27 N/Ridge Rd.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY TOM DEAL

All District Commanders have a Vineyard with which to extract their members. Your grapes are your members; you must harvest the grapes for your membership to grow. You need to work hard to get your grapes pressed into juice, sent to the Vat and fermented into wine and then to the bottle. You are going to be pressing for members this year. You have to get out there and shake those grape vines and harvest the grapes and get that juice to the vat and help it ferment and get it to the bottle. This year you will harvest the grapes by getting the members renewed and in the bottle.

The Race: Now for the totals on the race December Report 1st place and 7 points goes to SESD, 2nd place and 6 points goes to NCD, 3rd place and 5 points goes to NESD, 4th place and 4 points goes to BD, 5th, 6th and 7th places WMD, MD and SMD get 3 points each. NCD is hanging on by a thread at 34 points, SESD with 33 points, NESD at 21 points, SMD at 19 points, BD at 16 point, WMD and MD at 15 points. It may come down to the 3 bonus points for getting rid of all their goose eggs first. It is now a two district race, but that's all the more reason for all the districts to get them bottles full. You can change the end of the race by jumping and stomping and getting renewals. Looks like



Commander Saunders will receive another bottle of my finest wine for 1st place in the race at the DEC. Will it be his last? Are you going to let NCD take all the wine? SESD has been inching up and I know they want a bottle for Commander John Jones, Jr. No District has been eliminated yet, it's still up for grabs, but it is getting close to celebration and popping corks. WHO will it be?

National recruiter pins are available also for anyone who recruits 5 new members; forms are on the back table and on the National web site. Don't forget In addition any member who recruits 6 new members will receive a Top Harvester Shirt. Forms are available and can be requested by e-mail or picked up at a DEC meeting and after submitting I will have the shirts at the next

Detachment Executive Committee Meeting.

Tom Deal
Membership Chairman
1st Vice Commander
Detachment of Maryland
tom.deal@verizon.net

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHATTER BY KEN JENKINS

Greetings to all. I hope that your holiday was enjoyable/

I would like to update you on the coming events:

SPECIAL OLYMPICS:

Just a reminder that the Polar Bear Plunge, will be on January 29th, at 4pm, it will be held at Sandy Point State Park. We have already formed the American Legion Family Team, and Commander Mark Gilbert, will be leading the way. It's still not too late to sign up as a plunger or to make a donation to someone plunging. For more information, please go to: www.somd.org and register to be a part of the team. Your contact will be JR. Hall @ dhall1967@verizon.net or call (410)365 7758.

Hope to see you there.

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

I would like to announce, that the Legion has awarded more than, \$636,869.00 to 19 non -profit organizations in October, 09. There will be a new coin for the Child Welfare Foundation soon, for more information, contact Larry Ford at: laftd@comcast.net or (443)413 4710.

CASEY CARES

Casey as usual needs your help. For further information, check Dave Hullihen's article.

(Continued on page 4)

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN STARTS

At the Dec Meeting in Mt. Airy we will be distributing the "Six Month Calendar" to raise funds for the National Campaign account for Joe Gladden. The calendars will be sold for \$20.00 each. The evening lotto number will be used to select the daily winners starting April 1, 2010. In total, \$ 10,000 will be won

if all 1,000 numbers are sold. We need your help by buying and or selling these calendars.

Past Detachment Commander Bear Weinzirl is chairing this project. Please contact Bear at 484-880-0320 or nesdsal@aol.com if you can help

COMMANDER'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

Often I have heard a potential member say that no one has asked them to join the SAL. Sometimes all it takes is to ask a question to a potential member to get him to join or ask a delinquent member if he has paid yet to get him up to date. Membership has to be the responsibility of every member in order for us to meet our potential growth.

Our next meeting is January 24th, 1:00 P.M. at Goldstar Post. I'm looking forward to a good turnout and a strong start to the second half of the year. May God bless the American Family and our Veterans in 2010.

Yours in Legion Service,
Mark Gilbert
Detachment Commander
markgilbert08@comcast.net

VAVS VARIETY BY BUDDY MASTIN

The Holidays are over and now is the time to get back to work on the American Legion Family programs supporting our veterans that are our priceless heritage. Some Squadrons have the financial capabilities to support more than one VA&R program, but every Squadron should be supporting at least one VA&R program. We have many programs including Fisher House, our VA Centers, McVet, etc. that your Squadron can support. Check our Detachment website for more information.

I would like to thank the Squadrons who helped raise over \$3,000 to buy a blanket warmer for the Loch Raven VA Hospice Center. The veterans there will be more comfortable because of you. Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is looking for support to buy new digital TV's and stands for each veteran's room at a cost of \$450. That could be a great after Christmas present from your Squadron. We are still looking for clothing donations for the homeless and at risk veterans at McVets. Please contact me for more information. Now is also a great time to visit our veterans at Charlotte Hall, Mcvets, or one of our VA centers, now that the holiday visits and parties are over. Also don't forget our Commanders project, Fisher House.

I would like to see every Squadron in our

Detachment become involved with National Veterans Assistance Day this year, which is May 15th, 2010. We all know a veteran at our Post or in our community that could use our support. The main point is to just get started supporting one of our many VA&R programs, and you just may be surprised how many other members of your Squadron will want to help out. If you need any help or suggestions, please contact me.

Yours In Service,
 Buddy Mastin
 Detachment VAVS Chairman
 443-370-7870
buddymastin@hotmail.com

Loch Raven VA Community Living Center

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that donated to the "Blanket Warmer Project".

We met our goal and the Detachment check was presented to the VA at the quarterly VAVS meeting at Loch Raven on November 24, 2009. A special thank you goes to Glen Burnie Unit 40 for their most generous donation, which was greatly appreciated.

Construction is about to begin on the Loch Raven Robotics and Rehabilitation Center on the grounds of the Loch Raven campus. The new facility is being constructed adjacent to the Outpatient Center. During this period there may be some parking congestion and the VA hopes those who visit the clinic will not be unduly affected.

Thanking you in advance,
 Bob Filippi,
 VA Representative Loch Raven Center.
bobcass@aol.com



DO YOU
 RECOGNIZE
 THIS FACE?
 IF SO,
 PLEASE
 CONTACT
 THE
 ADJUTANT!

MARYLAND SPECIAL OLYMPICS BY JR HALL

Hello to all my Fellow Comrades and Legion Family,

As we get thru the Holiday Season, we can all start to look forward to taking our plunge into the Chesapeake Bay on January the 29, 2010. I know we have some out there that haven't joined the team yet, but please take the time and do so today. All you have to do is go to www.plungemd.com and go under American Legion Family Plunge Team and sign up. I would love to take the dip with as many members of the Legion Family as possible. I do know that running into cold water in the end of January is not for everyone, but that does not mean that you can't help us out. We have a good team already started and our Detachment Commander, Mark Gilbert, is leading the way along with friends from the Legion and ALA, so just

go onto our team page and make a donation to sponsor one of our plungers or make a general team donation to sponsor all of our plungers. All the money raised will be going to The Special Olympics of Maryland and its Athletes. Please take time out of your day to do so now. If you are running low on cash due to the holidays here's a idea for you. Starting today put your change into a cup at the end of every day, and a week before the plunge add it all up and make that donation. Every penny, dime or quarter we raise helps us to help the Special Olympics of Maryland. So do what you can and come out and be a part of the Polar Bear Plunge with the American Legion Family.

Also coming on quick is the Special Olympics Winter Games. These games will be held in Western Maryland at WISP

Ski Resort. The American Legion Family has been a long time supporter of these games. If you would like to come out and help us work these games and watch some great athletes perform please, contact me and I will try to make sure everyone has a place to stay ahead. These games start the weekend of Sunday February 28th and go onto Tuesday March 2nd. It is a very rewarding experience and I hope you will come out to help us. Just e-mail me at dhall1967@verizon.net for any information you may need. Thanks and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours In Service
 Don JR Hall Jr
dhall1967@verizon.net

AMERICANISM REPORT

Boys State

The American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational program of government instruction for high school students. It is a participating program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. At Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs. High school juniors are selected by local American Legion posts to attend the program.

In Maryland, Boys State is conducted annually at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD. It typically begins on Father's Day and runs through the following Friday. To be eligible for Boys State, a youth must be a male who has successfully completed their junior year in high school. Here is where the S.A.L. come in. Squadrons can sponsor a

young man to reduce expenses associated with attending this program. Donations can be made to the Sons of the



American Legion, earmarked Boys State.

Yours in Service
Ken Jones
jkj44@aol.com

NEF Report

Our Preamble to the Sons of The American Legion Constitution says it best, "Devotion to mutual helpfulness." This phrase is more than just mere words in our preamble; it's our own pledge of support to our distressed comrades. The Son of the American

Legion have been actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and individual Legion family members in the wake of disaster, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, wildfire.etc. The National Emergency Fund was born out of natural disasters to compassionately heal the wounds of a catastrophe and help save their homes. A major disaster could happen to any Legion family member in any town at anytime and make them homeless.

The NEF has provided over \$6,000,000 in direct financial assistance to Legion family members and posts. This fund has kept posts from closing and enabled Legion family members to begin to rebuild their homes and their lives.

All contributions are deposited into a special account. Not a penny of the fund is used for fundraising, administrative cost of fulfillment. If every Sons' member could donate \$ 1 to the NEF, it would go a long way in providing much needed assistance to Legion families in difficult times.

Yours in Service
Ken Jones

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHATTER BY KEN JENKINS

(Continued from page 2)

CHILDREN MIRACLE NETWORK

Do not forget to dive to the Network. The children are in need of your help. Joe Weik will be handing out Donation cans. Please support him by requesting a can for your Post. You may contact him at: (301) 262-0257.

Maryland Commitment,
Ken Jenkins
Detachment Children and Youth

Chairman
e-mail - kenjen07@yahoo.com
phone - 443-226-2770

TOYS FOR TOTS

As our year draws to another close, I believe that we once again stepped up to the plate as we have done each year in the past. There are several people to thank that I feel deserving. Greenbelt Squadron made a direct donation to Toys for Tots. That check was forwarded. A giant right hand salute goes out to Glen Burnie Legion Family and to

Post 18 Family. These are the ones that I have heard from. Remember that Toys for Tots came out with a new pin this year. These are big sellers to ARL members. I will have some with me at the DEC meeting. Get a count of how many you will want to purchase. I am asking a \$5.00 donation each. Here is thanking everyone for another successful year, and wishes that each and every one of you have a Happy New Year.

Ed Steinger Sr.
Detachment Chairman

WESTERN MARYLAND TRIBUNE

I hope everybody had a nice holiday season. Now is time to start thinking about filling out reports and getting membership turned in for 2010. If members have not paid, send a friendly little reminder out to them. Western

Maryland already has a Squadron at 3 Star status, which is Antietam squadron #236. WAY TO GO GUYS! Let's keep those memberships coming in!! Please join us for our next District meeting February 21, 2010 at Joseph C Herbert

post #222 in Clear Spring, MD at 1:00 PM.

Thank You,
Michael Thomas
michaelh951@aol.com

COMMANDER'S PROJECT BY PDC ANDY DADDS

Does the S.A.L. have an interest in Fisher House? Yes! Fisher Houses are much like the well-known Ronald McDonald Houses located around the country. Fisher Houses are located near a number of VA hospitals or medical centers or military bases. The houses are there to assist veterans and their families overcome the costly burden of staying somewhere when a loved one is using a VA medical facility. The S.A.L. now actively raises money to help the Fisher House Foundation.

Yes!!! The Detachment has a vested interest in Fisher House. We have been supporting it since I was your Detachment Commander and our present Detachment Commander has chosen this as his project. Many of you know the purpose of the Fisher Houses.

Now is the time to send in your support and let us show our current military and



veterans that we care and want to help them during their time of need. Our donations help relieve the families of some of their financial burdens when

they arrive at one of the Fisher Houses.

A fundraiser for the Fisher House is being planned for March 6, 2010 at Susquehanna Post #135. Details will be available at a later date. **Tickets are on sale now**, please contact Tom Deal for tickets. Anyone interested in helping please let us know, all help is welcomed to make this a successful event.

For more information check the Fisher House Web Site, www.fisherhouse.org

Andy Dadds, PDC
Commanders Project Chairman
BDADDS@broadband.net

NORTHEASTERN SHORE GAZETTE

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

BY BOB TRUEBLOOD

We have come to end of decade and the beginning of another, and what a decade it was. We have witnessed some of the most disastrous hurricanes, tornados, wild fires and natural disasters that man has ever seen. We have seen a most horrific act of terrorism on our nation and the fall of the most infamous dictator of our times. Through it all, we, as a nation,



pulled together, and survived. We became strong, and proud, once again. Our organization grew strong, due to our service to our Community, State, and Nation.

Due to inclement weather, several events were cancelled. The Christmas Party at

M.C.V.E.T.s was cancelled and may be rescheduled in January. Please look for further information, forthcoming, on this event.

The Santa Sleigh Run for the children of Cascade Elementary School was postponed until after the first of the year. Don't give up yet, Mark. We'll get you on that Sleigh, yet.

The Community Service Cook-out at the Fisher Houses, located at The National Naval Medical Center is scheduled to take place sometime in April 2010. I am waiting to hear from the volunteer coordinator on a date, preferably April 17, or April 24. Donations will be needed for the food, plastic plates, cups, napkins, drinks, etc.

In Service to Our Communities,
Bob Trueblood
santastoyshop@aol.com

I hope everyone had a Blessed Holiday and I wish all of you a Happy New Year!

Congratulations to Caroline Squadron #29 with 64% goal, Squadron #194 Mason-Dixon with 74% goal, Squadron #246, C. Henry Price III with 87% goal Squadron #296, Benedict A. Andrew with 86% goal, Squadron #36, Frank M. Jarman with 100% goal. Membership is the key to our success.

Thanks to all the Squadrons who participated in the "Toys for Tots."

Our date to remember is March 6. Squadron #135 will host the 3rd Annual Detachment Draw Down to benefit the Commander's Project, which this year is the Fisher House. The event will include the \$1,000 draw down, horse races, Chinese and silent auctions, cake wheel, etc. Only 150 numbers will be sold and drawn. You do not have to be there to win. Tickets are \$35 each and admit 2 for dinner, draft beer, soda and limited open bar. For tickets or more info contact Tom Deal 410-642-2561.

The next NESD meeting will be February 21 at Post #194 in Rising Sun. Please see that someone from your Squadron attends.

Yours in Service
Ken Jones
jkj44@aol.com

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

BY BILL MATOSKA

(Continued from page 1)

and after .4 of a mile turn left onto Main Street and complete as listed for westbound.

Casey Cares Foundation: Please be advised that the 10th Anniversary Gala for the Casey Cares Foundation is to be held on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at the Grand Lodge Bonnie Blink, in Hunt Valley, Md. The Detachment of Maryland has been notified by Casey Cares that the Sons of The American Legion are one of two recipients of the "Champion of Children Award" presented by the Casey Cares Foundation which will be presented to the Detachment during ceremonies at the Gala. This is a most prestigious award given to groups or individuals that enable Casey Cares to continue in their mission giving hope and support to over 200 families each year that have a child with a life threatening disease.

The gala is not only a celebration and awards ceremony, but also a key fundraising event for the foundation. Your Commander, Mark Gilbert, is asking each squadron and district to support this event this year by making a monetary donation payable to the Detachment of Maryland, earmarked for the Casey Cares Foundation. The detachment will then in turn present Casey Cares with a single donation sponsoring the gala. Please bring your donation to the DEC meeting or mail it to 3115 Orchard Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21234. Tickets for this event are \$125.00 each and anyone interested in attending can get tickets by e-mailing me @ bill.matoska@comcast.net.

Renewal Postcard Mailing: The 2nd mailing of the S.A.L. renewal postcard will be processed and mailed on or about January 25, 2010 to all S.A.L. members whose record at National Headquarters shows unpaid for 2010. Please transmit all of your paid members to Department Headquarters as soon

as possible. This will save the organization considerable dollars in postage costs and keep members from becoming frustrated receiving a renewal notice when they know their membership has been paid.

Consolidated Report Forms: The new S.A.L. Consolidated Report Forms for 2009-2010 are due to be mailed to me in late January or early February. I receive only one copy per squadron for the detachment and once received I will mail this form to each squadron commander unless otherwise requested. The convention package for each squadron will also be mailed at this time in an effort to consolidate our postage costs. District Commanders will also receive a copy of the report form for their district report. If there are any changes of personnel or addresses as listed in the current Blue Book these changes need to be submitted to Assistant Adjutant Joe Gladden immediately.

Washington Conference: The fiftieth annual Washington Conference will be held February 28-March 3, 2010, at the Renaissance Washington DC Hotel. On Sunday, February 28th, the Sons of The American Legion National Commander and Detachment Commanders will be visiting and laying a wreath at the following memorial sites. The Marine Corps War Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Wall Memorial, and conclude at the Tomb of The Unknowns. A bus will be provided by the National Organization to facilitate this event for those attending and laying wreaths but seats on the bus are limited. If you are interested in accompanying Commander Mark Gilbert on this day send me an e-mail immediately and I will try to secure you a seat on the bus.

CASEY CARES

BY DAVE HULLIHEN

As we go into a new year I hope that we continue to support all of our programs as we have in the past. I know things are very tight this year, but somehow we always manage to support our programs. I believe we will be having a representative from Casey Cares at our next meeting at Goldstar Post 191 and I am hoping we will be giving collecting lots of money for this very worthy cause. We did receive money at our last meeting but, we are way behind of what we usually give each year, I am asking for at least \$ 1.00 per member but we are always willing to accept whatever you can afford. I hope everyone had a great holiday season and I am looking forward to a great new year. Thank you in advance for your donations and thanks to those who already given.

Yours In Service
Dave Hullihen, Chairman
dhullihen@bwhovermill.com

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOUNDATION BY KEN JONES

Our Preamble to the Sons of The American Legion Constitution says it best, "Devotion to mutual helpfulness." This phrase is more than just mere words in our preamble; it's our own pledge of support to our distressed comrades. The Son of the American Legion have been actively involved in meeting the needs of the both the community and individual Legion family members in the wake of disaster, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, wild-fire.etc. The National Emergency Fund was born out of natural disasters to compas-

sionately heal the wounds of catastrophe and help save their homes. A major disaster could happen to any Legion family member in any town at anytime and make them homeless.

The NEF has provided over \$6,000,000 in direct financial assistance to Legion family members and posts. This fund has kept posts from closing and enabled Legion family members to begin to rebuild their homes and their lives.

All contributions are deposited into a special account.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND TIMES

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. Well winter is here and personally, I'm not too fond of the cold, but we have a lot of members who are willing to brave the cold. One is our own Buddy Mastin. He set a goal to raise \$ 2,500.00 for his plunge into the frigid waters to benefit MD Special Olympics. As an incentive to get people to sponsor him he volunteered to have his head shaved if this goal was reached. Well he raised over \$ 3,500.00 and he is now the proud owner of the best Marine hair cut I've ever seen. Fantastic job Buddy. Speaking of Buddy, he still is doing the Bingos for Charlotte Hall. With his aspirations of becoming Detachment Commander in the future we need people to help with this. Please contact Buddy for more Info. He can be reached at buddymastin@hotmail.com or 1-443-370-7870.

With the economy still not doing well, I'm hearing that a lot of Squadron's are not raising the money they have become used to. So donations are going to suffer. When thinking about your donations, I

ask you please consider the Fisher House. Not only is this a great cause, but it is also Detachment Mark Gilbert's Commander's Project. Mark has put a lot of time and effort into becoming Commander and we need to show our support. You can even get your name on a brick for just \$ 50.00. Did you know that the Detachment of MD is the only one offering SAL tags for your vehicle? Please contact me if you wish to get these tags. Keep in mind that your year end report will be due soon, so start getting your information together now. Well until next time God Bless and thank you for all you do to make us the Great Southern Maryland District.

Our Next District Meeting
January 31, 2010 at 1:00 PM
Cook-Pinksey Sq 141
1707 Forest Drive Annapolis, MD
1-410-269-1416

Serving Those Who Served.
Tommy Bryant
tommilesglass@aol.com

LEGISLATIVE REPORT BY BILL STEM

By the time you read this, Commander Gilbert should have had a meeting with the Maryland State Secretary of Veteran Affairs, Edward Cho.

Our topics of discussion will be: Taxes on Veteran Benefits, Slots at western shore Legions, Education for returning Vets and The status of Veteran Cemeteries

The General Assembly is due to start their 2010 session this month and all S.A.L. members should contact their representatives to push for veteran issues. We all know money is tight but what our veterans have sacrificed far out way any monetary cost.

Email: wstem84809@aol.com

Cell: 410 598-9355

Home: 410 526-6559

Your in Service

Bill Stem Chairman

TIME AND PLACE REPORT BY BILL STEM

No changes in the Convention Info. It is still at the Hunt Valley Marriott Hotel , June 25 -27. We should have Convention Packets out soon.

The Golf Tournament location should be finalized by the January 24th DEC Meeting.

Rooms can be reserved at the hotel for the cost of \$89.00 plus 14% tax a night. Any District wanting to have a Hospitality Room should send \$89.00 plus tax for two nights to the Detachment . Make checks for the Hospitality Rooms only to the Detachment, guest room checks should be made out to the Hotel.

Your in Service

Bill Stem

Chairman

Email: wstem84809@aol.com

Cell: 410 598-9355

Home: 410 526-6559

Home: 410 526-6559

NORTHERN CENTRAL NEWS

Hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday. Now that we are half way thru our year we need to work harder on collecting unpaid dues, as well as recruiting new members. NCD has been doing great with membership with the exception of a few weeks.

NCD s next meeting will be on January 31st, 2010 at Jackson and Johnson Post 263 at 1:00 p.m. We would like to see Officers and members from all squadrons attending this meeting as well as meetings thereafter. Not only should your squadron be represented at the NCD meetings they should attend the DEC meetings as well.

Our upcoming events are: McVets Christmas Party will be rescheduled in January (tbd), Annual Pool Tournament on February 21, 2010 at the Rodgers House Tavern in Harve De Grace, MD. Also, the Pool Stick Raffle tickets will be sold by the squadrons and drawn the

day of the tournament. Both will benefit the NCD Commanders Project which is The Ronald McDonald House. Any donations to this project will be appreciated. We also have a bus trip to Atlantic City on April 17, 2010 and tickets are being sold now at \$40.00 per person. So if you are interested in going, get your tickets ASAP. They are going fast. Call Bob Snukis at 410-299-0216 or Bill Stem at 410-598-9355 to get them.

Yours In Service;
NCD Commander
Jerry Saunders
saljerry@verizon.net

“Maryland Commitment”

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND

3115 Orchard Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234



NEC NEWS BY ANDY DADDS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

I bring you greetings from National Commander Mark Arneson. Commander Arneson has slated an excellent program titled Operation Proud Son, to accomplish a host of ideas to strengthen our commitment to our Veterans and to the Children of our Nation, while encouraging growth of our organization for the 2009-2010 Membership year. This year's slogan is "Molded in Excellence, Embodied by Tradition"

Nationally the Detachment of Maryland is currently in 16th place with membership at 58.718% and in 8th place with a renewal of 53.93%. I know we will pass the January 13, 2010 goal of 60% by the upcoming DEC. Once again the Eastern Region continues to be in last place. The next S.A.L. renewal postcard mailing is scheduled for mid January 2010 just after the January membership target date. Please transmit as many memberships as possible prior to this mailing.

Here are some frequently asked questions:

What is the main purpose of the Sons?

The mission of the Sons is to support veterans and their families and the policies of our parent organization, The American Legion. Virtually everything that involves the Sons could be grouped under three areas: 1) support for veterans and their families, 2) promoting Patriotism and Americanism and 3) promoting programs which benefit the youth of our country.

How do I know if I'm eligible to join the Sons? Membership in this organization is established through an individual's parents or grandparents' military service. Essentially, if your parents or grandparents are (or were) eligible to join the American Legion, you would be eligible to join the Sons of The American Legion.

Does the S.A.L. have an interest in Fisher House? Yes! Fisher Houses are much

like the well-known Ronald McDonald Houses located around the country. Fisher Houses are located near a number of VA hospitals or medical centers or military bases. The houses are there to assist veterans and their families overcome the costly burden of staying somewhere when a loved one is using a VA medical facility. The S.A.L. now actively raises money to help the Fisher House Foundation.

More questions and information can be found on the S.A.L. web site, www.sal.legion.org.

Yours In Service

Andy Dadds

NEC

BDADDS@baybroadband.net