



# The Pride



Volume 2008, Issue 2 December 14, 2008

Editor: Bill Matoska Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

## Commander's Corner by Mike Gray

Greetings Comrades

Happy Holidays! Wow this year is going so fast, and I am enjoying every minute of it. Your hard work and dedication to our programs makes my job of spreading the news of our achievements and accomplishments, one of the most satisfying job's I have ever done in this organization.

Membership in the Detachment is off to a great start this year. We have over 7,900 members paid to date at 56%. We have exceeded all of national's goal dates so far. We also have over 1,200 more paid

to date than this time last year. If this trend continues we should have no problem reaching 4 Star Status by our convention. We still have a couple of goose eggs out there, but I know they will be taken care of very soon. Please do not sit on membership. With the cost of postage going up, it cost a lot of money to send out renewal notices. We could spend that money better on our programs. Not to mention the flack we get when a member receives a notice and has paid, but not yet received his membership card.

I would like to take this opportunity to

## Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

**D.E.C.:** The next meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee is scheduled for December 14, 2008 at 1:00 P.M. hosted at Synepuxent Post No. 166. The post address is 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, Md. 21842 and the post phone number is 410-289-3166. All Detachment Commissions and Committees will meet at 12:00 P.M. before the meeting. If unable to attend please notify your chairman of your inability to attend and who you have secured to take your place at the meeting. Also, at Synepuxent Post on Saturday, December 13, 2008, the Detachment Travel Club will gather for their first social event of this administrative year beginning at 8:00 P.M. A block of rooms have been secured at the Grand Hotel which is located on the ocean front just behind the post home at a price of \$69.00 to \$79.00 per night depending on availability and view. When reserving your room use reservation code SAL08 and the toll free number to the Grand is 800-447-6779.

**Membership:** Please be advised that the next membership renewal notices will be administered by National Headquarters on January 20, 2009 for all unpaid members on the National Membership Registry. Therefore, with the holiday season just before the renewal mailing it is important to expedite your squadron renewals to Department Headquarters in order for them to be transmitted to national before the renewal mailing. It is always disconcerting to a member that has paid their dues in a timely fashion and then receives a renewal notice, and then the phone calls begin by that member wanting to know what happened to his payment.

**PERA legislation:** A 2007 bill introduced in Congress by Representative Dan Burton, R-Indiana, and Senator Sam Brownback, R-Kansas, would prohibit lawyers from collecting fees and expenses in establishment-clause lawsuits that involve veterans' memorials, public and federal buildings,

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Fall Issue

thank the Department Commander Gail Murdock for his generous personal donation of \$100 to our project. As you know our project this year is "The Hemophilia Foundation of Maryland". We are raising money to send kids to camp. These kids don't have the opportunity like most kids to go to summer camp. The most local camps don't allow kids with hemophilia to come because of the liability issues. These kids have to fly to Kentucky to go to camp. That makes the cost of this trip around \$1000 per camper. This is a lot of money that most of these kid's parents can't afford. Last year, The Hemophilia Foundation of Maryland in conjunction with Johns Hopkins Hospital sent 18 kids to camp. We are hoping to help double that number and maybe send 36 of our own

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## **Commander's Corner by Mike Gray**

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Maryland kids to camp. I know with the help from every squadron, we can reach this goal.

As the holiday season gets underway, remember to visit our veterans in our VA hospitals. Remember to thank them for

their service to our country. Get together with your squadron and plan a trip to your local VA hospital or even your local nursing home. Make contact with families in your communities with a soldier that is deployed and see if there is anything you could do to make their Holiday's brighter and better. Remember to thank them for their sacrifice for

letting their loved one serve this Great Nation and in doing so, making the world a safer place to live.

Yours in Service  
Michael Gray  
Detachment Commander

## **We Treasure Membership by Mark Gilbert**

As of the 11/14/2008 report, the Detachment of Maryland is sitting at 56.2% of goal. The NCD crew with Commander Larry Ford added 7 points to their score by leading the way with 57.0% - way to go! Close behind is Commander John Jones of the SESD crew at 50.9% earning 6 points. Coming on strong is the SMD crew led by Commander Tom Eloschway at 46.2% to get 5 points. Commander Ken Jones and the NESD crew are keeping it real close at 46.1% with 4 points added to their total. (0.1% difference shows how important it is to get that membership turned in ASAP). Commanders Fred Bennett BD crew, William Riggie MD crew, and Mike Mandish WMD crew, all follow with 3 points earned on this report. Total crew scores at this time are NCD 17 pts., SESD 11 pts., BD. 9 pts.,

SMD. & NESD 8 pts., MD & WMD 6 pts. On the negative side the following squadrons, as of 11/14/2008 have not turned in any membership. BD squadrons 133 Fort McHenry, 187 Brooklyn-Curtis Bay, SMD squadrons 28 Kennedy-Latimer, 41 Cissel-Saxon, 105 Fitzgerald-Cantrel, 227 Brandywine, MD squadron 153 Fulton-Myers, SESD squadron 87 Corporal Herman Hughes. Commanders please contact these squadrons and take care of the goose eggs. If I can be of any help let me know.

On the Crew Recruiter Award for members signing up 6 or more new members I have received two forms from SMD. It's a start but I know we can do a lot better.

We have exceeded the National goal of

45% by December 10, 2008 and are well on our way to the January 14, 2009 goal of 60%. GREAT JOB.

On behalf of Commander Gray and myself I give everyone a right hand salute and ask that we keep it going and get our ships filled.

Yours in the Pirate of the Chesapeake Brotherhood,

Mark Gilbert

1st Vice Commander

Membership Chairman



## **Children & Youth Chatter by Buddy Mastin**

Well the holidays are upon us, now is the time to consider giving to the programs that benefit our Children & Youth. One of our main projects this time of year is supporting Toys for Tots. For drop boxes and pick up contact, go to [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org). You can also bring a toy to our Detachment meeting on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. This is the time that we need your support to deliver toys and a message of hope to needy children. Don't forget our

Commander's Project this year, The Hemophilia Foundation's Send A Kid To Camp Program that you will read more about elsewhere in this newsletter. We also have the Special Olympics Winter Games and the Polar Bear Plunge coming up which we need volunteer help for. I am challenging all other District and Detachment Officers to make the Polar Bear Plunge. I will make the plunge again this year and have set a goal of raising

\$2,000. Come join the fun. Also let's not forget CMN, CWF, Casey Cares and the other great programs of the American Legion Family. Please remember that every Squadron needs to list all their volunteer hours and monetary donations on their yearend reports.

Yours In Service  
Buddy Mastin  
Children & Youth Chairman

## **Casey Cares by Larry Griffin**

During this season of giving, we hope that you will find it in your hearts to support our Holiday Giving Program. This program is for our Casey Cares Children. If your Squadron has not sent in a donation, just think if we combined individual donations

to make a huge difference in the lives of our Casey Cares families. As you can imagine, the holidays are an especially stressful time for families who have critically ill children. Therefore, it is important that we provide fun activities

that bring holiday cheer and memories that will last a lifetime.

Your In Service  
Larry Griffith  
Chairman

## **Americanism Report by Ken Jenkins**

As part of Americanism the Community Service Committee encompasses specific projects that I will be promoting this year.

### **Membership Blood Drive**

The committee is working towards having a National Blood Drive on the third Saturday in May the 18<sup>th</sup>. which is National Veterans Assistance Day. On that day Squadrons will be having luncheons and dinners for our veterans and their families. In conjunction with these events they could have a blood drive. I am asking all Maryland squadrons to participate in this program. Our own Past Detachment Commander, Joe Gladden gave blood at the recent Fall NEC in Indianapolis. As National Community Service Chairman, Joe is

asking all Maryland squadrons to help support this program that he is supporting on the National level. To get more information contact...

American Blood Resource Association  
P.O. Box 334  
Annapolis ,Md. 21406  
www.taxexemptworld.com

### **Blue and Gold Star Banners**

We are also asking our squadrons to support this program by distributing these banners in your communities. The Blue Star Banners are to be displayed by families that have a member serving in the Armed Services and the Gold Star banners are to be displayed by families that have lost a love one while serving in the military. These banners are available

from Emblem Sales.

### **Flag Replacement and Education**

As a squadron you can go into your community schools and offer to replace any flag they may be in need of replacing. You can also set-up flag education classes at the discretion of the school administration.

I will be asking the squadrons to assist me in promoting these other programs: High School Oratory Contest, Boys State, Scouting, Legion Baseball, National Emergency Fund, 10 Star/5 Ideals, and Legion Shooting Sports.

For God and Country,  
Ken Jenkins II  
Americanism Chairman

## **Community Service by Bob Trueblood**

The year is well underway, and with Christmas a few short weeks away, Community Service Projects are underway, as well.

Damascus Squadron 171 held a Community Yard Sale on November 1, 2008, at their Post home. They provided refreshments for those that participated and the proceeds went to help their Post with utilities bills.

One of their sponsored programs, The Our House Program, also sent six trainees and two staff personnel to Mt. Saint Mary's to assist with setting up the Fall Games for Md. Special Olympics. In addition, Squadron 171's Our House Program has been actively participating in the Adopt-A-Highway program. Congratulations Damascus! Keep up the good work.

Gold Star Squadron 191 held a very successful Horseshoe Tournament, in October, with the proceeds going to Carroll County Special Olympics, This was the 27<sup>th</sup> year that Gold Star Squadron 191 has held this tournament, raising over \$4,800.00. Squadron 191 sponsored 3 teams this year and Convenience Catering (owned by squadron member Doug Henley) graciously donated all of the food, as he has done for the last 27 years. There were 44 teams that participated in this year's event. A check was presented to Marsha Barger, of Carroll County Special Olympics, at Gold Star Squadron 191's November meeting. Marsha stated that the Horseshoe Tournament has been the longest running fundraiser for Carroll County Special Olympics.

Squadron 191, as well as Hampstead Squadron 200, Francis X. Elder

Squadron 121, and Clinton Squadron 256, all participated in setting up the Fall Games at Mt. Saint Mary's College for the Maryland Special Olympics.

These are some of the different Community Service projects that are going on in the Detachment. We want to hear about what you are doing in your Communities. Lets spread the word. Community Service is easy to do. You do it all the time, so lets get your story in the next issue of the Pride. Take "Pride" in what you do! Send me your stories on community service to Bob Trueblood, email address [santastoyshop@aol.com](mailto:santastoyshop@aol.com) or call me at 301-831-7281.

Serving the Community Through  
The Detachment of Maryland,  
Bob Trueblood

## **Time and Place by Bill Stem**

We are confirmed for the 2009 DEC Convention.

The dates are June 26<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Frederick MD. The convention once again will be at Francis Scott Key

Post #11. The accommodations will be at the Ft. Detrich Quality Inn (the same as last year. The Holiday Inn is now the Quality Inn). All the events will be at the same locations as last year. Convention

packets will be coming out after the first of the year.

For God and Country  
Bill Stem  
Chairman

## **Commander's Project by Ken Jones**

Our Commanders' project is off and running with the first donation from Squadron 66. Thanks to the "Blue Caps" of Sq. 66 for taking the first step. The Hemophilia Foundation is a nonprofit group that aids the children of Maryland. "Sons Sending Kids to Camp" is the best way Commander Gray can describe this program. This camp is specifically designed for children with bleeding disorders. It is staffed with a medical director, as well as a rotating staff of nurses on site 24 hours a day. Camp Freedom as it is called is outside Nashville, TN, builds confidence, self-

sufficiency, positive self-esteem, as well as learning to self-infuse. The camp environment provides the perfect opportunity to deepen the bonds between children with bleeding disorders. The cost for camp is \$1,000.00 per camper. I ask all the Squadrons and the Legion Family to support this worthy cause. Please make your check out to the Detachment of Maryland with the memo "Sons Sending Kids to Camp" and forward your checks to:

Sons of the American Legion

Detachment of Maryland  
3115 Orchard Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21234

The Detachment Draw Down in support of this program is to be held at Post 135 on March 7, 2009. More info will follow at a later date.

Thank You for making this camp a huge success.

Yours in Service,  
Ken Jones

## **National Emergency Fund Report by Dave Hullihen**

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who has already contributed to the NEF program this year and last. But I would also like to see more contributions than ever before, if possible. As we have all seen this past summer, there were more disasters this year, then in the past, which means there will be more money needed than before. I have asked in the past for a least \$1.00 per member and continue to do so, but if you and your squadrons cannot afford this, then

please give whatever you can. Between all the hurricanes, tornados and other disasters this year, there are quite a few people from other states, as well as MD who could sure use the money. Remember, this is one of the only charities that we as a squadron or post that we can draw from if needed. I am also chairman for the Boys Scouts this year. At our next meeting in December, I hope to be bringing some information about how to sponsor or start a Boy

Scout Troop with in your area, or even your post. I have been in contact with the Department of MD Chairman for the Boy Scouts. He will be sending me information on scouting.

Thanks in advance for your donations and see you at the fall meeting in OC.

Dave Hullihen  
NEF Chairman

## **Youth Contest by Dave Tatman**

The 2008-09 S.A.L. Detachment of Maryland Youth contest will be an essay on "My Father's (Grandfather's or Great Grandfather's) Military Service and What It Means To Me". Essays must be between 50 to 200 words in length.

Essays must be submitted by May 21, 2009 to allow time for judging before the Convention. Judging will be divided into 2 categories, up to age 13 and 13 and above. In addition to a plaque, a \$50 gift certificate for an as yet

undetermined store will be given to each winner at the Convention.

For God and Country,  
Dave Tatman

## **National Community Service by Joe Gladden**

I have the great honor of being the National Community Service Committee Chairman this year. The Committee is working on several key projects.

The focal point for the year will be blood drives. Every 2 seconds someone in the US needs a pint of blood and every day over 38,000 blood donations are needed. We have posted online information about blood drives and a checklist on how to organize a blood drive.

The Committee has also created a brochure to help squadrons correctly prepare a Community Service Scrapbook. Too many times squadrons our actually creating a Squadron Memory Book. Squadron scrapbooks should only contain information about community service projects that the squadron has done. It should include articles about thee projects and pictures labeled so that the viewer knows what's going on in the picture. This brochure will be posted

online at the National website under Community Service.

As your National Chairman, I am asking that you support these and the other National projects. Let's make Maryland the strongest Detachment in the Nation when it comes to Community Service.

Sincerely  
Joe Gladden  
National Chairman

## **Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska**

*(Continued from page 1)*

official seals and Boy Scouts of America. What many of our citizens and members do not realize when these cases are in the news is that these lawyers are entitled to our tax dollars to litigate these cases. The passage of this bill would not allow future use of our tax dollars in these circumstances. Unfortunately, this legislation is languishing in House and Senate committees. S.415 and H.R. 725 need to be passed; otherwise, harassing lawsuits that allege civil-rights violations from the public expression of religion will continue to be filed. Contact your local representatives and ask them to support passage of the Veterans Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals and Other Public Expressions of Religion Protection Act.

### **Supporting our Troops in Iraq and**

**Afghanistan:** S.A.L. Members who love auto racing have a rare opportunity to see their name or the name of their squadron on the hood of the American Legion 76 Freedom Car show car. At the same time, they can help lighten the load for U.S. troops currently serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. American Legion Racing is sponsoring Operation Freedom Car by sending bottles of "4 in 1" hygiene care to troops serving overseas. The concentrated liquid is four products in one: shampoo, conditioner, body wash and shave, in one travel-sized bottle.

The 76 Freedom Car team hopes to send 5,000 cases to deployed troops this year. Each case contains 12 "4 in 1" bottles. For every \$100.00 donated, a case of "4 in 1" will be sent to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Every shipment will contain a letter of appreciation and a list of all the members of the Legion Family or individuals who contributed \$100.00 to the Operation Freedom Car project. In addition, all Legion Family posts, squadrons, and units or individuals donating \$100.00 or more will have their names displayed on the hood of the American Legion 76 Freedom Car show car throughout 2009. Anyone who participates will receive certificates recognizing them as honorary associate sponsors of the American Legion 76 Freedom Car. To contribute \$100.00 or more to Operation Freedom Car, make checks payable to; Team Johnson Motorsports, P.O. Box 919, Mooresville, North Carolina 28115.

**Maryland Veterans Honored:** I found this item of interest on the National Online Update sponsored by The American Legion which identifies local veterans being honored and is a way for anyone who would like to take a proactive effort in thanking our nation's Army Veterans and assisting America's Soldiers in thanking those who support them. The project is the U.S. Army's Freedom Team Salute program that was launched in May of 2005. Any Army veteran, parent,

spouse, supporter or employer of National Guardsmen or Reservist can receive a Freedom Team salute commendation. The article I found displayed the Army's Team Director, Col. Dave Griffith, presenting commendations to centenarian, Bartolo Trimboli, 100, of Potomac, Md. and three other veterans from Maryland on Veterans Day at a ceremony hosted by Vietnam Memorial American Legion Post No.295 in Gaithersburg, Md. For more details on Freedom Team Salute, to request materials for an event, or to honor someone, contact Freedom Team Salute online at [www.freedomssalute.com](http://www.freedomssalute.com) or via e-mail at [infor@freedomsteamsalute.com](mailto:infor@freedomsteamsalute.com).

**Detachment Convention:** The 36th Annual Detachment Convention is going to return to Frederick, Maryland on June 26-28, 2009. The meetings will again be hosted at Francis Scott Key Post No. 11 along with the Superstar Competition and Horseshoe Tournament. The Bowling Tournament will return to Walkersville Bowling lanes, the Pool Tournament to Belles Sports Bar, and the Golf Tournament to the Maple Run Golf Course. Housing has been secured at the Quality Inn-Frederick. The room rates are \$84.00 per night plus 9% tax. Complete packages will be mailed in January, 2009.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska, Detachment Adjutant

## **VAVS Variety by Tom Deal**

The holiday season is upon us. Make it a point to visit with some veterans this holiday season. Plan a ward party or just stop in and visit. The staff at all the centers will assist you in getting together with veterans or helping plan a party. The Holiday Gift programs at the centers are a great way to send donations for the veterans. The Centers are planning on giving out the gift bags on Christmas Eve again this year. If you would like to help distribute the gifts, contact the center you would like to help to get the exact times. It is a very rewarding time to see

their faces when the veterans get the bags full of goodies. We are encouraging you to visit any day you can. It doesn't have to be Christmas Eve. They would love to see visitors Christmas Day, also. If your holiday season is just too full you can always plan for something in January or February, after all the rush of people and parties is over, let's not forget our Vets after the holidays, they need visits all year long.

My phone number is 410-642-2561 and my e-mail is [tom.deal@verizon.net](mailto:tom.deal@verizon.net) feel

free to ask any question or to offer assistance or an idea.

Serving all Veterans

Tom Deal

VAVS Chairman

# District News

## Northern Central News

North Central District participated in the Perry Point Carnival on September 20, 2008. We cooked and served around 500 hamburgers for our Hospitalized Veterans. I want to thank everyone that came out and helped. The carnival was a big success and our hamburgers were enjoyed by all. Our annual campout was held on September 26 - 28, 2008 at Camp Alkor. We had our first NCD meeting at the camp on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at 2:00 P.M. The meeting was well attended and we accomplished a lot. We served a spaghetti dinner after the meeting and want to thank Shelly Matoska for making her tasty spaghetti sauce. I want to thank everyone who helped with Camp Alkor and for all the meals that were donated, prepared and served. Camp Alkor was a success in spite of the rain. Fun was had by all! We had a meeting on Sunday, November 23, 2008 at Parkton Post #256. At that meeting we had a Turkey Shoot, a fundraiser for my Commander's Project, Vet Dogs. I want to thank Parkton Squadron for hosted the meeting and having the Turkey Shoot to help raise money for my Commander's Project. On December 21, 2008, we will have our Annual Christmas Party at McVets. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> NCD meeting will be at Essex Post #148 on February 15, 2009.

Also mark on your calendars our NCD Atlantic City Bus Trip on April 4, 2009. See Bob Snukis or me for tickets. Please try to attend these important meetings and activities.

Regarding my commander's project "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!

I want to congratulate all seventeen Squadrons in North Central District for the great job they have been doing with membership. We have been #1 in membership since September and every Squadron is ahead in their membership from last year. Great job, Jerry Saunders, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander!

Be sure to fly your flag.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America.!

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec. 21, 2008 McVets  
Christmas Party - 11:00 A.M.

Feb. 15, 2009 3<sup>rd</sup> NCD  
Meeting at Essex Post #148 - 1:00 P.M..

Feb. 22, 2009 Pool  
Tournament at Havre de Grace Billiards Club - 11:00 A.M.

April 4, 2009 Atlantic City  
Bus Trip - 11:00 A.M.

April 19, 2009 4<sup>th</sup> NCD  
Meeting & NCD Picnic at Edgewood Post #17 - 1:00 P.M.

Forever in Service to Our God and Our Country,

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

## Western Maryland Tribune

Greetings and Happy Holidays to everyone. I would like to thank Commander Gray and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Deal for visiting our District on November 16<sup>th</sup> at Cascade Squadron #239. Our meeting was very successful as they interacted with our members and there was a lot of discussion and information sharing. This was one of the most productive meetings we have had in awhile.

Cascade Squadron #239 will be having a Christmas Party for an estimated 200

children in the community at one of the local schools on Saturday, December 6, 2008. The event begins at 11 AM, but they will be gathering at the Post at 10 AM to gather all of the supplies, etc. Santa Bob will be greeting the children in a sleigh. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Bob Trueblood. If you can't make it to that event, then you may want to attend the Shrimp Feast that evening @ 6 PM held by Sykesville Squadron #223. Food is from 6 - 8 and a dance will be from 8 - 12 with Dixie Wind. Tickets are \$35/

person. Call William Spurrier for tickets. All contact numbers are in the Blue Book.

Please feel free to join us at our next meeting on Sunday, February 8, 2009 at Gold Star Squadron #191 (Mt. Airy, MD) at 1:00 PM.

Yours in service,  
Michael Mandish  
Western MD District Commander

## **Northeastern Shore Gazette**

As of 11-14-08, the Northeastern Shore District is in third place with the help of squadron 296 & 278. The growth of the Sons of the American Legion depends on our membership. We can only grow through membership. If every member for the district would make an effort to sign up one new member, this year, we would double our district membership. We could really make a difference.

As I continue to make my visits to each

squadron, please know that I appreciate all of the hard work that you have done for this Detachment and the local programs that we are supporting. I am asking the DEC's to get and out and visit the various squadrons this year and get more information to you and back to the district. Continue to check the web site; Bear has done an outstanding job updating this. <http://squadron135.tripod.com/NESD>. If you have a fundraiser or an event at your Post, email

us at [NESD@aol.com](mailto:NESD@aol.com) and Bear will put it on the web page.

If you have any questions or concerns or even suggestions, you may contact me at 410-829-9974 or email me at [JKJ44@aol.com](mailto:JKJ44@aol.com),

Yours in Service,  
Ken Jones  
NESD Commander

## **Southern Maryland Times**

We are now getting into the holiday season and we spend more time with our family and friends, but let's not forget about our great American Legion Family programs. Don't forget our Veterans, active duty military, their families and those less fortunate in our community this time of the year.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southern Md. District Draw Down was a great success. Congratulations to Clinton Squadron #259 and Shawn Doll from Squadron #40 who split the \$1,000 grand prize. Everyone talked about what a great time they had. Much thanks goes to

Commander Hall and the rest of Squadron #40 for sponsoring such a wonderful event. Thanks also to Unit and Post #40 for all their help and use of the hall. Start making plans now for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Draw Down.

Membership: Our District is already surpassed our Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> target date of 45% but some of our Squadrons are still way behind and we still have four Squadrons who have sent in no membership at all. Let's get that membership off the desk and into Headquarters as soon as possible.

Our next District meeting will be Sunday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at Harry White - Wilmer Post #82 in LaPlata, Md. The Post phone # is 301-932-1399 if you need directions. Our Winter District meeting will be Sunday Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at Howard L. Turner Post #276 in Severn, Md. The Post Phone # is 410-969-8028 if you need directions. Merry Christmas and Happy holidays to everyone, and I hope to see you at a meeting soon.

Yours In Service  
Tom Eloshway  
SMD Commander

## **South Eastern Shore Reporter**

To all squadrons of the SESD: Membership update, We are currently in 2nd Place and need to come on strong in order to get 1st place, so let's all rally together to make a big dash to the top. Also I would like to see more attendance at our district meetings. We need the input of all squadrons in order to carry out the business of the District.

SESD Christmas Party will be held at Spirit of Democracy Post #145 1216

Jersey Road Salisbury, Maryland on December 14, 2008 at 1 P.M. Tickets are \$10.00 each. For tickets contact LaVaugh Price at 410-430-2280.

As Chairman for Toys for Tots for the District I am asking all squadrons if they are able to give a donation for the Toys for Tots program. You may contact me at 410-603-2853 for further information and deadline. Also thanks to SAL Squadron #145 for their donation of

\$2,500.00 to the Toys for Tots Program in 2007, which was an over site on the 2007 Toys for Tots Report.

For God and Country

John E. Jones Jr.  
South Eastern Shore District Commander  
410-603-2853  
[jjones4749@aol.com](mailto:jjones4749@aol.com)

## **Legislative by Bill Stem**

With the passing of the Slots Bill, it puts a new slant on machines at Legion homes. Though last year the bill to allow slots at statewide Legions was held up due to the Referendum, this year the word is that the legislature may use it as an excuse to remove slots form existing Legions. We have to stay vigilant on this matter

and contact our representatives to inform them of the good these machines have done for the many charities we support and how much more we could do with all Legions participating.

If you have any questions or any information to past along, please do not

hesitate to contact me at Email: [wstem84809@aol.com](mailto:wstem84809@aol.com), Cell: 410 598-9355, Home: 410 526-6559.

Your in Service  
Bill Stem 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.salmd.org](http://www.salmd.org)



## **NEC News** by Andy Dadds National Executive Committeemen

I bring you greetings from National Commander Tommy Cisna. On October 10-11, 13 members from the Detachment traveled to Indy to attend the Fall NEC. During the 2 days we attended the various commission and committee meetings.

As you all know, membership is always a concern, especially when the economy is not stable. Our membership is doing well; we are in 11<sup>th</sup> place in the Nation at 42.368% of goal and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Eastern Region. Thanks go out to the Squadrons for sending in their membership. Please renew those members that have not renewed from last year, so we can increase our renewal rate, which stands at 89.88%. When

sending in your membership, remember to include the date of birth, so the National Organization can compile this information to determine the average age of our membership. Stress the importance of our organization to your members and remember we are Proud Processors of a Priceless Heritage. The National theme this year is “Golf, let’s all score a hole in one with membership. “ Highlights of accomplishments from last year’s reporting are as follows: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitations 47 registered representatives and 277,782 volunteer hours, 14,474 visits made and \$1,460,135 in cash and donations. Children & Youth single largest contributor of the Child Welfare Foundation with over \$332,426 in

donations and over \$858,304 in support of other children & youth programs. Americanism replaced 10,589 flags and sponsored 504 boys at Boys State.

Past National Commander Ray Giehll presented a special Commander’s award to Junior PDC Bear for signing up the Governor and VA Chairman of Maryland as members and also to Cecil Squadron #15 for their work in raising money for Cecil Co. Special Olympics. Congratulations to Junior PDC Bear and Squadron #15.

Yours In Service  
Andy Dadds  
NEC