



“The Pride”

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

www.mdsal.org

Volume 2015/2016: Issue 4
Spring Issue - April 3, 2016

Commander’s Corner

Hello Again and as we enter the “Targeting season”

Where has this year gone to? It seems like last week I was just installed, and now we are starting to wrap up the year. Since the last issue of the Pride we had a wonderful weekend in Ocean City in January!! Friday was kicked off with the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge and as a Legion family we raised over \$14,000.00 for the athletes of Special Olympics. It was a great honor to have our National Commander Kevin Collier come into town early enough to take the plunge with us. The Vice Commanders then hosted a Hospitality Room where the Leading Candidate for National SAL Commander Jeffrey Frain enjoyed fresh Shucked Oysters & Oyster Rockefeller made by none other than 1st Vice Commander Ray Edwards. Thank you Ray, they were delicious!! Then came Saturday and we started the day off with some great classes instructed by PNC Bill Sparwasser and PNC Chuck Gannon. In attendance was National SAL Commander Kevin Collier & Leading SAL Candidate Jeffrey Frain, and Past Department Commander Dave Winpeggler. I want to thank all of those that attended. It was a great session as we had a classes on How to write a Resolution, Public Speaking, & Consolidated report training. Thank you to PNC Sparwasser & PNC Gannon you both did a Terrific job. Saturday night the South Eastern Shore District Sons of The American Legion were host to our annual drawdown to raise money for Special Olympics. Thanks to all the Volunteers that made this a great success! Sunday we had our DEC meeting and it was again a full house at

Post 166. We had many guest with us along with our American Legion Auxiliary Department President Doris Reynolds and a room full of members. On behalf of Detachment of Maryland, I presented The National Commander Kevin Collier, a shadowbox with a flag flown over Ft McHenry in his honor.

On February 21st I attended the gathering for National Vice Commander of the East at Post 40 in Glen Burnie Maryland where again on behalf of the Detachment of Maryland, I presented our own National Vice Commander of The East, Mr. Bill Hill a shadowbox with a flag flown over Ft McHenry in his honor.

On Sunday February 22nd I attended the bus trip at Washington Conference, along with Vice Commanders Hullivan & Alexander, and our Legislative Chairman – PDC Tommy Deal. I had the honor to place a wreath at the Korean Memorial. When I left Washington I did not head home, but headed up to the Special Olympics Winter Games at White Tail. The games were a great success and we appreciate the volunteers that showed up to help with the games. As I write this tomorrow I will be at the Baltimore District meeting and then to the Commanders Drawdown in Perryville at Post 135. I then have plans to attend the National American Legion Commanders Banquet and all the District receptions.

As always, my thanks go out to the Legion, Auxiliary & Detachment Officers, Commission and Committee Chairpersons and members, District Commanders/ Presidents and DEC persons. 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!

Finally, I want to emphasize the importance of the Consolidated Reporting Forms. This is how the squadrons get recognized for all they do. Please take the time to fill them out and get them in by the due date. Let’s strive to get 100% participation.

Membership is going crazy and our First Vice Commander Ray Edwards is doing a phenomenal job and I will not take his thunder away from him. Please read about how well he is doing in the later part of this newsletter.

Please help in Supporting the Project MCVET this year with a contribution so we can buy a van and wrap the van with the American Legion Family Emblems. We can do this and I know everyone is behind this 100%. We need your help with reaching our goal please make your contributions count!!

“Sons Helping Vets Build a Better Future”
Jeff Seiler

Commander
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion

Adjutant’s Corner

Spring D.E.C.: The upcoming Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Seiler, on April 3, 2016 at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting is being hosted at Henderson-Smith-Edwards Post 86, located at 2013 Veirs Mill Rd, Rockville, MD 20851.

S.A.L. Dues Increase: The Internal Affairs Commission after thorough review of the current Detachment Finances determined the necessity for a dues increase per member effective the 2017 membership year. This was announced at the January DEC Meeting. This recommendation from the Internal Affairs Commission was subsequently reviewed by the Advisory Committee and approved by the Department of Maryland S.A.L. Committee. Department S.A.L. Committee Chairman, George Grossnickle, reviewed and approved the proposed fiscal

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

budget for the 2016-2017 administrative year. This means that \$10.00 per member is to be remitted when processing 2017 S.A.L. membership dues to Department of Maryland Headquarters.

Training Session: The Squadron Consolidated Report Form was reviewed at the mid-winter DEC Training Seminar by PNC Bill Sparwasser. Beginning at noon before the DEC convenes the CSR Form will again be reviewed. Anyone with question about the CSR or are needing assistance in filling out the form, this is the opportune time to acquire the answers you seek.

Yours In Service,
Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant
MatoskaW@yahoo.com
443-710-9664

Get your Game on for MEMBERSHIP!

Comrades,

I like to Thank everyone for all the hard work sending in membership. As the end of our fiscal year nears, the numbers get harder to make. As of March 4th, Our Detachment has hit our goal of 88.10% above the target of 85% for March. We have a little work ahead of us to hit 90% by April 13, 2016. It is time to dig in and do what is necessary to achieve this goal.



North Eastern Shore District is leading the way. They hit 91.65% with 96 paid members ahead of last year. Fantastic job District Commander Freddie! Slightly behind in second place District Commander Bobby Keys with 91.35% of goal with 95 paid members ahead of last year. Awesome job Commander Bobby! Western Maryland District is in third place at 89.79% of goal with 135 paid members ahead of last year! Great Job Commander Tom Clavell! Fourth place is Southern Maryland District at 87.57% with 152 paid members ahead of last year! Great Job District Commander Joe Weik! Fifth Place is Mountain District at 83.00%. Sixth place is South Eastern Shore District at 78.97% and last place is Baltimore District at 74.61%

of goal.

I'd like to "Thank" everyone who attended our last conference call. I would forward to achieving our goal of 90% with the next report. Keep up the great work!

"Taking Aim at Membership "

Ray Edwards
Membership Chairmen
1st Vice Commander
rayjred@verizon.com
(410) 215-9354

Americanism Report

Hello once again! Spring is around the corner and soon the squadrons will need to start preparing for the year end consolidated reports. This is your chance to make your squadron shine by demonstrating and reporting all your accomplishments over the last year. For those of you that still want to make donations to the Americanism program, now is the time to send them in. Also make sure you tally all your volunteer hours and ensure they are entered on your consolidated report. We want to make sure your squadron receives credit for their generosity at convention.

Let's not forget about our key Americanism programs as we begin to close out the year. There are still plenty of flags out there that need to be replaced. Make sure you turn in any flag replacement forms to the Detachment of Md. The National Emergency Fund has been quite busy supporting our fellow members from all the recent natural disasters around our country. Now is a good time to sponsor a young gentleman at Boys State 2016 and don't forget to continue supporting your local community. More information regarding these keys programs is discussed below.

With 4 months remaining until convention, it's time to get the young members of your squadron ready and enrolled for junior convention. Last year we had a record number of attendees and we need your help to keep that trend going. Junior convention is very

inexpensive and it allows our future leaders to learn about the 5 star/10 ideas programs. More information can be found in your squadron's convention packet.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the April 2016 DEC at Rockville Post 86.

Yours in Service,

Americanism Chairman
Joe Lohman

Flag Replacement Program:

Try to help your Post out by purchasing Flags for our Veterans, for the Veteran's Holidays and the businesses and homes out in our community. You should think about doing a Flag Retirement Program/Ceremony. That is the proper way of disposing Flags that I become unserviceable in a worthy cause. Also, please let me know if your need Flag Replacement Forms. Please keep a record of Flags that you have replaced. Let's get out there and replace those tattered and worn out flags!

For God and Country
Larry Ford
Flag Replacement Program Chairman
Email: lafitd@comcast.net

Boys State

Once again The American Legion Department of Maryland Boys State program will be held from June 19th 2016 to June 25th 2016 at McDaniel College in Westminster Maryland.

The cost is still \$300.00 per boy to attend Maryland Boys State. You can solicit funds in your local community from businesses and other civic organizations to help offset sponsoring a boy. If you know a boy or boys wanting to go and your Post just can't afford it, ensure the boy or boys completes the application and mail it in to Department by the deadline.

Has your Post Commander appointed a Chairperson for this worthwhile program? If not ask the Post Commander to appoint a Legionnaire. If your Post has a Boys State Chairperson, let that Chairperson know your Squadron is interested in sponsoring a

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

boy to Boys State.

Sons of The American Legion members can become a counselor in this program. Please feel free to visit Boys State and learn about what goes on there and see what the boys are accomplishing during their week.

Any questions concerning Boys State Feel free to contact me or Mr. Roger Butt, Director of Boys State.

Dennis J. Renehan
Committee Chairman
Boys State Staff
Fort City CIC
dawgtrucker@yahoo.com
410-330-3003

Community Affairs:

The date for the Fisher House Cookout is Saturday April 2, we will be providing lunch for the residents. If you are able to assist, please contact me. We will need sodas, plates, desserts, etc.... and help! We are planning on being there at 10AM to get prepared for the event. Spring is upon us and the weather will be changing for the better. Get out and support your local little leagues, softball leagues and other youth sports programs, get your name out there! Many areas are in need of community clean ups, step up with your squadrons and lead the way! Look into the "Adopt a Road" program, your squadron will be recognized with a roadside sign, and the community will see your active participation in keeping it clean. I hope to see you on April 2 and then on April 3 for the DEC.

Yours in service,
Bob Manzo
Chairman
bmanzo1085@yahoo.com

Five-Star Program:

The Five-Star award program is for all members of The Sons of The American Legion who show dedication and knowledge in the Five-Point program of service consisting of the following: Patriotism, Citizenship, Discipline, Leadership and Legionism. If you would like learn more contact PNC Bill Sparwasser.

Yours in Service,

Americanism Chairman
Joe Lohman

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

CWF:

Chairman Tom Clavell has ask that you continue to support CWF any way that you can. If you do donate directly or through you squadron and or District, please let him know and make sure this goes on your report form. You need to get the credit that you deserve donate as much as your squadron can afford.

Casey Cares; Chairman Kraig Dean continues to work hard as chairman and will have things to talk about in his report. He says he has been getting donations but that the people have been Going directly to Casey Cares. He will explain in his report how and why.

CMW Chairman Jerry Sykes has asked me to pass on if each member can help support the CMN by donating as much as your squadron can afford. Jerry has been asking for \$ 1.00 per member, but will continue to take donations all year please continue to support this great cause.

Special Olympics

Chairman JR: I believe all the raffle tickets have been given out these tickets are to help support the bowling let's continue to be the big sponsor for this tournament each year. Let's sell them all. We have until the convention in June to get them sold. By now the Winter Olympics has come and gone and I am sure JR. will report on this in his Article. Next up is the Laps of Love coming in May. we have flyers out and will have them at our next meeting in April

So to all let's continue to support all of our children and youth projects this year and all the years to come.

Thank you
David Hullihen
Children & Youth Chairman

Laps of Love

The time is coming again for the Doug Henley Memorial Laps of Love. This will be the 5th Annual of this great event to raise money for Special Olympics, Casey Cares and CWF. It will again be held at Mt. Saint Joe High School on May 14th. Registration will start around 10:00 and the walk will start 11:00. This year we will be holding an open corn hole tournament. There will be a \$10.00 registration and team will be picked from a hat at 12:00 with the tournament to follow. This should be a lot of fun and we hope to have great participation.

At noon we will be joined by all the riders that are participating in this year's Casey Cares bike ride.

The ride will be ending at the Laps of Love for the first time. We hope to have athletes from Special Olympics and families from Casey Cares there. We will be collecting pajamas for Casey Cares and donations for all the organizations. Contact me for more information or look it up online and sign up today and start getting sponsors. Hope to see you there.

J.R. Hall
Chairman

Casey Cares Newsletter

Casey Cares is a locally created program for critically ill children and their families. They try to make life a little more pleasant for the families with what most of us take for granted. A night at home watching a movie from "NetFlix", gift cards from any number of stores, donations of pajamas to "Kami's Jammies", and Crazy socks just to mention a few.

If you find that you have any of these items or perhaps an extra set of tickets to one of our many local attractions, please consider donating them. Those little things we can sometimes take for granted can mean so much to these families.

It is the little things that can make life seem more enjoyable to everyone.

Serving Maryland's Children
Kraig A Dean
Casey Cares Chairmen

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Special Olympics— Maryland

I would like to start out by Thanking our Detachment Commander Jeff Seiler and First Vice Ray Edwards for again this year taking time out to show our leadership still supports the athletes of Special Olympics of Maryland by working the Winter Games. Legion family was well represented with PDP Becky Dunn coming back with other ALA volunteers. Doug Lawrence not only represents the American Legion as a volunteer but also as a county coach, Eddie Souder, myself and many others from the SAL all showed the athletes and fans why the American Legion family is strong and still working for the right things.

There is always Special Olympics games going on all over our Detachment and if you want information just contact me and I will help you get information needed. Summer games is just around the corner in Towson and volunteers will be needed.

Our raffle for the bowling tournament is under way and we need everyone to help us sell these tickets to support the SAL bowling tournament for the Special Olympics.

Keep Helping Others,
It is so Rewarding,

J.R. Hall

SOMD Chairman

Dhall1967@verizon.net

Legislative Alert!

Washington Conference was February 21 -25 with the tours of Arlington, Pentagon 9/11 Memorial and Korean War Memorial on Sunday February 21. National Commander Kevin Collier placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns to start out the day. Commander Seiler, Vice Commanders Hullihen, Alexander and I represented Maryland on the tours. Commander Seiler placed a Wreath at the Korean War Memorial. Fourteen states were represented laying Wreaths and visiting the memorials during the day. At the conference American Legion National

Commander Dale Barnett revealed the American Legion's Legislative Agenda for the 114th Congress. Here are the topics in no particular order: Fully fund a superior national defense as the global war on terror continues; Ensure real accountability within the VA; Institute a 21st century health-care system; Develop alternative help for veterans struggling with mental health issues and brain injuries; Make sure transition programs are not adversely affected by sequestration; Create opportunities for veteran business owners; Provide opportunities through Post-9/11 GI bill; End veteran homelessness; Reject any attempt to diminish benefits earned by veterans; Repeal unfair offsets that penalize disabled veterans and widows; protect the American Flag. I will have a brochure on the table at the DEC meeting with more information on each of these objectives. I can also e-mail a copy of it if needed. Pick 2-3 that you can speak to your representatives about and help push for better care of our veterans. As I stated in the last article, get ready for another important election year. We will elect a new President, a new Senator for first time in a while and many other delegates and congressmen as well. Listen to your local districts also to see who is running and learn what their campaigning for and against. We need to get involved and help our country get stronger with better representatives that are for the people and our veterans. For those running for reelection you can see how they voted at the web site below but it does take a little digging. Web site for all to take a look at: www.congress.gov. The information is sometimes overwhelming however it is easily accessible and you can find any current legislation. <http://www.legion.org/legislative> scroll down to LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER and go to the Take Action page. I will still send out e-mails when I get them but most of the time we need to act fast and e-mails are not the way to do business.

For God and Country

Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
tom.deal@verizon.net

VAVS Variety

Wow, where has this year gone. We still have a lot of work to accomplish and not much time left in this year to get it done.

Donations are low, I know they'll be coming in and as always it's up to the Sons of The American Legion to help our veterans. Every time you turn on the news you hear about homeless veterans living on streets, veterans and their families being evicted from their homes and not getting proper care in the VA hospitals; so that's why we need to continue to work hard and support our veterans and the men and women serving are great country today. Let's reach out to our Squadrons and Districts for donations to increase our year to date totals. Our veteran's homes (Charlotte Hall, Loch Raven, Perry Point, Green Street and MCVET) are always in need of the following items: toiletry items such as; disposal razors, small shampoo & lotion bottles. Men & Women's new socks and underwear (all sizes).

Here are some dates and opportunities to recognize our veterans:

March 30, 2016 - Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day
A day set aside to show honor and respect to our Vietnam Veterans and to say "Welcome home."

May 30, 2016 - Memorial Day (Decoration Day)
A day set aside to commemorate all who have died in military service for our Country.

Yours in Service,

VA&R Chairman
Jim Alexander

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

The Southern Maryland District continues to hold a bingo at the CHVH on the third Monday of each month. Two hundred dollars are given out to residents at each bingo. The bingos hand out \$2,400 a year, so please consider making a donation. If you are interested in volunteering your time contact PDC Buddy Mastin or myself. Additional help is always welcome. To make a monetary donation, send checks to SMD Finance Officer Al Rhodes at



(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 4)

P.O. Box 56521, Virginia Beach, VA
23456 with a copy to Detachment
Adjutant Bill Matoska.

If you would like to find out more about
other opportunities to help, contact me
or visit their website, www.charhall.org.

For God and Country,
Dave Tatman
CHVH Representative
tatman_david@comcast.net
301-645-1537

Maryland Center for Veteran's Training & Education (MCVET)

Thank you goes out to the Northern Central
District for preparing and serving a fantastic
lunch during the St. Patrick's weekend, along
with a Thank you to all Legion Family
members who came out to help.

As always all donations and support are
greatly appreciated and as we come to the
end of our administrative year, I would like
to extend a "right hand salute" to all of the
American Legion Family, who have
supported MCVET's over the years!

You are GREATLY APPRECIATED!

If you would like to know more about how
you or your squadron, post, unit or ALR is
able to help support this program, please do
not hesitate to contact me.

For God and Country,

Bill Hill
MCVET—Detachment Liaison

Chaplin's Corner

Please let me know if anybody is sick or
has passed away. If anybody would like
a service at the funeral home or at the
grave site, also, please let me know.

Eternal Love

I walk along a shimmering beach,
Leaving footprints in the sand.

Though all alone, I walk with faith
That my Lord will hold my hand.

Seagulls float on the updraft breeze
With effortless strength and power.

God's love is like that every day...

No matter the plight, the place or the

hour.

I pause to watch the incessant surf
Crash gently on the pristine shore.

Eternal is this awesome power...

God's love----is even more.

I hope everyone had a Blessed Easter!

In His Service,
Larry Ford

Email: lafldt@comcast.net

Commander's Project / MCVET [Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training]

Things are moving along to meet the
Commanders project for MCVET but we
are only halfway there and we still need
your help. The goal is within reach but
we cannot succeed without your
help. Let's make that final push to the
finish line to get the van so desperately
needed. Showing our support to help
our Veterans that have done so much for
us in our time of need to protect us and
our freedom is the least we can do. It is
now our time to give back to them. We
need to help these men and women to
get back on their feet and we need to
show everyone that the Detachment of
Maryland cares. At the Detachment
Winter DEC, the National Commander
Kevin Collier and leading Candidate for
National Commander Jeff Frain both
said that the Detachment of Maryland
knows how to raise funds and have fun
doing it. So " LETS DO IT."

"Sons Helping Vets Build a Better
Future"

Yours in Service,

Mike Obremski
Project Chair

Time and Place Committee

We're heading back to Laurel for the
43rd Annual Convention! Specifically
Laurel Post 60!!

We will be staying at the Double Tree
Hilton @15101 Sweitzer Lane Laurel
MD. By now all squadrons should have
your convention packets all the

information is in that packet.

Details for the hotels, bowling and other
events are detailed in the convention
packages and are updated on our
website www.mdsal.org.

Note: We **Do Not** currently have a site
location for our 2017 Convention and
beyond. If your District, Squadron or
Legion Family is interested in helping
identify or hosting the 2017 Convention
or beyond, please contact me and I'll
send you the convention requirements
outline and work with you or whomever
the appropriate contacts are. We need
your help to identify another great
location, so please reach out.

For God and Country,
Bill Hill
Chairman
Hill1062@msn.com
301-928-1411 (cell)

South Eastern Shore Gazette

Hello to everyone in the Legion Family.

The next few months will be a busy time
for the districts and squadrons. First off
I'd like to say congratulations to those
squadrons who have been sending in
their membership. Great job and Thank
you. Encourage those members to pay
their dues that have not done so.

Help your Post by sponsoring a boy to
attend Boys State. The cost is \$300.00
per boy. You can solicit funds from local
businesses and other civic organizations
in your area to help offset the cost. You
might be surprised who well give you
some money for this program. Also don't
forget about Girls State. Talk to the
Auxiliary for more info.

The South Eastern Shore District
Reception will be held on April 23rd at
Post 16 in Crisfield with Social Hour
starting at 2PM. Tickets are \$30.00 with
steak and seafood on the menu. Please
plan on attending this event. It is a great
time if you have never attended one.

In closing remember to support your
Squadron and Post.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

Dennis J. Renehan
Commander
SESD

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Southern Pride

Greetings from the Great Southern Maryland District, I hope everyone survived the Blizzard of 2016 and is ready for spring. As the warmer weather gets closer, we can look forward to fun activities with family and friends. But, it also means it is time to think about the 2016 Consolidated Report. Now is the time to organize your donations and volunteer hours. Time spent now will make completing and turning in the Report Form that much easier come May. We are available to provide assistance if needed... just call me or your assigned DEC.

I am happy to report that we are doing very well with Membership. So far we are 152 members ahead of where we were this time last year and have surpassed the March 9th target of 80%. We are currently in 4th Place at 87.57% with (6) 4-Star and (2) 3-Star Squadrons. I am also happy to report that we got rid of our last "Goose Egg". Good Job! Please keep after the Sons that have not yet renewed, I know we can still top last year's record.

Since my last update I have the opportunity to visit 6 more Posts & Squadrons. I also survived my First Polar Bear Plunge! I would like to thank friends and co-workers who helped me reach my goal. After the plunge we had a very successful training session and DEC Meeting at Ocean City. I would like to Thank the Squadron and American Legion Family of Post 268 for hosting my Winter SMD Meeting on February 21, 2016.

Our Annual Shrimp and Beef Feast will be held on April 2, 2016 at Greenbelt Post #136. Flyers and tickets are available so see your assigned DEC or a SMD officer for tickets. The cost is only \$30.00 with \$5.00 "Joe Bucks". On the menu is Shrimp, Beef, Chicken, mashed potatoes, and green beans. I guarantee that a good time will be had by all and

no one will leave hungry.

Our Spring SMD meeting will be held on April 10, 2016 at La Plata Post #82 starting at 1pm. All Squadrons should have their Commander or his assigned representative in attendance. Please invite your Squadron Advisor or Post Commander as well. I hope to see you soon.

Yours in Service

Joe Weik

SMD Commander

North Eastern Shore Times

I would like to congratulate all of the NESD squadrons on membership all of them are at 80% or higher. Squadron 15 had another terrific Ice Splash where they raised over \$50,000 dollars and squadron 296 raised over \$13,000 dollars on their Wildlife Dinner. Special thanks to all who supported these squadrons in their venture. Our district meeting was well attended this month with Detachment 1st Vice Ray Edwards and Detachment 2nd Vice Dave Hullihen in attendance

Freddie Taylor

Commander: N.E.S.D.

Western Maryland Tribune

Greetings and congratulations to all the squadrons in WMD for a job well done for our membership as of our last DEC meeting in OC we were in last place, but now we are in third place great job guys keep pushing that membership.

Convention time is here again and it's time to have to think about getting your certifications and your delicate dues in order. The convention will be held in Laurel MD. Post 60 June 24th thru 26th WMD will be sharing a hospitality room with NCD. We like all that attend the convention to pitch in and bring some beer or a few bottles of alcohol to share and a cold dish only. Again I'm asking all squadrons please have at least one representative to attend the convention in order to pick up your membership cards.

Cornhole is going to be held in

Thurmont @ Post 168 on April 16th @ 8:00. Contact Rob Fogle cornhole chairman @ 240-285-2195, Thurmont Post 168 @ 301-271-4411, or WMD Commander Tom Clavell @ 410-598-3168 for registration information. Our last meeting is in Emmitsburg @ Kumps dam on May 22nd @ 1:00 elections will be held at that time. I'm trying to fill a position for historian. Have a save and Happy Easter.

For God and Country

Tom Clavell

WMD Commander

Northern Central News

Comrades,

NCD's membership rally was on February 26, 2016. The membership rally was held at Rosedale Post and a big thank you for everyone at Rosedale. Thank you to the Rally committee.

Congratulations to all Post that achieved 90% and above on membership. Everyone please keep up the good work to make your goals and keep the membership coming in. As of the Rally, NCD was in second place, great job everyone.

The annual pool tournament was held on Sunday February 28, 2016 at Rodgers House Tavern. The winner of the Cue Stick was a member of Post 128. Thank you to everyone who participated and attended the pool tournament and a special thank you to Jerry Saunders, Sr. for all of his hard work.

VAVS luncheon was March 12, 2016. Thanks to everyone who participated, donated and attended.

On April 23, 2016 our annual bus trip is to Charlestown Casino and Racetrack, contact Dave Hullihen from August J. Raveo squadron 195 for details. Daveh.195@hotmail.com

The 9th annual Commander Ride will be held on Saturday May 7, 2016 at Towson Post 22, to benefit the Maryland Center for Veterans Education & Training. All proceeds from this event will go to

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

benefit MCVET. For more information contact PNC Joe Gladden @ joegladd123@aol.com. Also, see Detachment Facebook page for more details.

The next NCD meeting will be held April 9th at Parkton Post 256. Meeting to be at noon. Please try to attend.

For God and Country,

Bob Keys

NCD Commander

keysrak@verizon.net

NEC Update!

I bring you greetings from National Commander Kevin Collier. Remember Commander Kevin's theme is "R.O.C.K.E.D." **R**emembering **O**ur **C**ommitment **K**eeping it **E**very **D**ay, through duty, honor and service to The American Legions programs.

Commander Kevin thanks the Detachment of Maryland for the great hospitality that he received during his visit at our winter DEC in Ocean City. Highlights for Commander Kevin was his dip in the Chesapeake Bay with the American Legion Family for the Annual Polar Bear Plunge supporting MD Special Olympics. Participating in the training classes given by PNC Bill and PNC Chuck. The Detachment Draw Down supporting MD Special Olympics bowling tournaments and on Sunday listening to the commission reports and was very impressed with the programs in which we donate to.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Jeff Frain from Arizona made a visit also for the winter DEC and he thanks the Detachment for the hospitality that was shone to him. Jeff also enjoyed the training, Draw Down and the DEC on Sunday and of course the oysters.

National Vice Commander Bill Hill's reception and the Unofficial meeting of

the East was well attended by the Detachments of the East as well as a few other Detachments from across the country. The weekend was filled with training and comradery among the members and guests. Now on to membership, the Detachment has met and surpassed all goals set by National, we are currently at 83.115% which has us ahead of the March 9th goal of 80% and places us 14th in the nation and 3rd in the East and the Eastern Region is in 3rd place. Here are a few frequently asked questions;

Why would someone want to join the Sons?

Different people have different reasons for belonging to organizations. For many, membership in the Sons has allowed them to become involved in American Legion programs alongside their fathers. Others belong out of respect for their parents' and grandparents' service to our country in the military. Many younger members get involved and learn valuable leadership skills involving organization, public speaking, and negotiating, budgeting and fundraising skills. Membership in our organization also provides individuals with opportunities to forge lifelong friendships with people who share a common bond.

How can I contact the CWF?

Questions, comments and donations can be sent to:

The American Legion
Child Welfare Foundation
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

I hear the S.A.L. is a major contributor to the CWF. Is this true?

Yes. The Sons of The American Legion is the single largest contributor to the CWF. This past year, the S.A.L. contributed more than \$360,510 to the CWF. In 28 years the S.A.L. has accounted for more than \$6 million to the CWF.

Yours in Service, Andy Dadds

Nat'l Executive Committeeman (NEC)

Junior Member Forum

All though there is not an official distinction between the levels of membership within the SAL, we recognize the age differences and associate those under the age of 18 as Junior members. This section will be dedicate to articles and information specifically addressed to these members. So, as a challenge moving forward we are asking the following of not only the Junior's, but to the parents and grandparents.

Send in articles, pictures (B&W) or questions, which come directly from or are address a younger member's interest or questions. As many articles as possible will be published in this section of the Pride.

Some things to thing about or consider are;

what would make a younger member interested in coming out to a Squadron, District or Detachment meeting or event.

Do you/they attend meeting/events today, if not, why not?

Do they want more things geared toward their interest and if so, what are they?

Tell the Officers what you want to see. Junior members are the future of this great organization and without your contribution moving forward, we run the risk of becoming an extinct organization.

We want to hear from you, the Junior members who will become the future leaders of the Sons of The American Legion. Send in articles or questions to the Detachment Officers. Please submit articles and comments to:

Sr. Assistant Adjutant

Bill Hill (PDC)

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM



"Sons Helping Vets Build a Better Future"

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

We're On The Web Visit Us At www.mdsal.org

Follow us on Facebook:

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland



2016 Membership Target Date:

September 9, 2015	10%
October 14, 2015	25%
November 13, 2015	35%
December 9, 2015	45%
January 20, 2016	60%
February 10, 2016	75%
March 9, 2016	80%
April 13, 2016	90%
May 11, 2016	100%
* July 26, 2016	105%

Delegate Strength Target Date

Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2015—2016

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 3rd, 2016 / Rockville Post 86 @ 1pm

43rd Annual Detachment Convention

June 24th to 26th

Laurel Post 60

2 Main Street, Laurel, MD