



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



***“The Pride”***

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

Volume 2014/2015: Issue 1  
Seminar Issue September 27, 2014

**Commander’s Corner**

*Hello Again To All of Our Legion Family,*

As I begin to write this article I smile and again appreciate the fact that all my brothers in the Sons of The American Legion had the faith in me to elect me as the Detachment of Maryland Commander. It is hard to believe that two months have passed by and our year now is in full swing. We’ll I am looking forward to the first meeting of the year on September 27th at Post 130 Overlea-Perry Hall; this is our seminar meeting and look to have a lot of information to get out to everyone. Past National Commander Bill Sparwasser will be holding a class there to help all DEC better understand their job and give them the information and tools needed to do so. If you have never attended one of PNC Sparwasser classes we are sure you will walk away with a lot of great information. We would like to see every DEC from each District in attendance for the class. The more information we have and understand, the more we can spread the word and help all of our Blue cap members in every Squadron across our great state. Following the meeting Squadron 130 has a dinner planned and music later in the evening so make a day of it at Post 130.

Please take time regularly to take a look at the Detachment webpage at [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org) and look at the information that is on there for everyone to share. Web master PDC Bear Weinzirl encourages everyone to send him information to have posted on the page and also encourages everyone to use the page to find information about what is

going on around the state at other post. It is not just for fundraisers either; this page contains information on all of our programs and more.

This page will be updated by all chairmen during the year regularly so don't think just because you have read it once you don't need to look at it anymore. Use the page as a source of information to share and obtain. Also check out the Detachment Facebook page and post fundraisers and information on there. Our page is looked at daily by a lot of folks and it is a great way to spread the word on things.

Let's talk a little on membership and send out a right hand salute to Commander Karl Kibler of NESD and the men of the NESD for being the first District to get all of the O's off the board. Great job!!! As many of you know we have already reached an all-time high for 2013-2014 however we still have members that are not paid so let's get them back with us and also continue to grow. Our September National goal was 10% and we flew right past that, I am excited to see what Vice Commander Seiler's will roll out as a membership theme for this year at Seminar.

A lot of great things are going on all over our Detachment and we hope to be able to get to see many of you in our travels. Please share information on things going on at your home post and in your district so we can all participate and have a great year together. Coming up soon is the Detachment campout at Camp West-Mar in September. Last year was a great time and hopefully we will see more of you there this year.

Hope to see you out at a Post for a *function, visit and meeting sometime soon.*

*"Stepping up to The Challenge"*

JR Hall

Commander

Detachment of Maryland  
Sons of The American Legion

**Adjutant’s Corner**

**D.E.C./Seminar:** The first Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander, JR Hall, on September, 27 2014 at 1:00 P.M. The meeting is being hosted at Overlea-Perry Hall Post 130, located at 8666 Silver Lake Drive, Perry Hall, MD 21128. The post phone number is 410-931-0660.

**Detachment Training Sessions**

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 11am

Grand Hotel in Ocean City

We are conducting our 4th Annual Training Session during our Winter D.E.C. time in Ocean City. See the information below to take advantage of our discounted hotel rates. Booking at this rate is available through December 24, 2014.

**GUEST ROOMS AND GROUP RATES**

\$ 57.00 Limited View Rooms

\$ 62.00 Premier View Rooms

\$ 67.00 Ocean Front Rooms

Plus applicable taxes ~ Rooms are available now!

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**Detachment Camp Out:** The first activity scheduled for this year is the Camp-Out on September 19-22, 2014 and is once again being hosted at The American Legion facilities in the Western Maryland District at Camp West-Mar. The facility is located at 14509 Brown Road, Sabillasville, Md. 21780. The event was moved this year from the month of October to September to avoid the extreme cold snap we experienced last year. Despite the cold weather there were over 75 members that visited the camp throughout the weekend. The camp has a first class dining facility and all the meals and soft drinks are being provided by the Northern Central District at no cost to all members of the Legion Family. The camp also features 6 cabins which can sleep 120 campers, and a large open field for tents and those who would like to bring campers. There is a bath house for those not inclined to totally rough it in the woods. On Saturday there will be many activities and games for all ages to participate in for all members of the Legion Family.

**Open Forum:** In an effort to better serve the membership of the Detachment of Maryland we will reserve an area in The Pride for members to ask questions, provide comments or opinions, and give examples of local squadron activities. Any overflow of information or feedback from the membership will be placed on the Detachment web page. This will give every member the opportunity to interact with the leadership of the Detachment and give every member a forum to be heard across the state and assist the leadership to become more informed on the needs of the members. These opinions and/or pictures can be sent directly to me electronically at [bill.matoska@comcast.net](mailto:bill.matoska@comcast.net).

Yours In Service,  
Bill Matoska  
Detachment Adjutant  
[Bill.matoska@comcast.net](mailto:Bill.matoska@comcast.net)  
443-710-9664

## Get your Game on for MEMBERSHIP!

First of All I would like to give great Congratulations to JR Hall for his outstanding year as 1<sup>st</sup> vice commander and all he did for the membership last year. We hit an all-time high last year prior to convention.



Great Job to everyone.

This year as your membership chairman I do have some goals. What is the Definition of Membership?

Membership -- the state of belonging to or being a part of a group or an organization: the state of being a member.

We are all members of the great organization The Sons of The American Legion. The membership is the lifeblood of our organization. With this in mind my 1<sup>st</sup> goal is to get more of our younger members involved. I would like to see 50 Junior members at our convention this year. Let's get those young members that we all have and let's get them involved.

It is never too early to start pushing membership renewals and new members. Has your Squadron come up with a plan on how they will work renewals? Have you asked all your Legionnaire members to see if they can become dual members? Have you asked all of your auxiliary members if their sons or grandsons are members? Have you asked the Legion Members if their sons or grandsons or grand-daughters are members? These are just a few of the ways to get new members. Do you have a form letter or card that you can send out to your members to get renewals vs waiting for a post card to go out from national? Another idea for your renewals.

I am not stating what my theme is yet as you will all see in a couple of days. But I do need to congratulate and give great thanks to Karl Kibler the North Eastern Shore Commander. All thirteen squadrons in the district have sent in at least 3 members. Great Job Commander Kibler and at our first meeting in September you will be rewarded.

Out of our seven districts North Central District is in 1<sup>st</sup> place however they still do have five goose eggs out there. In second place is North Eastern Shore district with ZERO goose eggs. In 3<sup>rd</sup> place is Baltimore District with 2 goose eggs and Western Maryland is bringing up the rear with four goose eggs.

We have 10 target dates and the 1<sup>st</sup> inning is September 10<sup>th</sup> and we should be at 10% and every District has already

reached that goal and Northern Central has already met the October 8<sup>th</sup> goal of 25%. However we still have 46 squadrons out of 111 that still have to reach that 10% goal.

Our Goal dates are listed on the back page the Pride! I just want everyone to know our goals so we call all work together to strive and make these goals and create new all-time high this year prior to convention. We got off to a slow start but right now we are actually 3 members better than last year.

For the District Commanders I will be holding monthly membership call on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month you will be receiving an email prior to each call the call will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 and if you have a Squadron Commander that would like to attend please feel free to give him the information. Our first call be prior to our first DEC meeting which will be on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

I am looking forward having and serving with everyone to have a great year.

Yours in Service

Jeffrey Seiler  
Membership Chairmen  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

## Americanism Report

We've always been and will continue to be a Detachment that shows its great support to all the Americanism programs. Our success this year will be through the continued support we provide to our Community, State and Nation.

### Flag Replacement Program:

Offers assistance to persons in the communities whose flag needs to be replaced because the flag is worn.

Each squadron in the Detachment should have a Flag Replacement program. If you don't then please ask and we'll work with you to establish one. Squadrons can sponsor fundraisers to purchase the flags they give out to the community and those in their Post.

When a Post member or someone in the

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community comes to your Post, have them complete a Flag Replacement form. If your squadron does not have this form you can email me to obtain this form.

Veterans Day is approaching your squadron may want to place flags on Veterans' graves. Also, make sure you use the Flag Replacement form, in order, to keep a record on the numbers of flags your squadron has distributed.

The Flag Replacement forms will be available at all DEC meetings. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at the above address.

Yours in Service,

Gregory Taylor,  
Flag Replacement Chairperson  
[gregohl1@verizon.net](mailto:gregohl1@verizon.net)

## Boys State

Congratulations to the 194 Maryland Boys State Graduates 2014.

Legion City was this years Honor City, job well done gentlemen.

Of course we would like to see the Maryland Boys State program continue to grow. And one way to achieve real growth is to invite this years graduates to participate at their sponsoring post for other activities and to give presentations that will help further the promotion of the Boys State programs at their schools encouraging counselors and Junior classmen to register for the program. This is the edge these students need to have on their academic resume that will set them apart and above the rest with college entries.

The Department headquarters has received three thank you letters and two newspaper articles pertaining to this year's program. So let's keep the momentum going!

The next Boys State meeting is on September 13<sup>th</sup> – 10:00am at the Rock Hall Maryland Post#228. If you or anyone that you know is interested in attending Boys State 2015 or becoming a counselor, we would welcome you to join us.

Dennis Renehan  
Committee Chairman &  
Boys State Staff member

(410)-330-3003

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

## National Emergency Fund:

As we begin our 2014-2015 Administrated Year I want to remind everyone of the importance of The NEF Program. We are approaching the winter weather and no one knows what Mother Nature has in stores for us. But as long as the funds are available and you are a member of The American Legion Family in good standing NEF will be there for you in time of a natural disaster.

That is why it is so important to get those donations in. The amount of your donation is never too small nor to big just knowing it's going to a program that will always be there for our Families. You can go to The American Legion .org website to get forms, phone numbers or any other information you might need.

Yours in Service,

Jerry Saunders,  
NEF Chairperson

### Community Affairs:

Fisher House as you know is very important to the families and military by giving them a place to stay in their time of need. This year we will show our gratitude by visiting and serving lunch in a cookout style atmosphere. More information to follow at the DEC meeting. As you know Fisher House is only one of many opportunities we can support this year. Please contact Chris Dadds if you have any questions.

### Five-Star Program:

The Five-Star award program is for all members of The Sons of The American Legion who show dedication and knowledge in the Five-Point program of service consisting of the following: Patriotism, Citizenship, Discipline, Leadership and Legionism. If you would like learn more contact PNC Bill Sparwasser.

Yours in Service,

Americanism Chairman  
Jim Alexander

## CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

Thank you to all squadrons and those who supported the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament raffle last year.

Once again this year, we will continue with a new raffle that will support SOMD Bowling tournament. We ask all Squadrons to donate \$1.00 for each member on your roster.

The camp out is scheduled for September 19-22, 2014. The location is Camp West-Mar. The address is 14509 Brown Road, Sabillasville, MD 21780-8728. This is a family fun weekend. Please bring the kids. Donations are welcomed for meals purposes. Please make your check payable to NCD.

Additional information to follow regarding the dates and location of the following events:

Bowling Tournament – Fall of 2014

The Polar Plunge is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2015, prior to the Winter DEC in OC.

Laps of Love – Spring of 2015

Again, I thank you for your support and look forward to another great year.

Ray Edwards

Children & Youth Chairman

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

(410) 215-9354 Cell

## JOSH DOG

Canine therapy dogs have been around for years and often comfort patient's in hospitals with their unconditional love. As an extension to that mission, the Josh and friends Project emerged by introducing children to the book "I'll Be OK" and a cuddly stuffed animal named Josh. The goal was to help children overwhelming anxiety of a hospital stay. The story of "Josh" originated when a vet

The GI Josh program started as a connection between the Detachment of Arizona, Sons of The American Legion. The Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) and Josh Dogs group. This was created to bring some level of comfort to children of deployed service personal. Children struggle with separation issues when

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parents are deployed and the whole "I'll Be OK" piece is helpful here as well. Children do learn coping mechanisms and skills through the story/book that features Josh and his friend Smudge.

We encourage all squadrons to pick up the challenge and purchase a Josh Dog to give out at nearby children's hospital or purchase a GI Josh Dog and get it to a deployed military member's child. Please purchase one Josh Dog and display it at your Post. This should spark interest from members of your Post.

The dog and book are available for a special American Legion rate of \$26.00 as a set from the website. <http://www.joshandfriends.com> or 1-877-455-2365. The normal cost is \$39.95 each.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Sykes

## Casey Cares Newsletter

As we start yet another adventure in our year under Commander J. R. Hall, I for one am excited that he has chosen a "Children & Youth" Program as his project. Those that know Commander Hall, knows that our youth are forever in his Heart. One such program is "Casey Cares". This program touches so many lives, and they strive to touch even more, as was apparent last month when Casey traveled to the Hovnanian Children's Hospital in New Jersey, to make them aware of their purpose, and to look for more lives to touch.

We as Squadron's, and the Detachment help in so many ways, with our monetary donations, towards programs like "Net Flex", shopping gift cards, pajama donations to "Kami's Jammies", just to mention a few. Casey also accepts tickets for family outings such as; Orioles, Ravens, Eagles, Giants, Redskins, and many other major outings, also Hersey Park, National Aquarium, Port Discovery, just about any major attraction possible.

Things as simple also as a Pizza party for a family one night brings; joy and smiles to many faces. This can only be done with your support.

The weekend after our "SAL Convention", Casey was reluctant to ask for help, cooking for her Annual Car Fair; held at Sagamore Farms. I contacted the NCD, and with a food donation from A.L. Howes Agency, arranged by Unit 22, President Lynette Dean, who alongside her, her husband Kraig, served the 80 people food cooked by Det. 3rd Vice; David Hullihen, and NCD; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, Bob Keyes, another Successful event on behalf of the SONS.

The next Casey Cares function is the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock N Roll Bash, to be held at RAMS Head Center Stage at the Maryland LIVE Casino, on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. The same night is the Annual \$10,000 Raffle- Drawing; Tickets are \$100.00 each, with only 500 printed. This would be a good change to help make a donation to Casey Cares with a chance to win \$ 10,000. Adjutant Matoska has a few tickets or contact Casey directly at 443-568-0064.

We are hoping for another GREAT YEAR from the "SONS", but this can only happen with your help.

Serving Maryland's Children  
Ed Steininger Sr.  
Casey Cares Chairman  
[edwardsteininger@yahoo.com](mailto:edwardsteininger@yahoo.com)  
443-807-1495

## Child Welfare Foundation

As our Maryland delegation comes back from National convention let me share with you the news that the Sons of The American Legion this past year went over the Six Million Dollar mark for Child Welfare Foundation. CWF helps children and youth programs by giving grants to help them cover their cost. Children Organs Transplant (COTA), The Young Marines, Special Olympics, Boys Scouts and many more programs have benefitted from these grants. Here is Maryland the Laps of Love helps raise money each year for CWF and we look to carry on that tradition this year. You can

also get little Piggy Banks from CWF to help collect change, if interested please contact me and I will try to help you the best I can.

Yours In Service,  
Larry Ford  
CWF Chairman

## Toys For Tots

Toys for Tots is a worthy program hosted by the U.S. Marine Corp every year and every year the American Legion family turn out in full force to ensure hundreds of thousands of children in the state of Maryland and around the United States wake up to Christmas. Let this year be no exception as we begin to plan fund-raising events. Please let me know how I can be of help or service to you and your Squadron in helping your event to be the best it can be.

The South Eastern Shore District and several Squadrons already have plans lined up. On Oct 19, 2014 starting at the Seaford Harley Davidson Store a ride in has been organized to depart around 12 pm and to end at Sharptown Post 218 where the Marine Corp will meet us and collect toys donations. Please see the Detachment website for full details. At our Fall DEC meeting on Saturday, November 22, 2014, that will be held at Francis Scott Key Post 11, at 1pm, will be collecting toys and donations as well. We will have a representative from the Marine Corp at that meeting. Let's make these events stand out among the many programs that fall under the Children and Welfare Pillar as we do with everything the Sons of the American Legion set their mind to. MD Squadrons working together along with me can make this happen.

For God and Country,

John Egerson

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## Boys State

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The Department headquarters has received three thank you letters and two newspaper articles pertaining to this year's program. So let's keep the momentum going!

The next Boys State meeting is on September 13<sup>th</sup> – 10:00am at the Rock Hall Maryland Post#228. If you or anyone that you know is interested in attending Boys State 2015 or becoming a counselor, we would welcome you to join us.

Dennis Renehan  
Committee Chairman & Boys State Staff member

(410)-330-3003

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

## Legislative Alert!

Let me start off by talking about the National Convention in Charlotte. It was well attended by Maryland again this year. I was appointed to Vice Chairman on the Legislative Commission, were I've served on this commission for several years and I will continue to keep everyone up to date on State and National legislation. I can't do that without your help. I have asked in the past and am going to ask again, I need everyone to sign up for the Legislative Alerts from the National organization.

Go to 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. We will be alerted and can then act on that alert. We all (well most of us) send texts and e-mails on our phones now so be vigilant with the alerts as well. We need to let Congress how we stand on Veteran's issues. I know I sound like a broken record however it is very important to contact your representatives now to let them know how you feel. We need to stand strong in support of our Veterans and our Country. The General Election is November 4, however in most areas you can vote early. If you are going to be out of town request absentee ballot and fill it out and send it in. There are many important candidates in all areas of the state running for office including Governor. We can make a difference, don't think my vote doesn't matter, EVERY VOTE COUNTS and I need you to do your duty and get out and Vote.

For God and Country

Tom Deal  
Legislative Chairman  
[tom.deal@verizon.net](mailto:tom.deal@verizon.net)

## VAVS Variety

It is my great honor to be coming to you this year as your VAR Chairman. I am Happy to report to you this year as having some great guys that I am privileged to work with this year. We are just beginning our journey so we only have a few things to report as of this writing so I will take this time to introduce you to them and most of you know all of them. Perry point is PDC Tom Deal, Loch Raven Bob Fillipi, MCVET PDC Bill Hill, Baltimore VA Riginald Frazier and PNC Bill Matoska lucky for me these guys are some of the best. If you would like to assist or donate time or money please let any one of these guys or myself know. All of our contacts are in the blue book.

Coming up on September 20<sup>th</sup> 2014 will be the Perry point carnival starting at around 12:00 pm.

The NCD will be cooking hamburgers and I believe Squadron 135 will be passing out fruit. Anyone wishing to make donations please do so. Our first

DEC meeting will be on September 27<sup>th</sup> so you may bring your donations then, and as always we will be accepting donations for any and all VA programs at that time. As always we will be spreading cheer at the annual Christmas party for the veterans down at MCVET on December 20<sup>th</sup> more news on that to follow in the next Pride. So come one come all let's all get together and make this the best year and show our veterans how much they mean to us.

Yours in Service

Dave Hulihan  
VA&R Chairman

## Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

As the only Veterans Home in the state, On June 17, the American Legion Dorchester Post 91 and the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 91 donated a 12 foot by 6 foot enclosed trailer to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH). The trailer will be used to house material such as plywood, lumber, sheet plastic, tape, portable lighting and tools needed to secure the buildings and protect residents and staff in case of an emergency. Great job.

From 2 pm to 4pm on December 13, the CHVH Service Organization Liaison Committee (SOLC) will host the annual Christmas Ice Cream Social at the CHVH. In addition to ice cream, each resident will receive a Christmas card with \$5 inside. If you are interested in donating to the CHVH SOLC, donations may be sent to Richard Bamberger, Treasurer, CHVH SOLC, 2209 Pinefield Court, Waldorf, MD 20601. The SOLC is comprised of representatives from a number of Service Organizations including the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. I am proud to represent the S.A.L. on this committee.

The Southern Maryland District continues to hold a bingo at the Veterans' home on the third Monday of each month. Two hundred dollars are given out to residents at each bingo. If you are interested in donating to the CHVH Bingos, send your donation to the Detachment earmarked for CHVH Bingo. If you are interested in volunteering your time contact PDC Buddy Mastin or myself. Additional help is always welcome.

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

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

MCVET—Continues to be a leader in setting the example of how we show pride in supporting one of the greatest human capital assets we will ever have; Our U.S. Military Veteran!

The Detachment will again provide a luncheon to the residents on the Saturday before Christmas, so if you're interested in helping or supporting us with a monetary donation, please do so at a DEC, District or Squadron meeting and send it in to the Detachment.

We are again partnering with the Department of Maryland—Auxiliary to provide support to our Veterans, so if you're interested in providing a monetary donation, please contact an Auxiliary member, or let me know.

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

## Chaplin's Corner

Sick Call and Relief:



Dwayne Washington,  
Norman Jenkins, Sr.  
John Wynder, Roscoe Holley, Fred  
Bennett, Ed Steininger, Kraig Dean

To God, God be all the glory.

Let us go forth, dear Lord in peace with courage. Holding fast to that which is good.

Rendering to no one. But strengthening the fainthearted. Supporting the weak, helping the afflicted and honoring All people and loving and serving them and thee. O Lord, Amen

Please feel free to contact me or keep me informed as to all members who are ill or who have passed. Let us keep our comrades in our hearts and prayers

Thank you and God Bless.

Jerry Sykes  
Detachment Chaplin

## Commander's Project / Special Olympics Maryland

As the summer winds down we find more and more Special Olympics events to support. A quick search on [www.SOMD.ORG](http://www.SOMD.ORG) (Special Olympics Maryland – web site) will find many fundraisers and sporting events around the state through the end of the year. Fundraisers scheduled in the month of September are The Ft. McHenry Tunnel Run, The Rockfish Open fishing tournament and The Big Bats Open Golf tournament. Upcoming sporting events scheduled include kayaking in Chestertown, MD on September 27<sup>th</sup>, Fall Sports Fest at Mt. St. Mary's College on October 25<sup>th</sup> and Soccer in Salisbury on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Contact and sign-up info is easily found on the Special Olympics website; please pre-register if possible. Volunteer registration for sporting events is required for the security of the athletes.

Of course, we all know about the excitement surrounding The Polar Bear Plunge that is scheduled for January 25, 2015. If you aren't one to get wet maybe you can find a spot behind the scenes there, or sponsor a Detachment Officer... Hint, the Commander is plunging!!

Commander Hall's project this year is Special Olympics and the "Challenge" is to not only raise money for this great organization but to raise awareness by sharing this information. Go to one of these events and take at least one person who's never been before.

Along with Commander JR Hall, as project chair, I make myself available to you whenever possible.

“Sons Stepping up to The Challenge”

Yours in Service,  
Eddie Souder  
Project Chair

## Time and Place Committee

Time & Place – Details for the 42nd Annual Convention will be updated on our website [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org) and distributed to the District after our DEC/Seminar.

For God and Country,  
Bill Hill  
Chairman

## North Eastern Shore Times

Thanks to all of the officers of the N.E.S.D. for returning with me for another year. Our next District meeting will be held on September 14, 2014 at Post 36 starting at 10:30 A.M. EVERY Squadron should have someone in attendance. My goal this year is to have ALL thirteen Squadrons show up for a meeting. We have had twelve on two different occasions since I have been Commander. I know that it will happen this year. Don't let your Squadron be the one that is not there. The fall D.E.C. meeting will be held on November 22 at Post 11 in Frederick at 1:00 P.M. If you have never been to a D.E.C. meeting, you should try to attend. It is amazing. Great job on membership. Ours is the first District with no zeros. Keep up the good work. As least Three Star should be every Squadron's goal.

When planning your events this year, please remember our Detachment Commander's project Special Olympics of Maryland. Try to make a donation. This is a worthy project and needs our support.

Upcoming events:

Squadron 278 will be serving steamed crabs and other culinary delights in The Crab Palace on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays until the end of October. Stop by and enjoy Eastern Shore hospitality.

Squadron 296 will be having a crab feast on October 4 in our pavilion. All you can eat crabs and corn sponsored by Harris Crab house.

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Squadron 70 in Easton will be holding a crab feast on October 11, 2014 from 1-4 P.M. \$35.00 at the door and \$30.00 in advance. Please call the Post to reserve tickets.

Squadron 296 will put on our annual Pig Roast on October 25. Two roasted pigs, deep fried turkeys, and fixin's. \$25.00 per person. Music will be provided by the Eastern Shore's finest {Bird Dog and the Road Kings}.

If your Squadron is having an event that you want advertised, contact PDC Bear Weinzirl at [nesdsal@aol.com](mailto:nesdsal@aol.com) Please use our award winning website: <http://squadron135.tripod.com/nesd/>

Let's have the best year ever in our District. Support the Legion programs, take care of our veterans and youth, make sure that your membership is in on time and enjoy what we do. On a personal note; Right hand salute to Past National Commander Joe Gladden. Great job!

Sons Stepping Up To the Challenge

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

## South Eastern Shore Gazette

The Detachment of Maryland's slogan is a message in itself.

And we are ready and accept the challenge.

We are taking our membership seriously and the outcome will be impressive!

STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE by attending meetings.

STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE by increasing membership.

STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE by supporting chosen charities.

STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE by helping local veterans.

Challengers will be found at our next meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at Dor-Wic American Legion Post #218 in Sharptown Maryland.

Dennis J. Renehan

Commander

South Eastern Shore District

## Southern Pride

Greetings from SAL Southern Maryland District;

It's already been a busy year since Detachment convention.

During the Legion Convention in July, I received my Commander's pin during the exchanging of the hats at the SMD fish fry. It was an honor to attend both the Legion and Auxiliary convention that week.

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, several squadrons from SAL SMD attended a reception for Department Commander Baker, Detachment Commander Hall and Department President Brown at Post 40 in Glen Burnie.

On Friday July 25<sup>th</sup> we held a SAL Southern Maryland District Meet N Greet in the Laurel Post 60 lounge. We had a great turnout as Squadron officers from 4 counties (far north as Rockville and far south as LaPlata) to kick off the 2014-2015 year. Special thanks to Squadron 60 Commander Eddie Souder, Mike Templeton and Mike Obremski for their help in making this event successful.

In August we were back at Laurel Post 60 for the SAL Southern Maryland District Organization Meeting. I personally want to thank Squadron 172 for providing the food for lunch and Squadron 60 officers Dennis Kane and Eddie Souder for preparing the food.

Please note that we are currently working on developing a document/ cheat sheet for squadrons who are unaware of the requirements for yearly dues/fees. This would be helpful to new squadron officers who have limited training in this area. We will send out this document to all SAL SMD squadrons once the document has been finalized.

As a district, we did exceptionally well last year with membership. We need to continue this trend by finding new methods to retain renewals along with recruiting new members.

Our next SAL SMD meeting will be held at Clinton Post 259 on Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. I would like to see an increase of attendance from squadrons throughout the district. Your attendance is critical to the success of this year's theme 'Stepping up to the Challenge' to support the four pillars of the American Legion.

Mark your calendar as we are bringing the SAL SMD annual drawn down to Post 60 on Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup>. ONLY 150 tickets will be sold and each ticket (admits 2 people) includes dinner, entertainment and a chance to win some cash. Additional information will be provided later. Tickets can be purchased from any SAL SMD district officer or DEC men.

Yours in Service,  
Joe Lohman  
SMD Commander

## Western Maryland Glory

Greetings from the WMD!  
Congratulations and Welcome to all Detachment, District and Squadron Commanders and Officers for 2014-2015. Whether this is your first position or you are returning for another year, the Sons of The American Legion appreciates your help and dedication.

The Western Maryland District is largest District in the Detachment of Maryland with over forty-nine hundred members (4900); it is hard to get information out to everyone. Please share this information with all your Squadron members and feel free to make copies to hand out or post. I would also encourage all Squadron Officers, Members, and especially Commanders to attend a Western Maryland District Meeting. These meetings are a good way to keep up to date on issues, programs and activities that the Sons of The American Legion support. Some of the things to keep in mind are; Veterans, Casey Cares, National Emergency Fund, Americanism, Flag Replacement Program, the Children in Youth programs and that's just the beginning.

Total District Membership is a bit behind last year at this time as we are

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currently in 7th place for the Detachment as of this printing, but we are ahead of last year with only five goose eggs (squadrons with 0 membership), which we should have removed by the first DEC meeting. I hope to hear from everyone this year and we will be making contact with all Squadrons to help keep our membership going. If you have any questions or need help, contact any of the Officers or myself. Any of us will be glad to assist you.

The Western Maryland District is very proud to support Commander JR Hall as the Detachment of Maryland Commander for 2014 – 2015. It's an honor to serve as one of his District Commanders, and he will be a great commander and the State of MD is lucky to have such a good leader. I would also like to thank Past District Commander, Jeff Seiler for his services over the past few years and we wish him well in his pursuit of the high office of Detachment Commander for 2015-2016.

**REMEMBER ALL THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY!**

Robert Hill

WMD Commander  
BigRob90@MSN.COM

**Northern Central District**

We had our Organization Meeting on August 17, 2014 at Bernard L. Tobin Post #128 and went over upcoming meetings and events. Our next Meeting and Legion Family Picnic will be on Saturday, September 6, 2014 at Towson Post #22 starting at 1 pm. We will have our Legion Family Campout at Camp West-Mar on September 19-21, 2014 starting at 5 pm. Also we will be cooking hamburgers for the Veterans at the Perry Point VA Carnival on September 20, 2014 Starting at 12 Noon.

On September 27, 2014 Overlea Perry Hall #130 will host the Seminar DEC Meeting for the Detachment of Maryland. At 12 noon there will be a DEC Training Session. I would like to see all my Detachment Executive Committeemen attend this important

meeting.

My project this year is Hero Dogs, Inc. Hero dogs raises and trains service dogs and places them free of charge with our nation's Veterans to improve quality of life and restore independence. They are an IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization and operate entirely on donations. Veterans with disabilities have given enough, let us give back to them.

We have an exciting year planned. Please try to attend and help with our meetings, picnics, campout, Veterans luncheon and cookout, and fundraisers to benefit our Children and Youth and Veterans Programs.

Yours in Service,

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

**NEC NEWS**

Members of the Detachment of Maryland traveled to Charlotte North Carolina to attend the 43rd National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion held on August 22-24, 2014. National Commander Joe Gladden sends his greetings to all members of the S.A.L.. We are very proud of Commander Joe, a great ambassador for our organization.

Our members were appointed by our National Organization to represent us during this convention to the various commission and committees. We received a few awards during the convention, Membership certificate for over 90% renewal, Squadron #82 LaPlata won best in nation for History and Scrapbook, Commander Joe's project the Legacy Scholarship Award for Largest Donation and George W. Hotten Award 3rd place best non Dept. Newsletter.

On Sunday August 24, 2014 the Nation elected Mike Moss from the Detachment

of Colorado as our National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. Commander Moss's membership theme is "BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE". Commander's projects for this year are The National Emergency Fund with a goal of \$50,000 and The American Legion Endowment Fund for \$90,000.

A few of our members have been appointed to the following commission and committees;

Sub Committee on Resolutions-Andy Dadds  
Americanism Commission-William Stem  
CWF Committee- Larry Ford

Internal Affairs Comm. Donald "JR" Hall  
Legislative Comm.-Vice Chair Thomas Deal  
Homeland Security & Civil Preparedness Committee- Kenneth Jenkins

The Eastern Region elected Greg "Doc" Gibbs from the Detachment of New York for the office of National Vice Commander.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*The Detachment of Maryland is Proud to Present*

**William "Bill" Hill**

*Candidate for National Vice Commander  
2015 – 2016*

Bill is a proud Son who spends countless hours supporting veterans, his community, children and the Four Pillars of The American Legion, as he proudly honors his father's service to our great country as a Navy Signalman Third Class in the Pacific during WWII.

He is honored to have the opportunity to carry on and exceed in our proud traditions of the Eastern Region.

Yours in Service,

Andy Dadds

Nat'l Executive Committeeman (NEC)



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## National Commander's Final Report

Comrades,

My year as National Commander came to an end in Charlotte. I want to thank the Detachment and Department of Maryland for all their support over my many years of what was called "Joe's Journey". Without the support of so many people over these last several years, I would have never even made it to become National Commander. While serving this past year, I promise that I never forgot where I came from while I traveled to over 20 states, 35 trips and over 68,000 miles traveled. I continued to be my squadron adjutant and finance officer and tried to help out back home in any way I could.

This year I was blessed with many incredible experiences. In addition to visiting over 20 detachments for either DEC meetings or conventions, I was able to represent the Sons at the following: I went to Hawaii for Pearl Harbor Day and visited with several Pearl Harbor Survivors, I got to visit the White House and meet the President with senators from Boys Nation, I got to go to Alaska with the Legion National Commander and National President for AK's Convention, I got to visit California for the National President's Homecoming and to take part in the Nation's 1st SAL Hall of Fame Ceremony, I attended two Joint House Senate Testimonies by the National Commander to testify about VA problems in Washington, DC, I visited with Girls Nation at Walter Reed Hospital and met many of our Wounded Warriors, I went to Springfield, IL to take part in Lincoln's Birthday celebration, I got to go to Indianapolis and witness the National Oratorical Finals, I got to go to Colorado Springs, Co to the Olympic Training Center and take part in the National Junior Shooting Sports Championship, I was able to travel to Shelby, NC and take part in the opening ceremonies of the Legion Baseball World Series and I was able to participate in the 9th Annual Legacy Run riding my Harley from Baltimore to Indy to start the Run and then riding over 1,300 miles through five states to Charlotte, NC where when the donations were concluded over \$1 million dollars was raised.

While it's dangerous to thank individuals because you always forget someone, I have to thank a number of people. I first want to thank the Campaign Team. So many individuals did incredible work raising the money needed to be make my election possible, and making my various receptions and Homecoming something to be remembered. I need to thank my squadron and my Post for all their support. As the saying goes "giving starts at home". I want to thank Bill Matoska for all of his guidance over my many years of membership and in particular during my campaign years. Bill's efforts kept me pointed in the right direction and kept my candidacy on track. I want to thank Larry Ford for his help working with my Commander's Project and for his personal support of being there for me when I needed help. I want to thank Bill Hill for serving as my National Sergeant-At-Arms and representing Maryland proudly. I also need to thank the Aide To National Commander and former Detachment of Maryland Commander Bruce Paquin for not only signing me up in the Sons, but for his many years of service, friendship and devotion on what came to be the great Odyssey of my journey to Commander. Team Maryland was never more a team than it was during this entire journey.

I left Charlotte on August 29<sup>th</sup> after the Legion and Auxiliary Convention had concluded, on my bike riding almost 500 miles by myself, but I never once felt alone. I had all of my memories for the year running through my mind and I had the dreams of being home with my family and friends, and getting back to work here in Maryland keep me company each and every mile and minute of the trip.

I want to thank all of you that were in Charlotte for the National Convention and to all of you back home that were praying for me. As always, my success was only made possible by our Team Effort.

United In Service

Joe Gladden

Past National Commander  
Sons of The American Legion

## Detachment Officers for the Administrative years: 2014—2015

Commander -  
Don "JR" Hall (40)  
dhall1967@verizon.net

1st Vice Commander -  
Jeff Seiler (11)  
Jeffrey.seiler@yahoo.com

2nd Vice Commander -  
Ray Edwards (218)  
rayjred@verizon.net

3rd Vice Commander -  
Dave Hullihen (195)  
dhullihen@bwhovermill.com

Adjutant -  
PNC Bill Matoska (183)  
bill.matoska@comcast.net

Sr. Assistant Adjutant  
PDC Bill Hill (191)  
Hill1062@msn.com

Judge Advocate -  
PNVC Daniel Robinson (256)  
D.robinson2@comcast.net

Sergeant-at-Arms -  
Jim Alexander (40)  
jimalex831@verizon.net

Chaplain -  
Jerry Sykes (19)  
Jerry.sykes@ymail.com

Finance Officer -  
Edward Steininger (182)  
edwardsteininger@yahoo.com

Historian -  
Bob Filippi (183)  
kassbob@aol.com

Nat'l Executive Committeeman -  
PDC Andy Dadds (36)  
bdadds@baybroadband.net

Alt. Nat'l Executive Committeeman -  
PDC Larry "Bear" Weinzirl (135)  
nedsal@aol.com



“Sons Stepping up t The Challenge ”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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



**2015 Membership Target Date:**

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

Delegate Strength Target Date

**Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2014—2015**

**D.E.C. Meeting / Seminar**

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Overlea-Perry Hall Post 130 @1pm

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

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

Francis Scott Key Post 11 @ 1pm

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

January 24<sup>th</sup>—25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 1pm

Synepuxent Post 166 @ 1pm

**Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown**

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Susquehanna Post 135 @ 5pm

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

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Rising Sun Post 194 @ 1pm

**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Detachment Convention**

June 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>