



The Pride



Editor: Bill Matoska Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

Commander's Corner by Bear Weinzirl

I'd like to start off my first article as Detachment Commander by congratulating our 2006-2007 Commander, Andy Dadds on a very successful year. I also want to extend my congratulations to all of the newly elected officers of our Squadrons and Districts as well as the Detachment for 2007-2008. By working together, we can make this year just as successful.

Our slogan for the upcoming year is a little play on words. This year the Detachment of Maryland will be "Bringing Veterans and Kids Programs to Bear." I thought long and hard before choosing my Commander's Project for this year. Think about this...

what happens when a Blue Star turns to a Gold Star? Providing for the children of our military personnel killed in action is our civic duty. This is why I have chosen as my Commander's Project for 2007-2008...the American Legacy Scholarship Fund. The American Legion Family fights to see that our active-duty military personnel and their families are looked after. But despite our efforts, recent years have seen a significant shortfall in dollars allotted by our government. The educational benefit provided to surviving children is one of these critical gaps. The total survivor benefit for these children will pay little more than half of what a college education

costs in the most affordable situation. Your donations to the American Legacy Scholarship Fund will help to bridge this gap and restore the faith of these very special children. I'd like to ask for your support in getting behind this program of The American Legion. Thank you to everyone who has already made a donation. An education is a powerful way for us to show our thanks.

As you know, I'm also a member of the Board of Directors of the Casey Cares Foundation. When I put out a request for assistance several months ago after their offices burned to the ground, the response from our Legion Family was overwhelming. I want to thank everyone for your donations and I'd like to ask for your continued support of this very special charity that provides uplifting programs

(Continued on page 2)

Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

D.E.C.: The next meeting of the Detachment of Maryland Executive Committee is scheduled for September 30, 2007 hosted at Glen Burnie No. 40. This meeting will begin at 12:00 P.M. and is held in conjunction with the Detachment Seminar. For those unfamiliar with the seminar, this is the session where goals and objectives for the new administrative year are shared with the membership along with plans, suggestions, and training to successfully meet these goals and objectives set forth by Detachment Commander, Larry Weinzirl. Packets of valuable information will be distributed for your convenience to take back to for your squadron distributions including the 2007-2008 Blue Book which is a confidential listing of all the newly elected detachment, district, and squadron officers. The Glen Burnie American Legion Post No. 40 is located at 500 5th Ave. SE, Glen Burnie, Md. 21061 which is a cross street of MD Route 2/Ritchie Highway which is accessible to both those traveling from the north or south bound directions. The post phone number is 410-761-9869.

National News: Mr. Raymond Giehll of the Detachment Indiana was elected National Commander at the 75th Anniversary Convention for the Sons of The American Legion which took place in Reno, Nevada this past August 24-26, 2007, and Mr. Thomas Marsden of the Detachment of New Jersey was elected as our Vice-Commander for the Eastern Region. The Maryland delegation in Reno extended congratulations to our new leaders and have invited both of these gentlemen to visit the Detachment of Maryland to meet the many members from Maryland that make this Detachment the nation's leader. A job-well-done and congratulations to some of our members that won National Awards in Reno which is the highest honor that can be given to a commander or chairman for their efforts and leadership during their term. Even though our hard work is a result of our dedication and passion we have is for the good our programs render to those in our communities, it is still an honor to be recognized by your peers on the national

(Continued on page 4)

Seminar Issue

Inside this issue:	
Mining For Membership	2
Children & Youth Chatter	3
Community Service	5
CMN News	3
Casey Cares	3
VAVS Variety	7
Commander's Project	5
NEF	4
The Future	4
Toys For Tots	3
Americanism Today	5
District New	6-7
NEC News	8
SAL Commission Report	2
Convention Report	7

Commander's Corner by Bear Weinzirl

(Continued from page 1)

with a personal touch to critically ill children and their families. I know that you will get behind these programs and the other programs that benefit our veterans and the children of our country. Thank you in advance.

I want to thank Squadron Commander Jerry Saunders and the members of the Legion Family at Joseph L. Davis Post 47 for hosting our organizational meeting. Your hospitality was greatly appreciated. One of my goals announced at this meeting was to bring our Detachment web site up to date and make it a site that we can be proud of. We are well on our way to accomplishing this. Special thanks go out to Bill Hill and Joe Gladden for their assistance in making this happen. Please

check it out at: <http://mdsal.org/> .

Our Seminar/DEC meeting will be held on Sunday September 30 at Glen Burnie Post 40 at 12:00 noon. This is a very important meeting that every Squadron Commander or a representative should attend. There will be an abundance of information presented on this day that will be of benefit to you. Seminar Packets and Blue Books will be distributed and our Commissions and Committees will be laying out our goals for the year and how we can accomplish them. We will also be going over the consolidated report forms and providing instruction on how to fill them out properly. Please make an effort to attend this seminar. I hope to see you there. [Just a reminder- Detachment Commissions and Committees will meet one hour prior to all DEC meetings].

In closing, I want to thank you for electing me as your Detachment Commander for 2007-2008. I look very much forward to traveling this great state with Department Commander "Butch" Haggard and Department President "Cass" Wheeler promoting the programs of The American Legion Family.

I plan to represent you in a way that will make you proud to say that you are a member of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Maryland.

Serving God, Country & The Legion Family,
Larry "Bear" Weinzirl
Commander
Detachment of Maryland
"Bringing Veterans and Kids Programs to Bear"

Mining For Membership by Mike Gray

Greetings Fellow Comrades

This year's membership theme will be "Mining For Membership "; We need to get back on track on retention. At one time we were the top in the nation in retention. We are slowly slipping back. We need to look back through our records and see if we can't get back some of the membership we have lost. Let's contact those members and see why they haven't renewed their membership. Maybe they have moved and didn't receive their renewal letters. Maybe they didn't feel like they made a difference. Well let's show them how to become more involved, let's welcome them back, show them that we do care about them.

We also need to keep getting new blood involved. Make them feel welcome at

meetings. Give them a chance to have input into meetings, Get them involved ask them questions. Make them a part of your meetings. Let's get them involved into your Districts and the Detachment, invite them to our meetings. New blood is the only thing that will keep this Detachment one of the best in the nation! We also need to get rid of those goose eggs, by now at least all squadron commanders should have paid their membership dues and sent them to department. Well all officers should have also paid by now. We can't preach membership dues if you have not paid. District commanders don't forget about the contest to be the first district to have no goose egg's will get a \$ 100 gift certificate to national emblem sales. I will explain this year's district contest for membership at the seminar September



30,

2007 at post # 40, Hope to see everybody there.

Yours In Legion Service
Michael Gray
Detachment 1st Vice Commander

SAL Commission Report by George Grossnickle

THANK YOU! These two words do not describe how honored I felt to find out that the 34th Annual Convention of the Son's of the American Legion, Detachment of Maryland was dedicated to

me. It was quite a surprise and I truly appreciate the fact that you honored me. I and the commission are here to assist you in any manner we can.

Once again, Thank You.
George O. Grossnickle, Chairman
Sons of the American Legion Commission

Children & Youth Chatter by Buddy Mastin

I am proud to be your C&Y Commission Chairman for 2007-2008 and look forward to a fantastic year as we "bring the children to bear". Congratulations to our 2006-2007 C&Y Commission Chairman, Mike Gray, his Commission members and the Detachment of Maryland for a clean sweep of the C&Y awards this year at the 2007 National Convention in Reno. We won the Detachment C&Y award. The National District C&Y award went to Northern Central District. The National East C&Y Squadron award went to Havre De Grace

Squadron #47. Congratulations to everyone involved, hopefully we will repeat again. We have big shoes to fill, but with the help of every member we can have a banner year helping the children of our community. I know sometimes it may be hard for some of our Squadrons to donate to the many different programs of The American Legion Family. If every Squadron could pick at least one C&Y program to support each year, it would go a long way to helping the children who need our support. Also now is the time to start keeping track of the hours and

dollars you donate to our programs. If you make a report at your Squadron meeting each month, you will be able to go back through your minutes at the end of the year to get the information you need to fill out your yearend reports. We will have more information about this at our upcoming D.E.C. seminar. I hope to see everyone there.

Yours In Service
Buddy Mastin
Children & Youth Chairman

Children's Miracle Network by Gene Nichols

Greetings All

Welcome to the newcomers, and welcome back to the rest. I want to express my thanks to all of the squadrons and members who made last year's CMN campaign a success. A right hand salute to you all.

Once again, I am not setting a goal, but I'm asking you to give till it hurts. If we do this, one day we won't have to worry whether, or not, there are places to care for the little ones that need our help the most. They will be there.

I would like to see a CMN collection can in every Post Home, as well as one being passed at every Squadron meeting. I will have cans available at every DEC and NCD meeting this year. Take one back to your Post and keep filling it up. If you can't bring the donations back to the next DEC meeting, send it back with your District Commanders. If you can't get a check to send in, send the change in a sealed envelope, and we will see that it gets deposited. In other words, even if the collection is a couple of dollars, get them to me so I have something to do at the

meeting. I hate leaving the podium empty handed, so keep me happy. Again this year I have pins and wristbands to give out, as well as leaflets and CMN donation cards to show your donations off. More about the cards later.

I'm hoping to see a long line of donations at the next DEC meeting. Don't let me down.

For God and Country,

Gene Nicholes, #183
410-592-6962
genicholes@aol.com

Casey Cares by Larry Griffin

Welcome to a new SAL year with your help we had a very successful 2006-07-fundraiser year. But before the year was over there was a fire and Casey Care lost everything and trying to rebuild and still

keep their services to the children and their families going strong. Therefore I am challenging ALL SAL members to dig a little dipper in their pockets to help us raise \$25,000 for the 2007-08 year.

Your In Service
Larry Griffith
Chairman

Toys For Tots by Ed Steininger

Although it is still summer we are only a few weeks away from a very important time of year. The season of giving is rapidly approaching. Once again, I will be chairing the Toys for Tots campaign. What an easy job. I just have to remind everyone that this is the time of year that the United States Marine Corp is busier than usual. They are collecting toys for unfortunate little boys and girls. All that we have to do is set out a collection box, hang a few posters, and wait for the boxes to fill up. Simple right?

Well it is almost that simple. First we have to count the toys, call for a pick up and then add this information to our end of the year reports. This is where it gets difficult for many people. This needs to be included under Children and Youth, and actually written in, with the dollar amount and man hours spent.

Hopefully by our DEC seminar, the names will be posted and available for the coordinators in your area. Some areas are changing this year, and this is the month

that the changes are announced. Contact your DEC man or District Commander, as I will make sure that the information needed will be available to them. We can make the difference in so many lives this year, once again. Lets do as we've done in the past and make this year, even bigger and better than last year.

Ed Steininger Sr.
Chairman
Toys for Tots

Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

(Continued from page 1)

stage.

Receiving recognition in Reno were Junior Past Commander Andy Dadds and Chairman Ed Steininger for being the top Detachment for donations to the Fisher House which was the National Commander's project for 06-07; PDC Andy Dadds and Detachment Children & Youth Chairman Mike Gray for winning the National Detachment Award; Northern Central District Commander Bill Stem and District C&Y Chairman Larry Ford for winning the National District Award; Squadron No. 47 Commander Jerry Saunders for winning the National Squadron Award for the Eastern Area; and again Northern Central District Commander Bill Stem and District VAVS Chairman Jerry Saunders for winning the National District Award. These gentlemen were proud to receive these awards on behalf of the members of the Detachment of Maryland in recognition of all your hard work and generosity this past year. The next National Executive Committee

Meeting is scheduled to take place October 12-14, 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. Anyone that would like to attend can contact National Executive Committeeman Maurice Morton or me for details and arrangements.

Membership Reports: Membership reports for the Detachment of Maryland are now available on line hosted by the Department of Maryland American Legion at www.mdlegion.org, which can also be accessed form the Detachment of Maryland web page at www.mdsal.org by going to the Other links area on the new and improved detachment site. Once logged onto the department page, go to Membership Statistics in the center of the page under The American Legion Emblem, and then click on the center box to view and/or print the S.A.L. report which is updated on a weekly basis. A new report is available every Friday after 3:00 P.M. for your convenience. This is a great resource and tool for the S.A.L. compliments of Department Adjutant, Tom Davis and S.A.L. Chairman George

Grossnickle.

FYI-Education/Evnets: Military Families struggling with life after deployment can get **Free** help through Anne Arundel Community College. Deployment to a foreign country during a time of war takes a tremendous toll on the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces as well as their families. Reintegration into the family and civilian life isn't always smooth and AACC is offering "Re-united: Family Life After Deployment" (FON359) which is free for all service personnel and their spouses or significant others, thanks to the Friends of The Parenting Center scholarship program. The course meets 7-9 P.M. Mondays October 1-22, on the Arnold Campus. For course or registration information, call 410-477-2325 or go online to www.aacc.edu/noncredit.

Yours In Service.
Bill Matoska

The Future by Joe Gladden

There's an old say "When Looking To The Future, You Must First Look To The Past". We as proud processors of a priceless heritage from Maryland are blessed in two different ways with our heritage. The first of course is our veterans who gave us this opportunity to be part of this great organization by their service to our Nation. The second heritage is that of those members of the Detachment of Maryland that have molded Maryland into the Detachment it is today. That list is to long to mention any one name, but we truly are blessed.

Through the encouragement of my comrades here in Maryland and from other friends across this Nation, I have decided that if given the opportunity, I will seek the high office of National Commander for the Sons of The American Legion.

For this dream to come a reality, I will need the help of each and everyone of you. I have done a preliminary budget to analyze what we will need to make this goal come

true. I estimate that we will need \$70,000 to do all the things necessary to make the campaign successful. The good news is that this does not have to be raised in one or two years, but in three or four years.

I would like to thank those members that have already stepped up and helped the campaign with personal donations:
Joe Ilbertini \$25.00, Ken Jenkins \$25.00, Gene Nicholes \$25.00, Ed & Judy Phillips \$25.00, Tom Deal \$25.00, Larry Griffith \$25.00, Andy Dadds \$25.00, Dennis Rebok \$25.00, Jerry & Tina Saunders \$25.00, Ed Steininger \$25.00, George & Rita Grossnickle \$50.00, Sam Marshall \$100.00, Caroline Sq. 29 \$100.00 and Tom Marsden from New Jersey \$100.00.

To the guys at Caroline 29, thanks for being the first squadron in the Detachment to step up and contribute. I apologize for the delay in cashing your check. It took me some time to get a official campaign account open.

Currently, Gold Star Squadron 191 will be holding a fundraiser on December 8, 2007. Details and flyers will be available at the DEC meeting on 9/30/07. Also, Overlea-Perry Hall Sq 130 has a fundraiser planned for 2/16/2008, which is the night before our DEC meeting at Post 130. More information will be made available in the near future on that event.

If your squadron can have a fundraiser, I promise to be there if you book the evening with me. I might not be able to stay the entire evening, but I will be there to show my appreciation.

I have always believed that the journey is as important as the destination. Let's enjoy this journey together.

For God and Country
Joe Gladden
Past Detachment Commander

Commander's Project by Ed Steininger

As most of you should have heard by now, Commander Weinzirl has chosen this very important program of the American Legion for his project. This is our way of saying to the Legion Family that we are still dedicated to our Veterans and Children. What better a program to make that statement, than one that makes sure the children of our Veterans that have made the ultimate sacrifice, are taken care of in the future when it comes to a College Education?

This project has come to the highlight as the Legion Riders took this project and made it happen. Personally, I am not a Legion Rider, just an old rider. Once I researched the program, and saw all the good that it could do, I accepted the offer to chair this project for Commander Bear. The only question is how can we get the Detachment of Maryland behind this, after the excellent year that we had last year? Answer: find out that the legendary

Country Music Entertainer/ Actor Michael Peterson, is the spokesman for this campaign through the American Legion. He gives so much heart and soul into this program that it would be difficult for you not to become involved.

So as the Commander starts to launch this campaign and Susquehanna Post #135 hosts a reception for our Commander, the show of support starts pouring in for the Scholarship Program immediately. We would like to thank everyone for their early support, such as Post 18 in the form of a \$1,000.00 donation, followed by ALA Unit 18, Squadron 135, Post 47, past Commander and Unit President, Ron and Anna Hall, Detachment Chaplain J.R. Trego, SAL Advisor George Grossnickle, Ken Jenkins, Eva Browning of Unit 36, Dee Ash of Unit 15, and ending with another donation of \$1,000.00 from Post 135. Since then the checks and

commitments have been flowing in. We want to thank each and every member of the Legion Family for their support of this worthy project.

After returning from the National Convention and hearing Michael Peterson speak, there seems to be much in the works this year towards this project. I could go on and on, however there is limiting space here. The only way to find out about what is in the works is to attend a DEC meeting, as we have had some pretty good ideas, from some pretty good people that make things happen. Until then, remember that every donation counts, no matter how big or small, it is going for the Education of our Gold Star Children.

"Bringing Veterans and Kids Programs to Bear"
Ed Steininger Sr.
Commanders Project Chairman

Community Service by Bob Trueblood & Gerald Clem

Another year is about to begin, and with the New Year, a new program is in the making. Commander Bear's slogan this year is "Bringing Veterans and Kids Programs to Bear". This year's Community Service projects involve Veteran's and Children's programs.

To begin the year, we are planning a clean-up day at the Fisher House, just like the one Commander Andy Dadds planned last year as part of his Fisher House Program, complete with a cook-out. Donations of food items will be needed for

the cook-out. The date has been finalized as of this writing, and will be held November 17, 2007 from 9:00 am to 2:30-3:00 pm, with a cook-out around noon. Donations of food and sodas will be needed, as well as plates, napkins and plastic wear.

The Spring Clean-up at Our House will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008, from 9:00 am. To 2:00 pm. We will have a cook-out at lunch time, as usual. Last year's clean-up was well attended with representatives from 4 Districts helping

with the work. Special thanks go out to Bud Singleton and Ed Phillips, for coming all the way from the South Eastern Shore District to help. If they can come all that way to help brighten the lives of these kids, you can make it too.

In Service to the Community,
Bob (Save The Peace Corps) Hope
Aka: Santa Claus

Americanism report by Mark Gilbert

The National Emergency Fund needs our help. In recent years many members of our Legion family have received some much needed assistance from the N.E.F. In order to continue this aid for our members in the present and near future Chairman Dave Hullihen is asking each squadron to donate at least \$1.00 per member. I believe this is a very obtainable goal for the great Detachment of Maryland. Past Commander Bob Trueblood is calling

on all volunteers for work days / cookout at Fisher House and Our House. If you can help out it will be a rewarding experience. Also, don't forget these worthwhile projects when making out squadron donations. The Detachment will once again be handing out an award to the top Squadron for Flag replacement. Make sure that the size of the replaced flag is indicated on the replacement form, (3x5 flags will count as 5 points and smaller flags will

count as 1 point). J. R. Trego will once again chair this program. For anyone wanting to take the Five-Star test we will have certified judges at all Detachment meetings or we will be happy to make arrangements to meet at your Post. Call Mitch Gilbert 443-286-2629 if you need assistance.

In Legion Service,
Mark Gilbert, Americanism Chairman

District News

Northern Central News

As we start our venture into the New Year, September is proving to be a very busy month already. We successfully held our organizational meeting and are hitting the ground running. I want to thank everyone that did take out of their busy schedule to attend. I have nothing but the utmost respect and confidence that this year will be just as successful as the past.

Since we have over a month before our first official meeting I wanted to reach as many people as possible, and figured that this was the best way. Now all I have to do is send this letter to a few.

October 7, 2007 at 1:00 PM

First Regularly Scheduled NCD Meeting Location is the shooting house at Post 256, Parkton, Md.

September 15, 2007 at 11:00 AM

Perry Point Carnival

All of the Officers will be needed to help that day, as we serve hamburgers to our Veterans.

September 21-23, 2007

Our weekend at Camp ALKOR Scheduled early to try and beat the cold autumn rain, we are again in need of donations, and campers. This has proven to be so much fun even in the rain. Sooner or later we will have to have Mother Nature on our side. Contact Vice Commander Jerry Saunders for more information.

Do to a scheduling conflict the Annual NCD Picnic to be held in September have been postponed until next May 4, 2008. However there is still time to throw something together if someone comes up with a location. Contact me.

September 30, 2007 at 1:00 PM

DEC Meeting and Seminar

To be held at Post 40, Glen Burnie, Md.

Contact an officer if you are interested and may want to car pool.

Last but not least. New for this year to try and increase attendance and input at our meetings we are having a contest with a

free night's stay at the Detachment Convention, on behalf of the Commander to the winner. This is an easy contest to win. For every Squadron Commander in attendance, that Squadron will receive 5 points. For the Adjutant and Advisor, they each receive 4 points. If the Squadron Commander is a District Officer, then bring along the Post Commander and receive the same points. To replace the Advisor or Adjutant, bring along a Vice Commander. These are the only people able to accumulate points. Of course the more the merrier, but I can only count so high.

This is all for now as we will announce the remaining events at the October meeting. Hope to see some more new faces on that day. Don't forget our Veterans and our Children. Remember to bring donations for the American Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Until then,
Ed Steinger Sr.
Commander
Of Your Great District

Northeastern Shore Gazette

This year, we are going to need a lot of help from all the squadrons in the district, as this will be a busy year.

I recently visited the Sons of the Kent Island Post and they opened my eyes as to what fundraisers will work. I will visit all the squadrons in the district during the coming year.

Continue to check the website. Bear is doing a great job updating and I am sure

that he will continue to do so. This will keep you informed of what is going on in the district and if you are planning on an event or fundraiser, let Bear know, and he will post it for you.

The website address:

<http://squadron135.tripod.com/nescd/>

Our next NESD meeting will be, Sunday, September 16th at 10:30 a.m. at the Jeff Davis Post 18, in Centreville, MD. Their

phone number is 410-758-3584. Please try to make it.

If you have any questions, concerns or most of all suggestions, you may contact me at 410-829-9974 or email me at Jkj44@aol.com.

Yours in Service
Ken Jones
NESD Commander

Western Maryland Tribune

Congratulation and Welcome to all Squadron and District Officers for 2007-2008. The newly elected officers for the District are Commander Randy Stouffer, First Vice Commander Mike Mandish, Second Vice Commander Mike Thomas, Third Vice Commander Robert Hill, Finance Officer Al Painter, Adjutant Mark Smith, Chaplain Bill Spurrier, Sgt at Arms

Gerald Clem, and Judge Advocate, Brett Beall. I know each and every one of these gentlemen will serve our District proudly.

I would like to congratulate Larry Weinzirl as the new Detachment Commander. I know that Larry will be a great Commander and the State of Md. is lucky to have such a good leader.

I hope to see you at the next meeting on Sunday October 7, 2007 at Morris Frock Post 42 in Hagerstown, Md. at 1:00 PM.

Yours in Service,
Randy Stouffer
Commander
Western Maryland District

Southern Maryland Times

I am looking forward to another great year in our District, and I am proud to have been elected your District Commander. It is now time to start getting back to work and supporting our Legion Family programs. We will be holding our next District Meeting and Seminar on Oct. 7th, 2007 12 noon at Brandywine Post #227. The address is 13505 Cherry Tree Crossing rd. Brandywine, Md. 20613, and

the Post phone # is 301-782-7371. This is a brand new S.A.L. Squadron, so let's come out and show them some support. We now have a new website for Southern Md. District. The address is www.salsmd.org. All of our upcoming District and D.E.C. meetings will be listed on the website. If your Squadron has any special events you would like listed, please contact our webmaster at

webmaster@salsmd.org. It is also time to start sending in your membership. All Squadrons should be at 10% membership by Sept. 10th. I look forward to seeing some new faces at our meetings this year.

Yours In Service
Tom Eloshway
SMD Commander

Convention Report by *Bill Hill*

The Convention Committee is working closely with the Time & Place Committee to locate and confirm the location for our 35th Convention.

Register Early!! Although we do not have a set location, you can still begin to start considering your registration for events such as Bowling, Golf, Pool and Super Stars. **Register Early!!**

The goal is to continue to make this upcoming convention and event filled with great comradeship, socializing and great stories about the hole-in-one that almost happened, or the pool shot that could have won someone first place.

Also remember that anyone in the Legion

Family can sign up for our Super Star events. Abby Morton (PDC Morton's daughter) took home overall award for the events. **Great job Abby.** So, bring out the family and let the competitions begin.

Details on the hotel's accommodations, restaurants, hospitality rooms and events taking place at the convention will be forthcoming.

Starting this year! All squadron within the Detachment of Maryland will be assessed Convention Delegate Fees. Whether or not your squadron plans to attend the convention or not, your squadron will be assessed the fee. The Delegate strength will be calculated based on your membership volume per the standards set

in the Constitution and By-Laws for the Detachment of Maryland. Squadron's who do not pay for their delegates, will not receive their new membership cards, until the fees are paid. More details will be available at the next DEC meeting.

I'm looking forward to working with all of the SAL members in an effort to make this event successful.

Yours in Service to God and Country,

Bill Hill
Convention Chairman

VAVS Variety by *Tom Deal*

I want to start by telling everyone what a great job you did last year for the Veterans. Donations of \$75,985.00 were received for: National Veterans Creative Arts Festival; Charlotte Hall Veterans Home; Cambridge Clinic; BREC Center; Baltimore VA Medical Center; MCVET Center; Perrypoint VA Medical Center; Sgt Jude fund and The Fisher House. The total hours were 13,249. These are incredible numbers for our veterans programs. This is quite a variety of programs showing versatility of The Detachment to help, not just one area, but the whole state. We need to keep up the great work and continue to work hard for these veterans to show them we care. The VAVS committee members are: Robert Hill (191), Michael Gray (47),

Chuck Kave (26), Robert Filippi (183) and Larry Griffin (29). Feel free to contact me or any of the commission members for more information. Toiletries, undergarments, gloves and paperback crossword and puzzle books are just some of the items needed for all the centers. I will have copies of patient's needs lists available at the DEC Meeting. The Baltimore VA Medical center has swing arm television program for Units 3A and 3B, two inpatient medical units. The units contain 60 patient beds and the cost is \$60,000 to put a swing arm television at their bedside. Any donations of \$500 or more will have the organizations name on a plaque at the entrance to the unit. What ever you would like to donate to there are a wide variety of choices at each center

such as television, hospice, all purpose, holiday, comfort items, social work and nursing home accounts. Charlotte Hall is still having monthly bingo's and in need of funds to keep it going also. I hope you will consider making a donation to one of the programs listed and again more information will be at the DEC. My phone number is 410-642-2561 and my e-mail is tom.deal@verizon.net feel free to ask any question or to offer assistance or an idea.

Serving all Veterans
Tom Deal
VAVS Chairman
Detachment of Maryland

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Maryland**

3115 Orchard Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234



**“Bring Veterans and
Kids Programs To Bear”**

We're on The Web!

Visit It Us At www.mdsal.org

NEC News by Maurice Morton National Executive Committeemen

Let me start by offering all greetings from our newly elected National Commander Raymond P. Giehl Jr. from the Detachment of Indiana. Also elected this year at the 36th National Convention of the Sons of the American Legion held in Reno, Nevada were National Vice Commander Eastern Region Thomas Marsden from the Detachment of New Jersey and National Chaplain Jack Donnelly from the Detachment of Pennsylvania. I'm sure that these leaders will serve our organization well.

This year's Convention marked the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Sons of the American Legion. Each of our Delegates was provided a 75th Anniversary History Book. A quick glance through this book reveals names like Hartman, Gannon, League, Matoska and Curtis. There are many other names listed from Maryland as well, but these were the early pioneers from Maryland who helped pave the way to make the Sons of the American Legion the large and productive program that it has become. At the Anniversary Luncheon we were introduced to Robert Ragsdale from

Robinson Squadron #133 in Indianapolis who was issued membership card #003. His brothers who were issued cards 001 and 002, but were killed in action in World War II. 75th Anniversary Chairman and PNC J.R. Stillwell suggested that Squadrons should continue to celebrate this benchmark in their communities until the end of 2007.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate this Detachment on the National recognition that it has received this year. Maryland was the top Detachment in Children & Youth Programs. We also received a certificate honoring our Renewal efforts. The Northern Central District was awarded Top District honors in Children and Youth and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Joseph L. Davis Squadron 47 in Havre De Grace received top Squadron award in the Eastern Region for Children & Youth. Richard Turney from Squadron 60 was a Blue Brigade winner (recruitment of over 30 new members).

Maryland also received a couple of appointments to the National

Organization. Joe Gladden will serve on the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission for one year. Bob Trueblood will serve for a year on the Americanism Commission.

Upcoming dates: October 12-14 National Executive Committee Meeting at the Sheraton (formerly the Radisson). November 2-4 Commander Geihl's Homecoming.

This year's membership theme from National is the Stoneyard 365 Super speedway. Car Chief Bear Weinzirl has been charged with attaining the first membership goal of 25% by October 11. So without trying to sound too cliché: Gentlemen, Start your engines!

Yours in Service to The American Legion,
Maurice Morton, NECMAN