



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

“The Pride”

Volume 2009 Issue 1

Seminar Issue September 19, 2009

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

COMMANDER’S CORNER

BY MARK GILBERT



The 2009 Detachment convention is over and a new slate of officers have been elected. As your newly elected commander I would like to introduce myself. My name is Mark Gilbert. I have been a member of Overlea-Perry Hall Squadron #130 going on 25 years and was presented an honorary life membership. I am a past Squadron and Northern Central District Commander. I have chaired many Legion programs and have worked my way up the chairs of the Detachment. I am looking forward to this new challenge.

Next, I want to congratulate Junior Past Commander Mike Gray and the members of the Detachment for an outstanding year. Thanks to everyone’s efforts, we met all of our goals.

As the new year begins, I look forward to working

with my fellow officers and the members of this great Detachment. I am confident that we will once again meet our goals and lead the nation. My theme for this year is "Maryland Commitment". We need to get the word out to every member that we need them in order for the Legion programs to be successful. We also need each Squadron Commander to attend District and Detachment meetings. When a member is elected to lead the Squadron he makes a commitment to keep the members informed and

makes a commitment to Legion programs. I invite every member to attend the Detachment meetings. I look forward to your help and input.

My program this year is Fisher House. I believe the first priority of the Sons is to our veterans and their families. Andy Dadds, Past Detachment Commander and NECman, is the chairman of this worthwhile program.

It is a privilege to be a member of the Sons of The American Legion and an

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ADJUTANT’S CORNER

BY BILL MATOSKA

D.E.C./Seminar: The second Detachment Executive Committee Meeting for the 2009-2010 administrative year is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2009 beginning at 12:00 P.M. (Noon), which will include the Detachment Seminar. The host squadron for this event is Overlea-Perry Hall No. 130 at the post home located at 8666 Silver Lake Drive, Perry Hall, Md. 21128. The post phone number is 410-931-

1660. This is an extremely important meeting to attend in order to receive all of the information needed to assure your squadron and district has a successful year supporting the programs identified by Commander Mark and the National Organization. Information packets will be distributed to each attendee along with verbal instructions to compliment this material. Additionally, the 2009-2010

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT BY TOM DEAL

Ahoy Mates, Congratulations to Commander Gilbert for 2008-2009 membership making it over 100% before National Convention in Louisville. Now it's that time of the year again. Those pirate ships have sailed and the Captain has moved up to bigger and better things.

Detachment membership totals at National Convention were 15,464, another all time high. You are in for a whole new round of Membership goals, new theme and a new Inn keeper this year. My name is Tom Deal and I am the new membership Chairman for this year. Some of you have seen my name floating around in a bottle and I want to tell you to get out there and let's crush those numbers from last year. It's never too early to send membership in. All the District Commanders are in for it this year and I will have them stomping all around picking those renewals. I know everyone can't wait to see what the new theme will be, or what enormous hat the Commander and the District Commanders will have to don, Jr Past offered me a



bribe to make it bigger than last years, did it work, you'll have to wait and see. Maybe you can figure out what the new theme will be from the clues in this message. Never the less the full details and standings will be laid out at the Seminar, but the time is now to get working on those members. If you were at the Organizational, you know the race has started and NCD took 1st place for the first month. They had it most of last year, will that be the same this year? Everyone needs to start recruiting and renewing those members.

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHATTER BY KEN JENKINS

For the year 2009-2010, the Detachment of Maryland would like to make a continuous effort to achieve the goals of our Children and Youth programs of The American Legion Family. This is not something that one squadron should do alone. We need the support of all squadrons, if we are to have an outstanding year. It is indeed a great privilege to have been given this opportunity. I would like to thank Commander Mark Gilbert for this honor. Below are listed some of our larger programs, but anytime a child is in need you can be sure the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland will be there to help.

Child Welfare Foundation (CWF): Child Welfare Foundation's foremost philanthropic priority is to provide other nonprofit organizations with a means to educate the public about the needs of children across this nation. Though created by The American Legion in 1954, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is a separate 503(c)3 corporation. Last October, in its 51st year of service the Foundation awarded \$611,381 to 21 organizations. In 2008-2009, the SAL was once again the single largest contributor to CWF with just under \$344,000 in donations. This brings the SAL's total donations since they began supporting this program to over \$4 Million Dollars. For more information about the Child Welfare Foundation, visit their website at www.legion.org/cwf

Children's Miracle Network (CMN): The Sons of The American Legion's established partnership with the Children's Miracle Network, seeks to enhance its efforts to provide quality health-care to children. Children's Miracle Network is associated with 170 hospitals that treat children with all types of afflictions; rendering treatment based on need and not just the ability to pay. For more information about Children's Miracle Network visit their website at www.cmn.org

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOUNDATION BY KEN JONES

As we start this administrative year, let us remember that not too long ago, the devastation left behind by hurricanes and other natural disasters. It is hard for us to comprehend in these modern times the possibility of losing everything to a natural disaster. The National Emergency Fund is set up to help Legion family members stricken by these storms, floods earthquakes and fires. More than \$3 million in direct aid has been handed out since the NEC was established.

We need to encourage our posts, squadrons and auxiliaries to contribute to the NEF. IF possible, try to raise and donate \$! for each member of your squadron. Not everyone can do this, but some can give more than others. Hold special Bingo nights, golf outings and other fundraisers. Helping others to rebuild benefits all of us.

IF you have any donations, please bring them to any of the DEC or District meetings.

Make sure the checks are made out to the Detachment of Maryland and earmarked NEF.

Yours in Service
Ken Jones
jkj44@aol.com

COMMANDER'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

honor to be elected Commander of The Detachment of Maryland. I thank the members for giving me this honor.

Yours in Legion Service,
Mark Gilbert
Detachment Commander
Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Maryland
markgilbert08@aol.com
410-961-7144 cell
410-282-2231 home

(Continued on page 4)

VAVS VARIETY BY BUDDY MASTIN

I am looking forward to a great year serving the Detachment of Maryland as your VAVS Chairman. I would first like to thank Tom Deal for the great job he did as VAVS Chairman last year. The Detachment reported 1, 412 visits to Veterans Homes and VA Centers and 13,940 total hours spent helping our veterans. The total cost and donations supporting our veterans was \$59,941 and that was with only 48 Squadrons turning in reports. Thank you to all our blue cap members. Your hard work never ceases to amaze me. I would like to see our Detachment top all those numbers by at least 120% this year and that is a very attainable goal with your help.

It is now time to set in place, a plan of action at your Squadron, to help the veterans of our community. There are many veterans programs which your Squadrons could adopt. There is our Detachment Commanders' Project, Fisher House, which you will read more about in this issue. Loch Raven VA Center needs a blanket warmer at a cost of over \$3,000. You can sponsor a bingo at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for \$200. Perry Point VA Center needs new recreational items at a cost of over \$1,000. There are many more programs like He-

ros To Hometown, USO, MCVET's, that you and your Squadron can support. If you need any help or suggestions, please contact me at 443-370-7870 or buddymastin@hotmail.com. The main thing is to make sure your Squadron somehow gets involved helping our veterans through one of our many Legion Family programs. Remember, we are "Proud possessors of a priceless heritage" and that heritage is our veterans.

Yours In Service,
Buddy Mastin
Detachment VAVS Chairman

BRECC Report

The Loch Raven VA Community Living & Rehabilitation Center (Formerly known as BRECC) has a 10 bed Hospice & Palliative Care unit. Collectively this unit represents a continuum of comfort-oriented and support services for the veteran patients. These beds are constantly filled but unfortunately for a short term by each veteran patient. The Hospice unit is in need of a "Blanket Warmer" for the veteran patients to make there last days a bit more comfortable. This piece of equipment, which costs around \$3,000, is not normally supplied by the VA

Health Care System.

The Detachment of Maryland is sponsoring a short term fund raiser to enable the Hospice Unit to obtain this much needed piece of equipment. The drive will run from the DEC meeting of September 19, 2009 through the DEC meeting of November 15, 2009. I am asking that each Squadron to consider giving whatever they can to this most worthy cause.

Please make checks out to Detachment of Maryland, earmarked for "Blanket Warmer".

Mail to Detachment Adjutant, 3115 Orchard Ave., Baltimore, MD. 21234. You may also bring your checks to either the September or November DEC meetings.

The reason for the shortness of the drive is to get this item to the patients as soon as possible.

Thanking you in advance,

Bob Filippi,

VA Representative Loch Raven Center.

bobcass@aol.com

MARYLAND SPECIAL OLYMPICS BY JR HALL

The American Legion Family Team is organized and we are ready for everyone to get signed up now for the Polar Bear Plunge. The actual advertised date for the Plunge is January 30, 2010. But we will have a special American Legion Family Plunge on Friday January 29th in the afternoon. You can sign up for the Plunge by going on Maryland Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge. There is a place for teams already listed. Click on the American Legion Family Team, and it will take you to our team link. From there you can just click on join the team, or if you cannot Plunge with us you can pledge a sponsor for any team member or to the Team. Mark Gilbert, our Detachment Commander, is already on the team and trying to raise money for the Special Olympics of Maryland. So let's all back him and The Special Olympics and sign up or sponsor a plunger today. It would be great to take the plunge with a lot of members from our Legion Family. If you need any information about the plunge

please contact me at dhall1967@verizon.net or call me at 410-365-7758 and I will try my best to help you. The more members we have plunge the more money we can raise for the Special Olympics of Maryland. Also any-

one interested in going to the Winter Games please contact me as well. I will be trying to set up housing for all our volunteers ahead of time. It is a great time and you get to work with the best athletes in our state.

NORTHEASTERN SHORE GAZETTE

Okay, North Eastern Shore, we have to start all over again. Let's get revved up and get a good jump on membership. Aren't you tired of being number 2? Our own Tom Deal is in charge of membership this year, so let's really make him shine and keep the NESD on top all year. Send in those renewals and recruit, recruit, recruit!

Continue to check the website> Bear has done a great job updating this and will continue to do so.<http://squadron135.tripod.com/nescd>. We use this web page to keep your informed of

what is going on in the District, the Detachment and even the National organizations. IF you have a fundraiser scheduled or an event at your post, email us at NESDSAL@aol.com and it will be put on the web page.

IF you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, you may contact me at 410-829-9974 or email me at jkj44@aol.com.

Yours in Service

Ken Jones

NESD Commander

AMERICANISM REPORT BY BILL HILL

The Americanism Commission has kicked off a new year of supporting the many programs within the focus of this commission, and we look to the members of this great Detachment to help where they feel most comfortable. Our success this year will be through the continued support we provide to our Community, State and Nation. Continue to follow these articles for suggestions on what has been successful for others within the Detachment.

Flag Replacement Program

The Detachment continues to sponsor an award to the top Squadron for Flag replacement. Make sure to track your

*"The Department of Maryland
needs our help at Boys State.
Can You Volunteer?"*

efforts, and keep a record of the replaced flag as indicated on the replace-

ment form. (3x5 flags will count as 5 points and smaller flags will count as 1 point). If you are also looking for a Flag



Retirement program/ceremony, please contact committee chair.

Chairman Jim Alexander

Boys State

This Legion program is very rewarding for those young men who are chosen to participate. We are encouraging each squadron to support your home post by providing any level of support necessary.

More information will be provided at future DEC meetings and on this site in the near future. Chairman Ken Jones

Community Affairs

We're once again coordinating the many undertakings of this program, by asking for your support throughout the year. This program is very broad in range, and is one of the best ways to reach out to your local area and show them the many benefits the American Legion provides. So if your squadron helps clean up a local park, adopt-a-highway, participates in a church fund raiser, or sponsors a local scout troop, it is considered supporting your community and is part of this committee.

Chairman Past Detachment Commander & Alternate NEC Bob Trueblood

Email: SantasToyShop@AOL.Com

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,
Bill Hill

Americanism Chairman

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHATTER BY KEN JENKINS

(Continued from page 2)

Special Olympics: We are kicking off a new year and getting ready for the Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Maryland Special Olympics. We have already formed the American Legion Family team and Commander Gilbert will be leading the way. So please go to <http://www.somd.org/> and register to be a part of the team and start getting your sponsors together.

Casey Cares Foundation: Casey Cares has become a large program of our Detachment over the last few years and Past Detachment Commander Larry Weinzirl also sits on the Board of Directors. Casey Cares Foundation provides uplifting and heartwarming programs with a special touch in order to enhance the lives of critically ill children and their families. All critically ill children under the age of 18 are eligible to participate. We will be holding our 6th annual Casey Cares bike ride on July 24,

2010. The 2009 ride raised over \$5,100 for this truly special charity. For more information about the Casey Cares foundation visit their website at <http://www.caseycaresfoundation.org>

Toys for Tots: The Toys for Tots program collects new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distributes those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community. For more information about Toys for Tots, or to find a drop off location near you visit their website at www.toysfortots.org

If you have any questions or ideas about our Children and Youth programs please contact me or that particular Committee Chairman listed below.

Maryland Commitment,
Ken Jenkins

Detachment Children and Youth Chairman

e-mail - kenjen07@yahoo.com

phone - 443-226-2770

THE FUTURE BY JOE GLADDEN

The Future is now! Finally! As of the close of the Convention in Louisville, I am so proud to say that I am now the Leading Candidate For National Vice Commander for the Eastern Region. If all goes as expected, I will be servicing as your National Vice Commander for 2010-2011 under National Commander Dave Dew from Texas. Before that happens next August in Milwaukee, WI, I will be traveling to several of the detachments in the East to build the foundation of relationships for my year as Vice Commander. I currently am scheduled to go to New York and New Hampshire's for their Mid-winter Conference in January. I have also been invited up to Pennsylvania to either their Mid-winter Conference or their Convention. I am looking forward to going to where ever I am invited.

This is truly a dream come true for me, and I know that it would not have been

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COMMANDER'S PROJECT BY PDC ANDY DADDS

The Fisher House at Andrews AFB and Bethesda Naval Medical Center have been chosen by the Detachment Commander Mark Gilbert as his project this year.

In 1990, Zachary & Elizabeth Fisher began the Fisher House Program to give back to the military. Today 43 Fisher Houses have been built and are in operation at VA medical centers and military bases around the nation and overseas in Germany.

Fisher Houses are a "HOME AWAY FROM HOME" for our military soldiers, their families and retired service men and women. These houses offer shelter and support during medical crisis. Located on the grounds of every major military medical center and VA medical centers, these facilities provide a comforting "home away from home" while a loved one is receiving care in an unfamiliar

environment. Support is even more important to a family during the most stressful of times, hospitalization of a



wounded or injured service member involved in operations like Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

Many families that travel to be close to

their loved ones find that while staying at Fisher House a unique support group from the families and staff. Most importantly, due to the generosity of groups like the American Legion Family, VFW and others the families stay for free.

Remember our veterans gave us a "Priceless Heritage" FREEDOM. Let's all band together as a family and show our support with donations in helping our military families in their time of need.

More information can be found on the Fisher House web site, www.fisherhouse.org

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT BY BOB TRUEBLOOD

As we begin a new year, Commander Mark Gilbert has chosen the Fisher House as his Commander's Project, for 2009-2010. In conjunction with his project, we have planned two picnics for the Fisher House, one in the fall, and one scheduled to take place in the spring. The dates for these two events have not been scheduled yet, but I hope to nail them down by the seminar. We will need donations of food, drinks, and paper



goods, along with condiments, ice and charcoal and lighter fluid. Remember, these servicemen and women gave more than just their service to their country. They paid a dear price to protect our freedom and so did their families. Show your support for these defenders of our freedom, and their families.

Congratulations go to Gold Star Squadron #191 for being awarded the National Community Service Award for the best community service report in the Eastern Region. The Western Maryland District was also awarded the same award for the best District in the Eastern Region.

The American Legion Baseball Team from Gold Star Post #191 found themselves as winners of the State Baseball Tournament and went on to play in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament, where they won that tournament, and they went on to play in the American Legion World Series.

Unfortunately for Gold Star, they were eliminated after two losses at the beginning of the tournament, but they went further than expected. Some of the ball-players on the team were also members of Gold Star Squadron #191. Congratulations, Gold Star!

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

THE FUTURE BY JOE GLADDEN

(Continued from page 4)

possible without all the support, guidance and friendship that I have been shown over these many years.

I want to thank Bear Weinzirl for accepting the extremely important position of National Campaign Chairman. If you are interesting in being part of Team Maryland, please contact Bear at nesd@aol.com or 484-880-0320. We will be looking all the help we can get to make this goal a reality.

Yours In Service
Joe Gladden
Past Detachment Commander
2001-2002
joeglad123@aol.com

WESTERN MARYLAND TRIBUNE

I would like to say Thank You to Michael Mandish for everything he has done for the Western Maryland District and his squadron Hampstead #200. I would also like to say Thank You to everyone who

elected me district commander for 2009-2010. Please join us for our first district meeting on September 27, 2009 at Carroll Post 31 in Westminster Md.

Yours in Service,
Michael B Thomas
Western Maryland District Commander

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

BY BILL MATOSKA

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Detachment of Maryland Confidential Book which lists all of the contact information for each Squadron, District, and the Detachment Officers will be distributed as well. If you are unable to attend this meeting personally, it is important to send a squadron representative to bring back to your squadron the information and materials which will only be available at this meeting.

D.E.C. Directions: From I-95 North or South, take Exit 67B which will merge you onto MD-43/White Marsh Blvd. heading toward US-1. After .9 mile turn slight right onto Honeygo Blvd. and after .4 mile turn right onto Silver Spring Road. Then after .6 mile turn left onto Silver Lake Drive and the road will dead end into the post home after .2 mile.

National Convention: The 38th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion has just come to a close on August 23, 2009 in Louisville, Kentucky where the Detachment of Maryland had 30 delegates and guests in attendance. Congratulations to all of the members of the Detachment of Maryland as the detachment has once again received recognition for reaching another All Time High in membership and has also received an award for the Highest Renewal Percentage exceeding a 90% retention rating. The Detachment of Maryland also received the National History Book Award which was assembled and submitted by Detachment Historian, Bob Filippi, and the National Community Service Award. Additionally, Squadron No. 82 of LaPlata, Md. won the National Squadron Children & Youth Award, Squadron No. 191 of Mt. Airy, Md. won the National Squadron Community Service Award, Western Maryland District won the National District Community Service Award, and Parkville Squadron No. 183 won the National Squadron Scrapbook Award. As higher standards are set each year to become a National Award Recipient, this convention also broke an old record with 854 registered delegates which included all 50 states and the Detachment of France in actual attendance.

National Commander: On Sunday, August 23, 2009, S.A.L. convention delegates elected Mark Arneson as National Commander for 2009-2010. Mark is a 20 year member of the Sons of The American Legion who hails from Buford, Ga. Squadron 127 and derives his eligibility from his father's U.S. Army service in the Korean War followed by 55 years in The American Legion. At the top of Commander Mark's agenda will be "Operation Proud Sons" which is an initiative designed to grow the S.A.L. membership to 350,000 and raise \$500,000 for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. On way to increase membership will be a program called the "Triple

Nickel" in which every Detachment will be pushed to retain 85% of their current members, reach 105% of their membership goal, and charter at least five new squadrons. Commander Mark will also use a new incentive program called "Sons that Shine" to identify and reward blue cap members across the country who excel in their efforts to assist veterans and promote programs of the Sons of The American Legion. Commander Mark's final slogan he will use throughout the year is "Molded in Excellence-Embodied by Tradition". He

*"The Detachment Seminar will be held at
Overlea-Perry Hall Post 130 on Saturday
September 19, 2009"*

wants to use the images and traditions of The American Legion to help make the S.A.L. stronger, which will, in turn contribute to a stronger American Legion Family. Serving alongside National Commander Arneson is the newly elected Vice Commander East, Keith Murdough of New Hampshire, which is Maryland's area on the national front.

2008-2009 Numbers: The following are the national totals for the Sons of The American Legion which were extracted from the Consolidated Report Forms submitted by each detachment. I share these with you not only out of personal pride for being a S.A.L. member, but should anyone ever ask you what the Sons of The American Legion do for their post, community, veterans, or our youth; these statistics can be a powerful marketing tool. 262,055 hours of VA facility volunteer service logged during 14,270 visits, plus \$1,245,504 in cash and gifts—\$70,795 and 3,660 hours donated to Fisher House—\$131,419 and 11,903 donated to Special Olympics—\$97,351 and 8,685 service hours donate to Children's Miracle Network—\$1,817,766 and 112,618 volunteer hours donated to all Children & Youth Programs—\$1,669,027 and 549,224 hours donated in support of all Americanism Programs—\$671,711 and 482,159 hours donated to various Community Service Projects—\$287,825 given in scholarships—278,140 flags presented at cemeteries and parades—586 Boys State representatives sponsored at a cost of \$134,221—7,666 S.A.L. Color Guard appearances—190 American Legion Baseball teams sponsored at a cost of \$116,241—5,790 flag retirement ceremonies. The amazing part of these statistics is that this is less than half of all the squadrons across the country reporting.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska

bill.matoska@comcast.net

SOUTHERN MARYLAND TIMES

I am honored to be the new District Commander. I have to admit, I was a little worried about following the past commanders we have had, but with all of their knowledge and support I believe we can continue the wonderful things that the Great Southern Maryland District has accomplished. I would like to thank Tom Eloschway for the great job he did last year as SMD District Commander. Hopefully you, the blue cap member, will roll up your sleeves with me and get to work supporting the programs of The American Legion Family. SMD is in third place in membership, which is good. We have 13 Squadrons though, with zero membership which is not so good. Let's send in that membership. Our next District Meeting and Seminar will be Sunday Sept. 27th at Henderson-Smith-Edmonds Post #86 in Rockville at 12 Noon. If you only make one meeting this year, it should be this or the Detachment Seminar, Saturday Sept. 19th at Overlea-Perry Hall Post #130. There is a lot of information you can take back to your Squadron from these two meetings, and remem-

ber, all Squadron Commanders are required to attend District Meetings. If you have any suggestions how our District Officers and DEC could help you, or your Squadron, please let me know.

We will be holding our 4th Annual SMD District Draw Down Saturday Nov. 14th at Glen Burnie Post #40. The grand prize winner gets \$1,000 with many other cash prizes to win. Tickets are \$35, which gets 2 people in for dinner and drinks. This will be the night before our Fall DEC meeting, and we will have a block of hotel rooms at a reduced rate. Tickets will be available at our District and DEC meeting. For more info contact 'JR' Hall at Squadron #40. I hope to see you at an SMD District meeting soon.

This year I would like to see more members attending the meetings, so the information gets back to the Squadron. This is vital for not only the continuation of what we have accomplished, but the advancement of the SAL. I look forward to meeting as many members as I can

this coming year and please remember the reason, we do what we do.

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

LEGISLATIVE REPORT BY BILL STEM

It will probably be another tough year for Legion priorities at the next State Legislative Session. With the budget shortfall and cuts it will mean we will have to redouble our efforts to push for our programs.

As the Legion sets its legislative agenda, I will be relaying all information back to our members. For more information you can also visit the National Legislative website on the National SAL website at www.sal.legion.org.

Email: wstem84809@aol.com

Cell: 410 598-9355

Home: 410 526-6559

Your in Service

Bill Stem Chairman

NORTHERN CENTRAL NEWS

I would like to let everyone know that my Commanders Project for the year 2009-2010 will be the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House has been helping to improve lives of children and their families for over thirty five years. They have been successful due to countless donations from donors from all over. The Ronald McDonald House is now located in fifty-two countries and regions. So I felt that with the support of The Sons of The American Legion, it will help them to improve lives of many more families. All donations to my project will be recognized.

Congratulations to all squadrons of the Northern Central District for being number one in membership and not only the first district to have no goose eggs, but the first district to have no goose eggs before our Detachment Seminar. Great Job! We are currently at 28.200%. Remember that membership is the life blood of our organization.

The NCD meetings will be September 13, 2009 @ Post 182 @ 1.00p.m.—November 29, 2009 @ Post 195 @ 1.00p.m.—January 31, 2010 TBD—April 25, 2010 @ Post 116 @ 1.00p.m. And finish our year at Post 130 on June 5, 2010 for the District Rally.

We will have our annual campout at Southern Maryland Youth Camp on September 25th, 26th, 27th, 2009. Following that we will be holding the bragging rights pool tournament @ the Billiards Club in Havre De Grace, Md. on November 22, 2009. Then we will finish up the 2009 year doing the MCVET's Christmas Party @ MCVET's Center in Baltimore around the middle of December.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America!

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

TIME AND PLACE REPORT BY BILL STEM

We have finalized the location of the 2010 Convention. The convention will be held at the Hunt Valley Marriott in Hunt Valley, Baltimore County. Just up Route #83 from the Baltimore Beltway.

The date will be June 25, 26 & 28, 2010.

Details of the Golf, Bowling, Pool, Horse shoes, and Superstars will be forthcoming at our September DEC meeting.

Email: wstem84809@aol.com

Cell: 410 598-9355

Home: 410 526-6559

Your in Service

Bill Stem Chairman

“Maryland Commitment”

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND

3115 Orchard Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234



NEC NEWS BY ANDY DADDS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

At the 38th National Convention of the Sons of the American Legion, Mark Arneson of Georgia was elected as our National Commander for the year 2009-2010. The slogan for this year is “Molded in Excellence-Embodied by Tradition”. Keith Murdough from New Hampshire was elected as National Vice-Commander for the Eastern Region.

Maryland was well represented at the convention with delegates attending all of the committee meetings.

Congratulations go out to Gold Star Squadron #191 for Community Service Eastern Region, Detachment of Maryland and Western Maryland District won the National Community Service Award. Bob Filippi came through once again with the National Detachment History Book winner and also the best squadron Scrapbook for Squadron #183. Squadron #82 won Children & Youth Award Eastern Region, and Maryland received a 90% Renewal Award.

It has been a long time since the Eastern Region went to the National Convention in first place with 102.026%

membership. Congratulations to our entire membership for helping us reach 100.097% and another all time high by convention.

At the conclusion of the convention we have a few members representing us on several National Committees; Bob Trueblood- Americanism, Larry Ford- Internal Affairs, Bear Weinzirl- Vice Chairman Public Relations and Joe Gladden- Chairman Homeland Security & Civil Preparedness.

With the New Year upon us we have a lot of work to do. Let's get those renewals in and get rid of those goose eggs and try to retain the members that did not renew so their membership is not lost. Remember we are here to honor our veterans and support our communities.

Here are a few more FAQ's that the National Chairmen receive taken from the National Website:

QUESTION: What activities and programs qualify as Community Service?
ANSWER: Anything you do for or in your

community such as church groups, Boy or Girl Scouts or helping individuals.

Question: Why is the year-end reporting of our activities so important to the National Organization?

Answer: These reports are tallied up and the totals are then given to Congress. Our membership numbers gives us a strong voice in Washington and around the country. Our strength comes from the number of hours and dollars from these reports lets Congress and our elected officials see that we are not only a growing organization, but an organization that produces for our Veterans, Communities, States, and Nation.

General information and additional questions can be found on the National web site, www.sal.legion.org.

Yours In Service

Andy Dadds

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