



The Pride



Editor: Bill Matoska Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

Commander's Corner by Bear Weinzirl



I cannot believe that this year has come to an end already. It seems like just yesterday that I was taking the oath of office as your Detachment Commander for 2007-2008. And

thanks to you, it has been a very successful year.

In membership, we are well on our way to achieving another all time high for the 21st year in a row. Think about that. That is an extraordinary number. While some other Detachments stay the same or decrease in size, the Detachment of Maryland continues to grow year after year and I thank you.

Your support of our programs this year has been phenomenal. Even with a very tough economy, you have managed to make donations to the National Emergency Fund, the Casey Cares Foundation, Heroes to Hometown, American Legion Child Welfare, Children's Miracle Network, Maryland VA Healthcare, the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, Toys for Tots and numerous other programs that benefit our active duty military, our Veterans and the children of our Country.

When I chose the American Legacy

Scholarship Fund as my Commander's Project for this year, it had been a program rarely, if ever, supported by our Detachment. But I felt that it truly deserved our consideration. I had no idea how you would respond to this project, but I was of the opinion that providing an education for the children of the men and women that have made the ultimate sacrifice was a powerful way for us to show our thanks. And you have shown your thanks this year to the tune of over \$30,000. On behalf of the children that will benefit from your donations, I sincerely thank you.

Upon taking office last June, a Past Detachment Commander advised me to enjoy the ride because you only get one shot at it. I have done just that.

From touring the Johns Hopkins Children's Center and Maryland VA Medical Centers with Commander Butch and President Cass **to** attending a Thanksgiving Dinner held for the patients from Walter Reed.

From riding in an actual horse drawn sleigh delivering gifts to children in Western Maryland **to** serving lunch to and singing Christmas carols with the residents of McVets. **From** attending the Patient Carnival at Perry Point VA Medical Center **to** spending Christmas Eve delivering gifts to these same Veterans.

From recruiting both Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs James Adkins and Governor Martin O'Malley into our organization **to** presenting

Convention Issue

them with their membership cards in the Governor's Suite at M&T Bank Stadium on Veterans Day. **From** presenting a Nintendo Wii Game System to Md. VA Healthcare **to** placing a wreath at the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C..

From touring Antietam Battlefield with the National Commander of The American Legion **to** participating in the flag raising over Fort McHenry with the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary. And **from** receiving an appointment to the National Public Relations Commission from our National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion **to** yes, even to taking a refreshing winter dip

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Commander's Corner by Bear Weinzirl

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in the Chesapeake Bay to benefit Maryland Special Olympics. This has been a very special ride and these are memories that I will cherish forever.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your

Detachment Commander. I have done my best to represent you in a way that will make you proud to say "I am a member of the Sons of The American Legion from the GREAT Detachment of Maryland."

Thank you for making my year as Commander a successful one by

"Bringing Veterans and Kids Programs to Bear".

Serving God, Country & The Legion Family,

Larry "Bear" Weinzirl

NESDSAL@aol.com



Past National Commander Smith and Commander Bear on bus at Washington Conference March 30, 2008



National Commander Ray Giehl, Commander Bear and PDC Joe Gladden at WWII Memorial March 30, 2008



Above: Nat'l Vice Comm. Marsden and Commander Bear at Eastern Regional Meeting March 8, 2008

Left: National Commander Conatser and Commander Bear at Nat'l Commander's Banquet at Post 211

Children & Youth Chatter by Buddy Mastin

I truly believe that "the children are our future" and thanks to the Squadrons and members of our Detachment, we have done a great job in securing that future this year. As long as there is a child in need, The Sons of The American Legion will be there to help, and you have shown that this year.

Thank you to all our members and Squadrons for the thousands of dollars and hours you have donated to our C&Y programs this year. Thank you also to the Squadrons who took

the time to fill out reports to let the American Legion and Congress know about the great job our organization is doing in helping the children of our nation. I would like to thank all of the C&Y sub-committee chairmen who did a fabulous job getting the programs out to the blue cap members. This year our Squadrons donated over \$89,000.00 and over 13,600 volunteer hours to our Children and Youth programs, and that is with 50% of our Squadrons filling out reports. Just imagine what the other 50% of our Squadrons did

and no one knows about. Hopefully we will do a better job with reports next year.

It has been my privilege to serve as your C&Y Chairman this year. It has been an easy job with the support of my committee members and the volunteer hours and dollars of donations by our blue cap members. Once again, I thank you.

Bringing Our Children To Bear
Buddy Mastin
Children And Youth Chairman

Children's Miracle Network by Gene Nichols

It has been my privilege to serve as CMN chairman for the past two years. While not setting any goals for donations, I have been pleased to get what I was hoping for each year, and then some. It has been an honor to witness the true spirit of giving that lives in our membership.

Just watching the squadron donations roll in, meeting after

meeting, has been impressive. I offer a right hand salute to all of you of the Detachment of MD.

I am writing this, two days after the judging of reports, and am awestruck by the numbers being reported. Thank you all for the work you do, and the hearts you have touched. I am honored to be a member of such a great organization. Keep up the

good work, the comrade coming up behind me needs your help as much as I did.

Have a good convention, take home what you have learned, and give till it hurts.

For God and Country,
Gene Nicholes, #183
410-592-6962

Casey Cares by Larry Griffin

As the end of the year is near, I would like to Thank You on behalf of Casey Care's for all the donations you have made. We donated over \$14,000 to the Fire Fund alone. This

was above and Beyond all other donations. Again The Casey Care's Foundation and the many families you have helped this year asked us to tell you THANK YOU.

Yours in Service;
Larry Griffin

Child Welfare Foundation by Ken Jones

I would like to thank all the Squadrons who have supported CWF, either financially or through their volunteer hours. You, the Blue Cap members, are the ones who make the Detachment of Maryland look great on the National level. We owe America's children the best we can give them. With the help of the Sons of The American Legion members,

Squadrons and the Detachment, we can show our children the way to a bright and secure future.

To date, the Detachment has collected \$2,975 for CWF, not bad. Nationally, the CWF had award \$530,700 to 18 nonprofit organizations through the dissemination of information to the

general public and specific target groups. The CWF says THANKS again.

Yours in Service

Ken Jones

Americanism Today by Mark Gilbert

First of all I want to congratulate Commander Bear and the members of the Detachment of Maryland for an outstanding year supporting Americanism programs. The numbers, as you are about to see, are incredible. We received 53 reports out of 114 squadrons. To those 53 thank you, a job well done. And a right hand salute to Commander Bud and the squadrons of the SESD who turned in 14 reports out of 14 squadrons for the highest percentage in the Detachment. To the squadrons that failed to turn in reports I call on the officers to remember that this is part of the commitment that you took on when you agreed to be an officer. Only by reporting what we do will the Legion know how we impact their programs. And believe me its a huge impact. With less then 50% reporting here are the numbers - number of boys sponsored to Boys State 21, at a cost

of \$5,570.00, number of girls sponsored to Girls State 7, at a cost of \$1,810.00. Number of 5 star/10 Ideals programs 2, at a cost of \$40.00. Number of 3x5 flags presented 1515, at a cost of \$8,633.00. Number of small flags given away and placed 9511, at a cost of \$5044.00, and 1336 hours. Cost of scholarships awarded \$48,718.00. Hours for education programs 1619. Squadron sponsored oratorical contests 2, number of contestants 7, cost of contests \$600.00, hours of participation 136. Squadron sponsored Honor Guards 59, number of appearances 283, cost \$6,374.00. NEF donations \$7489.00. Flag etiquette programs 86, cost \$1,787.00, hours 131. Number flag retirement programs 131, hours 530. Community Service hours 51,510. Cost/Donations to other organizations \$92,658.00.

Squadron sponsored Scouting troops 3, number of youths involved 83, cost \$965.00. Junior Shooting Sports number of youths involved 96, hours 228, cost \$5,700.00. American Legion Baseball number of teams sponsored 15, cost \$7,700.00. Other teams sponsored, cost \$8,113.00.

With numbers like this I'm sure we will once again be leading the nation. Imagine were we will be when all of our squadrons get on board.

I thank the members of the Detachment for allowing me to be your Americanism Chairman this past year. As always it's been a lot of fun working with my fellow officers and I look forward to serving the Sons of The American Legion this coming year. (its been a bear-able year!)

Bringing Americanism to Bear,
Mark Gilbert

National Emergency Fund by Dave Huulihen

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who supported and or donated money to the NEF this year . this is probably one of the only funds that is solely used by the American Legion family. Anyone within the American legion family can apply for assistance simply by logging onto the American legion website and go to NEF and download any information

needed to either donate more money or applications for assistance .I would especially like to thank the Jr. girls of August J Raveio who decided to jump on board with my project this year. These girls ages range from age 1 yr. to 13 yrs old and collected donations at each breakfast during their month and then had a bake sale and raised over \$220.00. If you guys out there

have not yet contributed take time to do so now I will continue to collect donations up to and including during convention this year , Thanks once again to all and see you at convention.

GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS AMERICA
DAVE HULLIHEN

VAVS Variety by Tom Deal

The reports are in and you all did a great job again this year. Total hours spent at Veterans homes and Medical Centers was 14,971. The total amount of costs and donations to VA&R programs was a whopping \$90, 451. We had a record of 42 Squadrons reporting VA&R activities. I want to thank everyone for making this year a success and keep up the great work next year. We saw an

increase in reporting this year and let's keep a record during this year so you remember all the little things you do over the year. The winners will be announced at convention and maybe there are a few surprises this year with amount of reporting. Remember it's never too late to make a donation to one of the VA Centers, hospitals, homes or programs.

My phone number is 410-642-2561 and my e-mail is tom.deal@verizon.net feel free to ask any question or to offer assistance or an idea.

Serving all Veterans
Tom Deal
VAVS Chairman
Detachment of Maryland

Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

(Continued from page 8)

that it takes a tremendous amount of planning and hard work to make your convention experience both informative and enjoyable. Our Convention Chairman, Bill Hill, has been tireless in his efforts to make your convention a success. Let Bill know you appreciate all of his efforts and I would be remiss if I didn't also recognize all of the efforts and sacrifices the Hill Family has made as well.

Partisan Politics: As our election for President of the United States approaches, The American Legion headquarters has asked me to restate the Legion's policy regarding

partisan politics. The National Constitution provides: "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking office or preferment."

The Legion Family has a long history of supporting issues not candidates. It lobbies extensively on military and veterans' issues, Americanism, National Security and Economic concerns. This is permitted by our corporate charter and the provisions of Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code. What is prohibited is engaging in partisan politics. If unsure of your actions or plans,

contact Department Headquarters before proceeding.

In closing, I would once again like to thank everyone for permitting me to serve as your Detachment Adjutant. It continues to be a most rewarding experience witnessing all of the great deeds our membership continues to render both endlessly and unselfishly. If there is anything your detachment can do to better serve you the member, do not hesitate to give me that input. All of your critiques and suggestions are taken under serious advisement and consideration.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska

Mining For Membership by Mike Gray

What Detachment sits at 106%? Oh that's right, we do. Well, the detachment has a membership of 14,993 members to date, which is 899 over goal. As far as the Department of Maryland is concerned, we are at 106%.

Now as far as National is concerned we now sit at 96.194 % With 14,759 members as of May 23, 2008 We also have a retention rate of 86.76% Lets keep in mind that the national starts later in the year than our department does so the numbers will catch up as long as we keep turning in that membership.

We still need to reach our goal nationally of 15,343 quick math tell me we still need 584 members to reach our national goal of 100%. The national organization also would like us to reach a goal of 105% that is 16,110 by the date July 24, 2008

We can reach this goal with a little more work. There are some Squadrons that need to start making

those phone calls or to send those last renewal letters out and get our membership up to 100% There are some squadrons that have not mailed any membership to department since the beginning of 08. Let's send that membership downtown.

Districts are as follows:

Northern Central District is in first place at 104% with 2,917 members 105 over goal. That's right, their mine hit gold in December and never stopped mining that membership ore.

Western Maryland District is in second place this week with 101% with 4,665 members that's 31 members over their goal.

North Eastern Shore District is in third place this week with 99 % with 1,518 members they still need 15 members to make goal.

Southern Maryland District is in fourth place this week with 98 % with 3,662 members they still need 76 members to reach their goal.

South Eastern Shore District is in

fifth place this week with 93.7 % with 1,198 to date still needing 80 members to reach their goal.

Mountain District has 91.4 % with 589 members needing 56 to reach their goal.

Baltimore District has 88.2 % this week with 396 members and needing 53 more the reach their goal.

This is the last week to send in membership for our membership race point's race. Who will win the race? Will your district take over first place?

Will your district take home the first place prize? Come to our convention in June and see how it all turned out. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our convention.

Yours In Legion Service
Michael Gray
Detachment 1st Vice Commander
Membership Chairman
e-mail salmikey@aol.com
Home 410-273-2379
Cell 443-807-6246.

District News

Northern Central News

Dear Comrades

It's hard to believe that the year is over. It has been a busy year traveling to all the squadrons, but one. I am very proud of the job that my officers and you the Blue Cap member have done this year.

We always preach that membership is the life blood of our organization and you have truly stepped up to the plate. Our District has been in 1st place since December and it sure looks like we are going to win the Detachment Membership Challenge. I would like to congratulate Membership Chairman and 1st Vice Commander Larry Ford and an outstanding job this year.

The district has had many functions and activities this. 2nd Vice Commander and Activities Chairman Jerry Saunders has

done an excellent job arranging the various activities and keeping everyone informed of their time and places.

As always, our Veterans are our number one priority. 3rd Vice and VAVS Commission Chairman Jim Lawson did a great job taking care of our Perry Point Carnival, McVet's Christmas Party and BRECC Spring Picnic.

This year my Commander's Project was The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. I want to thank all the Squadrons that stepped up with donations and also that helped out with our Legacy Bike Run. We are hoping to build upon the Bike ride for next year.

I would like to thank the remainder of my officers and chairman. Without the support of everyone, this year would not

have been as successful as it was.

I congratulate all the newly elected officers of the NCD. I know that you will have a great year under the leadership of our new District Commander, Larry Ford. I look forward to working with the new officers and my door is always open.

For our Veterans and Kids,

Ed Steininger Sr.

Commander

Northeastern Shore Gazette

I want to thank everyone for the great year I had as Commander of the North Eastern Shore District. I want to thank all my officers for the great job they did. I have been elected to a second term and I am looking forward to having an even more successful year. I would like to continue with our success and keep the District moving in the right direction.

Congratulations to Squadrons 15, 18, 29, 70, 135, 246 and 278 for achieving Four Star. Also 77 and 278 for Three Star. Great Job! We all still have some renewals to round up, keep working on those last few. Reports are in and everyone did a nice job this year on all their projects. Start keeping a log on hours and projects to help you with next

years' reports. I would like a report from every Squadron next year. Hope to see a lot of you at the convention in Frederick. Good luck to Tom Deal, who is running for Detachment 2nd Vice and Larry Griffin for the Detachment Finance Office.

Continue to check the website, Bear has done a great job updating this and will continue to do so. The website is: <http://squadron135.tripod.com/nese>. We use this web page to keep you informed of what is going on in the District, the Detachment and even the National organization. If you have a fundraiser or an event at your post, email us at NESD@aol.com and will gladly put on the website.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, you can contact me at 410-829-9974 or email me at Jkj44@aol.com.

Yours in Service.

Ken Jones

NESD Commander
Yours in Service,
Ken Jones NESD Commander

Southern Maryland Times

I would like to thank everyone who has helped make this a great year in Southern Md. District. We made 4 Star but missed our goal by 20 members, so thanks to everyone who did send their membership in. I would also like to thank everyone who filled out a Consolidated Report this year. We lost winning the C&Y award by 5 points with only 9 Squadrons reporting. Just think if all 36 Squadrons filled out reports, how

many awards we could have won. Now on with the positive.

We are having more people showing up at District meetings then we have in a long time, thank you. Let's keep this up next year. This is your organization; we need your help and input to make it better. Our District is heading in the right direction. With your help we can make the next step. Thanks to all the District Officers,

DEC and Sal Advisory members who helped to make this a great year in The Great Southern Md. District. Don't forget to stop by the SMD hospitality room while you are at convention.

Yours In Service
Tom Eloshway
Commander

The Future by Joe Gladden

This past May 3, 2008, I had the opportunity to meet with the Commander's Advisory. This is the committee established by the American Legion Internal Affairs charged with selecting the future National Commanders. While you can truly never tell what anyone is thinking, I felt very good about my interview. I went in prepared with ideas, goals and strategies on how to continue the great work done by our National Commander and the our future National Commanders.

While I believe the Committee has chosen another for the 2010-2011 year, I am hoping and will continue to work hard towards being selected for

the 2011-2012 year.

With your support and words of encouragement, we can make this goal a reality. So far we have raised over \$10,000.00 for the National Campaign. This is a fantastic start, however we have a long way to go. But if we start now, I know we can reach our goal.

If your Squadron or District can help out in any way, please let me know. Harford Squadron 39 donated \$1.00 per pit sandwich for the month of March and raised \$650.00. It can be just that simple. Please know that I will help out in any way possible and attend any function that I am

available for.

As I have said in the past, I want to enjoy the journey of becoming National Commander and I want to enjoy that journey with you.

For God and Country
Joe Gladden
443-742-0842
joeglad123@aol.com

Casey Cares Bike Ride by PDC Andy Dadds

Hello Legion Riders,

On July 26, 2008 the Detachment of Maryland, Sons of the American Legion will be holding its 4th annual motorcycle ride for Casey's Kids with the ride ending at Rising Sun Post #194 in Rising Sun MD. The Casey Cares Foundation mission is to provide uplifting and heartwarming programs with a special touch in order to enhance the lives of critically ill children and their families. Some of the monies raised will go towards

family festivities like sporting events, amusement parks, movies, birthday party favors. Children who participate in Casey Cares Foundation programs suffer from various illnesses including cancer, sickle cell anemia, cystic fibrosis, complex heart disease, cardiomyopathy and severe aplastic anemia. More information about Casey Cares visit caseycaresfoundation.org.

This year the ride will be a little different. Instead of a certain route

to ride we are planning a ride in event. Each group will be responsible for collecting the ride fee and selecting a route from your location to the festivities starting at 1 pm and ending at 4 pm. We are planning on a picnic style lunch along with 50/50s and possibly some fun and games. The cost of the ride will be \$25.00 per person, whether riding a motorcycle or in vehicle. Please feel free to call me at 410-758-2474 or email daddsba@hotmail.com

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

3115 Orchard Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234



“Bringing Veterans and Kids Programs To Bear”

We're on The Web!

Visit It Us At www.mdsal.org

Adjutant's Archives by *Bill Matoska*

Convention: As we gather for this 35th Annual Convention of the Detachment of Maryland, it continues to amaze me how the membership of this great detachment is able to raise their bar of efficiency, and their willingness for giving, in order to meet the ever growing needs of our communities. Commander Bear Weinzirl and his staff of Commission and Committee Members are to be commended for their leadership and their steadfast determination to meet and in most cases exceed the goals set forth at the beginning of this administrative year. Commander Bear's travels across the nation and throughout the state of Maryland this year have been very extensive, and your commander has always represented you in a very exemplary and professional manner while bringing greetings from the 15,000 + members of the Detachment of Maryland. It is always hard to

recognize everyone for the work that gets done, but believe me when I tell you that all of your efforts never go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated. On behalf of Commander Bear and myself we render you a right hand salute and extend everyone a heartfelt thank you.

For informational purposes please be advised that our keynote speaker this year is Past National Commander, Cliff Smith of the Detachment of Massachusetts and our special guest this year is National Commander Ray Giehll of the Detachment of Indiana. Please take the initiative and introduce yourself to our guests and share with them that Maryland hospitality we are known for.

At the close of this convention, Time & Place Chairman, Bill Stem, will be asked to make a recommendation to either return or

not return to Frederick for the 2009 convention. Bill needs your input in order to properly assess the Frederick area as a viable location for future conventions or how the convention committee as a whole can better their service to the delegates and guests. Please give Bill your input.

Also, at the close of this convention their will be a post convention D.E.C. meeting called to order by the Detachment Commander Elect immediately following the adjournment. Districts are asked to be prepared before the convening of this D.E.C. by forwarding to me a list of your newly elected district officers, Detachment Executive Committeemen, delegates to the National Convention, and meeting dates if available.

I can personally attest to the fact

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