



# *“The Pride”*

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

[www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org)

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Fall Issue - November 15, 2015

## Commander's Corner

Wow it is hard to believe that four months have now passed since I was installed as the Detachment commander. We just got back from Indianapolis from the fall NEC. It was great to be around our comrades from around the country. In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Ta-Ta Tribe met in Indianapolis. For a donation of \$20 one would have their right pinky fingernail painted pink by warrior Jim Jim. We extended the Tribe to the Auxiliary and Legion and have new squaws from around the nation. By the end of the weekend, we raised approximately \$1,500.00 for Breast Cancer research. Sons Supporting Ta-Ta's. Thank you to everyone that contributed to this great cause.

Congratulation to our own Historian Robert (Bob) Filipi on receiving his Volunteer of the Year Cap. Every day I become prouder of the members of the Detachment of Maryland. Membership is going wild! 1st Vice Commander, Ray Edwards is doing a phenomenal job in inspiring the "Blue Caps" to surpass the November 13th goal of 35%. As of this writing all but 2 Districts have exceeded the goal and as a Detachment we stand at 37.41% keeping up the GREAT JOB Ray!!!

It has been a very exciting start to the year. As I have been traveling around the state at various events, I have seen you working and planning events, raising money for the MCVET program as well as many other important programs. I am happy to see everyone working hard supporting my Commander's Project this year as we try to buy a van for MCVET. This may seem like a lot of money but if every Squadron, Post and Unit in the state donated \$100.00 we would easily reach that goal and remember our veterans deserve it. So let's all work together to make this project a success. Department Commander Lou Trott, Department President Dorris Reynolds and

I have been promoting the Legion Family. I have signed up for the Polar Bear plunge under The American Legion Family Team and looking forward right now to cooling off. I am inviting everyone to join us to plunge and or sponsor one or all of us. I am asking each you to work with me for The American Legion organization. Help us make a difference to the community, state and the nation.

To all Squadron Commanders, seminar packets have been distributed and are available from your District Commander. Included in the packet is the Detachment handbook which provides all Detachment officers and chairmen information as well as meeting information. Also, included in the packet is instructions on how to fill out the consolidated report form. If you haven't already, now is the time to start keeping track of volunteer hours and donations to be included in the report

I am asking you to keep me informed of what you are doing. I would like to visit every Squadron although I know that is an unrealistic goal, but I will do my best to get to as many Posts as I can. I have on my calendar to attend a District meeting in every District this year, so if you haven't seen me at yours yet, I will be there before the year is over!

I am also inviting each and every one to our DEC meeting. Come out and see what we are talking about. Listen, learn, ask questions and see what it's all about. Maryland has the best Sons of The American Legion Detachment in the country. We have dedicated leaders and mentors who can answer any question and point you in the right direction. I am asking you to keep me informed of what you are doing. Our Winter Detachment meeting will be on Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> at Synepuxent Post #166 in Ocean City. We have reserved a block of rooms for this event at the Grand Hotel across the street from Post #166 This would be a great time to meet and talk to

your Detachment Officers and DEC in a friendly social setting and have a great time while you are at it. Thank you for allowing me to serve this organization. Remember, it is you, the Squadron blue cap member who makes this organization work. If I can be of service to anyone one of you, please let me know. Please visit and use our Detachment website [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org) and our Detachment Facebook page. I am only a phone call or e-mail away if I can be of assistance. Let's get out there, roll up our sleeves and support the programs of The American Legion Family.

*"Sons Helping Vets Build a Better Future"*

Jeff Seiler

Commander  
Detachment of Maryland  
Sons of The American Legion

## Adjutant's Corner

**Fall D.E.C.:** The upcoming Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Seiler, on November 15, 2015 at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting is being hosted at Frank M. Jarman Post 36, located at 9155 American Legion Dr, Chestertown, MD 21620.

Training Module No. 2 will commence at noon before the DEC convenes. The focus of this training session is for all Detachment Executive Committeemen but is open to all members. The primary topic of this session is how to establish and the presentation of talking points which are utilized as the DEC representatives visit squadrons. How to assimilate the information provided by the Detachment Commander and the

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Detachment Chairmen and present the details of these various communications from which the Blue Cap member can establish a plan to carry forward the goals and objectives of the Detachment on the local level.

### **Winter DEC & Training Session:**

The following Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will include Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training at The Grand Hotel and Special Olympics Maryland Draw Down @ Post 166 January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. All three of the Detachment Vice Commanders have tickets for this event. The cost for this event is \$40 which admits two people which includes dinner from 3:00 to 7:00 PM, draft beer, soda, and a chance to win \$1000.

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

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

## **Get your Game on for MEMBERSHIP!**

Hot off the press, as October comes to an end, The Detachment of Maryland continues to work hard with membership. At this point, we have reached 40.82% with 550 members ahead of last year. This is outstanding news! Leading the way, Commander Gene, Northern Central District has lead the way placing the crosshairs on the bullseye at 54.29% ytd. This is 78 paid members ahead of last year. In second place, Commander Freddie from North Eastern Shore District is not too far behind at 48.87% ytd. Commander Freddie has 60 paid members ahead of last year. Third place is Commander Renehan from South Eastern Shore District at 46.33% ytd. This is 122 paid members ahead of last year. Fourth place is Southern Maryland District, Lead by Commander Weik. SOMD is at 42.36% ytd with 128 paid members ahead of last year. In fifth place, Commander Plummer is 41.38% ytd with 10 paid members ahead of last year. Sixth place is the Mountain District. Mountain District is at 33.23% ytd with 12 paid members ahead of last year but slightly off target shooting

a little low, Last but not least, Western Maryland District Commander Clavell, is at 28.97% ytd. This is 132 paid members ahead of last year. We will help Commander Clavell adjust his scope next time at the range.

Overall, Outstanding job of working membership and hitting our target date of 25% by October 14th. Our next target date is November 13th with a target of 35%. At this point we have met this target and should continue to strive towards our December 9th target date and goal of 45%. Thank you to the commanders who have participated on the monthly conference calls. Your hard work is paying off.

“Taking Aim at Membership “

Ray Edwards

Membership Chairmen

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

[rayjred@verizon.com](mailto:rayjred@verizon.com)

(410) 215-9354



## **Americanism Report**

As we head into the holiday season let's take a moment to reflect on the sacrifice's our veterans experience every day. Remember our friends at the Fisher House who support the families of injured soldiers. Many families will spend the holiday season at the Fisher House instead of comforts of their own home. Show your Americanism spirit by providing a flag to a veteran or ask your squadron and community leaders to place flags at a veteran's cemetery on Veterans Day. Support our Legion family by donating to the National Emergency Fund and don't forget to support your local community. Ask your squadron to hold a blood drive, assist boy/girl scouts with projects or fundraisers and consider sponsoring or donating to Boys/Girls State.

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,

Joe Lohman

Americanism Chairman

## **Flag Replacement Program:**

Try to help your Post out by purchasing Flags for our Veterans, for the Veteran's Holidays and the

businesses and homes out in our community. You should think about doing a Flag Retirement Program/ Ceremony. That is the proper way of disposing Flags that I become unserviceable in a worthy cause. Also, please let me know if your need Flag Replacement Forms. Please keep a record of Flags that you have replaced. Let's get out there and replace those tattered and worn out flags!

For God and Country

Larry Ford

Flag Replacement Program Chairman

Email: [lafldt@comcast.net](mailto:lafldt@comcast.net)

## **Boys State**

The American Legion Maryland Boys State Program will be again at McDaniel College in Westminster MD for the 2016 Maryland Boys State. The Maryland Boys State program will begin on Sunday, June 19th 2016 and graduation ceremony held on Saturday, June 25th 2016.

The cost to send a boy to Maryland Boys State is still \$300.00 per boy. 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 or alumni of this program to get sponsors to Boys State. Would you believe 56 Maryland American Legion Posts out of 140 Maryland American Legion Posts statewide support this great program. If you give your Post a donation to sponsor a Boy to this program, please bring a copy of that check to a Detachment 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 meeting. Just ensure the check is earmarked Boys State. Don't forget to ask your Post Commander if there is a Chairperson for the Boys State program for the Post. If the answer

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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 starting at 10 am.

Remember Boys State attendees are tomorrow leaders. If you need information concerning Boys State, please contact me or Mr. Roger Butt, Director of Maryland Boys State.

Dennis J. Renahan  
Committee Chairman  
Boys State Staff  
Fort City CIC  
[dawgtrucker@yahoo.com](mailto: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:**

As we approach the holiday season now is a great time to participate in activities for the holidays. Work with your Posts and Units to host a children's Christmas Party or Breakfast with Santa. Remember the Toys for Tots drive is starting and you can participate in that worthwhile program. Due to the storm forecast, the Cookout at the Bethesda Fisher House scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup> was cancelled. I am working on a new date, with the holidays approaching it may be difficult to fit in, but keep an eye out. For all that volunteered for this event, I thank you and hope you will be able to attend the next event.

I wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday, and I hope to see at the DEC on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

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.

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. Coming back from Indy the CWF chairman are asking for a \$ 1.50 per member if possible.

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

Thank you  
Children and youth Chairman  
David Hullihen  
Children & Youth Chairman

### **Casey Cares Newsletter**

Casey Cares is a locally created program for critically ill children and their families. They try to make life a little more pleasant for the families with what most of us take for granted. A night at home watching a movie from "NetFlix", gift cards from any number of stores, donations of pajamas to "Kami's Jammies", and Crazy socks just to mention a few.

If you find that you have any of these items or perhaps an extra set of tickets to one of our many local attractions, please consider donating them. Those little things we can sometimes take for granted can mean so much to these families.

It is the little things that can make life seem more enjoyable to everyone. Remember the Holidays are approaching and what better way of celebrating then to help make a special day for a child. Checkout the Holiday Giving brochure at <http://caseycares.org/uploads/file/HG%20Brochure%202015.pdf>.

Serving Maryland's Children

Kraig A Dean

Casey Cares Chairmen

[kraigdean@yahoo.com](mailto:kraigdean@yahoo.com)

410-440-2449

### **Toys For Tots**

We are asking everyone to bring as many toys as you can to the next meeting at Post 36 in Chestertown Md. We have a Toys for Tots rep coming to that meeting so let's show him how much we support the TFT. His name is Greg Manning and if you need him in any way his number is 410-556-9990 Greg is a duel member.

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Let's make this year our best year ever with all of the Detachment of MD Squadrons working together along with me. I am sure that we will have a great year. Also, if you plan on having other fund raising projects at your post, could you please name a person as chairman and contact me with what you are planning, so that I may keep a report.

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

## **Special Olympics— Maryland**

By the time you get this The Sons of The American Legion Special Olympics Bowling tournament will be just days away. The regionals are Sunday November 15th and volunteers are needed at the Glen Burnie Bowl America. I understand we have a meeting that day, so maybe you ask somebody at your Squadron or Post to help out. It is a great experience and I know you will find it rewarding.

For more information just contact me and I will get you the information needed. The finals will be held December 6, 2015 at the Gaithersburg Bowl America.

This time of year there is a lot going on for Special Olympic athletes, with bowling being in full swing the Winter games are all being scheduled and the athletes and coaches are preparing. If you have never volunteered for Special Olympics the Winter games is a great one to begin with. The games will be held at White Tail February 22nd and 23rd with some going up for set up on the 21st. For anyone wanting to go up and stay please contact me so we can set up a hotel for you.

The Sons of The American Legion have been a part of Winter games for years and once you volunteer you will know why, it is very rewarding.

By Now I hope you all have received your raffle tickets to help support the bowling tournament and I hope you won't just shuffle them to the side but please support the raffle. The bowling tournament has our name on it and we want to keep it that way, you can help us do that. This is a great way that a dollar at a time we support the great athletes of Special Olympics.

The American Legion family plunge team has been formed and you can join now and start getting sponsors. Our Legion plunge will take place at 1:00 this year with the first ever Military plunge. We have help to create this to give our soldiers, veterans, their families and friends a chance to plunge together on Friday January the 29th. Sign up today and let's have our biggest Legion family team ever. Again if needing any information please just contact me.

Serving Those that Served,

J.R. Hall  
SOMD Chairman  
[Dhall1967@verizon.net](mailto:Dhall1967@verizon.net)

## **Legislative Alert!**

Here is a web site for all to take a look at: [www.congress.gov](http://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 a 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. There have been a few times this year where we needed almost instant notification for a certain bill or hearing that we needed

immediate action on. 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](mailto:tom.deal@verizon.net)

## **VAVS Variety**

I hope everyone has a great Veterans Day and has the opportunity to attend at least one of the numerous ceremonies being held all across the state. This year I have the honor to attend the American Legion Mason-Dixon Post 194 Veterans Day program. I have been told they give a salute to show their love and respect to our veterans; I am looking forward to going and am sure it will be very gratifying.

The holiday season is upon us, so let's try to visit with some of our veterans this holiday season. I'm sure the veteran at Charlotte Hall, Perry Point and Loch Raven, just to name a few of our veteran facilities, would enjoy your company. Check with the staff at these facilities to see what you can do this holiday season to brighten up at Veterans holiday. Ways you can help is at the Christmas luncheon being held at MCVETS on December 19 or help distribute gifts to our veterans on December 24. We need to make sure they know they are not forgotten and we respect the sacrifices they have made.

Yours in Service,

VA&R Chairman  
Jim Alexander

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## VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION COMMISSION

### Questions and Answers

***“What is this new National VE&E Commission and what do they do?”*** The SAL National Veterans Employment and Education Commission’s Mission Statement is “To assist The American Legion in ensuring that America’s Veterans have the opportunity to provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families.”

***“How does the VE&E Commission plan to accomplish this?”*** By getting the word out on “Hiring Our Heroes” job fairs being held around the nation as well as education benefits available in each state, in addition to or as an alternative to, federal GI Bill benefits.

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

When you leave the military, the biggest question is ***“What’s next?”*** Your Squadron can help with the answer to this question by providing this information to our Veterans. Please assist us in making this new Sons of The

American Legion Commission a successful one nationwide while assisting the “Heroes” who have kept America and everyone in it free and safe.

**Larry “Bear” Weinzirl**  
National VE&E Chairman

## Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

*“the only Veterans Home in the state”*

The Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Service Organization Liaison Committee will host the annual Christmas Ice Social on December 12 from 2 PM to 4 PM. In addition to ice cream, each resident who attends the social receives a Christmas card with \$5 inside. If you are interested in volunteering contact me. If you are interested in donating to the event, send your donations, to Toni Carr, 11320 Keystone Ave., Clinton, MD 20735. Make checks payable to CHVH/Service Organization Liaison Committee.

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. Remember, CHVH is the only Veterans Home in the state and has residents from all over Maryland. Donations should be sent 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 or myself. Additional help is always welcome.

With the holiday season approaching, don’t forget these men and women who served our Country. Cards can be sent to CHVH, 29449 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622.

If you would like to find out more about opportunities to help, contact me or visit their website, [www.charhall.org](http://www.charhall.org).

For God and Country,  
Dave Tatman  
CHVH Representative  
[tatman\\_david@comcast.net](mailto:tatman_david@comcast.net)  
301-645-1537

## Maryland Center for Veteran’s Training & Education (MCVET)

Thank you to Federal Squadron 19 for stopping MCVET and taking a tour and showing more interest in this great

program.

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

The giving by so many Legion Family members during this event is awesome. The conversations and interactions with the students, the fun in the kitchen preparing the food, watching everyone playfully fighting over who’s going to walk around serving the ice cream and who get’s to share the topping has to be seen for yourself. Overall it’s a humbling experience of having an opportunity to help our Veterans’ during the holiday season and anytime throughout the year. If you would like to know more about how you or your squadron, post, unit or ALR is able to help support this program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

For God and Country,

Bill Hill

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

## 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.

**“MY PRAYER FOR AMERICA”**

Today our flag was waving, my eyes were dimmed with tears  
Another war beginning, brought back so many years

Once more an evil monster had raised his ugly head  
And many innocent people will soon be lying dead.

This lovely country, crowded with folks of every race  
Afraid to go about their life, afraid to show their face.

There will be always evil people, who only live to hate  
But love is stronger, and we must trust each,

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while we wait.

To see the sun arising, and chasing off the rain  
And pray our God will help us live the good life again.

I've seen the face of evil, many times before  
And my heart is filled with sadness to behold it all once more.

Dear God, please help the good men  
Who are running our country now,

And give them help in every way,  
My head to thee I bow.

By Mercia V. Tillman

For God and Country  
In His Service,  
Larry Ford

Email: lafltd@comcast.net

Cell: 443-413-4710

## **Commander's Project /**

**MCVET** [Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training]

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 back to Laurel for the 43rd Annual Convention! Specifically Laurel Post 60!!

Lodging will be at a new hotel this year which is the DoubleTree by Hilton Laurel located at 15101 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, Md. 20707. Their phone number is 301-776-5300. The SAL rates are \$99.00 per night plus a 6% Maryland tax as well as 7% Local Occupancy tax. That computes to \$111.87 per night. This hotel is large enough to carry our entire delegation without the need of an overflow hotel.

Details for the 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](http://www.mdsal.org).

For God and Country,  
Bill Hill  
Chairman

## **South Eastern Shore Gazette**

The Fall DEC meeting will be held on 15 November 2015 at Post 36 in Chestertown at 1 P.M. If you have not been to a Detachment Executive Committee meeting, you should attend one. You would be amazed. Our next District meeting will be held on November 22, 2015 at Post 123 in Berlin starting at 12 P.M. EVERY SQUADRON NEEDS TO HAVE SOMEONE IN ATTENDANCE.

Toys for Tots is in full swing. I do hope all squadrons saved their Toys For Tots boxes that were handed out last year. Contact Chairman Eddie Souder at 301-706-3960 for more information about this great program. Locally for Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties, contact Ed Hearthway at 410-4306473. Dorchester County your local rep is unknown at this time.

If your Squadron is having an event post on it the Detachment's webpage by contacting Larry ( Bear) Weinzirl at [NESD@AOL.com](mailto:NESD@AOL.com).

Membership is increasing throughout the district. Thanks to those Squadrons

who are working hard on their membership and not holding their dues. Great job!!!

Veterans Day is fast approaching. What is your Squadron doing to honor those Veterans?

Welcome Home Veterans

Dennis J. Renehan  
Commander  
SESD

## **Southern Pride**

We have had a very busy 2 months and everyone is back working the Programs of the SAL. To date I've had the opportunity to visit 12 Squadrons and attend 3 Squadron meetings.

I want to Thank Rockville Squadron and Post #86 for hosting our first SMD meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>. We had a good turnout. The "Blue Books", Training Packets, and Special Olympics Bowling Raffle Tickets were delivered to all the DEC Men and should have been passed out to the squadrons by now. I still have some raffle tickets... please call me if you need more! We are doing well again with Membership. So far we are 116 members ahead of where we were this time last year and have surpassed the November Target of 35%... Keep up the good work! By now I hope everyone has heard about my Commander's Challenge issued at the October 4<sup>th</sup> SMD Meeting. The Squadron with the most Renewals between October 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday November 6<sup>th</sup> will win a free ticket to our annual SMD Draw Down. That gets you a dinner for 2 and a chance for your squadron to win up to a \$1000.00. SAL SMD 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Mike Obremski issued a similar challenge for "New Members". So that's two ways to win a free ticket and help push membership at the same time. We still have six squadrons with "Goose Eggs". Our goal is to eliminate them before our next DEC meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> if possible?

Our next SAL SMD meeting is scheduled for November 22<sup>nd</sup> at Glenarden Post #275 starting at 1pm. All "Blue Caps", Post Commanders, and Advisors are

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encouraged to attend. Our District can only become better if we get new people and ideas. Please remember our Veterans on November 11<sup>th</sup> and have a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday Season.

Yours in Service

Joe Weik

SMD Commander

## Western Maryland Tribune

Hey all my apologies for not making the deadline in the last pride newsletter. I am looking forward to working with everyone this year. First on my addenda is membership, my goal is to make WMD #1 by asking for everyone's help in pushing real hard to get those renewal dues paid and by putting the word out and encouraging all your friends and family that are eligible to join our SAL family. As we all know it is a great family to belong to and to be proud of.

I want to congratulate two of our own from WMD - Jeff Seiler on his new position as our Detachment of Maryland Commander and Bill Hill on his new position of National Vice Commander - Eastern Region. I know they will do a great job. I like to ask everyone to jump in and help Jeff out by volunteering your help or raising funds to help support the MCVET (Maryland Center for Veterans Education & Training) project.

We are also working on getting a fund raiser started for the WMD and all squadrons that want to join in throughout the Detachment of Maryland. We hope to get the details out by December's meeting.

I'm encouraging all squadron officers & adjutants and whoever else that wants to attend a District meeting to please attend squadrons and Legion family that host these meetings do a great deal of work to set up and prepare a nice meal for all that attend the more the merrier. The next district meeting is scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 at my home American Legion Post 200 in Hampstead. Come check it out.

It is with great sadness that we here at WMD lost one of our own Bill Spurrier.

Bill was WMD 1<sup>st</sup>. vice commander and will be greatly missed.

For God and Country

Tom Clavell

WMD Commander

## Northern Central News

Greetings from the Northern Central District. Here's what's going on.

This past Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, we were proud to attend the Perry Point Carnival again, and cook their burgers for them, we also cooked hot dogs for the Auxiliary booth. Proud to say we were supported by 17 Sons, and a couple of spouses. Thanks to all who showed up this year. We are still accepting donations for expenses for this event.

Again this year we're firmly holding on to first place in membership renewal percentages, let's keep up the pace, and improve our standing from last year. Our first meeting was held on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at Sq. 130 followed by our annual picnic. Thanks to all who attended, and Sq. 130 for their great effort to satisfy our hunger.

Our next meeting will be Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at Sq. 128, Bernard L. Tobin in Aberdeen. Sq. Commander Lacey and his team are expected to put out the welcome mat for us. The meeting will start at 1 PM prompt. Stay up to date on our Facebook Page.

Gene Nicholes  
NCD Commander

## NEC Update!

I bring you greetings from National Commander Kevin Collier. Commanders theme this year is "R.O.C.K.E.D. - Remembering Our Commitment Keeping it Every Day". Through Duty, Honor and Service to The American Legion's Four Pillars - Americanism, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Children & Youth and National Security.

October 9-11, 2015 members of the Detachment traveled to Indy for the fall

NEC. Our members participated in the various commission and committee meetings that were held that weekend. Congratulations go out to Jeff Seiler for graduating the Detachment Commanders Class.

National Vice Commander Bill Hill congratulated the Detachments on reaching the National Membership goals by the cutoff dates. Maryland stands at 37% which has us 2<sup>nd</sup> in the East and 16<sup>th</sup> in the Nation.

The following resolutions were passed at the Fall NEC; SAL NC 1-15- Support of Religious Freedom, SAL NC 2-15- Reaffirming "In God We Trust" as the official Motto of The United States, SAL NC 3-15- Reiterate Commitment to The American Legion "Service to God and Country", SAL NEC 2-F15- National Veterans Employment and Education Commission and SAL NEC 4-F15- Donation of \$5000 to the Harry W. Colmery Memorial Fund (KS).

Here are a few frequently asked questions;

### How large is the Sons of The American Legion?

Each year since 1982, the Sons of The American Legion has set a new all-time high in membership. Currently, there are more than 358,000 members of the Sons in this country and abroad.

### The American Legion offers programs for honorary memberships and "Paid Up For Life" (PUFL). Does the S.A.L. offer these same membership programs?

Not really. Squadrons that want to honor an individual with an honorary membership must take care of renewing that individual's membership annually. There is no way to pre-pay for future years' memberships. Also, there is no program for an individual to make a lump-sum payment that will cover his membership for the rest of his life. In these respects, the Sons is quite different from its parent.

**Andy Dadds-National Executive  
Committeeman**



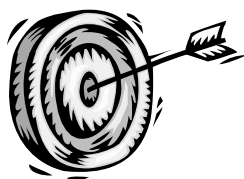
“Sons Helping Vets Build a Better Future”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

We're On The Web Visit Us At [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org)

Follow us on Facebook:

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland



**2016 Membership Target Date:**

<b>September 9, 2015</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>October 14, 2015</b>	<b>25%</b>
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%

Delegate Strength Target Date

**Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2015—2016**

**Fall D.E.C. Meeting**

November 15th, 2015 / Chestertown Post 36 @ 1pm

**Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training** at The Grand Hotel

**Special Olympics Maryland** Draw Down @ Post 166

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Winter D.E.C. Meeting & Training Session**

January 31st, 2016 / Synepuxent Post 166 @ 1pm

**Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown**

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 / Susquehanna Post 135 @ 5pm

**Spring D.E.C. Meeting**

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

**43rd Annual Detachment Convention**

June 24th to 26<sup>th</sup>

Laurel Post 60

2 Main Street, Laurel, MD