



## Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland



# ***“The Pride”***

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

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### **Commander's Corner**

We've had a great year!

Amazed is the first thing that comes to mind when writing this final article. I am amazed at how fast the time has passed and how much we've been able to accomplish in this past year. Past Commanders whom I've spoken with stated it seemed like forever to get here and then it's over in the blink of an eye. Boy, were they right!

As my year comes to an end, I can honestly look back and say that everything that I wanted to accomplish was done! We supported every American Legion program, brought new awareness to the "Heroes to Hometowns" program, began steps to refocus our support for Maryland Special Olympics and even introduced a new program "Sons Saving Ta-Tas". What more could you ask for than this? The opportunity to be the ambassador for this Detachment is a source of great pride and enjoyment for me. I will look back on this experience with great fondness.

Over the past few months, I've had the honor of attending receptions for the Legion Family Leadership for all seven (7) Districts, attended dinners/banquets for the National Leadership of The American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion, and had a wonderful time representing the

Detachment at so many events.

There have been great moments with Commander Larson and President Christoffers, such as our visit to the Martinsburg VA Center, the Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore, and sharing food and a few beverages at many other Legion Family events. I look forward to continuing our friendship beyond this year and wish them both a great Convention and will see them there.

The Detachment Commander's Project received great support throughout the Legion Family and as of the writing of this article, brought in close to \$36,000.00. (Only \$4,000 shy of our goal.) But, the year is not over and I am sure we'll make the goal. We've even found a Maryland-based program, which we are supporting through the H2H program called "Home of the Brave" over on the Eastern Shore. More information about this great program for our Veterans is available at [www.thehomeofthebrave.us](http://www.thehomeofthebrave.us).

The Detachment First Lady's project collected over \$2,500 and has taken off around the country with a bang! It started with a simple idea last summer and it just goes to show how supportive our Legion Families are. We had no idea how successful it would be.

I encourage all within the American Legion Family to join us for our 40<sup>th</sup>

Annual Convention, being held June 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Hunt Valley Inn. Come out and share in our hospitality rooms, hear firsthand what the members of this great Detachment have accomplished this past year and witness the transition of Detachment Commanders on Sunday. You may contact your local Squadron for additional details on the events taking place and for registration.

Please remember, as we continue to support our many functions and programs throughout the years, to have fun while doing so. We often forget that 100% of support comes from "volunteers" and we need to occasionally remind ourselves of that. Let's not drive our comrades away by being bullish on our expectations of them, but remember to say THANK YOU and take the time to recognize what they are offering; which is their time and support and that is priceless!

As always, my thanks go out to the Maryland Legion, Auxiliary & Detachment Officers, Commission and Committee Chairpersons and members, District Commanders/Presidents and DEC person. And, most importantly, thank you to the "General Members" of the Legion Family within the great state of Maryland! You're what continues to make us a great Legion Family!

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If you would like to follow my travels throughout the state of Maryland, then check out Twitter – MDSALCMDR. You will also find information on the Detachment's web site ([www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org)), and on Facebook (Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland).

I would not pass up this opportunity to extend a right-hand salute to all of our Veterans who have served or are serving now and say "Thank you" for your service to our great Country!

May God continue to look over our Military, our Families, and the United States of America!!

"Serving America's Heroes"

Bill Hill

Commander

Detachment of Maryland

Sons of The American Legion

## Adjutant's Report

**D.E.C.:** The next meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee is scheduled for April 14, 2013 and will convene at **Noon**. Commander Hill has moved the D.E.C. an hour earlier in an effort for those that are attending the Baltimore District Reception later that afternoon. Therefore, all Commissions and Committees will meet at 11:00 A.M. The location for this meeting is the Southern Maryland District American Legion Youth Camp which is located at 9201 Surratts Road, Cheltenham, Md. 20623. There will be a Detachment Travel Club outing the evening before the D.E.C. at the Youth Camp beginning at 6:00 P.M. with some friendly card games and music entertainment provided by DJ-SMD SLIM starting at 8:00 P.M. There are cabins available on site for those that would like to stay the evening or for those that would like to stay in a hotel a block of rooms have been reserved at the Colony South Hotel for \$109.00 per night. The Colony South is located at 7401 Surratts Rd.,

Clinton, Md. 20735 and their phone number is 301-856-4500.

**D.E.C. Directions:** For those traveling from the north take I-97 S toward Annapolis and merge onto MD-3 S via Exit 7 toward Bowie/Odenton. MD-3 S becomes US-301 S. After exiting via Exit 7 you will travel south approximately 27 miles to Frank Tippet Road where you will turn right. Then after .3 of a mile turn left onto Surratts Rd. and the Youth Camp will be on your left after you pass the backside of Cheltenham Maryland Veterans Cemetery.

**Convention News:** The 40th Annual Convention of the Detachment of Maryland is returning to the Hunt Valley Inn located at 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, Md. 21031. Their phone number is 410-785-7000. As a point of information the Hunt Valley Inn has been purchased by the Wyndham Hotel Group. This year's room rate at the hotel is \$98.00 plus 14% tax per night. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel by using group code "Sons of The American Legion". Every Squadron Commander and Detachment Officer has received a packet containing the Convention, Ad Sales and Report Form Packages along with the Consolidated Report Form, a Laps of Love Sponsor Sheet, The Pride, and a letter from Commander Hill. Please note that the delegate fees have increased this year and should remain unchanged for several years to come. This increase was recommended by the Convention Committee to offset the costs of the rental of meeting facilities which in the past averaged \$5K for the weekend. This increase was approved by the S.A.L. Commission and the Department Executive Committee on February 17th. During these tough economic times Convention Hotels and Conference Centers are not offering meeting rooms gratis any longer. Also, a couple of important changes this year is first, the discontinuation of the Pool Tournament due to lack of participation and the return to Oregon Ridge for the Horseshoe, Superstar, and Cornhole competitions. During these events a

cook out featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, and a pig roast will be provided along with soft drinks and legion milk compliments of the Convention Committee. Additionally, there is a \$5.00 reduction for participating in the Bowling and Cornhole Tournaments from \$15.00 to \$10.00 and the Superstar Competition for our youth is free for all members of the Legion Family. As you can see, even though the delegate fees need to increase every effort is being made to reduce fees where feasible and give something back to all those attending the convention.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska

Adjutant

Detachment of Maryland

## GOING TO WAR FOR MEMBERSHIP!

Warriors,

The troops are mobilized, the Commanders are inspired, and the time is now! We have been in a rut but The War goes well! All Districts are ahead of the March 13<sup>th</sup> goal of 80% (as of this posting). Congratulations to all District Commanders for motivating the troops.

We are entering into the toughest part of the War, when recruiting new members and getting the renewals will be difficult. District Commanders, get your DEC's and officers out into the field and help the Squadrons get those reinforcements so we can March into Convention with all Districts at 100%

We will win this war!

Let's Win This War!

Bill Stem

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

410-598-9355

[Wstem84809@aol.com](mailto:Wstem84809@aol.com)

## Chaplin's Corner

### Sick Call

Charles Smothers (Squadron 77) NESD

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Howard Lee Miller (Squadron 231) SESD  
Darrell Keller Jr. (Squadron 231) SESD  
Hilton Purnell Sr. (Squadron 231) SESD  
J.R. Stillwell (Past National Commander – Illinois)

### **Squadron Everlasting**

Walter Morris (Squadron 26) WMD  
Post Everlasting  
Scott Bailey (Dor-Wic Post 218)

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Thank you and God Bless.  
Ray Edwards  
Detachment of Maryland Chaplin  
[rayjred@verizon.net](mailto:rayjred@verizon.net)  
(410) 215-9354 Cell

## **Americanism Report**

The Administrative year is almost over and soon we will be at our annual Detachment Convention. This is the time to start collecting your meeting minutes and notes in preparation for completing the consolidated reports. This is our opportunity to brag about what the "Blue Cap" members have done. Let's make this year another outstanding year. We've always been and will continue to be a Detachment that shows its great support to all the Americanism programs. Supporting Local blood drives where the blood banks are low due to the natural disasters we are having, or by supporting a scout troop. **Flag Replacement Program**; Memorial Day is right around the corner so lend a hand

to place flags on veteran's graves or throughout your community as appropriate. The Detachment continues to sponsor an award to the top squadron for Flag Replacement. Make sure to track your efforts and keep a record of the replaced flag as indicated on the replacement form. (3 x 5 flags will count as 5 points and small flags will count as 1 point) If you are looking for a Flag retirement program/ceremony, please contact committee Chairman Chris Dadds. There will be a prize for first and second place for the most flags retired. **Community Affairs**; Coming up on April 18<sup>st</sup> we going to Bethesda to the Fisher Houses. We will provide a steak & BBQ chicken luncheon for the Wounded Warriors and Fisher House residents. If you have never been to a Fisher Houses this is the perfect opportunity to come as see what they are and how we provide fellowship to the veterans and their families. Fisher house as you know is very important to the families and military by giving them a place to stay in their time of need. It is truly a home away from home. It's a warm stetting for them while their love one is being treated in one of the VA hospitals. **Boys State**; This legion program is very rewarding for those young men who are chosen to participate. Boys State is among the most respected educational programs for high school students. Participants are exposed to the rights and privileges and duties and responsibilities of a citizen. We are encouraging each squadron to support your home post by providing any level of support necessary. Chairman Jerry Saunders Sr. **National Emergency Fund** The National Emergency Fund continues to need our help. With the continued economic challenges we face as a world, the support this program provides to so many, is greatly appreciated. Please continue your aid for our Legion family. We are asking each squadron to donate at least \$1.00 per member. I believe this is a very obtainable goal. We need to help in this time of needs where there are so many natural disasters, the fires in Texas, the flooding in the Northeast and South just

to name a few. Thank you again for your continued support. Chairman Larry Griffin. Thank You to every member of the Detachment and all or our Legion Family members for supporting the programs, which fall under Americanism.

Yours in Service to Legion Programs  
Jeffrey Seiler  
Americanism Chairman

## **Flag Replacement/ Placement Program**

First I would like to say that I am sorry for the email mixup and getting flag forms out late . Please get forms in asap to make it easier to count. Anyone who needs forms, please email me at [cdaddssal@gmail.com](mailto:cdaddssal@gmail.com)

Chris Dadds  
Flag/Replacement Chairman

## **Boys State Report**

As I mentioned at the last DEC Meeting, Boys State is one of the American Legion programs that was started in 1935, but Maryland didn't get involved until 1947. Remember that this long week is a week of political knowledge that some of our High School Graduates will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

At our meeting in December, I hope to have copies of the registration forms and more brochures on Boys State. Boys State is held at the Washington College in Chestertown starting the week before our convention and ending the Saturday of our convention.

The cost to send students, getting ready to enter their senior year, to this camp is \$300.00 per boy. I encourage every squadron and/or outside business to try to sponsor a boy.

SAL members can volunteer to help out by becoming a counselor. Contact any Boys State staff member if you wish to

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volunteer.

Jerry Saunders  
Committee Chairman  
saljerry@verizon.net

## VAVS Variety

As stated at the last DEC meeting on January 27, 2013, there is a surplus of money left over from Commander Mastin's Bus project, last year. Charlotte Hall has been soliciting bids to construct a new awning for veterans who wait for the bus. This will prevent veterans who wait for the bus, not exposed to the outdoor elements. We are still seeking additional donations to add to the surplus for the new awning for Charlotte Hall Veterans home. Please consider a donation to this worthy cause.

Also mentioned, Loch Raven Nursing Center is in need of a new ice machine. Squadron 263 has the lead on this project. Any and all donations will be accepted. Please earmark your donation "Ice Machine" in the memo section of your check. For additional information, please contact Reginald Frazier at Post 263 (410) 747-9762.

My next tour at Walter Reed National Medical Center will be Thursday, March 28, 2013 10:30am. Anyone wanting to take the tour please contact me. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Ray Edwards  
VAVS Chairman

## Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

The Charlotte Hall Veterans' Home is the only Veterans' Home in the state. Services offered at the CHVH include skilled nursing, assisted living, rehabilitation, Alzheimer's care, optometry, dental, podiatry, beauty/barber shop and massage therapy.

The Southern Maryland District continues to hold a bingo at the Veterans' home on the third Monday of each month. If you are interested in donating to the CHVH Bingos, send your donate to the Detachment earmarked for CHVH Bingo. If you are interested in volunteering your time contact Buddy Mastin or myself. Additional help is always welcome.

LaDonna Mohler is the new Director of Volunteer/Community Outreach at the CHVH. If you are interested in volunteering at the CHVH, contact LaDonna at [lmohler@hmrmd.com](mailto:lmohler@hmrmd.com) or 301-884-8171, ext 664.

I was pleased to read an article in Spring/Summer 2013 Charlotte Hall Gazette outlining the support Dorchester Post 91 and Squadron 91 have provided the CHVH over the years. Most recently, on December 19, they donated \$17,000 to help fund the construction of a kitchen for skilled nursing activities area. Great job.

Dave Tatman, CHVH Representative  
[tatman\\_david@comcast.net](mailto:tatman_david@comcast.net)  
301-645-1537.

## Commander's Project

We are getting close to the end of the year and our Commander is getting close to his goal so let's help. April is our last meeting before Convention so I ask you to make an extra effort to try to help us reach his goal for this great program, Heroes to Hometowns. Maybe on Friday or Saturday nights you can have a 50/50 or do some laydowns. Remember every dollar raised stays in Maryland to help our service members who became injured and can no longer serve in the military. It can help them make a positive transition when they come home.

Thanks to all of the guys from Squadron 135 and other members from the Post and community that helped pull off a great night hosting the H2H Drawdown.

A huge thanks to everyone who had a

fundraiser this year or made a donation, we couldn't have raised what we did without you!

But it is not over – Strive to raise what we can and make the final number at Convention one to be proud of!

For God and Country,  
Jim Alexander  
Commander's Project Chairman  
[jimalex831@verizon.net](mailto:jimalex831@verizon.net)  
(443) 623-9907

## Children & Youth Corner

Hello Again to All,

It's almost time for Spring to get things warming up around here, but with Spring coming, it also signals the ending of another Legion year for consolidated reports. Have you made all your donations? Have you tracked all your hours that you volunteered? I'd bet there a couple more donations possibly you can make? Let me give you a thought, if you are sitting around your post and there is a nice crowd why not grab a role of tickets and sell a quick 50/50 for a program. Maybe one you were not able to fit in your normal budget, maybe one you want to give more to. There is no such thing as a donation to small. Think of trying this or something else to make a donation here at years end from your Squadron or Post.

Our Children and Youth Commission has had a wonderful year so far and I hope to finish up strong. In December we had another great year for Toys for Tots, we may have done our all time best with the amount of pajamas that we have donated to Casey Cares for Kammies Jammies and were not done yet. You can still bring pajamas to Archbishop Spalding on April 20th at the Laps of Love and they will take them there. Last year we raised over \$12,000.00 dollars for Laps of Love and we want to go over and above that this year so go to [www.sallapsoflove.com](http://www.sallapsoflove.com) and

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sign up or sponsor somebody today. I just got back from Maryland Special Olympics Winter games and the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Maryland was well represented there. Thanks to all that showed up and helped work these wonderful games. Coming up soon we will be visiting Johns Hopkins as we did last year to drop off some Josh Dogs to the pediatric ward to help brighten the day for some of the children in the hospital.

As you can see this is just some the great work going on by your fellow members and you across this great Detachment and like I said we are not thru yet. Lets all try to get one more donation in for a worthy program before the year ends and lets make a difference in a child's life, they are our future.

JR Hall  
C & Y Chairman

## Maryland Special Olympics

The Polar Bear Plunge was a success this year with 39 plungers and a total amount raised of \$12,995. Total raised on plunge donations was \$2,360,580. It is amazing what our American Legion family can do when we pull together with a common goal. I want to once again thank everyone that plunged, donated or came out to support the event!

I had the opportunity to attend Maryland Special Olympics Winter Games at Whitetail Ski Resort in PA and what a rewarding experience. I learned firsthand what a key role the Sons of The American Legion play in making this event a success. We have the opportunity to not only help prepare but to work directly with the athletes. It was obvious that they need our support and our volunteers to come support the event. I encourage you to continue your support. If you haven't volunteered in the past, I encourage you to consider

volunteering for this event next year.

Please check your District for any volunteer opportunities and consider supporting the Maryland Special Olympics Summer Games, June 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> at Towson University.

Our children are our future!

Jim Alexander

## Child Welfare Foundation

As in years past, Maryland will once again be supporting CWF. At the beginning of the year, I set a goal of \$1.00 per member. With so many worthy projects to donate to, I can only hope that you remember to donate as you see fit.

Currently we are way behind in our goal. There is still time, however the cut off for this administrative year is May 31, 2013.

Yours In Service  
Larry Ford

## Casey Cares Newsletter

As we start to wrap up our year, things are getting very busy at Casey Cares. As of this writing the Gala is only a week away. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Laps of Love**, walk/run, at Archbishop Spaulding High School. This year we will be holding the walk and run at the same time, with guest being present representing Casey Cares, and MD. Special Olympics, with the final thirds of the proceeds going to Child Welfare Fund. As I did last year, I will be walking for Casey Cares, and welcome any and all donations. You may contact me with your contribution, or pledge an amount online. More info at the DEC. Let's make this year more profitable than last year.

In the past, April has been our biggest donation meeting of the year. Let us hope that this holds true again this year, and do not forget that I am still

collecting pajama's for Casey's, Kammi's Jammies program.

The Casey Cares annual Golf Tournament is also right around the corner also. More info on this event will also be presented at the meeting.

Respectfully,  
Ed Steininger Sr  
Chairman  
443-807-1495

## Legislative Alert

The sequestration began in March and it is too early today to report exactly how those reductions will be made. And please bear in mind these are reductions. No actual cuts to overall government spending will be made by sequestration, only a reduction in the rate of growth of government spending is being made. However, \$85 Billion in across-the-board budget cuts began. Exactly how these reductions will be made and before any federal civilian employee is furloughed the government must first identify those nonessential employees. With the sequestration law military pay and the Department of Veterans Affairs is exempt from sequestration. Other Pentagon accounts will be taking a heavier reduction of funding as that money going for military pay must be made up for somewhere else in the Pentagon's budget. Per testimony from military and civilian Pentagon witnesses it appears the Pentagon will target modernization and readiness accounts for the brunt of these reductions. The American Legion, however, wants no further reductions in Pentagon accounts as it feels this will be a disastrous public policy decision for our national security. Modernization is the purchase of new equipment needed for an uncertain future. Readiness is how we pay to train and equip our military forces now and due to lack of parts and replacement with new equipment and equipment overuse there will more breakdowns of this equipment over time, and lastly, units that remain in home station will not have enough funds for training and supplies to deploy. I am reminding ALL members of the Sons Organization to watch for discussions of Veterans Issues, we need to stand strong in support of our Country and our Veterans. Get in touch

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with your elected officials and let them know we need a solution. I am listing web sites with contact information for our Senators (<http://www.senate.gov>) and Congressmen (<http://www.house.gov/>), let them know where we stand on the issues. I continue to send out e-mails with the legislative updates from The American Legion Legislative Commission (<http://www.legion.org/legislative>).

Tom Deal  
Legislative Chairman  
tom.deal@verizon.net

## National Campaign Update

Dear Team Maryland,

Since becoming the Leading Candidate for National Commander at the end of the National Convention in Indianapolis I have been staying busy.

Since the Pride was last published, I have been to Pennsylvania twice, Colorado Springs, CO, Hays, KS, Dumfries, VA, Ocean City, MD and Brattleboro, VT. Each of these trips were filled with many great experiences and many new friends.

However, I still have many trips to go. During our next DEC meeting on April 14, 2013, I will be returning from my visit to Arizona. In May, I will then be traveling to Indy for our Spring NEC meeting, then followed by a visit to Marietta, OH for their Detachment Convention. June will be extremely busy with weekend visits to Detachment Conventions of Michigan, New Jersey, Maryland and Illinois. Moving into July I will be making visits to New York and Indiana's Detachment Convention and the Dept. of Maryland's Convention in Ocean City. The conclusion of my travels as Leading Candidate will take place when I participate in the Legacy Scholarship Run. This will start in Indianapolis, IN and conclude in

Houston, TX. This will be an almost 2,200 mile journey that will provide me with memories that will last me a life time.

To fund these travels, the campaign is conducting a number of fundraisers, including our Gun Raffle and the Campaign Lottery Calendar starting July 1st. I need your help to make my journey a success. Please contact JR Hall to find out how your squadron can be a part of my journey. JR can be reached at 410-356-7758.

I will never be able to say thank you enough to truly show how I feel about the support that has been shown to me so far. I have always said that I don't want to be on this journey alone, and thanks to each of you, I feel like you have been there every step of the way.

### ***For God and Country***

#### **Joe Gladden**

Leading Candidate for National Commander  
Sons of The American Legion  
2013-2014

## Northern Central District News

How fast a year goes. Seem like just yesterday we were installed and beginning to get our feet wet. I am proud and happy to say that the NCD has had a remarkable year so far. As of this writing, we are still in first place in Membership (albeit by a fraction of a percentage point). Donations for our various programs keep coming in and we have more fundraisers on the horizon. My Commanders Project, Home of the Brave, has gotten off to a great start with several more events planned to raise funds. Remember, we are only as strong as our weakest link, so please help support not only your Squadron, but the NCD and State Detachment as well. Without you, we cannot do what it takes to support our Veteran and Children and Youth programs.

Upcoming events for the NCD are:

April 7: NCD meeting at Post #195, August J. Raveio at 1:00pm

April 13: Commander's Project annual bus trip to Atlantic City

April 14: DEC at Southern MD Youth Camp at 12:00pm

May 11: Commander's Project Poker Run Bike Ride starting at Towson Post #22 at 9:00 am

May 19: District Pool Tournament at Bernard L Tobin Post #128, registration at 12:00pm

May 31: Squadron Reports due

June 8: NCD Rally and elections at Harford Post # 39 at 5:00pm

June 21-23 Convention at Hunt Valley  
Thank you to all of you who are working so hard to make this year so outstanding.

God Bless our troops and this wonderful country, the United States of America.

Bob Spencer  
NCD Commander

## Northeastern Shore Herald

I would like to say thank you to all DEC men, District, and Squadron officers, for their support and all of the work that they put in to make this year a success.

With Spring upon us, it is time to get our membership squared away. As of 3-8-13, our District is in 4th place and 37 memberships behind this time last year. Congratulations to Squadrons 15, 21, and 36 for being 3 Star. I would like to see the other ten squadrons make a push now to seek at least 3 Star status.

Squadrons: Remember to take care of sending in your consolidated report forms on time. Please make two extra copies and send one to Larry "Bear" Weinzirl P.O. Box 578 Perryville, Maryland 21903 and give one to your Post adjutant.

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A right hand salute goes out to Squadron 15 for their "ice splash" fund raiser for Cecil Co. Special Olympics. Over fifty thousand dollars was raised. Great job Henry !!!!

Thanks also to Squadron 135 for holding a draw down for Commander Bill Hill's project Heroes to Hometowns. Over nineteen thousand dollars was raised for that worthy project.

The N.E.S.D. Reception will be held on April 7, 2013 at Talbot Post 70 starting at 2:00 P.M. For tickets at \$25.00 per person contact Joan Sorflaten 410-490-3850.

Our next District meeting will be held on June 3 at Betterton Post 246 at 10:30 A.M. EACH Squadron should have a representative in attendance.

Please Support Heroes to Hometowns,  
Karl B. Kibler  
Commander: N.E.S.D.

## **Southern Maryland Pride**

The Southern Maryland District wants to thank S.A.L. Squadron 60 and their entire American Legion Family for hosting the Bull and Shrimp Feast on Saturday, March 9, 2013. Special kudos goes out to Joe Lohlman for spearheading the event, over \$4000 were raised.

As of March 1, 2013, the S.A.L. Membership report showed that the SMD is in fifth place in the Detachment. District commanders please continue to be aggressive in sending in your memberships. Every membership sent in really count toward the overall goal of 100% of membership. Let's strive harder as a District to be number one in total membership. If you need assistance with your membership, please contact your DEC or Jim Alexander.

Please note that there has been a change in the date of our upcoming Southern Maryland District meeting to April 7, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. at the Pasadena Post 277. The address is 7376 Carbide Rd., Baltimore, MD 21226. The Post telephone number is 410 360-0880. All Squadron Commanders are required to attend all District meetings or send a representative. Also, please bring your Squadron Advisor with you so he or she can see what the S.A.L. is doing. Also, bring some of your Squadron Officers with you.

The Southern Maryland District Travel Club visited College Park Post 217 and Squadron 217 on February 22, 2013. The SMD Commander would like to thank the Post and Squadron for hosting the SMD Travel Club. We all had a great time. The next event for SMD Travel Club is Saturday, April 13, 2013, at the Youth Camp. The next Detachment meeting will be the following day April, 14, 2013, at the Youth Camp. Please place these dates on your calendar.

Yours In Service,  
Greg Taylor  
SMD Commander

## **South Eastern Shore Gazette**

Fellow Comrades,

As the end of our fiscal year approaches, I would like to "Thank" each of my District officers for their outstanding support and hard work throughout the 2012/2013 year. Congratulations to the following Squadrons for achieving 100% membership before the March deadline, Squadron 87, Squadron 123, Squadron 218 and Squadron 237. Congratulation to Squadron 145 for achieving Three Star status. There are several Squadrons just a few memberships away and I urge them to send in any and all membership.

Our next fundraiser is now underway. Our "Cash Giveaway" First place \$300.00 cash, Second place \$200.00 cash and Third place \$100.00 cash.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. To be given away Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9pm. Contact Terry Albert for tickets. Proceeds from this raffle benefits the programs of The Sons of The American Legion.

Serving Veterans and Their Families,  
Ray Edwards Jr.  
South Eastern Shore District  
Commander  
(410) 215-9354 Cell

## **Western Maryland Tribune**

The Western Maryland district has 18 squadrons and we have one 4 Star Squadron, Congrats to Steadman – Keenan Squadron 96. We have 9 squadrons that have less than 50 members to get 4 Star and rest have less than 90 members to get 4 star. Keep up the great work and get those renewals in. We are now in 3rd place in the membership race, Great job. Instead of a fundraiser we are asking all of squadrons to make contribution vs. buying tickets, all the squadrons will be receiving a letter shortly explaining this. We will be having a great hospitality room this year at our convention. Our theme is a Hawaiian Lau theme. If your squadron can help with this please reach out to Tom Clavell as he will be in charge of our Hospitality room again this year. Our last meeting will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup> at Kumps Dam and we will have the election of Officers. We will also help any squadron that needs help in finalizing their reports. I would like to see every Squadron send in a report this year. I would like to thank all the squadrons for hosting our district meetings. I hope everyone makes an effort to attend our meetings. Please be aware that Western Maryland District does have a Facebook page where one can join and see what is going on at our local squadrons. Please do all you can to support our Commanders project

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**"Serving America's Heroes"**

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

We're On The Web Visit Us At [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org)

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"Hometown to Hero's!" We have adopted and cabin at Camp Westmar and the cabin is in need of the following: New Gutter and fascia board on the one side of the building, general cleaning, painting and just clean up. We will have a date to do this. If someone is good at doing any of these items please get in touch with me and I will get you the information that you need. Please plan on attending the last meeting at Emmitsburg Squadron #121 at Kumps Dam Emmitsburg MD

Yours In Service  
Jeff Seiler  
WMD Commander

## **NEC NEWS**

I bring you greetings from National Commander Chris Huntzinger. National Commanders project this year is "Fisher House" which Maryland proudly supports with picnics for the families. Membership is the life of the S.A.L and

we need to continue to grow as an organization. "Get on the Band Wagon" is the membership theme this year and the Detachments across the country are getting on, with bells and whistles which Maryland is a big part of.

The Eastern Region is currently in 4<sup>th</sup> place at 79.813%. Maryland is sitting in 12<sup>th</sup> place in the Nation with 84.721% and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the East. The renewal rate for this year so far is 74.36% which puts us 5<sup>th</sup> in the Nation. Remember every time we make goal the Detachment will receive a certificate for membership. Let's see if we can collect one for each target date and make Commander Bill proud of his membership team, which is all of us. The next Membership Target Date 80% on March 13, 2013 and 90% on April 10, 2013. Keep up the good work.

Members of the Detachment have traveled to the following; Washington Conference February 24-27, 2013

National Commander James Koutz  
reception on March 9, 2013

Eastern Region National Vice  
Commander John Waite  
reception on March 8-9 2013  
S.A.L. National Commander Chris  
Huntzinger homecoming on  
March 22-24, 2013.

Here are a few dates to remember;

Membership Target Date 90% April  
10, 2013

**Spring NEC & National  
Management Institute  
Training May 4-5, 2013**

Membership Target Date 100% May  
8, 2013

Veterans Assistant Day May 18, 2013

Membership Target Date 105% &  
Delegate Strength Target July  
24, 2013

**National Convention (Houston,  
TX) August 23-25, 2013**

Servings Those Who Served Us  
Andy Dadds  
National Executive Committeemen