



The Pride



Volume 2008, Issue 3 January 25, 2009

Editor: Bill Matoska Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

Commander's Corner by Mike Gray

Greeting Comrades

I hope everybody had a great holiday season, with that past us now we head into the second half of our year.

A few weeks ago I had the great privilege of helping Santa deliver toys to the community of Cascade MD. What a treat it was for me. Santa picked up my boys and myself and allowed us to ride his sleigh to deliver the toys. The joy and smiles on the faces of those children is something I will never forget. My hat is off to Squadron # 239 in Cascade for this program. They definitely make a

difference in their community.

Our membership is having a record breaking year. We have exceeded all the goals set by national so far, and I hope that trend continues. We are ahead of last year's membership on the same date by almost 1000 members. This is one of the hardest times of our year getting those last few members to pay their dues. Let's keep up the hard work and get those members in to Department.

We now have some important fund raising events coming up for our project

Winter Issue

this year, The Hemophilia Foundation of Maryland " Sons Sending Kids To Camp " The first one coming up is a Pot Luck Dinner and Karaoke night at Guy C. Parlett Post #7 in Crownsville on January 24, 2009, the cost is \$12 in advance or \$14 at the door. There is also a hotel available right down the street with a discounted rate for those that wish to spend the night. For more information on this event please contact Buddy Mastin at 443-370-7870.

The second event is a \$ 1,000 Draw Down and Night at the Races. This event will be held at Susquehanna Post # 135 on March 7, 2009. The cost for this event is \$ 35 a couple, and includes admission for 2, dinner for 2, and limited open bar. The evening events feature horse

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Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

DEC: The next meeting for the Detachment of Maryland Executive Committee is scheduled for January 25, 2009 beginning at 1:00 P.M. with all Commissions and Committees meeting prior to this at 12:00 P.M. The host for this session is Guy C. Parlett Squadron No. 7 at the Legion post home located at 1905 Crownsville Road, Annapolis, Md. 21401 and the post phone number is 410-573-0004. Directions from I-97S; take Exit 5 toward MD-178/Crownsville and stay straight to go onto Generals Highway/MD-178 and after approximately 1.2 miles turn right onto Crownsville Road. The post is located 2.7 miles after turning right at 1905 Crownsville Road.

Final 07-08 Membership & Renewal

Rates: The final statistics for 2008 have just been released. This is considered the final report for 2008 as of December 31, 2008 and is used for all computations for award purposes on the national level. Congratulations are in order for Junior Past Commander Bear

and Commander Gray for achieving another "All Time High" in the Detachment of Maryland with 15, 449 members which is 100.691% from the previous year with a retention rate of 90.44%.

On behalf of Commanders Bear and Mike Gray a "Job well Done" and thank you go out to all of the

Membership Chairmen throughout the Detachment of Maryland.

Convention: Convention packages will be available for distribution at the January 25th DEC meeting and will be mailed to all squadrons not in attendance as soon as we receive the 2009 Consolidated Report Forms from National headquarters. For your convenience the complete registration and informational package for this 36th Annual Detachment Convention has been posted to the detachment web site which is mdsal.org. I want to thank PNC Bill Sparwasser for

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Commander's Corner by Mike Gray

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racing, \$ 1,000 Draw Down, Chinese Auction, Cake Wheel, and Wheels of Fortune. You do not have to be in attendance to win the money. There will also be other cash prizes awarded to every 10th number drawn with the 50th number winning \$250, the 100th

number drawn winning \$350, and the 150th number drawn will win \$1,000. There is also a hotel available right down the street with a discounted rate for those that wish to spend the night. This event has always been a lot of fun for all those who have attended in the past 2 years this event was held. For more information on this event please

contact Tom Deal @ 410-642-2561.

Please support these events. The money raised will help send Maryland Children with Hemophilia to camp.

Yours in Service
Michael Gray
Detachment Commander

We Treasure Membership by Mark Gilbert

Ahoy Pirates of the Chesapeake. First of all I want to congratulate the crews that have reached Three and Four Star status. The Three Star Squadrons are #21 Clarence E. Wilson, #172 Beltway, and #196 Suitland. The Four Star Squadrons are #126 My Maryland, #180 Rosedale, #189 Barton, #263 Jackson & Johnson, #295 Vietnam Veterans. I know that there will be more squadrons at Three and Four Star status on the next report. Keep up the good work.

Also, congratulations to all the squadrons for making the Detachment not only reach the January 14th target of 60%, but getting us to 73.8% (as of the 12/31/2008 report). We only need 3,647 more crew members to meet the Department goal of 14,040. At the rate

we are going, I believe we can go over 15,000 crew members this year.

Now for the Crew Race update. Once again, the NCD Crew and Commander Larry Ford are at the top with 76.5% earning 7 more points. Commander Ken Jones has the NESD crew moving closer to first with 73.5% and getting 6 points. SMD crew with Commander Tom Eloshway is back up to third this report at 67.4% with 5 points. Commander John Jones and the SESD crew have slid to fourth place at 65.7% earning 5 points. BD crew led by Commander Fred Bennett is at 64.4%, Commander Mike Mandish and the WMD crew are at 63.5%, and the MD crew with Commander William Riggleman have 54.2%. Each of these crews have picked

up 3 points.

As the report shows, all but one of the squadrons has reached the January 14th goal of 60%. Mountain District has two weeks to make up 5.8% to get the all Detachment Districts to goal. I'm sure Commander Riggleman and his crew will meet this challenge.

A right hand salute from The Crows Nest on a great job so far!

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 over, our relatives have finally gone home, and it is now time to get back to work shedding a few pounds supporting the C&Y programs of the Legion Family. Yes, we always think of our children at Christmas, but there are children in our communities that need our support year round. First there is the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge weekend where Commander Gray, other SAL and Legion Family members and I will take the plunge at Sandy Point State Park on Friday, January 23rd at 4:00 P.M. which is identified as the "Tribute to Veterans" plunge. They will also need volunteer help Thursday and Friday the 22nd and 23rd with setup, Saturday at the plunge, and Sunday with tear down and cleanup. If you are interested in volunteering contact our Special Olympics volunteer

coordinator Don Hall Jr. at dhall@colonialelec.com.

This is going to be a busy weekend. We are also having a Hemophilia Foundation Fundraiser Saturday Jan. 24th at Post 7 in Annapolis. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$14 that night. We have secured a block of rooms at the Country Inn and Suites, 1 mile from the Post for \$89 a night. You can come to the fundraiser have a great time, stay the night and be up early for the DEC Sunday at Post 7. There will also be a Hemophilia Foundation Fundraiser, a Draw Down at Post 135, Saturday March 7th. Tickets are \$35 each and for more info, contact Tom Deal.

We have the Special Olympics Deep Creek Dunk Saturday Feb. 28th at Deep

Creek Lake. They also have the Winter Games starting that Sunday March 1st through Tuesday March 3rd at Ski Wisp. We need a lot of volunteer help at this event so if you could help, please let us know. If you do not contact Don Hall at least one week before the games and let him know how many people you have coming, you will not be guaranteed a room. Also, let's not forget our other great C&Y programs and please keep track of your Squadrons volunteer hours and monetary donations and list them on your yearend reports. We need to let the world know what our great organization does for our community.

Yours In Service
Buddy Mastin
Children & Youth Chairman

Americanism Report by Ken Jenkins

Flag Replacement Contest

This year the top two Squadrons in flag replacements for this year will be receiving special prizes.

The Squadron with the most flag replacements will receive ...

The Spirit of Freedom American Bald Eagle Sculpture

The sculpture stands 7 ½” high clutching a 2008 Uncirculated Presidential dollar coin clad in mg pure 24kt gold

The second place Squadron will receive...

24kt 5th Anniversary World Trade Center

Commemorative Coin

Youth Essay Contest

Dave Tatman, Sub-committee Chairman, has set-up the requirements for the Youth Essay Contest...Essay title: *What my parent’s military service means to me.*

Contest is now open to all Auxiliary Junior members as well as SAL junior members.

Essays must be between 50 and 200 words.

Judging will be in three age categories

1. 6 to 9
2. 10 to 13
3. 14 and above

All essays must be submitted by May 29,2009. A plaque and a \$50 gift certificate will be awarded to the Winner in each category

Send entries to ...
Dave Tatman
6402 Ocelot St.
Waldorf, Md. 20603
Email: dtatman@msn.com

For God and Country,
Ken Jenkins II
Americanism Chairman

Community Service by Bob Trueblood

Well, the Christmas Season and holidays have once again, come and gone and a new year has begun. Many Squadrons have been very active in their communities with Christmas Parties for the children. Bringing joy to children that might not have had a Christmas was the main objective of the Toys for Tots Program.

Cascade Squadron #239 held their annual Christmas party and Toys for Tots drive on Saturday, December 20, 2008. Work on this project began back in September, when the children returned to school for the new school year. Each child wrote a letter to Santa with its Christmas wishes listed. The Elves at Cascade Squadron #239 began running different fundraisers and toy drives to collect toys and money to purchase toys for this event. With the assistance of Gold Star Squadron #191, they collected enough toys for every child in the school and their siblings, that weren’t in school. Commander Mike Gray and his family

made a special visit and they were able to hitch a ride in Santa’s Sleigh pulled by his trusty steeds, to the school. This has become a Commander’s Tradition for the Detachment of Maryland.

Gold Star Squadron #191 held their annual Children’s Christmas Party on Saturday, December 13, 2008, with a Magician and a visit from Jolly Old St. Nick who gave each child a bag filled with goodies and surprises. The remainder of the bags were given to the Raven’s Roost and Frederick Memorial Hospital E.R. Gold Star Squadron #191 collected 600 toys for the Toys for Tots Program which were distributed to Cascade Elementary School and the Appalachian Outreach Mission for the children in the Appalachian Mountain Region.

Several Squadrons in the Northern Central District participated in the Toys for Tots drive this year, as well as the Detachment of Maryland.

Although I don’t have the exact number of toys that were collected, the program seems to be growing from year to year. Ed Steininger will have those numbers in his report.

The Northern Central District held their annual Christmas Party for the residents of MCVETS on Sunday, December 21, 2008. Members and their families totaling 10, were on hand to serve dinner and provide Christmas music to 100 Veterans at the center.

Squadron #135 participated in delivering gifts to the Veterans at Perry Point V.A. Hospital on Christmas Eve.

Mark your calendars for March 7, 2009. Overlea-Perry Hall Squadron #130 will be holding a Community Blood Drive from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. The greatest gift that you can give is the gift of Life. Donate your blood so that someone may live!

Time and Place by Bill Stem

2009 Convention packets will be going out after the first of the year. We are already looking for options for the 2010 convention.

I will be contacting District Commanders

with convention requirement forms. If you have any suggestions or questions about the convention being in your area, please contact me.

Email: wstem84809@aol.com

For God and Country
Bill Stem
Chairman

Commander's Project by Ken Jones

Commander Mike Gray would like to thank everyone who had donated to the Hemophilia Foundations "Sending Kids to Camp." Donation letters have been sent to every American Legion Post, Squadron and Auxiliary Units asking for donations. If you can remind your Post, Squadron and Auxiliary of this worthwhile program, it would help in sending a child from Maryland to camp.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 7, 2009. We will repeat the " \$1,000.00 Draw Down and Night at the Races." We

will have horse races, \$1,000 draw down with every 10th number wins \$35, except the 50th number, which wins \$250, the 100th number wins \$350 and the 150th number wins \$1000. There will be a Wheel of Fortune, a Chinese Auction and cake wheel. Only 150 tickets will be sold at \$35 each which admits 2 for dinner, draft beer, soda and limited open bar. For tickets and information, call Mike Gray at 443-807-6246, Tom Deal at 410-642-2561 or myself at 410-829-9974. Rooms can be reserved at the Ramada Inn in Perryville at

discounted rates.

This is one way we can help "Send Kids to Camp" and have an enjoyable evening while doing it.

If you plan on having an event to support this project, let me know and we will put it on the web site.

Yours in Service,
Ken Jones
410-829-9974

National Emergency Fund Report by Dave Hullihen

Well here I go again trying to inform you that more money is needed for NEF. As most of you know, we did very well collecting donations at the last DEC meeting in Ocean City, but I know we can do a lot better. We collected some big money from just a couple of squadrons, so that tells me there are quite a few squadrons that have yet to donate. I am sure that you are all making other donations for other causes which is great, but the NEF Foundation still needs

us.

I was just reading where there may be more flooding in the Midwest due to all the snow they had, and now with the warm weather it is melting fast and they are now afraid of flooding in these areas. So I am asking once again for donations. Please feel free to call me or e-mail me if you are not sure where to donate, my number and e-mail are in the blue book.

I am also chairman of the Boys Scouts this year. I talked about this at the last meeting and left pamphlets as to how to get a Scout Troop started within your post. If you were not there, be sure to contact me and I will see that you get all the information needed for this. Thank you and I hope everyone had a great Holiday.

Dave Hullihen
NEF Chairman

Toys For Tots by Ed Steininger

Happy New Year to All:

I don't know about the rest of the detachment, but I do know that half of our detachment had a very successful toy campaign this year. I want to thank each and every squadron and member that once again supported this cause.

Each year we do more and more, just getting better and better. Yet each year we get one coordinator, who doesn't know us or what we can do, and want to be assured that the "Toys for Tots" logo and name are being used properly. Well by becoming more involved each year, I am finding out just how much the Toys for Tots Program is being abused, leaving a black cloud over the U.S.M.C. Reserves. Many precautions are put into place, and we follow those guidelines set forth.

All that I can say is that we made two believers in our effort this year. Thanks to all who brought donations to our December meeting in Ocean City. I don't know if it was the over 300 toys that we turned over, or the more than \$3000.00 donated to their campaign, but our two guests, representing the Marine Corps League of the Lower Eastern Shore, could not say enough about our efforts. They couldn't believe the introduction and reception given them by our organization. We have earned their respect. They could not say "Thank You" enough.

Now, while it is still fresh, document all information, toys collected, who distributed or turned over to, and the number of man hours, etc.

Bring it up on the floor at your Squadron

meeting under C&Y business, get it documented and follow through at the end of the year, making sure that it gets on your yearly report, or e-mail me with the results and I will make sure that we get credit for it. Just remember that not reported is the same as nothing done.

Thank you for all that you did, and just remember all of the children that got a Christmas this year because of your efforts.

Ed Steininger, Sr.
Steininger_7@msn.com
Chairman and Co-coordinator
Toys for Tots

Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

(Continued from page 1)

lending assistance in updating the detachment web site in the interim while PDC Bear recovers from his fall. Please note the cut-off date for all registrations is May 29, 2009 in order to guarantee receiving a convention program and to receive the reduced rates as listed on each registration sheet. Remember, all squadrons will be assessed convention delegate fees regardless of attendance to the convention.

The delegate strength of each squadron will be calculated based on the membership statistics as of close of business on May 29, 2009.

Convention Golf Tournament: Plans for The Robert "Hoss" Neal Annual Golf Tournament have been completed by Tournament Chairman, Jeff Seiler, from Francis Scott Key Squadron No. 11. Jeff reports the tournament will be held at VFW Post 3285 on June 26, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. The address is 5901 Old National Pike, Frederick, Md. 21702, and the phone number of the club is 301-663-3372. The VFW Golf Course is 1.3 miles from the convention hotel and the Golf pro there is Gary Chapman. The cost is \$60.00 per person for \$240.00

per team. Jeff is working on a prize package for the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place team finishers along with longest drive and closest to the pin. Additionally, Jeff is working on items for a gift bag for each golfer as well as food items and refreshments at the turn. To facilitate this, sponsors for each hole will be sold for \$50.00 each and if wanted the sponsor can have their sign at the end of the tournament. There will also be a 50/50 for golfers and every person is allowed to buy 2 mulligans that can be used anywhere except the tee off on par 3's and prize holes. A registration form will be forth coming and posted on the detachment web page. For any additional information or questions contact Jeff Seiler at jefsei@safeco.com.

Washington Conference: The 49th Annual Washington Conference will be held March 1-4, 2009 at the Renaissance Washington D.C. Hotel, 999 9th St. NW, Washington D.C. Detachment Commander Mike Gray will be laying a wreath at the Maryland Monument located at the World War II Memorial on Sunday, March 1, 2009 while participating with the bus tour of national monuments sponsored by the National S.A.L. Legislative Commission. The tour begins with S.A.L. National

Commander, Tommie Cisna, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery at 3:15 P.M. The Detachment of Maryland will have a contingent of members attend the memorial tour on Sunday in support of Commander Gray and to attend the brief ceremony at the Maryland Memorial. For more information or questions and to get car pooling schedule contact PDC Joe Gladden at joeglad123@aol.com.

Member Training & Development: Please be advised that Committee Chairman, Bill Sparwasser, is available to visit any squadron or district function interested to become more proficient administratively. Additionally, Bill has completed a power point presentation regarding these processes and has developed a question and answer seminar to help each squadron or district when filling in the Consolidated Report Form. If interested contact either myself or Bill directly at wlspar@aol.com to schedule a visit to your area.

Yours In Service,
Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant

VAVS Variety by Tom Deal

The holiday season is over and I hope you were able to visit with some veterans this holiday season. The Holiday Gift programs at the centers were a great success for the veterans. The gift bags handed out made a lot of happy faces. If your holiday season was just too full you can always plan for something for the upcoming spring months. Lets not forget our Veterans after holidays; they need visits all year long. National Veterans Assistance Day is May 16, 2009.

Promote this day at you Post and in your community, show respect for the grateful nations veterans and the role they had in securing our freedoms. There are plenty of programs to support; Fisher House, Hero's to Hometown, Veterans Suicide Prevention, Bowling Veterans League, National Education for Assistance Dog Service (NEADS), Homeless Veteran initiatives and the Creative Arts Festival in addition to all our centers: Perry Point VA Center, Baltimore VA Medical Center,

BRECC, MCVET, and Charlotte Hall Nursing Home. I hope you will pick a project and make a donation.

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

NEC News by Andy Dadds

(Continued from page 8)

Question: We took some pictures at our last fund raising event, what should we do with them?

Answer: You should take them to your

local newspaper with a short article about your event. How many attended, monies raised and the organization your event assisted. You can also send this information to the Sons of The American Legion Update Editor.

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

Yours In Service
Andy Dadds
NEC

District News

Northern Central News

I hope everyone had a Blessed Holiday and I wish all of you a Happy New Year! We had a Turkey Shoot, after our November 23th meeting at Parkton Post #256 and \$100 was raised for my Commander's Project, VetDogs. Thank you Parkton for your hospitality.

On December 21, 2008 we had our annual Christmas Party at McVets. We served quite a few meals and the veterans were very appreciative. I want to thank everybody who came out to help. A job well done guys!

Our 3rd NCD meeting will be at Essex Post #148 on February 15, 2009 at 1:00 P.M. The annual pool tournament will be at Havre de Grace Billiards Club starting at 11:00 P.M. See Jerry Saunders for details. Also mark on your calendars the NCD Atlantic City Bus Trip on April 4, 2009. This will be our big fundraiser for VetDogs. Please support this event. We would like to fill the bus. For further details or tickets see me or Bob Snukis. Please try to attend the NCD 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!

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 the very beginning of the year and every Squadron is ahead in their membership from last year. We already have two 4 Star Squadrons, Rosedale #180 and Jackson and Johnson #263 and many Squadrons close to becoming 3 Star and/or 4 Star. I am so proud of each and every Squadron in NCD and want to personally say thank you for all your hard work!

Be sure to fly your flag.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Feb. 15, 2009 3rd 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 19, 2009 4th NCD Meeting & NCD Picnic at Edgewood Post #17 - 1:00 P.M.

May 9, 2009 Annual NCD Bike Ride - 9:00 A.M.

May 16, 2009 Atlantic City Bus Trip—11:00 A.M. depart/11:00 P.M. return

May 29, 2009 All Squadron Reports Due into District Chairman

June 6, 2009 District Rally at Joseph L. Davis Post #47 - 6:00 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: lafstd@comcast.net

Northeastern Shore Gazette

I hope that everyone had a Happy Holiday.

Congratulations are in order for the District, we have no goose eggs and we are in second place in membership. Let's all make an effort to get those renewals in. If someone shows an interest in joining the Sons of the American Legion, take some time and effort to explain what we are all about.

Our District meetings could be better attended. We all can change that if you bring a member from your Squadron, We need the input of all squadrons in order to carry out the business of the District. Our District meeting schedule is: February 15 at Chestertown Post #36, 10:30 a.m., June 7 10:30 a.m. at Susquehanna Post #135.

If you are having an event at your Squadron and want to advertise it, let

Bear know and he can put it on the web page, The great thing about it is it does not cost a dime.

Hope to see you at our next District meeting on February 15 at Chestertown.

Yours in Service,
Ken Jones
NESD Commander

Western Maryland Tribune

Happy New Year. There is nothing new to report as we have not had a District meeting since the last DEC meeting. Our next meeting will be February 8, 2008 at 1 PM and is being hosted by Gold Star Squadron #191 in Mt. Airy, MD. Please

feel free to join us at this meeting. Bill Kolb (#121), a Detachment Executive Committee representative for our district, is currently recovering from surgery. Please keep Bill in your thoughts and prayers.

Yours in service,
Michael Mandish
Western MD District Commander

Southern Maryland Times

I hope everyone had a great time during the Christmas holidays. I look forward to 2009 being a great year helping our Veterans and communities. Our Winter District meeting will be Sunday Feb. 8th at Howard L. Turner Post #276 in Severn. The Post phone # is 410-969-8028, if you need directions. Congratulations to Squadrons 126 and 295 who reached 4 Star and Squadrons 126 and 172 who reached 3 Star by Jan. 1st, keep up the good work. Our next

membership goal is 60% by Jan. 14th. Even though SMD District is in third place at 67%, we still have 14 Squadrons under 60%. It is time to start sending that membership in. Every Squadron should have a membership team in place that is working those phones, especially those Squadrons who are not at our goal.

Jan. 24th. For more info please read the C&Y article.

Please remember, now is the time to start collecting all the info for your Squadron consolidated reports, which will be due in, May.

Please support the SAL Hemophilia Foundation Fundraiser at Post #7 on

Yours In Service
Tom Eloshway
SMD Commander

Child Welfare Foundation by Larry Ford

To raise money for the Child Welfare Foundation this year we will be selling CWF Coins and CWF 2008 Christmas Ornaments. They are great collector's items. The CWF Coin and Christmas Ornament are very handsome looking and we will be selling them for \$10 a piece. Anyone who is interested in purchasing these items please let me

know by email: lafitd@comcast.net or by phone (cell: 443-413-4710 or home: 410-529-1892).

worth while programs have been sponsored with the money that has been raised for the Child Welfare Foundation. Let's make the Detachment of Maryland one of the top givers to CWF this year!

At our next D.E.C. Meeting at Guy C. Parlett Post #7 on Sunday, January 25, 2009, I will have the CWF Coins and Christmas Ornaments available for purchase. Please open your wallets and give generously for a good cause. Many

Yours in Service,
Larry Ford, Chairman
Child Welfare Foundation

Casey Cares by Larry Griffin

I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Holiday. I would like to Thank You for all the donations you made at the last D.E.C. I have listed the 1st Casey Cares Event for the 2009 year. I hope some of you can attend.

When: Feb 6, 2009, 7:00pm - 11:00pm
Who: Single, Couples, Whatever. Just go.
Tickets are \$65.00 in advance and \$75.00 at the door. Entrance fee includes food, and open bar.
Join Baltimore Magazine at the Center Club for entertainment, cocktails, lounge, and free parking for a good cause!!

place on Saturday March 28, 2009 6:30 PM-12 AM at Grand Lodge Bonnie Blink 304 International Circle Hunt Valley, Maryland 21030. This year's theme will be Masquerade. Tickets for this event are \$125.00, but well worth the cost. And besides, it's for the kids.

Catch (the party)
Where: Mosaic Lounge, 4 Market Place, Baltimore, MD 21202

The Annual Casey Cares Gala will take

A portion of the proceeds benefits our programs for critically ill children.

Legislative by Bill Stem

With the 2009 Legislative Session coming up, this is the Legion's legislative agenda...

Eastern Shore Counties.

earnings.

1. Authorize all not-for-profit veterans organizations in Western Shore Counties and in Baltimore City to operate and maintain slots following the same procedures presently authorized for

2. Authorize a permanent exemption of payment for Retail Sales and Use Taxes by not-for-profit organizations.

Please contact your local Legislators and State Senators and tell them to endorse these programs.

3. Exempt military retirees residing in the state from payment of State Income Tax on all their military retirement

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



NEC News by Andy Dadds National Executive Committeemen

I bring you greetings from National Commander Tommy Cisna. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year.

The National theme this year is “Golf, let’s all score a hole in one with membership. “ Your membership chairmen have been doing a great job. You have surpassed the national goal of 60% with 61.477% and moved up from 11th to 7th place in the Nation.

Below is a list of FAQ’s that the National Chairmen receive taken from the National Website:

Question: How are unserviceable flags destroyed?

Answer: The Flag Code suggests that, "when a flag has served its useful purpose, it should be destroyed, preferably by burning." For individual citizens, this should be done discreetly so the act of destruction is not perceived as a protest or desecration. Many American Legion Posts conduct Disposal of Unserviceable Flag Ceremonies on

June 14, Flag Day. This ceremony creates a particularly dignified and solemn occasion for the retirement of unserviceable flags.

Question: How will the money donated to Child Welfare get used and to whom?

Answer: We accept proposals from nonprofit organizations for projects which meet one of the Foundation’s two basic purposes:

1. To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and/or their programs designed to benefit youth; and
2. To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children through the dissemination of knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations, to the end that such information can be more adequately used by society.

Question: Why is Community Service important?

Answer: The American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion were founded to support our "Community, State and Nation", and as a non-profit group major goals include making our communities better in any way we can.

Question: What is the purpose of the National Legislative Commission?

Answer: The mission statement of the Sons of The American Legion National Legislative Commission is to have an effective and productive way of communicating with Congress and other elected officials by the use of Grassroots Advocacy. To supply the tools to all members to accomplish this task productively and with the best possible results. To have all members of our organization be active participants. To disseminate legislative information to the entire membership in a timely manner to make them more informed members, along with an awareness of the issues and legislation.

(Continued on page 5)