



The Pride



Volume 2008, Issue 1 September 7, 2008

Editor: Bill Matoska Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

Commander's Corner by Mike Gray

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for electing me to be your commander. I know you have put your trust in me to lead this Great Detachment and I will not let you down. We will continue to excel in all our Legion programs, as we have in the past. With your help and support we will continue the tradition of being one the top detachments in the nation.

Our slogan for this year is "Sons Sending Kids To Camp ." In conjunction with the Hemophilia Foundation of Maryland and John Hopkins Hospital, we will be raising

money to help send kids to camp. These kids can't go to just any camp because of their bleeding disorders and the liability issues. They have to go to special camps with nurses on duty twenty-four hours a day. This year, the kids had to go to a camp called "Courageous Kids in Kentucky". The cost of this trip was over \$1,000.00 a child. With the rising cost of health care and the medication these kids need, a lot of parents can't afford to send their kids to this camp. The Hemophilia Foundation of Maryland had numerous applications for kids to go to

Seminar Issue

camp, but could only afford to send 17 kids this year. I believe we can help send more Maryland kids to camp. Help us make a difference in a child's life. Help us raise money to make a life time memory for a child. Help us send these kids from our own communities here in Maryland to camp.

Membership is on the top of my list of things to emphasize this year. As our economy struggles and people find it hard to make ends meet, we must try harder to keep and maintain our membership. This is one of the keys to help us with our programs and helping those that are even less fortunate than we are. Our membership is what allows

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Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

D.E.C.: The first Detachment Executive Committee Meeting for the 2008-2009 Administrative Year will take place on September 7, 2008 beginning at 12:00 P.M. hosted by Morrell Park Squadron No. 137 at the post home. The post address is 1508 Desoto Road, Baltimore, Md. 21230 and the post phone number is 410-644-4137. This first meeting of the DEC is held in conjunction with the Detachment Seminar which is the S.A.L. version of Legion College. If you have any questions concerning the administrative workings of the Sons of The American Legion, this is the most opportune time to get the answers you are looking for. The Detachment of Maryland leadership will be presenting valuable information along with the current goals and objectives which will provide each squadron the tools necessary to have a successful year. Packets full of useful information, administrative forms, and the 08-09 confidential book will be distributed to everyone in attendance. Any squadron not represented should contact their

District Commander to receive their portfolio of information. Directions to Post #137 from I-95 is to take Exit 50 A-B toward Wilkins Ave. As you pass St. Agnes Hospital turn right onto Wilkens Ave./US-1. After .2 of a mile turn right onto Desoto Road and the post home will be approximately .7 of a mile after turning onto Desoto Road.

Renewal Postcards: Be advised that National Headquarters is planning to send out three membership renewal reminder postcards throughout this administrative year. The first set of reminders will be sent out in September, the second in January and a third notice in April. Please be sure to transmit any renewals your squadron may have prior to these mailings in an effort to eliminate renewal notices to members that have already paid. This will not only eliminate any unnecessary costs associated with the mailing, but members always grow concerned when they know that they have paid their membership dues at the local level and still receive a reminder to

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Commander's Corner by Mike Gray

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us to help our Veterans and our Children's programs. If only 1 in 5 of our members, recruits just 1 more member we could have over 3000 new members. Will you help keep our membership going? Will you be that one person to take an active roll in recruiting a new member? Join our membership team and be that one person that makes a difference in our membership.

Now is the time of year to visit our

veterans in our VA hospitals. We think about them at all the holidays and on Veterans Day, but during the summer months we get so caught up in vacations and our daily lives, we sometimes don't put them in our thoughts as much as we should. When you go to your next squadron meeting, make it a point to bring up the subject of a visit to you local VA hospital. Make a plan for a special day for your squadron to visit the VA hospital or even a veteran in your community. Just to talk to them or even help them with a project around their

house. Make sure you thank them for their service to our Country and for the freedom and liberty you have everyday, because of their service and dedication to our country.

If I can help in any way with your programs ,or if you have any question please do not hesitate to contact me; my email address is salmikey@aol.com.

Yours in Service
Michael Gray
Commander

We Treasure Membership by Mark Gilbert

A vast Ye Crewmembers and listen up. The theme for this years membership drive is Pirates of The Chesapeake. And our motto is "WE TREASURE MEMBERSHIP". The goal of each ship (district) is to have a full crew. The contest to fill your ships crew will be based on percentage as posted on the last Friday of each month starting in September and ending in May. The crew with the highest percentage will get 7 points, 2nd place 6 points, 3rd place 5 points, 4th place 4 points, 5th/6th/7th places 3 points each. The first crew to have zero goose eggs will get 3 bonus points. And, the first crew to reach 100% will get 3 bonus points. Let's get out there and sign, shanghais or use any

other method you can think of to fill up your ships with crew members. And don't let any mate abandon ship without a fight.

To give each member a little incentive getting new mates on board the Detachment will give any member who signs 6 or more new members an embroidered 'Crew Recruiter' tee shirt.

Upcoming Membership target dates set by National are: September 10, 2008 - 10%, October 8, 2008 - 25%, November 14, 2008 - 35%, December 10, 2008 - 45%,

The Detachment Seminar is September 7th at Morrell Park Post. All officers and

each Squadron should have someone attend. The information needed for this coming year will be given out.

ALL SQUADRONS SHOULD HAVE TURNED IN MEMBERSHIP BY THE SEMINAR. THE COMMANDER AND OFFICERS SHOULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE AND HAVE THEIR DUES PAID AND SENT TO HEADQUARTERS ASAP. ZERO GOOSE EGGS BY SEMINAR WOULD BE A GREAT START TOWARD A 4 STAR YEAR.

Yours in the Pirate of the Chesapeake Brotherhood, Mark Gilbert, Membership



Children & Youth Chatter by Buddy Mastin

I look forward to a great year serving as Children and Youth Chairman for 2008 - 2009. Remember that our children are our greatest resource and with the help of every member we can make this a banner year helping the children of our community.

Every Squadron should pick at least one, if not more, C&Y program that they can support throughout the year. This would go a long way towards helping the

children that need our support.

Our Commanders project this year is The Hemophilia Foundation's "Send a Child To Camp" program. There is more about this program in the Pride, so I won't go into detail here. Let's get behind this program and make it a big success.

Now is the time to start documenting your hours volunteered and dollars donated to our programs. If you make a

report at your squadron meeting each month, you will be able to go back through your minutes at the end of the year and get the information you need to fill out your Consolidated Reports. We will have more information about this at our D.E.C. seminar. I hope to see everyone there.

Yours In Service
Buddy Mastin
Children & Youth Chairman

Toys For Tots by Ed Steininger

As we start out the new year, and although it is still summer here, we are planning our year out, and so are the coordinators for Toys for Tots. It is indeed a pleasure to be asked by Commander Gray to serve as chairman again. I started out as chairman under one Marine, and will serve another year for another. This is why this program cannot fail. We are serving under some of the best in our Organization. I have hit the ground running. Most of the coordinators have been contacted and advised that once again we are ready to assist them in any way possible. For those Squadrons in the northern parts of Cecil and Harford Counties, we have a 2 year coordinator that is ready and more than willing to serve us. As we all gather in September for our seminar, the coordinators are gathering for their

yearly meeting at which time they request what supplies that they will need for the year. Now is the time to make contact with them, requesting your drop boxes, posters, etc.

Do not wait until November to try to get these items. The more that we can do for these people, the easier their jobs become.

I have heard back from 3 area coordinators who could not say enough about the tremendous help they have gotten from the Sons of The American Legion. Mr. Gross from Washington County says, "the American Legions in

my area are a big help with plenty of support". Keep up the good work Western Maryland District. There will be more information available at the

seminar, or as always, please contact me for anything. My contact information is at the bottom of this letter.

As I have preached for 4 years now, no matter how hard we work, without documentation you will be forgotten within a couple of months.

Now is the time to start recording your hours, make your plans, and let's make this year the biggest in our history and the history of the Marine Corp Reserve.

Still serving this great organization for what I hope is our biggest year yet.

Ed Steininger Sr.
steininger_7@MSN.com
443-807-1495

Casey Cares by Larry Griffin

As we start a new year I would like to Thank You for your donations for last year. I have set a goal of \$30,000 for this year and I am confident that we can reach this goal. The detachment

received a plaque from Casey Care's thanking us for participating in their last golf tournament. I will have more information on Casey Cares event and fundraiser in the future Prides

Your In Service
Larry Griffith
Chairman

Casey Cares Bike Ride by Andy Dadds

The 4th annual "Casey Cares Bike Ride" was held on July 26, 2008 at Rising Sun Post #194 in Rising Sun. You could not have asked for better weather for a motorcycle ride, sunshine and a nice breeze. I would like to thank Squadron #194 for

preparing a fabulous lunch and warm hospitality. With the help of Legion Riders from Reisterstown Post #116, Disney-Bell Post #66 and Morrell Park Post #137 and a \$1,500 dollar donation from Rising Sun Post #194 and others, we were able to raised

\$3,598.34 for Casey Cares. Thanks again to everyone who made this a successful ride.

Andy Dadds, PDC
Ride Chairman

Legislative by Bill Stem

We are attempting to get a dinner meeting with Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jim Adkins. We have been in contact with the Governor's Office for a

meeting with Governor O'Malley.

Hopefully we will be able to get an opportunity to accompany the Governor

on a visit to a Veteran's faculty.

Your in Service
Bill Stem Chairman

Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

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pay their membership fees. National is also asking each squadron to continue collecting date of birth information on all S.A.L. members. There are three ways D.O.B. information can be transmitted to National Headquarters: using preprinted D.O.B. postcards, using a Member Data Form, or using the D.O.B. Form included in the Seminar Packet. Member Data and D.O.B. Forms will be available at every Detachment Executive Committee meeting for your convenience.

Flag Education Program: The fight is still on to win the flag amendment and this cause still needs to be promoted. We

still need to persuade Congress to pass a constitutional amendment that would return to the American people the right to protect their flag. One way to promote this idea is through educating the next generation about their flag, and The American Legion has developed a DVD titled "For Which It Stands". This DVD is about the history of the flag of the United States, the significance and meaning of our flag, and respecting and caring for our flag. This DVD is intended primarily for use with students in the upper elementary and middle/junior high school grades. In addition to a 20-minute video, the DVD features instructional enhancements designed to

give students a rich and rewarding learning experience. This DVD can be purchased from American Legion Emblem Sales directly at a cost of \$9.95, product code 755.400 or by contacting Detachment Americanism Chairman Ken Jenkins. Ken's contact information can be found in the Blue Book. This would also prove to be a great Community Service Program by introducing this DVD to the schools in your local communities.

As this new administrative year begins do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours In Service,
Bill Matoska

MD Special Olympics by Eddie Souder

When it comes to Special Olympics Maryland, two trains of thought come to mind. Being involved in a fundraiser and being a part of an athletic event. Either way, Just "Be a Fan". That's the new slogan at Special Olympics (SOMD). As fans of the great athletes of SOMD we will help out whenever and wherever we can, that's what we do. This year's

sport's schedule is much like those of years past with added events as interest and budget allows. Follow the schedule at SOMD.ORG.

For years the biggest event on the fundraising schedule is the Polar Bear Plunge and 2009 is no different. We as The Legion Family need to step up to the plate and involve ourselves more than

ever. The opportunity to be a part of a great cause is only overshadowed by the chance to be seen by the citizens of Maryland as Partners In Courage with the Special Olympics Family. The cameras are on and it's up to us to be seen!

Eddie Souder

The Future by Joe Gladden

Exciting times lay ahead for all of us. We keep inching closer and closer to making the dream of becoming National Commander, a reality. The meetings with the National Commander's Advisory have been going well, and my sponsor, Past National Commander Cliff Smith from Massachusetts has been working hard with me. PNC Smith is working to make sure that I am prepared to lead the Nation and has been my Champion for this cause.

At the National Convention that just past, Pat Shea from Ohio was named as the next Candidate for 2010-2011. While there are no guarantees, I am hoping to follow Pat. We will be working hard this year to show that I am the next best candidate.

During this past year, I want to thank all those individuals, squadrons and districts that stepped up and helped building the Campaign War Chest. We had 18 individuals, 10 squadrons and two districts make donations to the Campaign. In total we raised over \$11,000.00.

While this past year was a great start, we have about \$50K to go. This may sound like a big number, but with the help of the entire Legion Family, I know we can do it. My own squadron, Overlea-Perry Hall, will be holding its second fundraiser on February 21, 2009. Please mark this date on your calendar.

The time has also come to start building our National Campaign Team. I am proud and honored to inform everyone that

Immediate Past Detachment Commander Bear Weinzirl has agreed to be our Campaign Team Chairman. Bear will be looking for volunteers from each district to step up and become part of our team. If interested, please contact Bear or myself.

If your squadron or district can have a fundraiser, I promise to do my best to be there, and if I can't, a member of our Campaign Team will be.

I have always believed that the journey is as important as the destination. Let's enjoy this journey together.

For God and Country
Joe Gladden
Past Detachment Commander

Commander's Project by Ken Jones

As we begin our new year, Commander Mike Gray's project is the Hemophilia Foundation of Maryland-"Sons Sending Kids To Camp." For the past 10 years, kids with this blood disorder have been attending Camp Freedom outside of Nashville, Tennessee. Historically, 15 children attend this camp. The average cost is \$1,000 per camper. Staffed with medical personnel 24 hours a day, the theme of the camp is confidence, self-sufficiency, positive self-esteem, as well

as, learning to self-infuse. These campers learn to take part in the care and treatment of their bleeding disorder.

I'd like to ask for your support in getting behind this program, no matter how big or how small. A Detachment fund raiser is in the planning stages. I will be providing more on this as it becomes available.

The Hemophilia Foundation of Maryland

is presenting a Black and Blue Ball Casino Night, Friday, October 3 at The Towson Sheridan which includes dinner, casino tables, live music, prizes, auctions and dancing. You can reserve a table for 8 for \$600. If anybody is interested in going, let me know and I will make the reservations. My number is 410-829-9974.

Yours in Service

Ken Jones

Community Service by Bob Trueblood

Another year has begun and with the new year comes change. In the past, the Detachment has organized a work day where we volunteer to do Community Service work for a program that we support. The problem that we have encountered, in the past, is getting volunteers to show up to do the work. It is difficult, if not impossible, to schedule a date that doesn't conflict with everyone's schedule of events.

This year, I would like to report on Community Service Projects that are being performed by Squadrons in each District. This is your chance to let others hear about the great work that you

perform throughout the year.

Examples for your articles would be: Holding a fundraiser for a family that lost their home due to a fire or other disaster, Greeting returning soldiers or service personnel from the War on Terrorism, performing repairs or helping families with members overseas in the Service, any services that your squadron may perform for the community, putting on a holiday party for the children in your communities, projects that help Veterans in your community, Schools in the community, sports teams in the community, assistance with police or fire departments in the community, etc.

If your Squadron needs help with a community service project that is upcoming, let us put the information in the Pride. There were 51,510 hours of community service performed throughout the Detachment of Maryland, last year. Let us hear about some of those hours so that we may share your good work with other squadrons. Contact Bob Trueblood at 301-831-7281 or email me at santastoyshop@aol.com

Serving the Community Through
The Detachment of Maryland,
Bob Trueblood

Americanism report by Ken Jenkins

The National Emergency Fund needs our help. With the recent flooding in the Midwest and the fires in the West, the need for the N.E.F. has never been greater. Many members of our Legion family have received some much needed assistance from the N.E.F. In order to continue this aid for our members in the present and near future, Chairman Dave Hullahen is asking each squadron to donate at least \$1.00 per member. Please dig deep and contribute to this worthy cause.

Past Commander Bob Trueblood, will

heading-up our Community Service Programs. While continuing the "Our House" project, Adopt-a-Highway, and community blood drives will be added this year.

The Detachment will once again be handing out an award to the top Squadron for Flag replacement. Make sure that the size of the replaced flag is indicated on the replacement form, (3x5 flags will count as 5 points and smaller flags will count as 1 point). Tom Eloshway will chair this program.

For anyone wanting to take the Five-Star test we will have certified judges at all Detachment meetings or we will be happy to make arrangements to meet at your Post. Call Mitch Gilbert 443-286-2629 if you need assistance.

Dave Tatman will be handling the Youth Oratory Contest, and Bill Hill will be Homeland Security Sub-Chairman.

For God and Country,
Ken Jenkins II, Americanism Chairman

District News

Northern Central News

Here it is the end of summer. I hope everyone had a good summer and vacation. We had our Organizational meeting on August 10, 2008 and it was well attended. We will be doing a booth at the Perry Point Carnival on September 20, 2008. Come on out and help us cook and serve hamburgers for our Hospitalized Veterans. Our annual campout will be at Camp ALKOR on September 26 – 28, 2008. At Camp ALKOR, we will have our first NCD meeting on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at 2:00 P.M. Please come to the campout and plan to stay for the meeting on Saturday. We will be serving our annual Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday evening. Bring the family for fun and games! Our next meeting will on Sunday November 23, 2008 at Parkton Post #256. At that meeting we will have a Turkey Shoot, a fundraiser for my Commander's Project, Vet Dogs. Put on your calendar Saturday November 1, 2008 for our NCD trip to Atlantic City. This will be another fundraiser for VetDogs. On December 21, 2008 we will have our annual Christmas Party at McVets. Be sure to attend these

important meetings and activities.

My commander's project is VetDogs. What is VetDogs? "Helping those who have served our country honorably to live with dignity and independence whether they are visually impaired or have other special needs, by using guide dogs, service dogs and innovative technologies." VetDogs train and supply guide dogs for the visually impaired veteran, service dogs for veterans with disabilities other than blindness, and have trained physical therapy dogs. Also available for visually impaired veterans is Trekker, an orientation aid that uses GPS technology and digital maps to help blinded veterans navigate unfamiliar territory. VetDogs services are provided at no cost to the veteran!

Now is the time to send in your membership. Commanders and Officers pay your dues. Set the example for your Squadrons. Let's be in first place for membership in the Detachment.

The kids are going back to school so keep an eye out for them. Be sure to fly

your flag

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America!

Larry Ford
NCD Commander
Cell: 443-413-4710
Home: 410-529-1892
Work: 410-435-6211
Email: laf1td@comcast.net

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sept. 20, 2008
Perry Point Carnival – 2-4 P.M.
Sept. 26-28, 2008
Camp ALKOR – 5:00 P.M.
Sept. 27, 2008
1st NCD Meeting at Camp ALKOR – 2 P.M.
Nov. 1, 2008
Atlantic City Bus Trip – 11:00 A.M.
Nov. 23, 2008
2nd NCD Meeting and Turkey Shoot at Parkton Post #256 – 1:00 P.M.
Dec. 21, 2008

Western Maryland Tribune

Greetings to all and congratulations to all officers in the Detachment, Districts and Squadrons. Best of luck to you for the upcoming year. As we are always very focused on donations to various causes for veterans, children's programs and the community, I am hoping to add another important component that has never been very strong. I know that the donations are being made whether they are monetary, in kind or the giving of

personal time. However, I don't know specifically what is going on because reporting is very low. This year, I will be focusing on the Western Maryland District squadrons and attempting to get 100% reporting from them. It would be great if all of the Districts could do the same to really see the great things that are accomplished by the Sons of The American Legion within the Detachment of Maryland. I hope we can make

Commander Gray proud.

Please feel free to join us at our first meeting on Sunday, October 5th, 2008 at Joseph C. Herbert Squadron #222 (Clear Spring, MD) at 1:00 PM.

Yours in service,
Michael Mandish
Western MD District Commander

Northeastern Shore Gazette

The Detachment of Maryland held a very successful organizational meeting in August and the NES District is off and running. I have nothing but the utmost respect and confidence that this year will be as successful as in the past, if not better. I have started visiting squadrons to see what they need and what help I

can be to them. Membership is the key to our success. To acquire new members, all you need do is "tell" them about our programs and "ask" them to join us. And then, perhaps most importantly, make them feel welcome as new members of the American Legion family.

Our next district meeting will be Sept. 21 at Jeff Davis Post 18, 2619 Centreville Road, Centreville, MD, at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited.

Yours in Service,
Ken Jones
NESD Commander

Southern Maryland Times

I am looking forward to another great year in Southern MD District, but we need to take care of our membership first. As of writing this article there are still 22 Squadrons in our District who have still not sent any membership in yet. If your Squadron is holding meetings, at the very least your officers should

have paid their dues. Our next District Meeting and Seminar will be Sunday Sept. 28th; 12 PM at Colmar Manor Post #131. If you only make one meeting a year, it should be this one or the Detachment Seminar on Sunday 9/07/08. Our Southern MD District Draw Down will be held Saturday Nov. 8th at

Glen Burnie Post #40. Tickets are \$35, which admits 2 for dinners and drinks from 6 to 8, and the grand prize is \$1,000. I look forward to seeing everyone at a meeting this year.

Yours In Service
Tom Eloshway
SMD Commander

Time and Place by Bill Stem

Plans for the Detachment Convention for 2009 are progressing. If all goes as planned we will be back in Frederick (by popular demand) on June 26-28, 2009. Accommodations will be provided by the Quality Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn from last year). The Golf Tournament will again

be at the Maple Run Golf Course in Thurmont. The Pool Tournament reprises at Belles Sports Bar. The bowling will be at Walkersville Bowling Center in Walkersville again.

The convention itself is tentatively set for Francis Scott Key Post #11. We are

awaiting conformation.

Any change reported in these pages, we be announced at the DEC Meetings.

For God and Country
Bill Stem
Chairman

VAVS Variety by Tom Deal

I want to start by telling everyone what a great job you did last year for the Veterans. The Detachment recorded donations of \$92,310.00 which were received for: National Veterans Creative Arts Festival; Charlotte Hall Veterans Home; Cambridge Clinic; BREC Center; Baltimore VA Medical Center; MCVET Center; Perrypoint VA Medical Center; Sgt Jude fund and The Fisher House. The total hours and visits were 17,697. These are incredible numbers for our veterans programs. This is quite a variety of programs showing versatility of The Detachment to help, not just one

area, but the whole state. We need to keep up the great work and continue to work hard for these veterans to show them we care. The VAVS committee members are: Joseph Gladden (130), Michael Gray (47), Chuck Kave (26), Robert Filippi (183), Jerry Saunders, Jr. (47) and Larry Griffin (29). Feel free to contact me or any of the commission members for more information. Toiletries, undergarments, gloves and paperback crossword and puzzle books are just some of the items needed for all the centers. I will have copies of patient's needs lists available at the DEC

Meeting. Charlotte Hall is still having monthly bingo's and in need of funds to keep it going also. I hope you will consider making a donation to one of the programs listed and again more information will be at the DEC.

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

“Sons Sending Kids To Camp”

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland

3115 Orchard Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234

We're on The Web!

Visit It Us At www.mdsal.org



NEC News ***Andy Dadds-National Executive Committeemen***

Our days in the sun at the 37th Annual National Convention for the Sons of The American Legion took place on August 22-24, 2008 in Phoenix, Arizona. Elected as the S.A.L. National Commander for the 2008-2009 administrative year is Thomas “Tommie” Cisna from the Detachment of Illinois. Commander Cisna is a 23 year member from Lawrence Riddle Squadron No. 88 located in Mattoon, Illinois and is married to Kathy F. (Parker) Cisna for 22 years. Commander Cisna’s goals this year include a renewed focus in supporting our Veterans and to call more attention to the plight of today’s Veterans, to promote awareness of the POW/MIA issue, to emphasize the importance of the consolidated report form and to raise the level of reporting on all levels, and to stay in close contact with the national membership committee monitoring each detachments goals and retention levels. Commander Cisna was himself an All Time High Detachment of Illinois Commander in 1997-1998 while serving

under our own, Past National Commander Bill Matoska. The Home Coming weekend for National Commander Tommie will be on November 7-9, 2008 hosted by his home post in Mattoon, Illinois. I will supply flyers with the details for anyone interested in attending. Taking the helm as our National Vice-Commander for the Eastern Region is David Downey from the Detachment of New York. I will also forward any information I receive as Vice Commander Downey formulates his travels and locks down a date and location for the unofficial gathering of the Eastern Area. National Headquarters for The American Legion is sponsoring two informational conferences this September and they are both open to all members of the Legion Family. The first one is scheduled to take place on September 19-21, 2008 which is the National Children & Youth Conference. This conference is designed to not only train members on the Legion’s Children & Youth Programs, but also outlines the

tools needed to conduct a similar conference within their respective states. The second workshop is the National Americanism Conference scheduled for September 26-28, 2008. The Americanism Conference encompasses four premier programs in a variety of sessions designed to increase a members knowledge and expertise in these respective programs. These four programs are American Legion Baseball, American Legion Boys State, Chaplains, and The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program. The Detachment of Maryland will have representatives in attendance at each of these conferences for the betterment of our own activities in support of these programs which remains a cornerstone in the foundation of The American Legion. Finally, the next meeting of the National Executive Committee for the S.A.L. is scheduled for October 10-12, 2008. All these events will take place at the Sheraton-Downtown in Indianapolis, In.