



The Pride



Editor: Bill Matoska Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

Commander's Corner by Bear Weinzirl



Here's something to think about. Of the 50 states, Maryland ranks 42nd in land area and 19th in population. How is it then that the Detachment of Maryland is the 6th largest

Sons of The American Legion Detachment in the nation and has over 15,000 members? The answer is you, the Blue Cap member, and your efforts year after year in recruiting and retaining members. This year is no exception. We surpassed our 60% goal by the January 9th Target Date and as of this writing sit at 67.8% of the goal set by our National organization. Please

don't let up now. Let's keep mining that membership!

I'm proud to report that one of our newest members, Md. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Secretary James Adkins was in attendance at our most recent DEC meeting. It was an honor to have him on hand to update our organization on the programs that benefit our Veterans. I recently toured the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation & Extended Care Center [BRECC] and the Baltimore VA Medical Center with Dept. Commander Butch Haggard, Dept. President Cass Wheeler and other members of our Legion Family. From my visits to these and other facilities, and in my discussions with the men and women at these centers, I can state with confidence that our Veterans are being well taken care of.

Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

D.E.C.: The next meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee is scheduled for February 17, 2008 beginning at 1:00 P.M. with Commission and Committee Meetings preceding the D.E.C. at 12:30 P.M. This meeting is being hosted by Overlea Perry Hall Squadron No. 130 located at 8666 Silver Lake Drive, Perry Hall, Md. 21128. The post phone number is 410-931-0660. To access the post from either I-95 North or South, take Exit 67B and merge onto MD-43/White Marsh Blvd., after .7 of a mile turn right onto Silver Spring Road and proceed for .6 of a mile and turn left onto Silver Lake Drive. Follow

Silver Lake Drive through the woods to the post parking lot where Silver Lake Drive ends.

National Guest: National Vice Commander East, Thomas Marsden, from the Detachment of New Jersey will be officially visiting the Detachment of Maryland throughout the weekend of February 15-17, 2006. Commander Bear's itinerary hosting National Vice Commander Tom includes visiting post homes in the Northern Central District on Friday, February 15th, then on Saturday, February 16th, touring the Perry Point VA Facility in the morning,

(Continued on page 5)

Mid-Winter Issue

It was a very special and rewarding holiday season for this Commander. I traveled to Western Maryland where I rode with Santa Claus [a.k.a. Bob Trueblood] in an actual horse drawn sleigh from Post 239 to Cascade Elementary School where I helped the Legion Family of the Cascade Post distribute over \$9,000 worth of toys to the local children. And our Detachment's Toys for Tots drive was a huge success as we collected many hundreds of toys to brighten Christmas for less fortunate children. Also in December, I assisted the SAL Northern Central District in serving lunch to the residents of the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training

(Continued on page 2)

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

Commander's Corner by Bear Weinzirl

(Continued from page 1)



[MCVET]. After lunch, we sang Christmas Carols with them and believe me; they truly enjoyed our visit. Then on Christmas Eve, I helped distribute gifts to the patients at Perry Point VA Medical Center. We are the only family that many of these men and women have and it was indeed a pleasure to see the joy on the faces of these Veterans as they received their gifts. To me, this is what the holidays are all about and these are memories that I will cherish forever.

And then on a brisk weekend in January, along with other members of our Legion Family, I participated in the Polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point State Park in Southern Maryland to raise monies for Special Olympics of Maryland. I want to thank all of you who plunged with me as well as those

of you who sponsored us as we took a refreshing winter dip in the Chesapeake Bay. This made for another memory that I will never forget. [You can believe that!!!!]

I want to thank you for your ongoing support of our other programs also including my Commander's Project; the American Legacy Scholarship Fund. Many men and women of our active duty military have made the ultimate sacrifice in the war against terrorism. This fund makes sure that their children have a chance to receive a college education. As the number of children left behind grows, so must our donations. If your Squadron or District has not yet made a donation, please consider doing so. Our Detachment Fundraiser for this very special American Legion program will be held on Saturday night March 1st at Susquehanna Post 135 in Perryville. A \$35 donation will admit 2 persons for dinner, draft beer, a limited open bar and a chance to win up to \$1,000. Please check out the enclosed flier and the article by my Commander's Project Chairman Ed Steininger for more information. Only 150 tickets will

be sold.....so get yours before they sell out!

Our next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17th at Overlea-Perry Hall Post 130 at 1:00 pm. Our guest speaker that day will be Casey Baynes, founder and executive director of the Casey Cares Foundation. All SAL members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Why not come out and see what your Detachment has going on. We would love to see you there.

It is my honor to be serving as your Detachment Commander this year. The mission of the Sons of The American Legion has always been to support our Veterans and assist the children of our country. Thanks to you, the Detachment of Maryland is doing just that and "Bringing Veterans and Kids Programs to Bear".

Serving God, Country & The Legion Family,

Larry "Bear" Weinzirl
Commander
Detachment of Maryland

Mining For Membership by Mike Gray

. This is our winter report on our Mining For Membership Race. Our Detachment membership is doing great. We are at 80.5%. That puts us ahead of our target of 75% by February 13 2008. Some districts are very close to this number. Keep up the great work.

As most of you know this is the hardest time of the year for membership. This is where we try to get those last few members that will let us reach our goal. Take a moment at you squadron meetings to read the names of those who have not yet renewed. Maybe

somebody at the meeting will know someone on the list and have a way to contact them. Remember membership is everybody's responsibility.

Our membership race is getting very interesting. In first place at this time is Northern Central District with 25 pts. Second place is a tie between North Eastern Shore and South Eastern Shore Districts both with 24 pts. Following close behind is Southern Maryland District with 18 pts. Baltimore, Western Maryland and Mountain Districts are all tied up with 12 pts. Baltimore and Western

Maryland Districts have both moved up in the last couple of weeks. Keep your eyes on them. They are closing in fast.

Our next target date is March 12, 2008 at 80%. While the Detachment has already reached that goal, let's get each and every squadron to this level.

Yours In Legion Service
Michael Gray
Detachment 1st Vice Commander
Membership Chairman

e-mail salmikey@aol.com Home 410-273-2379 Cell 443-807-6246.

Children & Youth Chatter by Buddy Mastin

Now is the time to support the Children and Youth programs of The American Legion Family. By the time you have read this, Bear, Andy and I will have plunged in the Chesapeake Bay for Special Olympics. We also had other

members of the Legion Family plunging to raise money for Special Olympics. Hopefully your Squadron has donated to Special Olympics or one of the other great programs of The American Legion Family. The reason why we are

here is to raise money to support these programs.

Bringing Our Children To Bear
Buddy Mastin
Children And Youth Chairman

Children's Miracle Network by Gene Nichols

As I write this, we are getting our first snowfall in Baltimore this year, and by the time you receive this, the Polar Bear Plunge will have taken place. So, while we are waiting for the next event on our calendar, join me in an activity that won't get you freezing wet, aching muscles, sore butt, or squinty eyes. Comrades, I present to you "The Pocket There Plunge".

The event is very simple, you ask everyone in the room to plunge their hands into their pockets, throw their loose change into a collection can.

Then, as fast as you can, get it to a Squadron Children and Youth Officer, who will get it to me. Sounds simple don't it.

Then why aren't you burying me in loose change and checks!! Folks, I know we are in recession mode all over, but come on, empty the change tray in your car, clean out between the sofa cushions, take the quarters out of your penny loafers. I'm sure you have some change just sitting in pockets of your clothing. Buy 1 less lottery ticket, and let's do some good for some sick

kids.

Enough of my rant, you guys, and your ladies and children are doing great work all over the state. I am proud to represent you and CMN, thanks for all you do.

See you at the next DEC.

For God and Country,
Gene Nicholes, #183
410-592-6962
genicholes@aol.com

Casey Cares by Larry Griffin

Greetings, I hope everyone had a good Holiday. Now is the time to get back to business. The Casey Cares Grand Gala is coming up on March 29, 2008 6:30 pm to 12 midnight at the Grand Lodge in Hunt Valley. The tickets are \$100.00

each. The Sons are one of the major sponsors of this event, so I will keep you up dated on this.

The Case Cares Ride this year will be held on July 26, 2008 at Rising Sun

Post 194 from 1pm to 4pm. We will have more on the ride over the next few months.

Yours in Service;
Larry Griffin

Toys For Tots by Ed Steininger

Now that the hustle and bustle of the Holidays are past and we sit down to relax until Super Bowl Sunday, I can only say "Oh", what a year. I haven't seen too many results, however from what I am hearing; I believe that we have once again surpassed last year's totals. I know that we as an organization made a lot of children happy on Christmas on the Upper Eastern Shore. The dollar amounts are still being tallied up and it looks like next year will again be brighter for many children, as the donations will count towards next year gifts for those in need.

I can only stress that now, make sure

that all of this hard work does not go unforgotten, or reported. If you were the chairman, make a report for you Squadron meeting, getting the results in the minutes, and then follow up in the next couple of months to make sure that it is put on the end of year report. Make sure that it is written out "Toys for Tots", the dollar amount, manpower hours, and anything that has to deal with this program. Get the credit that you deserve. Follow up on it.

I want to thank each and every member, his family, and anyone that helped to make this a banner year. A special thank you goes out to Post 29 for allowing us to keep the

overabundance of toys there for a couple of more weeks, till Sgt. Manning could return to collect them. I feel sure that NESD Commander Jones might have had a little to do with that. Best of luck on remaining fund raisers as we are on the downhill side of our year.

Just remember that this is just one of many programs that are "Bringing Veterans and Kids Programs to Bear".

For our Children and Youth,

Ed Steininger Sr.

Chairman

Americanism Today by Mark Gilbert

DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND YOUTH CONTEST

The contest will be an essay on Americanism. The essay must be between 500 - 1000 words and submitted to Chairman Dave Tatman by May 21st, 2008, at 6402 Ocelot St., Waldorf, MD. 20603, or email dtatman@msn.com. The contest is open to all junior members and will be divided into two categories 1) up to age 13, 2) age 13 and above. Date of birth must be included. Two AWARDS, (\$100.00 savings bond & a plaque) will be presented for each category at the Detachment

Convention.

Americanism note: on July 25, 2007, Bill (S.1877) sponsored by U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) passed by unanimous consent. The bill allows U.S. servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag.

The Department of Veterans Affairs clarified the policy about recitations made while the U.S. flag is folded at the gravesite of a veteran. William F. Tuerk, VA's Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs stated "A family may request the recitation of words to accompany the meaningful

presentation of the American flag as we honor the dedication and sacrifice of their loved ones." Volunteer honor guards are authorized to read the so-called "13-fold" flag recitation or any comparable script; Survivors of the deceased need to provide material and request it be read by the volunteer honor guards; Volunteer honor guards will accept requests for recitations that reflect any or no religious traditions, on an equal basis.

Bringing Americanism to Bear,
Mark Gilbert

Child Welfare Foundation by Ken Jones

In October 2007, the Foundation awarded \$530,700 to 18 youth-serving organizations from across the nation. The demand for grant money to serve our nation's children continues to rise. The board has initiated a campaign appeal to Posts and Units to include a line item for

the Child Welfare Foundation in their annual budgets. The Sons of the American Legion is the largest contributor to the Foundation by far. Since 1955 over \$8 million has been raised. Let's make the Detachment of Maryland again the leader in providing other nonprofit organizations

with a means to educate the public about the needs of children across the nation

Yours in Service
Ken Jones

Commander's Project by Ed Steininger

Commander Weinzirl would like to thank everyone that has donated to the American Legacy Scholarship Fund. This is a very worthwhile program of the American Legion. I have made presentations to about half of the Districts, to include the County Legion meetings and the American Legion. Everyone has been so receptive of this program that our account should look much bigger than it is. District Commanders; please remember that there are DVD's available to explain this program in detail. Contact me for a copy, or order one from Legion Sales. We still have time to make a last minute drive on this very worthwhile project.

Speaking of last minute drives: Mark your calendars for Saturday March 1, 2008. Perryville Squadron #135 will once again host our Detachment Fund

Raiser. This was the talk of the Detachment last year and those guys are honored to have us back again this year. I of course am talking about a \$1,000.00 DRAW DOWN and Night at the Races. The menu has changed very little, but they are still serving ham. One ticket admits 2 people for dinner and one chance at \$1,000.00. Games, gambling, limited open bar, auctions, cake wheel, more gambling, and did I mention the grand prize of \$1,000.00? The only thing wrong with giving away a Grand Prize so large is that we can only sell 150 tickets. It would be a shame for us to sell out before you get your ticket. Do not put this off. Contact names and phone numbers are on the flier enclosed with this issue of the Pride. The Legion Family at Post 135 are getting the hall ready, the beer cold and the wheels greased as you are reading this article. Squadron

Commander Rick McKay and Detachment 3rd Vice Tom Deal are already holding meetings to make sure that this year's total tops last year's, and that the hospitality goes to the next step.

Remember, that if your Squadron or District want to hold a fund raiser, do not hesitate to contact me. I will help as much as possible. Don't forget to take this information to your Squadron and Post. Get the donations approved for the next DEC meeting to be held in the Mighty Northern Central District, home of the next National Commander from Maryland.

Bringing Kids and Veterans Programs to "BEAR"
Ed Steininger Sr.
443-807-1495
Steininger_7@msn.com

Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

(Continued from page 1)

visit Susquehanna Post No. 135 for lunch, and end the day attending the fund raising dinner for Joseph Gladden at Overlea Perry Hall Post No. 130. National Vice Commander Tom will address the membership on Sunday February 17th, at the Detachment Executive Committee Meeting. Tom is a very noteworthy leader within our organization and enjoys interacting with the Blue Cap member, so when the opportunity allows be sure to introduce yourself to Tom and demonstrate that fine Maryland hospitality we are known for.

Consolidated Report Form:

The 2007-2008 Consolidated Report Forms have arrived and are being distributed to each squadron adjutant only. Again, the National Organization has sent each detachment only the amount needed to distribute one form per squadron, so safeguard these forms. It is always best to make copies of the form for each squadron chairman to utilize as a work sheet and then bring the copies together when

completed to fill out the official 07-08 form. The deadline for these forms for the purpose of judging within the detachment is May 29, 2008. These forms are to be sent to my attention at 3115 Orchard Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21234. Do not, I repeat, do not send these forms with a signature required. If they are sent with a signature required they will not be picked up and eventually returned to the sender. The reason for this is simple, for me to go to the local post office and sign for mail I must take off of work and lose a days pay and this volunteer can not afford to do so. Any questions regarding the filling out of information on the form can be answered by contacting the Detachment Commission Chairman of the area with which your question pertains.

Eastern Regional Meeting:

National Vice Commander East, Tom Marsden is celebrating his homecoming on March 8, 2008 in Toms River, New Jersey with a dinner and short program at the Quality Inn for a cost of \$35.00 per person. The dinner is preceded with a tour of Ellis

Island and the Statue of Liberty earlier in the day. The weekend will conclude with an unofficial gathering of all of the detachments within the Eastern Region on Sunday, March 9th, at Post No. 351 in Seaside Heights, N. J. If anyone is interested in attending contact N.E.C. Maurice Morton for reservation information. As of now approximately 12 members from Maryland will be in attendance.

Washington Conference: The 48th Annual Washington Conference will be held March 30 thru April 2, 2008 at the Renaissance Washington D.C. Hotel, 999 9th St. NW, Washington D.C. Tuesday, April 1st has been designated Hill Day. A Legislative Rally for all will be held on Tuesday morning in the Grand Ballrooms South and Central level of the Renaissance Washington. National S.A.L. Commander Giehll will be bringing greetings and brief remarks during this session. Commander Bear will be presenting a Memorial Wreath at the World War II Memorial on Sunday, March 30th. If interested in attending contact Commander Bear for details.

The Future by Joe Gladden

Greeting To All My Friends

On December 8, 2007, Gold Star Squadron 191 held the very first National Campaign Fundraiser for me. I can't tell you how thankful I was with their efforts and their outcome. On Sunday December 9th at the DEC meeting at Caroline 29, the Squadron presented a check for \$1,250.00. I want to thank them one more time for being there for me. Your kindness will not be forgotten.

On January 24, 2008. I received a personal donation from Bob and Joyce Snukis from Dundalk Squadron 38 in the amount \$100.00. Thanks Bob and Joyce for believing in me and showing that belief through your personal donation.

The weekend of January 25-27, 2008, I

made an un-official visit to the Detachment of New York for their Mid-Winter Conference. It's always a great experience to see how other Detachments conduct business. I was treated with great respect and shown great hospitality. I would like to thank Ken Jenkins from Squadron 122 for accompanying me on this trip. Ken was indeed a great help in building the foundation needed for New York's eventual support of my candidacy.

On **February 16, 2008**, my home squadron Overlea-Perry Hall 130 will be holding a National Campaign Dance. The evening will start at 7 Pm with a Surf and Turf dinner (crab imperial and sirloin tips), with open bar. Music will be provided by DJ Budman (our very own Buddy Mastin). Buddy has donated his services for the evening. Tickets will be \$27.00 per person.

On **February 22, 2008**, Southern Maryland District will be having their Annual Draw Down at Greenbelt Post 136. The proceeds from the evening will be split between the National Campaign Fund and the other District programs. Tickets will be available at the DEC meeting.

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

District News

Northern Central News

As we approach the downhill side of our year, we are supposed to be gaining speed. Well with the rate at which we are traveling, I don't think that seat belts are going to help. The Squadrons of this District have really stepped it up this year. We have just completed another successful "Toys for Tots" event, to which I want to thank everyone involved. We once again had a successful year. We are busy preparing for our Membership Rally, which I would rather call a Membership Awards Banquet. What can I say about membership? These guys are saying it for me. I just hope that they are saving some tricks for the final mining dig as June is rapidly approaching.

As I sit here writing this article, I can only think back on years past, and

knowing that as this goes to press, our District will have had its biggest showing yet for the now thawed out Plungers. I can only say "THANK YOU", to so many that made the commitment to support MD Special Olympics this year. This is a testament to the commitment of our District towards what we feel are some outstanding programs supported by the American Legion and the SAL. We overlooked the boundary lines or District Lines, to let our Detachment Commander know that he was not alone on his endeavor to freeze for one of our programs and that we stand proud and tall in the Legion Family.

We are in the process of preparing for yet another District Reception honoring our Leaders of this great Department.

Of course it would not be a reception unless it interfered with another great programs Gala event of the year. We can only say that we will miss those Officers that cannot be in two places at one time, and please send our regards to Casey Cares.

I want to say one final Thank You to the Officers of this District, who took time out of their busy schedules to cover my schedule, as I have spent many hours commuting to and from the Salisbury area of the state, as my mother is recuperating from a fall before Christmas. You have represented our District well.

Ed Steininger Sr.

NCD Commander

Northeastern Shore Gazette

I would like to thank the Detachment for coming to our District for the last DEC Meeting on December 2, 2007, great meeting Commander Bear. It was a Toys for Tots drive and you all did a great job bringing toys to the meeting. Squadron 29 did a great job preparing for the meeting and a fine lunch was served.

Our membership ranking has fluctuated between number 1 and 2.

We are on the right track. The goal for February 13th is 75%. Most of the Squadrons are at or very near that mark, however, we are running a little behind last years' totals. Now is the time of year to really buckle down and go after those renewals. I would like to suggest to all Squadrons send out renewal notices or call members to try to get those last members renewed. The only way for our district to grow is through membership.

Our next NESD meeting is on February 24, 2008, at 10:30 am. The meeting will be held at Benedict A. Andrew Post 296, 6200 Main St., Queenstown, MD 21658. I hope every squadron commander or representative makes every effort to attend.

Yours in Service,
Ken Jones NESD Commander

Southern Maryland Times

I hope everyone had a great time during the holidays. I look forward to 2008 being a great year for the SAL serving our Veterans and our community. Our Southern Md. District Draw Down will be Friday February

22nd at Greenbelt Post #136. This is our main fundraiser. We are still trying to sell tickets, so if you need tickets, please let us know. Thanks to all the Squadrons who have sent in membership, but we are in 6th place.

Let's send in the membership now.

Yours In Service
Tom Eloshway, Commander

Community Service by Bob Trueblood

I bring you greetings from the North Pole. I sincerely hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas (I hope that you got everything that you wanted, and if you didn't, then you must take up the issue with "Bubba", the 1,500 lb. Gorilla that works in the Complaint Department, which, is closed until next year, at which time it will reopen between the hours of 2:30 am and 2:31 am NPT. on December 32, 2008, which is the 2nd Tuesday of that week.)

and a Happy New Year.

Looking forward to the Spring, The Our House work day has been set up for Saturday, April 19, 2008, from 9:00 am to around 2:30 pm. We will have a cook-out around Noon. Donations of Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Rolls, Chips, Sodas, Plates, Cups, Napkins, etc. are needed. The workload will consist of painting of the newly renovated barn, this year. Please come out and see the

progress that is being made with this project. Remember, the Success of a Person isn't measured by how much they have gained in life, but by what they have given to others.

In Grateful Service to Our Youth and Community

Bob (Santa Claus) Trueblood

VAVS Variety

by Tom Deal

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a chance to visit a veteran during the holidays. Now is the time to remember them, as the holidays are over and all the gift giving, visits and party's are over. This can be the loneliest times for our veterans. Let's try to keep visiting and having events for them in these cold months. They can't get out as much during the winter months. A thank you goes out to Commander Bear for helping to distribute the gifts on Christmas Eve at Perry Point. I also want to congratulate the Northern Central District for their Christmas Party at MCVETS; I understand it was a great success. These were just two of the events I heard about, if you had a party or event thank you also. It's never too late to make a donation to one of the VA Centers, hospitals, homes or programs.

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



\$1000.00 Draw Down & Night at the Races

Proceeds to Benefit

The Detachment Commander's Project

American Legacy Scholarship Fund

Saturday Night March 1, 2008, 7:00 PM to Midnight

Featuring: Horse Races, \$1,000 Draw Down, Wheels of Fortune, Chinese Auction, Cake Wheel

Only 150 numbers to be drawn

Every 10th # drawn wins \$35, except 50th # wins \$250

100th # wins \$350 and 150th # wins \$1,000.00

149th & 150th number can agree to split \$1,000

(You do not have to be present to win)

Only 150 Tickets sold* \$35 each * Admits 2 for Dinner, Draft Beer, Soda & Limited Open Bar

For Tickets and Information:

Tom Deal 410-642-2561

Rick McKay 410-942-0376

Ed Steininger 410-939-2293

Will be held at:

Susquehanna Post 135

300 Cherry Street

Perryville, Md. 21903

**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

Greetings from Commander Giehl and the National Organization! I hope that everyone had a good holiday season!

Membership is the dominant theme this year as the National numbers have generally been down. As of 1-18 the National Membership Report shows a decline of over 2900 members over the same time last year. Renewal Post Cards were dispatched on January 17th and this should help the situation, but it will be our blue cap members who help to recruit and retain our membership that will truly make the difference. Maryland currently stands in 16th place with 10,397 members sent to Indianapolis. This represents 67.764%, which is well ahead of the 1-9 60% goal. We finished the 2007 fiscal year with 15,343, which was 101.829% of goal. While we were only in 32nd place Maryland did a fantastic

job of retaining existing members at 90.81%. This was 5th best in the Nation. We were right behind four of the smallest Detachments. Our next Target Date will be March 12th where the National Organization would like to see us at 80% of goal.

Please remember that we should soon be receiving the 2007-2008 Consolidated Report Form. This is the only form that National will accept for judging. This means that you should destroy any of the 2006-2007 forms that you may have lying around. With some of the economic problems that we are facing its possible that it could be harder to get donations for our programs this year. Let's be ever vigilant to get those donations and make sure that every nickel is reported. This always helps the Legion when they go before Congress to fight

for our Veteran's rights and a strong National Defense.

Please remember the following upcoming National Dates: March 30-April 1, Washington Conference, May 2-4 Spring National Executive Committee Meeting in Indianapolis.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Overlea-Perry Hall!

Yours in Legion Service

Maurice Morton, NECmen