



“The Pride”

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

www.mdsal.org

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Winter Issue - January 29, 2017

Commander’s Corner

Dear Comrades.

Happy New Year! With the holiday season behind us, it’s now time to focus on the second half of our administrative year. First line of business is the Polar Plunge at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis, Maryland on Friday, January 27, 2017 at 12noon. Followed by the Past Commander’s Draw Down on Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 3pm at American Legion Post 166 with our Winter DEC meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at noon. National Commander Jeff Frain will be joining us that weekend in Ocean City. Please make Commander Jeff and his assistant Chuck feel comfortable here in Maryland.

Please contact 1st Vice Dave Hullihen, 2nd Vice Jim Alexander or myself for tickets to the Draw down.

Please remember, all proceeds benefit Special Olympics of Maryland Bowling Tournament. Items for the silent auction are needed as well as cakes for the cake wheel. All help is greatly appreciated.

With our Fall DEC meeting behind us, I’d like to Thank the entire American Legion Post 40 Legion family who helped make that meeting a huge success. Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting.

The Washington Conference wreath ceremony will be Sunday, February 26,

2017. The bus will leave at 7:30am sharp. I will leave for the mountains at the conclusion of the bus tour in Washington to volunteer for Special Olympics winter games.

An update on my Commander’s project. As you know, I’ve select Heroes Haven, Inc., as my commander’s project this year. The money raised will help purchase a new vehicle for transportation purposes for our injured heroes.

I came in contact with a veteran who had been severely injured in Afghanistan only seven days there, in the green zone. Brandon lost is right leg below his knee. He had sheltered himself and was held up in his house. He was going through a very tough time and did not trust anyone. Brandon lost his will to live. They found him on the streets in Pittsburgh unconscious and took him to the VA in Pittsburgh. The VA in Pittsburgh would not help him until he went through a detox program and then there was an 8 month wait to enter into the PTSD program. We worked to get Brandon into the PSTD program in Martinsville WV, which started September 1, 2016. He finally went home right before Thanksgiving. Prior to that meeting, Brandon’s wife told me Brandon wanted a service dog. He wanted a German Shepard. After researching and finding a breeder, we found Brandon his dog. The owner donated the dog to Heroes Haven, Inc. and Brandon and I just returned home

from Minnesota with the dog. Now the training begins with a certified canine trainer in Cumberland Maryland.

We are working to make a difference, one veteran at a time. Please help Heroes Haven, Inc. in any way you can. We thank you!

“Serving Our Injured Heroes”

Ray Edwards

Commander
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion

Adjutant’s Corner

Winter D.E.C.: The upcoming Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Edwards, on January 29, 2017 at 12:00 P.M.

The meeting is being hosted at Synepuxent 166, located at 2308 Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD 21842.

Winter DEC & Training Session:

The following Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will include Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training at The Grand Hotel during the morning of January 28th, and the Special Olympics Maryland Draw Down in the afternoon of January 28th at Post 166. The training session will be facilitated by Past National Commanders Chuck Gannon

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and Bill Sparwasser. National Commander Jeff Frain will be in attendance in support of his theme "Knowledge is Power". Commander Jeff walks the talk by providing his version of training manuals for your use to assist our training session.

Commander Jeff covered the expense of the printing and shipping of these manuals which further demonstrates his commitment to training success of every Blue Cap member across the nation. On behalf of the members of the Detachment of Maryland I offer him a big Thank You. Also, don't forget to bring those Cruise raffle tickets to this meeting in Ocean City. At the Draw Down on Saturday at Post No. 166 we will be drawing the ticket for a free cruise for two on The Carnival Pride leaving out of Baltimore on April 23, 2017. This is a Detachment sponsored event with all proceeds earmarked for the National Support Fund.

Detachment Endorsement:

Congratulations to Past Detachment Commander JR Hall for his unanimous endorsement for the high office of National Vice Commander East by the Detachment of Maryland Executive Committee assembled on November 19, 2016, at Glen Burnie Post No. 40. PDC JR stated he was both extremely humbled and thankful to all of the members in the Detachment of Maryland and will always strive to uphold the high expectations and traditions of someone holding high office from the Detachment of Maryland. An endorsement resolution will be presented at the Detachment Convention in June and then forwarded to National. Good luck and well wishes to JR as he embarks on a new journey at the National level.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant
matoskaw@yahoo.com

443-710-9664

Commander's Project

Heroes Haven

As we kick off the New Year and everyone is working hard on their fundraisers let's not forget the Commanders Project Heroes Haven.

Help us pass the word about this great program as you help us raise money. There is a lot of people that think this is an Eastern Shore program and that is not the truth. The soldiers and first responders have been hosted to hunts on the Eastern Shore but Heroes Haven is much more than that. Heroes Haven help our wounded warriors with trips to hospitals and treatments that are much needed. That is why one of the goals for the year is to buy a vehicle to help transport our heroes.

I know as I talk to a lot of members that budgets are set and there is most of the time a donation set in the budget for the Commanders Project each year, and we certainly appreciate that and hope you are doing that. But how about adding just one more 50-50 raffle at your lounge, or finding a restaurant in your area to donate a dinner to raffle off. If we could just get 50 squadrons to raise an extra \$100.00 that could be \$5,000.00. I think that is a very obtainable goal.

Please help us to get it done.

Squadron 135 is hosting the Commander Project Drawdown on March 4th at Post 135. You do not have to be present to win. They are also looking for donations for the silent auction and cake wheel. If you can donate anything, please contact PDC Tommy Deal. We hope to see you all there.

If you need any information on Heroes Haven please contact your Districts Project chairman, myself or Commander Edwards.

Serving Those that have Served Us,

Don "JR" Hall
Project Chairman

Let's go Fishing for MEMBERSHIP!

Guys, every year we seem to get better and better at membership and so far this year has proven no Different.

Man oh man I feel like a proud papa right now. I am happy to report that at this time Maryland is in first place in the Eastern region as of this writing. Man that feels great as of now I believe we are doing superb in membership. I hope to report at our next DEC meeting everyone will be pass the % we need to be at which is 60% . We have 4 districts already pass that and the other 3 only need 1 to 3% to be at that mark.

Everybody is doing a great job this year and making it a nice fishing expedition out of it. NCD is currently in 1st place at a whopping 75.44% with NESD chasing them down @ 71.31% Western MD finally got out of last place and jumped 2 spots up to 5th . Baltimore who started out strong has dropped to last but still has 56.60 % which is still on course to have 60% by the meeting in January. Nice job Baltimore District Commander Drain. If there I anything I can do to assist your squadron, please let me know.

Great jobs guys and thanks for making my Christmas, now let's continue the great work and make 2017 a great year for membership.



"Serving Our Country's Injured Heroes "

Dave Hullihen

Membership Chairman
1st Vice Commander

DaveH.195@hotmail.com

Americanism Report

Happy New Year. The Americanism Commission is looking forward to 2017 and to continue supporting all the programs under Americanism.

Look for upcoming information for our next lunch at Fisher House so you can come help us provide a wonderful lunch to our veterans and their families.

Please read the updates on all of the Americanism programs throughout the next few sections of the Pride for additional details, and if you have new ideas or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the

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members of the Americanism Commission.

Yours in Service,

Americanism Chairman
Joe Lohman

Flag Replacement Program:

Happy New Year! We continue to need your support with helping the community replace old torn or weathered flags.

Make sure to track your efforts and keep a record of the replaced flags as indicated on the replacement form. We will have some flags available to purchase for your squadron at the next DEC meeting in January.

Flag Replacement forms are also on the Detachment of Maryland website.
Flag Replacement Forms.

Let's get out there and replace those worn out flags.

For God and Country
Leon Miller
Flag Replacement Program Chairman

Boys State

The Boys State Committee has been doing great things since last reported. The Committee has done a review of the City Mentor (Jr Counselors) program was done including reviewing qualifications and the selection process. Motion was approved by the committee for the staff to hear and vote on at the next meeting. The committee met with McDaniel College in October. Topics discussed were, the possibility of McDaniel College offering college credit for attendance at MD Boys State and discussion of scholarships being offered to MD Boys State participants. Also, Marketing, exploring ways to better partner with Boys State, In Kind Printing donation and Banner advertising. Last, but not least, ways to cut costs for the program.

Now is the time for the squadron to ask

their Post, what can we do to assist in sending a boy to this great program or if the squadron sponsors a boy here are some ideas. Have a fundraiser, a 50/50 raffle, or put out a jar in the Post's lounge with the Post's permission. Also, don't forget you can go out in your community and solicit funds from businesses or alumni of this program to get sponsors for Boys State.

Remember if you give your Post a donation to sponsor a boy to this great program, please bring a copy of that check to the next Detachment meeting so your squadron gets credit and don't forget to report the amount on your squadron consolidated report. If your squadron would like to give a donation at the next detachment meeting you may do so. Remember to earmark your check MD Boys State.

How many squadrons know who their Post's Chairperson for Boys State is. That person is usually very knowledgeable about the program and you may find out that person is on the Boys State staff. Also, they are the liaison between the post, schools, and the Boys State Committee.

The objective for each Post in the state with the help of their squadron should be to send one boy to this program. If your post or squadron cannot afford the donation do not quit there have the boy send in his application. The committee will find a post or squadron or somebody to sponsor him. The next Boys State meeting will be held at Post 276 in Severn on January 14 2017 starting at 10 am. If you need information concerning Boys State, please contact me.

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

National Emergency Fund:

As we all know, a national disaster can occur anywhere at any time. Dealing with personal loss after a disaster can be very stressful. Many SAL members don't even

realize that qualify for this benefit. This fund was designed to provide financial assistance to the American Legion Family and Posts in the event of a disaster. The fund provides up to \$3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to \$10,000 for posts. We are asking each squadron to donate at least \$1.00 per member. This should be a very obtainable goal and if all squadrons participated we would raise over \$15,000 for the project. The National Emergency Fund continues to need our help. Please contact me for additional information.

Yours in Service,
Chairman Drain Plummer-El
NEF Chairman

Community Affairs:

As we read the wonderful holiday stories on Face book and other forms of social media, it's nice to see how the community has helped our veterans or elders during the holiday season.

I have read stories how neighbors showed their support by simply purchasing a coffee for a veteran. Some neighbors went to the store for elders because they could not get out of their house during the ice store in December. Keep in mind that there may be older members in our Legion Family or community may need assistance with snow removal or getting to local stores.

Don't forget to let us know what you're doing in your community so we can share the good news with everyone. More information regarding community events and support can be obtained by contacting me.

Yours in Service,
Leon Adkins—Chairman

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.

Squadron 60 in Laurel is working on offering a Five Star Class in February or

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March. All junior members are welcome to attend.

More information will be provided at the DEC meeting at the end of this month.

Happy New Year! Our Detachment Americanism Commission is looking forward to a successful 2017. It's hard to believe we are already half way through the reporting year. We thank you all for your generous donations and volunteer work.

Yours in Service,

Americanism Chairman
Joe Lohman

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

Happy New Year to all, I hope you had a wonderful holiday and are rested to get ramped up for 2017. During the holiday season I was giving some thought on what we do for our community and veterans and how it has influenced me and my family.

With this in mind I would like to ask, are we doing everything possible to get our youth involved? This committee is focused on Children & Youth but I was wondering is there more we can do to get our own youth involved.

We, the men of the SAL put a lot to time and effort into volunteering but do we invite the youth to volunteer alongside us? Do we really show them how rewarding it is and how they can make a difference?

I am asking each of you to give this some thought and to think of how you can get a junior member more involved so they get the same rewarding feeling we do, this will help us prepare them as our future leaders.

Remember this as we prepare for volunteering for the Maryland Special Olympics so our athletes can participate in their games that they practice so hard for, let our youth watch the athletes smiles at the end of an event?

Include them when we collect pajamas for Casey Cares, donate movie tickets, dinner certificates or sporting event

tickets so the families could get out and forget about their problems for the evening.

We also need donations for other American Legion programs that we also support like Children's Miracle Network and Child Welfare Foundation so The American Legion can issue grants to needy families to help their children. There are several ways to help so please participate and bring a young friend!

So once again let's continue to support all of our children and youth projects this year

Yours in Service,

Jim Alexander
Children & Youth Chairman

Casey Cares Newsletter

The Kami's Jammies program provides a bit of comfort to critically ill kids undergoing often-rigorous medical treatment. Hospitals, clinics and hospices keep requesting new pairs of pajamas.

Their biggest needs are always infant and teens/adult sizes. Please donate new pajamas when you can. We will accept donations anytime.

Casey Cares sent over 7000 pairs of pajamas this year to hospital and the Sons of The American Legion is proud to be a part of that.

The Casey Cares 7th annual Gala will be held on March 25, 2017! Get info and buy tickets by going to caseycares.org.

For more information on Casey Cares please visit the web site at www.caseycaresfoundation.org

Robert Keys (Bob)
Chairman-Casey Cares

Cell 443-756-1152
keysrak@Verizon.net

Child Welfare Foundation

"Dedicated to the betterment of all children"

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's purpose is:

"To contribute to the physical, mental emotional and spiritual needs of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and their programs."

"To make wider, more effective use of the knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations to the end that such information will benefit youth and be more adequately used by society."

Try to set a goal for your donation to Child Welfare Foundation. Set a reasonable amount per member in your squadron, that you feel you can achieve. Each squadron donating a least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year will receive a beautiful banner/streamer.

Have fundraisers to reach your goal. Please contact me if you want some ideas for your fundraisers. Also, if you need promotional materials, please let me know.

I hope the New Year brings all of you health and happiness. Let's all work together for this worthy cause.

Yours In Service,

Larry Ford
CWF Chairman

Toys For Tots

First off I would like to say "Happy New Year" and thanks to all the Squadrons and our American Legion Family for making the 2016 Toys for Tots Campaign a Great Success.

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Your gifts and donations helped provide a toy or present to a child that otherwise may have gone without. I was able to deliver 10 boxes to Squadrons that were picked up December 12th through December 16th. The toy distribution was held on Saturday December 17th at the various locations by the dedicated Toys for Tots volunteers, Marines, and Local Law Enforcement. The final numbers and amount of toys donated for the 2016 Campaign are still being tallied. I hope to have the end of the year numbers by out next DEC in Ocean City.

If your squadron was a drop off site or they made donations please send the receipts, estimates, or pictures to myself or Adjutant Matoska so your squadron gets the credit for a Job Well Done!

Remember that any time and money spent on Toys for Tots should be included on your Consolidated Report in May.

I Hope everyone had a Wonderful Holiday Season and I look forward to working with you in "2017"

For God and Country,

Joe Weik

Toys for Tots Chairman

Special Olympics— Maryland

Hello Once Again,

Exciting things are happening with Special Olympics of Maryland, and as a member of our organization I am proud that we support this great program.

Back in November and December the Sons of The American Legion Special Olympics Bowling Tournament went off great. We were well represented at the regional and finals and I would like to Thank all that came out and helped.

Along with Past Commanders Deal, Matoska and Sparwasser. I attended the Breakfast of Champions and found out that Maryland has three athletes that

will be going to the World Games in Austria in March. It was a great event and we were proud to be a part of it.

Coming events that we have are the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics at Sandy Point on January 27th for our team. We will be plunging at 12:00 noon. along with other for the Military plunge. Then we will be heading to Ocean City for the Drawdown on Saturday that benefits the bowling tournament we sponsor. We can use items for the silent auction if you have anything you can help us with let me know. Tickets are on sale now so see 2nd Vice Commander - Jimmy Alexander, 1st Vice Commander - Dave Hullihen or Commander - Ray Edwards to get your ticket.

In February, the Winter games will take place at White Tail and we will head up on Sunday the 26th to help set up, then the games open on Monday and finish on Tuesday. If you are interested in volunteering at the games just let me know and we can get you all set up to do so. It is a great opportunity and you will get out more then you put in.

The Special Olympics Bowling raffle tickets have been divided by districts and you should have received yours for your Squadron by now, if you haven't please contact your District Commanders.

Please help us out. The winners will be drawn at our annual Detachment Convention in June. Don't wait till the end to get these sold and turned in, and Thanks for helping.

Serving Those that Served,

J.R. Hall

SOMD Chairman

Legislative Alert!

Now that the election is over, it is a very important time for us all to get to know what our President Elect Donald Trump will really do for our veterans and the country. We can all hope his "Make America Great Again" will not just be a slogan but the country will improve. Senator Elect Chris Van Hollen is our new Senator and we need to make sure he knows our veteran's issues as well. There were also many local delegates

and congressmen elected or re-elected, get to know your officials and make sure you express how important our veterans and Military issues are. We need to get involved and help our country get stronger with dialog with our representatives that are for the people and our veterans.

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.

Please make sure you are signed up for Legislative Action Alerts at <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.

The Washington Conference is February 26 to March 1 at the Washington Hilton. The Tours of Arlington, Korean War Memorial and Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be on Sunday February 26th. The Bus will leave the Hilton at 7:30 am sharp. Commander Edwards and some of the Detachment officers will attend as well as PDC Bear Weinzirl and myself. It is always a great experience walking around the memorials.

Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
tom.deal@verizon.net

VAVS Variety

The holiday season is over and I hope you were able to visit with veterans over the holiday season. The Holiday Gift program at the VA centers was a great success, the gift bags that were handed out brought happiness to our veterans.

Perry Point VA

Our upcoming event is Salute to Veterans Week, February 12-18, each veteran will receive a gift bag. We are looking for donations.

I am looking forward to seeing and learning more about all that is being done for our Veterans and how the Sons of The American Legion can help.

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Remember as you are making plans for the rest of the year to include a visit to a veteran's home.

Yours in Service,

VA&R Chairman
Bob Manzo

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION COMMISSION

"Remember"

"How your Squadron help?" By assigning members of your Squadron to your own VE&E Commission/Committee to assist us in getting this info out to your local Veterans that can benefit from it.

"Where to find this information and how we can get it out to the Veterans?" By going online and finding local job fairs and benefits available in your state. Then by taking this info, as well as info received from National or Detachment, and placing it on your Squadron/Post websites and Facebook pages as well as in your newsletters. Also by printing it out and posting it on your Post's bulletin board and in other locations around your community where local Veterans will see it. You can also request that your Post e-mail this info out to their members. Be creative with your distribution.

When you leave the military, the biggest question is **"What's next?"** Your Squadron can help with the answer to this question by providing this information to our Veterans. Please assist us in making this new Sons of The American Legion Commission a successful one nationwide while assisting the "Heroes" who have kept America and everyone in it free and safe.

Larry "Bear" Weinzirl
National VE&E Chairman

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

On December 10, the CHVH Service Organization Liaison Committee held its annual Christmas Ice Cream Social at the CHVH. The American Legion family was well represented. Ed Tatman and I helped serve the residents and Anna Mae Sackie, past President of Unit 82, was Mrs. Claus. Each resident received a bowl of ice cream (or maybe two) and a Christmas card with \$5 inside. Always an enjoyable day.

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

I have received several inquiries about donations to the CHVH. Please note: they CANNOT ACCEPT the following:

- USED walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, bathroom chairs, scooters
- Books and magazines (regardless of condition)
- USED/soiled clothing (all clothing items, shoes and accessories must be "NEW")
- Hotel/Travel size toiletries
- VHS tapes, used TVs or electronic equipment (computers, radios, etc.) Home-baked goods.

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

All donations should be accompanied by a Donation Form which can be found on the website.

For God and Country,
Dave Tatman
CHVH Representative
tatman_david@comcast.net

301-645-1537

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

Saying "Thank you" to the Glen Burnie Legion Family once again for sponsoring the Christmas luncheon for MCVET, along with Gold Star Unit 191 sponsoring the ice cream desert.

This year was the first time in close to 20 years that we could not make it to MCVET to prepare this luncheon. Due to the Icy road conditions on the morning of the scheduled event, we communicated with MCVET and determined to not place anyone at risk of travel, and cancelled our preparing the meal. However, we made arrangements to deliver all of the food and "special cards" to MCVET, and they prepared the meal on Christmas Day and passed out our "special cards".

Although we could not be there to prepare the meal and have our great conversations, we still were able to deliver on our commitment to them.

It's always a humbling experience of having an opportunity to help our Veterans' during the holiday season and anytime throughout the year.

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
Detachment Liaison

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Loch Raven VA CLC

The Holiday season is over and there were many events for the veteran patients. I was able to take part in two of them, bingo with Parkville Post 183 where I am the VAR chairman. We play about 60 games with cash prizes and refreshments. We also included a card, canteen books and toothpaste. Then on December 23, I assisted the VA with their distribution of gifts to the patients. We were assisted by representatives from the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the U.S. Coast Guard. With spring right around the corner it's time to plan an activity. If your group would like more information on holding a function, please call the Voluntary Service office as soon as possible.

Two annual events already scheduled are the May 20 cookout sponsored by The Northern Central District and June 18 Father's Day cookout sponsored by Parkville Squadron 183

The next combined meeting of Baltimore and Loch Raven VAVS committees will be on March 21, 1 pm at Towson American Legion

Bob Filippi

Detachment Representative

Loch Raven VA CLC

Chaplin's Corner

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

A New Year's Prayer



As the old year comes to an end, let us ponder on what it has held for us. Let us be thankful for the rich experiences it gave us....for every sympathetic smile, for every tear....for moments which brought laughter's melody....for nature's loveliness, and for friendship's beauty. Let us also ask forgiveness for thoughts and deeds unwise. As we stand on the threshold of a New Year....let us be thankful for the opportunity to stand and peer intently, eagerly beyond the door to so many challenges that lie ahead. May we have the courage, truth and faith to meet them without flinching and thought of self.

In Thy Name we pray. Amen.

For God and Country

In His Service,

Mark Fayer

Email: markfayersr@outlook.com

Cell: 443-413-4710

Time and Place Committee

We're heading back to Laurel for the 44th Annual Convention!

Reminder this time, we will hold the Convention at the DoubleTree, by Hilton.

Each notification within the "Time and Place Committee", which outlines the location, date and times for the convention, are considered "Official Announcements" to all eligible members in good standing within the Detachment of Maryland. Therefore, you have been advised if you are reading this article.

Now with that said, let the planning begin. Each squadron should begin to look at their accomplishments to-date, so they may capture them on their "Consolidated Report Form", which will be sent to them shortly from the Detachment. Along with determining who is attending as a delegate from their squadron.

**Delegate Allowance: Article V –
Legislative Body**

Section 3. -- In the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Maryland Convention, each Squadron in good standing with at least ten (10) active members shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one additional delegate for each additional twenty-five (25) members.

Reminder, that a "Delegate at Large from your Squadron is any member who is either a; District Commander, elected Detachment Officer or a Past Detachment Commander.

Also, each squadron is required to pay for their "full delegate fees" in order to receive their "new" membership cards, as well as submit a 2017–2018 Squadron Certification form, which identifies your new officers. "No Exceptions"

Details for bowling and other events will be detailed in the convention packages being distributed shortly after the new year and will be updated on our website www.mdsal.org.

"Serving Our Country's Injured Heroes"

Bill Hill (PDC)
Chairman

North Eastern Shore Times

Hello Comrades,

Happy New Year to our American Legion Family!

Now that 2016 is behind us I want to take this time to thank all of the NESD Squadron on the fantastic job they have done with Membership. We ended the year at 72.31 % of goal, 2ND in the Detachment. Congratulations to Squadron #246 as they are the first 3 Star Squadron.

In 2017 I need all of you to support the Detachment Commanders project. We need to make the commitment to help our Veteran's and our programs for our Children.

Our Northeastern Shore District (NESD) lottery has begun and thanks to PDC Tom Deal, it is a great success and thank all our officers and the Squadrons for their support of this endeavor.

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During the past month PDC Andy Dadds paid his respects as four (4) fallen heroes passed through on their way to their final resting place in Arlington National Cemetery. Also, Blake-Blackston Post 77 lost a dedicated Veteran and the Best Color Guard Captain that put on the uniform, Mr. Charles Smothers. He also was a Past American Legion NESD Commander and was a member of Squadron #77, V.F.W. Post 5118 and the Forty and Eight. He will truly be missed.

“Sons Helping Vets Build a Better Future”

Freddie Taylor

Commander: N.E.S.D.

Southern Pride

2017 is now arrived and from my wife and myself we both wish everyone a Happy New Year and may any worries you had in 2016 be left in the past and you look forward to 2017 with bigger and brighter eyes. The past is the past and in the history books. It's time to start writing new history and look towards the future.

We are now at the mid-point of this current and in six months there will be a new regime coming in. But before they do we must ensure that finish out what needs to be done. The focus of the year so far has been to ensure that all records are reviewed and updated. Not what I would call a rebuilding year but rather a year for review.

Every good organization needs to stop once in awhile and do internal reviews / audits and I am happy to say that everything is good to go so far and this is due to each and everyone in the Southern Maryland District. The credit goes to all of you for a job well done.

However we are not to sit back. I have given some tasks out to have the District By-laws reviewed to ensure we have everything in order and that we are not missing anything. Another tasker is to get the Southern Maryland District Newsletter back up and running. There are so many events happening all over the District that not everyone knows about. My desire is to get everyone

talking and sharing information.

The Drawdown held in October was a huge success and heartfelt thanks goes out to all who attended and helped with yet another great event. There were so many compliments given to how this district throws an event that visitors are taking some of what we do back to their own home Post / Squadron to institute. When the event was finally done and tallied up we surpassed last year totals across the board in attendance and funds raised. Right off the bat the District present a check for \$2000 towards our Detachment Commander Heroes Haven project. There are more donations to come that is for sure.

The next fun filled but chilly event that I will be doing is the Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics. It's not the first time I have taken the plunge and I am honored to be doing it again but this time under the flag of the Sons of the American Legion. Come on out support the event and share your warmth by cheering everyone on. I do know that warmth will be much appreciated.

I will say that Membership is going along great. We are still in third place but unfortunately about 350 members behind from where we were last year. Of course everyone knows we watch our money around the holiday time but I ask that you renew your membership now as they do show 2016 and that is old news now and we are in 2017. 350 members may not seem like much but in the long run it is. Without the members voices are lost to help support our Veterans. Please send in your membership. We have strength in numbers.

Well we are all banded together here in the SAL together for a common goal.

So simply put LET'S DO IT.

Yours in Service,

Mie Obremski
SMD Commander

Western Maryland Glory

Greetings gentleman!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a happy new year.

Now we are into 2017 we are doing pretty good in membership. Currently we have moved up 2 spots and we are in 5th standing at 58%. Good job!

WMD is having a reception to honor our Maryland—American Legion Family Leadership on Saturday April 8, 2017 at 3:00 pm at Glen W. Eyler Post 282 Woodsboro. 101 W, Elizabeth St.

I will be sending out information on the reception to all the squadrons on how to obtain tickets to grand affair keep a lookout for that info.

Any questions please contact me at 410-598 -3168 or email me at clavell276@gmail.com

Next meeting will be at Joseph C.Hebert Post 222 Clear Spring, MD Saturday February 4th @ 1:00 PM upstairs in the hall. Hope to see a representative from each squadron within the District. Come out and help us spread the word about the great things we're doing.

Keep up the good work for all you do for the community, your post, and membership. Hope for see you soon not using.

For God and Country

Tom Clavell

WMD Commander

Northern Central News

I want to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year. Northern Central is proud to say as of January 1, 2017, we are still in 1st place. Everyone please keep up the good work on getting your dues turned in. It won't be long before we will be attending the Northern Central District Rally awards ceremony to show appreciation to our squadrons. Keep an eye out on the mailing for the rally.

As stated in the previous Pride newsletter, the Northern Central District project this year is Heroes Haven alongside of our Detachment

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Commander Ray Edwards. There has been many successful fundraisers and donations so far for the purchase of a vehicle to transport the guest to and from hunting and fishing trips, medical appointments and any other transportation needs. Thank you to everyone that have made their donations and keep them coming.

I would like to thank Bob Manzo for stepping in for me at our last Northern Central District meeting which was held at Liberty # 122 on December 3rd. 2016. I was not able to attend due to my work schedule. Thank you, Liberty Squadron # 122 for hosting our meeting. Thank you for your hospitality and all your hard work.

Our next Northern Central meeting will be held on February 12, 2017 at Slate Ridge # 182 at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting after February will be on April 9, 2017 at Harford # 39 at 1:00 p.m. Please everyone try to attend. We appreciate input and support from each NCD Squadron.

The annual pool tournament will be held on Sunday February 12, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at Rodgers House Tavern. Pool stick raffle tickets are available. Contact Jerry Saunders at Squadron # 39 at 443-807-1131 for pool sign up and raffle tickets.

VAVS luncheon for MCVET is going to held on March 18, 2017. Volunteers are needed for set-up and assist with food prep and food serving the arrival time for set-up is around 9:45.

Contact Bill Yeagy Squadron 130 at 443-869-1170 for all details.

For God and Country,

Bob Keys

NCD Commander

keysrak@verizon.net

NEC Update!

I bring you greetings from National Commander Jeff Frain. Commander Jeff 's theme this year is "Knowledge is Power."

Commander Jeff wants to emphasize the importance of training S.A.L. members from the squadron level all the way up through the national level. National Commander and other National members, Legislative committee and other S.A.L members will be heading to The Washington Conference, February 26- March 1, 2017 to remind our elected representatives that we need to take care of our Veterans.

This year the Detachment will be hosting our National Commander Jeff Frain at our winter DEC in Ocean City the weekend of January 27-29, 2017. During the weekend there will be training and along with our annual draw down for Special Olympics. Please attend to meet our National Commander and hear his words on how we can educate our members about the accomplishments of the S.A.L. and the reasons why we need to publicize the things we do.

Congratulations to our membership team, which is everyone on reaching and passing goals set by National. We are 13th in the nation and 1st in the East with a 59.605%. Remember we need to see which members we are losing at the end of the year and ask them why and see what you can do to reinstate them. Remember this is where Knowledge is Power can help. National Vice Commander Joe Korba is very proud of our membership and knows the East will be in first place by National Convention.

National Commander Jeff Frain's homecoming is going to be held in Arizona February 3 - 5, 2017. If anyone is interested on going please email FrainHomecoming2017@yahoo.com

The Eastern Regional Unofficial Gathering and Testimonial Dinner

honoring National Vice Commander Joe Korba will take place on March 31 and April 1, 2017 in Sommers Point NJ 08244.

Yours in Service,

Andy Dadds

Nat'l Executive Committeeman (NEC)

Public Relations Advisory

We want to brag about you!

If you are hosting an event, or have had a successful one which you just want to brag about, please send an outline. It may be about either what's taking place or what has taken place. Provide some details around what the event may be supporting, such as a Draw Down to raise funds for a scholarship program, or a Dance to support the Detachment Commanders Project and an event, which may be purely held in your community to support a local program such as a food bank, or children's clothing drive.

We'll do our best to publish them on the Detachment website in advance of the event and we'll help get the word out to the Detachment and Legion Family.

One article will be published in each upcoming Pride in this section and will highlight the event, those who supported/hosted it and whatever final goal was achieved.

Let's get the word out around the fantastic things this great Detachment of Maryland does to support the Four Pillars of the American Legion. A good pat on the back for your local Squadron or District in print is always a great way to say "Thanks"! Please send all articles to:

Bill Hill (PDC)

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM



“Serving Our Injured Heroes ”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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



2016 Membership Target Date:

September 14, 2016	10%
October 12, 2016	25%
November 16, 2016	35%
December 14, 2016	45%
January 19, 2017	60%
February 8, 2017	75%
March 8, 2017	80%
April 12, 2017	90%
May 10, 2017	100%
* July 19, 2017	105%

Delegate Strength Target Date

Congratulations Maryland

December 31, 2016 Final Numbers

Membership--17,069 101.156%

Retention--92.03%

Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2016—2017

Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training at The Grand Hotel

Special Olympics Maryland Draw Down @ Post 166

January 28th, 2017 @ 3pm

Winter D.E.C. Meeting & Training Session

January 29th, 2017 / Synepuxent Post 166 @ 12pm

Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown

March 4th, 2017 / Susquehanna Post 135 @ 5pm

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 2nd, 2017 / Mason-Dixon Post 194 @ 1pm

44th Annual Detachment Convention

June 23rd to 25th, 2017

Laurel Post 60

2 Main Street, Laurel, MD