



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

# “The Pride”

Volume 2010 Issue 5

Convention Issue June 24, 2011

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

## COMMANDER’S CORNER BY TOM DEAL

Comrades

I want to thank everyone for a job well done and a fantastic year. With all your efforts we have exceeded my goal of \$40,000 for the Wounded Warrior Program at the end of April and with two months left where will it end. I have to thank my project chairman JR Hall for all the work he did promoting this worthwhile project. The donations came in from all across the state and from the entire Legion family as well as other organizations. I know a lot of you had a fund raiser for the project and that is the main reason we were able to exceed the goal so early. I really do appreciate all your dedication this year. I enjoyed traveling to the District Receptions this year, meeting some new people and socializing with a lot of friends. I wish I could have made Western Maryland District’s reception but I was in Indianapolis at the

National meeting. PDC Trueblood brought greetings to the district for me. I tried to attend events all across the state this year with April, May and June proving to make me a seasoned traveler. Great job on membership this year, we have a 3 and 4

Star District as of this writing and 4 other districts within 5% of goal. With a last push I believe we can make goal before the National Convention. I was able to attend two Memorial Day ceremonies and both were very well  
*(Continued on page 2)*

## ADJUTANT’S CORNER BY BILL MATOSKA

I want to welcome everyone to this 38th Annual Convention of the Detachment of Maryland. The Hunt Valley Marriott has proven to be an ideal location hosting the various venues the detachment requires to provide the most enjoyable and memorable experience for our members and guests. The transition meeting the detachment had with the Marriott for this year’s convention went without any issues with the Marriott team proving to be very accommodating to all of our needs and requests. Due to their performance the Detachment of Maryland

will be returning to the Marriott here in Hunt Valley in 2012. I want to thank Time & Place Chairman, Bill Stem, for all of his efforts facilitating the Marriott and the following off-site venues for this convention.  
**Meeting Session:** The meeting sessions will again take place here at the Marriott in the Maryland Ball Rooms III & IV. The convention will convene at 8:00 AM on Saturday and will recess at approximately 11:00 AM to allow enough time for everyone to change clothes and move toward their next activity. The convention will re-  
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## CRABBIN' FOR MEMBERSHIP BY BUDDY MASTIN

It is great to see how hard everyone has been working this year 'Crabbin for Membership' and here are the membership totals as of the end of May. The Detachment is at 97.3% and finished the reporting year 121 members ahead of last years' numbers. Congratulations to South Eastern Shore District for achieving 4 Star status at 103% and Southern Maryland for achieving 3 Star status at 106%. I am sure more Districts will have reached 3 or 4 Star by the time you read this. Even though the reporting year has ended we still have another goal of 105% to reach by July 27th 2011. We need to get the rest of our members renewed and we only need 416 members to reach another all-time high. We still have time to get those last few renewals in! If our members are not renewing their membership, we need to find out why. Please take the time and add that personal touch and talk to these members who are not renewing. As of May 20<sup>th</sup>, National had us in 25<sup>th</sup> place at 94.5% and we are in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the East Region. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on membership this year. The race to find the District with the most crabs (members) in their crab pots ended on May 27<sup>th</sup> and the winning District is South Eastern Shore District. They were in 1<sup>st</sup> place all year except for the last two months. Thanks for the hard work and enjoy your bushel of crabs.

Southern Md. finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Northern Central finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Western Md. in 4<sup>th</sup> place, North Eastern Shore in 5<sup>th</sup> place, Mountain in 6<sup>th</sup> place and Baltimore in 7<sup>th</sup>. I hope everyone had fun with our 'Crabbin for Membership' theme this year. I would also like to thank the 35 Squadrons that achieved 4 Star and the 27 Squadrons that achieved 3 Star. That makes 72 Squadrons who increased their membership totals this year. Congratulations for your hard work. Everyone please remember the three R's of membership: Recruit, Retain and Reinstate. Recruit new members, retain the members you already have and reinstate the members that have been gone for more than a year. You can check out how your Squadron did this year with membership at <http://www.mdlegion.org/SALMBRSHP.pdf> I am very proud to have had the opportunity to be your Membership Chairman this year and please always remember that membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Without the membership we wouldn't be able to do all the wonderful things we do supporting our Veterans and the programs of The American Legion Family.

Edward 'Buddy' Mastin  
Membership Chairman, [buddymastin@hotmail.com](mailto:buddymastin@hotmail.com)

## CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER BY KEN JENKINS

I would like thanks all those Squadrons that have donated to the various charities. I would also like all my co-chairman...

Larry Ford – Child Welfare Foundation, Dave Hullihen – Casey Cares, Mark Gilbert – Special Olympics (thanks a lot for getting me in the water at the Plunge), Jon Alexander - Toys for Tots, Joe Weiks – Children's Miracle Network

A special thanks to Eleanor Deal, Commander Tom's better half for the warming Skittles.

Thanks to Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital for the tour

this past year. It was very informative.

On the Child Welfare Foundation, the Pennies for Pounds final weigh-in will be at Convention. The Bike Ride for Casey Cares will be July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Details to follow.

Yours in Service  
Ken Jenkins II,  
C&Y Chairman,  
[kenjen007@yahoo.com](mailto:kenjen007@yahoo.com), 443-204-1776

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

*(Continued from page 1)*

attended and I heard from a lot of others that was the case everywhere. Everywhere I have been I see great volunteers working diligently for our Veterans, the community and their families. The Legion Family attended numerous events this quarter and I was blessed to have such great leaders in Department Commander Mike Mooney and Department

President Patti Lach to work with this year and it made for a very exciting year. I hope everyone turned in a Consolidated Report form this year and I am very much looking forward to the Convention to see all of your accomplishments. I hope to see everyone at convention this year and we can talk about the prosperous year.

Always remember all of our troops in

harm's way serving all over the world. God bless our service members and God bless America.

*Saluting our Wounded Warriors*

Tom Deal  
Commander  
Detachment of Maryland  
Sons of The American Legion  
Cell: 443-206-0402 Home 410-642-2561  
[tom.deal@verizon.net](mailto:tom.deal@verizon.net)

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOUNDATION BY KEN JONES

As we finish this administrative year, let us continue to remember those who are dealing with devastation left behind by man-made and other natural disasters. It is hard for us to comprehend in these modern times the possibility of losing everything to a natural disaster. The National Emergency Fund is set up to help Legion family members stricken by

natural and man-made disasters. More than \$3 million in direct aid has been handed out since the NEF was established.

Thank you to all of the Squadrons who've donated this year and please continue to support this very charitable fund.

If you have any donations, please

bring them to any of the DEC or District meetings. Make sure the checks are made out to the Detachment of Maryland and earmarked NEF.

Yours in Service  
Ken Jones  
Chairman Ken Jones  
Email: JKJ44@AOL.COM

## ADJUTANT'S CORNER BY BILL MATOSKA

*(Continued from page 1)*

convene at the same location at 9:00 AM on Sunday. This session will be preceded by the Memorial Service in the meeting hall beginning at 8:00 AM and is being facilitated by Chaplain, Jeff Seiler. Please be on time if attending.

**Junior Convention:** "The Matthew Buckler Program for Junior Members" will take place in the Garden Room on Saturday, June 25th. All junior members will attend the opening of the Detachment Convention in the Maryland Ballroom and will be released to attend their session by Commander Deal after opening ceremonies. All junior members will then be escorted by Junior Convention Chairman, Bill Sparwasser, and S.A.L. Department Chairman, George Grossnickle, to their area.

**Bowling Tournament:** The Harmison & Whitney Bowling Tournament is scheduled to begin at 12:00 PM sharp and is being held at the Timonium Lanes located at 2165 York Road, Timonium, Md. 21093. Co-Chairman Carol Robinson said the tournament will start on time with or without those that have registered.

**8-Ball Pool Tournament:** This is a double elimination tournament and will begin at 12:30 PM at Johnny C's Arcade & Billiards located at 22 Church Lane, Cockeysville, Md. 21030. See Chairman Jerry Saunders as soon as you arrive so that you can draw

your first match and begin play.

**Horseshoes & Superstars:** Both of these activities will be back at the Westinghouse Pavilion Area at Oregon Ridge Park and are scheduled to begin at 4:30 PM. Jim Alexander is the Horseshoe Tournament Chairman and BJ Sparwasser is chairing the Superstar events. The Detachment of Maryland will once again, **free of charge**, provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and both adult and child beverages for all Legion Family members in attendance. If anyone decides to bring their own refreshments to Oregon Ridge, they must be in boxes or cans. No glass bottles are permitted at the park. The park address is 13401 Beaver Dam Road, Cockeysville, Md. 21030.

**District Hospitality Rooms:** The district hospitality rooms are reserved for both Friday and Saturday evenings beginning at 5:30 PM until midnight. The line up is as follows: Southern Maryland in Salon A, Northern Central in Salon B, North Eastern Shore in Salon C, South Eastern Shore in Salon E, Western Maryland in Salon F, and Squadron #13/Mountain are in the Pimlico Room. These Salons are located on the lower level and can be accessed by using the elevator or stairs from the hotel's room area or by using the escalator right across from the delegate registration counter in the hotel's conference area. Southern Maryland District will once again provide karaoke and other musical

entertainment on Friday evening for everyone's enjoyment compliments of DJ's Ron & Susie from Post 40. Please bring your own refreshments on Friday evening during the entertainment session.

**Member Training & Development:** Commander Deal has requested PNC Bill Sparwasser and his team to offer a Executive Management Session to all of his Detachment Officers with ambitions to move through the Detachment Chairs. This training session will take place on Friday evening from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM in the Garden Room located as soon as you exit the lobby and enter the conference area. As this is the inaugural session for this type training, your feedback would be appreciated.

**2011-2012 Detachment Candidates:** The following individuals have been endorsed by their respective squadrons and districts seeking to hold detachment office for the 2011-2012 administrative year:  
Commander: Edward "Buddy" Mastin  
1st Vice: William Hill  
2nd Vice: William Stem  
3rd Vice: Donald "JR" Hall  
Sgt-At-Arms: Jeffrey Seiler  
Judge Advocate: Daniel Robinson  
Finance: Larry Griffin  
Historian: Bob Filippi  
Chaplain: Kenneth Jenkins

Yours In Service,  
Bill Matoska  
Bill.matoska@comcast.net

## AMERICANISM REPORT BY BILL HILL

The Americanism Commission finished the year with a bang! We've always been a Detachment that shows its great support to all of the Americanism programs. Our success this year was seen in our Consolidated Reports, as we continued to provide support to the Community, State and Nation.

It's never a surprise, but it is just amazing to see how many hours and money we give to the Communities in Maryland and throughout the country. We will once again show the Nation how great the Detachment of Maryland is and when it comes to supporting the programs of the entire American Legion Family, we continue to rally support for all of our programs. You can be very proud of the positive impact we had by reaching out to a local organization and just asking what can we do to help, and supporting a Scout troop, and even donating blood.

## BOYS STATE BY KEN JONES

As we begin our convention, Boys State is winding down it's 75th Anniversary. This Legion program is very rewarding, both mentally and physically to those young men who chose to participate. Graduates from this program, include Tom Brokaw,

Thank you for all of the support you've provided this year!

### Flag Replacement Program

The Detachment continues to sponsor an award to the top Squadron for Flag replacement. We've always have great support for this program. It's proud to see how each participating squadron shows their American Patriotism when they place another flag in the community. We're looking forward to announcing the winners during convention. If you are also looking for a Flag Retirement program/ ceremony, please contact committee chair.

Jim Alexander  
Chairman

### Community Affairs

This program is very broad in range, and is one of the best ways to reach out to your local area and show them the many benefits the Sons of The American Legion provides. We

Wisconsin Governor, Scott Walker, President Bill Clinton, and our own member, PNC Bill Matoska, to name a few. A special Thanks to The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion who volunteered their time this week as

again showed our support and you should be very proud of your squadrons that helped clean up a local park, adopted-a-highway, participated in a church fund raiser, hosted a Christmas Parade for local children or sponsored a local scout troop. My hat is off to the entire Detachment of Maryland. Outstanding job!

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,  
Bill Hill  
Americanism Chairman  
Email: [Hill1062@MSN.COM](mailto:Hill1062@MSN.COM)

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,  
Bill Hill  
Americanism Chairman



counselors to make Boys State a success. Thanks to the Squadrons who sponsored participants.  
Yours in Service, Ken Jones

## COMMUNITY SERVICE BY JEFF SEILER

The Fisher House cookout was another successful event. We were able to cook steaks and crab cakes for all of the Fisher House residences and some Wounded Warriors. We were at the new Fishers Houses on the Bethesda Naval Hospital. They were absolutely beautiful. The weather did no cooperate with us as it was a dreary Saturday, but that did

not stop the Sons of The American Legion from showing up and supporting the Wounded Warriors and the Fisher House residences. We had a great time with all of the people that we met. We reloaded their pantries at all 3 of the new Fisher Houses. Darin Blevins did a fantastic job on cooking the steaks and of course Buddy and his famous

crab cakes were delicious. Thanks to all of the Sons of The American Legion members that made this event a great time for all those that attended the cookout. We will look forward to our next cookout as they are wonderful experience.

Chairman  
Jeffrey Seiler, Detachment Chaplain

## COMMANDER'S PROJECT BY JR HALL

To all our Legion Family, I want to give you out latest update on where we are with the Commander's Project-"The Wounded Warriors Project" for the year. Last June when the project was announced, the Commander and myself set a goal of \$40,000.00 for the year. I am so excited to be able to report that we have passed that goal and are continuing to collect money and move forward. I do not hesitate to think that possibly by convention that \$45,000.00 couldn't be reached. With the program being such a worthy program, the great people, Squadrons, Units, Posts, and others have truly given, it is amazing. I know I speak for Commander Deal when I say he is extremely happy with the work that everyone has done to make this the

success it is, and without everyone it would not have happened. I would like to thank the Commander for



letting me serve as his Chairman for the year. It has been an awesome project to spread the word about. As the Chairman, I would like to thank

everyone that gave anything to help us be able to reach and then exceed such a high goal. Squadron 135, as always set the stage for our Draw Down this year and that evening was very successful. I want to thank that great group of guys for supporting the fundraiser as they have done over and over again. To everyone else that had fundraisers for the project, I also would like to thank you for your help. Please always remember our Fallen Heroes and Wounded Warriors as you make your budgets and plans your fundraisers. I again thank everyone.

Serving Our Veterans,  
J.R. Hall  
Project Chairman  
[dhall1967@verizon.net](mailto:dhall1967@verizon.net)

## TIME AND PLACE REPORT BY BILL STEM

As you read this, you are at the Convention for 2011.

**WELCOME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Any questions about the logistics of any of the activities should be directed to Mitch Gilbert, Convention Chairman.

We are finishing a new contract with the Marriott to return for next year's convention, suggestions are still being taken for future locations. The venue at the Marriott has been very well accepted and if no other locations become viable for 2013 we will probably be here again. That is not

carved in stone. Have a great Convention.

Your in Service  
Bill Stem Chairman  
Email: [wstem84809@aol.com](mailto:wstem84809@aol.com)  
Cell: 410 598-9355  
Home: 410 526-6559

## NORTHEASTERN SHORE GAZETTE

It's that time of the year again when we stop and reflect on the year that has gone by. I am very proud of what we as a District have accomplished and all the money we have raised for our Legion Family programs. Congratulations to Squadrons #135, #194 and #278 for achieving 4 Star and Squadrons #21, #70 and #77 for achieving 3 Star. Job well done.

I would like to especially than Squadron #15 for helping to raise over \$32,000 for Cecil County's Special Olympics. Keep in mind membership is not a year end push, it's a year long push. We need to get the rest of the members renewed. Congratulations to our incoming District Commander, Karl Kibbler from

Benedict A. Andrew, Sqdn # 296. I look forward to a great year with Karl at the helm. If you give Karl all the support that you have given me for the past 4 years, this coming year will again be a banner year. Yours in Service,  
Ken Jones  
NESD Commander410-829-9974,  
[jkj44@aol.com](mailto:jkj44@aol.com)

## SOUTHERN MARYLAND TIMES

Hello Again,

Well the year is winding down and soon my year as Southern Maryland District Commander will be over. I have had a great time representing our District and I want to thank everyone that made it a Great year. As I write this, we are currently in 1st place in membership for the Detachment of Maryland at just over 106%. WOW, what a great job done by everyone. We also expect more consolidated reports this year then we have had in recent years. I cannot wait to see our final numbers and to see how much work is being done in our Great District. Please don't stop sending in any late membership in that you might get. Our

Detachment's number for this year still count through December 31st. With the great job that was done this year by everyone, please remember that having a year like this and letting it all go, would be a shame. We need to get to work on 2011-2012 and do all we can for the programs, work hard to retain old members and to sign up new ones. Southern Maryland District has a tradition of Greatness and it can only claim it, if we maintain it!

I would like to announce Dave Sprucebank to all, as your incoming District Commander. Dave has a long history in the Sons of The American Legion and is working on many levels. I know Dave will work hard to

keep the District going in the right direction. We in the Southern Maryland District are also proud that Buddy Mastin will be serving 2011-2012 as our Detachment Commander. Buddy has worked very hard in our District for a long time so let's show him our support by helping him anyway we can.

Again, I thank everyone for the privilege to serve the Great Southern Maryland District as Sons of The American Legion Commander for the last year, and I thank you all for your help.

J.R. Hall  
Southern Maryland District  
Commander

## NORTHERN CENTRAL NEWS

As my time concludes as NCD Commander, I would like to thank all my officers and committee chairman for doing an awesome job.

We raised monies for all the various projects and charities, participated in the carnival for Perry Point, luncheon at McVets, and the picnic at the Loch

Raven Center. Even though we are listed 6<sup>th</sup> in the membership ratings we had a strong year at membership, with five 4-Star Squadrons and one 3-Star Squadron.

A special thanks to Bob and Joyce Snukis from #38 for a fantastic job on our fund raising trip to Atlantic City.

I wish the incoming Commander Kraig Dean and his slate of officers a great year.

Serving Veterans In Need  
Allan Walls  
Commander  
Northern Central District

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT BY BILL STEM

The State Legislature was not kind to the SAL this year. We did manage to get Charlotte Hall control of its donations. Better hope for next year. State Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Edward Chow, attended National Vice Commander Joe Gladden's Home-

coming and presented him with a proclamation from Governor O'Malley. Also Larry Simmons from the Baltimore County Executive's Office presented a proclamation from County Executive Kamenetz. Lets use these contacts to assist us in the Legislature

to pass bills benefiting our Veterans and communities.  
Yours in Service  
Bill Stem Chairman  
Email: [wstem84809@aol.com](mailto:wstem84809@aol.com)  
Cell: 410 598-9355  
Home: 410 526-6559

## LOCH RAVEN VA CLC BY BOB FILLIPPI

First of all I would to thank any and all that supported Loch Raven VA during the past year. Special thanks to Parkville 183, Overlea-Perry Hall 130, the Northern Central District and any other Squadrons or individuals that volunteered at the facility during this

period. As always a need for more help is always there. Volunteer positions are especially needed in the following areas; lauder residents clothing, patients lounges, youth volunteers and volunteer chefs in the hospice area. If you are interested in any

of these areas or other opportunities please call Barbra Swann, Voluntary Services @ 410-605-7000 ext 5877.

Again thanks and have a great summer.  
Bob Filippi

## VAVS VARIETY BY JR HALL

Hello Again Comrades,

In doing our judging for VAVS, I can tell that our Squadrons all over the Detachment of Maryland have been out doing exactly what we are suppose to do, and that is taking care of our Veterans by backing Veterans' Programs. The numbers are in and very impressive. I would like to thank everyone for their work for our American Jewels, Our Veterans". We need to continue to do all each of us can afford to do to financially to help all of our programs and to do even more for the one thing that doesn't

need a fundraiser, a visit. All of our veterans at the centers and at the Charlotte Hall VA Home really do appreciate a visit from guests. It doesn't matter if you know them personally or not. Just a visit to have some fellowship and thank them for their service to our country means a lot to all of them. If not for our Veterans where would our country be? I am Thankful I do not have to answer that question, and it is because of our Veterans, we live in a great country with freedom. But freedom doesn't come free. So many of our Veterans paid a great price and

for this we should always remember to do all we can for them and their families. As we end this year and kick off the next, I ask each Squadron to make sure you plan in your budgets to take care of our Veterans' programs and try to schedule a visit to one or more of our Veteran centers and Charlotte Hall. I am sure you will get a lot of satisfaction in the time you take for them.

I hope you have a Great year,

JR Hall

## SOUTH EASTERN SHORE HERALD

On behalf of the district officers and members, from the South Eastern Shore, we would like to thank everyone who donated their time, their Sunday afternoon, to make the first annual Wounded Warrior Project Poker Run a huge success. We will be sending Commander Deal another \$2k for his project.

As the end of the year approaches, I would like to point out some of our accomplishments. The South Eastern Shore District was in first place for more than three quarters of the

year. We scheduled face to face meetings this year with most of our squadrons. We constantly reminded each squadron about getting the membership sent in on time. I'm proud to say, communications and team work, played an important role for the SESD this year. With 6 Four Star Squadrons, which hit all time highs in membership this year and 3 Three Star Squadrons, the SESD did an incredible job in membership. Also, the South Eastern Shore District has reached its all time high in mem-

bership and was the first district to become Four Star this year. Additionally, we were the first district to reach 100% in completing the Consolidated Reports. Hand Salute to all who listened and responded in our face to face meetings. We are looking forward to a great Convention later this month. I hope to see everyone there!

Serving Veterans and Their Families,  
Ray Edwards Jr.  
South Eastern Shore District Adjutant

## CASEY CARES BY DAVE HULLIHEN

This will be my final article this year for the pride and I am proud to say it has been a very good year for the Casey Cares Foundation again. I do not know how we do it every year and I won't question it, but we always seem to do better every year. The Casey Cares Foundation helps children and their parents in their

greatest time of need, and has been doing so for a number of years now. With your help, they can continue to do so for this year and beyond. Please continue to donate money to the Casey Cares Foundation throughout this year, I will continue to take donations up to and beyond the convention this year. Thank you for

all you have done to help us out this year. I look forward to seeing you at the convention. Please bring your wallets and or check books with you.

Yours In Service  
Dave Hullihen  
Casey Cares Chairman  
dave.bwh@verizon.net

## “Saluting Our Wounded Warriors”

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

3115 Orchard Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21234



## PUBLIC RELATIONS BY BEAR WEINZIRL

Defining Public Relations is very subjective. Type “define public relations” into Google as I did and you will get about 10,800,000 results. Definitions can be as simple as: “The promotion and protection of a company’s image,” or as complex as the 88-word sentence that the Foundation for Public Relations Research and Education came up with. But the main function of PR within the Sons of The American Legion is to gain public understanding and support for our organization, our programs and our goals.

There are various tools that we use in the practice of public relations. These

tools include brochures, newsletters and websites. The American Legion encourages us to develop and publish websites, and we need to focus on the importance of doing so.

Increasingly, our organization is also utilizing interactive social media outlets, such as blogs, Twitter and Facebook as tools in our public relations campaigns. Unlike the traditional tools which allowed for only one-way communication, social media outlets allow our organization to engage in two-way communication, and receive immediate feedback from the public.

If your Squadron or District is holding

an event or fundraiser, please take advantage of these networks to advertise it and then publicize the success of the event once concluded. The public DOES read these posts and they can be very advantageous in the promotion of the Sons of The American Legion here in the Detachment of Maryland. We need to increase our use of these outlets to get the word out about “who we are” and “what we do”.

Larry “Bear” Weinzirl  
National Public Relations Vice  
Chairman  
Alternate NEC/Past Detachment  
Commander

## NEC NEWS BY ANDY DADDS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

I bring you greetings from National Commander David Dew. Commanders message; Please continue to find time to make a difference in the lives of our veterans, their families and in the lives of the families of our deployed military. Always remember they need us more now than ever. It is the little things that we do on a daily basis that count the most. We are...“By Their Side with Honor and Pride.”

The Detachment of Maryland has passed all goals set by National thru the month of April. But we fell short in meeting the 100% goal for May. We are at 96.928% but we have a lot of work to do in or order to reach the 105% goal by July 27, 2011. With the new membership cards coming out in June we need to go after the members who have not paid for the year 2011, and let’s get them reinstated and not slip away from us.

Reporting forms should have been filled out and a copy sent to your

Post, District and Detachment. This is the time that all of your squadron’s hard work pays off by showing us what you have done for Americanism, Children & Youth and our Veterans. These numbers are important to the American Legion when the National Commander testifies before congress.

Here are a few things to remember for the remaining year, National Convention Minneapolis Minnesota, August 26-28, 2011 The American Legion Day September 16, 2011 Fall NEC and Detachment Commander/Adjutant classes, October 8-9, 2011. Congratulation goes out to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Buddy Mastin for graduating from NMI 3. There wasn’t a dry eye in the Maryland delegation that witnessed Buddy graduate; and people don’t think I have a sense of humor. Here are a few frequently asked questions received at National Headquarters;

**Question:** What is a resolution?  
**Answer:** Webster’s dictionary defines the word “Resolution” as “a course to action determined or decided on; a formal statement of a decision....put before or adopted by an assembly.”  
**Question:** How does one use an idea and take action on that idea through writing a formal resolution?  
**Answer:** Help with writing a resolution can be found on the National web site under Sub-Committee on Resolutions. Simply click on “How to write a resolution” for guidelines. Those guidelines will include how to construct a resolution preamble, which is needed to justify the resolving action. That preamble is comprised of one or more clauses, or paragraphs to support the action. Those clauses should state facts which relate to the intent of the resolution explaining the need for this final action. Adequately state the reasons for the resolution.

Andy Dadds, PDC  
NEC Committeemen,