

The Pride



Editor: Bill Matoska Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

Commander's Corner by Bear Weinzirl



Told you know that the Detachment of Maryland has grown in membership every year for the past 20 years? Thanks to you and the excellent job you are doing this year in "Mining Membership", we are well on our

way to doing so again. The mild weather we have experienced this winter has apparently made it "Fine to Mine" and as of this writing, we stand at 96.9% of the Department's goal. We have also met or exceeded every target goal set by our national organization. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Obviously, you can "Dig That" and I thank you. Keep up the great work. You can now track membership from our Detachment

website. We have worked very hard this year on keeping our Detachment web site up to date and have added links on the membership page to both Department and National totals that are updated weekly. Check it out at: http://mdsal.org/

The Sons of The American Legion are a program of the American Legion. But we are a program that works hard supporting the other programs. The Detachment recently held our Commander's Project fundraiser at my home Post, Susquehanna 135 in Perryville. I want to thank everyone who helped make this fundraiser a huge success. In one evening, we were able to raise over \$11.000 for the American Legacy Scholarship Fund. Add to this, the generous donations you have made, and this brings the total monies raised this year for this truly special American Legion program to over \$23,000. Thank you all! If your Squadron or District has not yet made a donation, please consider doing so. Providing an education for the

Spring Issue

children of the heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice is a powerful way for us to show our thanks.

In February, SAL National Vice Commander Tom Marsden and myself, along with a contingent from the Detachment, toured Perry Point VA Medical Center. While on this tour, it was my privilege to present Susan Kern of VA Maryland Health Care with a Nintendo Wii gaming system from the Detachment of Maryland. This system was valued at approximately \$900 and included numerous extra games and controllers. This new system will be placed in a nursing home care unit at Perry Point, affording hospitalized veterans an opportunity to interact with their comrades through exercise and entertainment and also interact with

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Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

D.E.C.: The Next Meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee is scheduled for April 13, 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 Gold Star Squadron No. 191 located at 801 Prospect Road, Mount Airy, Md. 21771. The post phone number is 301-829-9161. To access the post from I-70 W take Exit 68/MD-27 South toward Mt. Airy/ Damascus and stay straight to go onto Main Street and then turn right. Proceed on Main Street and after 1.4 miles turn left onto Prospect Road.

The post home will be on the right side. Online Update Launched: The American Legion launched its first electronic newsletter. The American Legion Online Update, on February 21, 2008 with great success and reviews. The newsletter is sent out each week via the internet and currently reaches more than 91,000 subscribers. The Web-based, weekly newsletter is a more timely complement to the Legion's two monthly publications, The Dispatch and The American Legion Magazine. News coverage in the electronic Update ranges from Legionrelated events and national issues to

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Commander's Corner by Bear Weinzirl

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family members during visitations. At the Department DEC meeting held at Dorchester Post 91 in Cambridge, I presented a check to Dept. Commander Haggard for the "Heroes to Hometown" program. And then, at the invitation of Commander Haggard, I was among the



representatives from the Department that toured with American Legion National Commander Marty Conatser during his official visit to Maryland. At the banquet held in his honor at Dixon-Troxell Post 211 in Funkstown, I presented Commander Conatser with a check for the National Emergency Fund. It is your donations that make these check presentations possible.

Now it's time to report all of the good things your Squadron has done this year. No matter how insignificant it may seem to you, everything your Squadron does is important and needs to be reported. Please take the time to fill out a consolidated report form. By this time, your Squadron should have received this form. If not, please contact Adjutant Bill Matoska. Please consider attending our next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting to be held on Sunday, April 13th at Gold Star Post 191 in Mount Airy at 1:00 pm. At this meeting, our Commission and Committee Chairmen will be going over this report form and how to properly fill it out. All SAL members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The dates and location for our 35th Annual Convention have now been confirmed. This year's convention will be held on June 20, 21 & 22 at Francis Scott Key Post 11 in Frederick. Our hotel for the weekend will be the Holiday Inn at 999 W. Patrick Street. I would love to see a record turnout this year. If your Squadron has never attended a Detachment Convention, you owe it to yourself to do so. I can assure you that you will have a good time. Please see Adjutant Matoska's article in this newsletter for more information.

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 continues "Bringing Veterans and Kids Programs to Bear".

Serving God, Country & The Legion Family,

Larry "Bear" Weinzirl

NESDSAL@aol.com

Mining For Membership by Mike Gray

Our membership is on the right track to reach our goal. We reached our national goal of 80% before the March 12, cutoff date. The next goal is to have 90% before April 9, we can achieve this goal. I would like to thank those districts that have already obtained that goal. Northern Central District has 95.8%, Western Maryland District has 93.6% and North Eastern Shore District has 91.8%. Great Job! Keep up the great work.

Now is the time to start making those phone calls for your membership. Try something new, try reading the names of those unpaid members at your next squadron meeting. Maybe somebody in the meeting will know them personally and make contact with them and get them to pay their membership. It might

even be one of there own family members. This has worked for other squadrons try it at yours.

The membership race is very close at this time as of March 17, 2008; Northern Central District leads the race with 39 points, North Eastern Shore District is in second with 34 points, South Eastern Shore District is in third place with 30 Points, Southern Maryland District has 25 points, Western Maryland District has 24 Points, Mountain District has 19 points, Baltimore District has 18 points

Yours In Legion Service Michael Gray Detachment 1st Vice Commander Membership Chairman e-mail <u>salmikey@aol.com</u> Home 410-273-2379 Cell 443-807-6246.



Children & Youth Chatter by Buddy Mastin

First, I would like to thank all of the Children & Youth Commission members who have done such a great job this year. You have made my job easy. Thank you for getting the word out to our membership about all the great C&Y programs that we support. Secondly. thanks to all the squadrons who have

supported all of our great programs, either financially or through their volunteer hours. You the Blue Cap members are the ones who make the Detachment of Maryland look so good on the national level. Don't forget to start working on those yearend reports, and please remember our youth are the

future of our nation.

Bringing Our Children To Bear **Buddy Mastin** Children And Youth Chairman

Children's Miracle Network by Gene Nichols

I bring Spring greetings to all. Don't forget that our upcoming meeting on April 13th will be the last Detachment meeting to get your donations in before the Convention. If you want to see your donations in the convention book, make sure that they are turned in at this

meeting, or at least before judging. It has See you in Mt. Airy on April 13th, been a pleasure working with Commander Bear, and all of you. You can always be counted on to step up when something extra is needed, and make a difference. Let's continue to step up and keep swinging for the bleachers.

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

Casey Cares by Larry Griffin

At the last DEC meeting we were able to see 1st hand how your donations are used to help the children and their families, as one of the Casev Cares Families attend our meeting and told

how our donations have made a difference in their lives. It was a heartwarming experience. As the end of the year is approaching DON"T forget to get your donations in. Remember The

Sons Always Shine.

Yours in Service; Larry Griffin

Casey Cares Bike Ride by PDC Andy Dadds

Hello Legion Riders,

On July 26, 2008 the Detachment of Maryland, Sons of the American Legion will be holding its 4th annual motorcycle ride for Casey's Kids with the ride ending at Rising Sun Post #194 in Rising Sun MD. The Casev Cares Foundation mission is to provide uplifting and heartwarming programs with a special touch in order to enhance the lives of critically ill children and their families. Some of the monies raised will go towards family festivities like sporting events, amusement parks, movies,

birthday party favors. Children who participate in Casey Cares Foundation programs suffer from various illnesses including cancer, sickle cell anemia, cystic fibrosis, complex heart disease, cardiomyopathy and severe aplastic anemia. More information about Casey Cares visit caseycaresfoundation.org.

This year the ride will be a little different. Instead of a certain route to ride we are planning a ride in event. Each group will be responsible for collecting the ride fee and selecting a route from your location to the festivities starting at 1 pm and

ending at 4 pm. We are planning on a picnic style lunch along with 50/50s and possibly some fun and games. The cost of the ride will be \$25.00 per person, whether riding a motorcycle or in vehicle. Please let me know if your group plans on riding for Casey's Kids.

Please feel free to call me at 410-758-2474 or email daddsba@hotmail.com

Andy Dadds

Casey Cares Bike Ride Chairman

Child Welfare Foundation by Ken Jones

The CWF provides money to pay for information campaigns about issues and medical programs that benefit children. The Sons of The American Legion have been the lead contributing group to the Child Welfare Foundation over the past decade. Our support of CWF is

something we do very well. No matter the Yours in Service size of your squadron, your contributions to CWF can make a difference in a child's Ken Jones life. It's not too late to send in your squadron's donations to the Detachment.

Americanism Today by Mark Gilbert

Our year is coming to an end. It's time to get your reports together and forward to your District and Detachment. Your district needs a copy of your report prior to the May 29th Detachment due date in order to compile a combined report, which is also due at that time. This is the only way The American Legion knows the support the SAL provides throughout the year.

When making out your donations don't

forget the National Emergency Fund. This essays written for the contest. This is the fund is set up to aid Legion Family Members in their time of need. If a natural disaster strikes this fund is there to help with immediate needs. Every penny donated is used exclusively for this purpose. Our preamble says it best "devotion to mutual helpfulness".

Also, let's get those flag replacement forms turned in. And are your junior members getting their Americanism

first contest that we have done in a while for the juniors so let's have a strong showing. I am looking forward to reading their essays and seeing how our younger members feel about Americanism.

Bringing Americanism to Bear,

Mark Gilbert

Community Service by Bob Trueblood

Just a guick reminder that the Our House Community Service Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 2008, from 9:00 am until 2:30 pm. At the Our House Job Training Facility located at 19715 Zion Road, Brookeville, Maryland. Donations of hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, sodas,

utensils, and cups are desperately needed for the cook-out at noon. Wear your old painting clothes because we will be painting the recently renovated barn. which took 3 years to complete. Come on out and show these boys that someone does care about their future. There will be chips, cold salads, plates, napkins, eating a flyer, with directions, available at the

Spring D.E.C.

In Grateful Service to Our Youth and Community

Bob (Santa Claus) Trueblood

Commander's Project by Ed Steininger

What can I say about this program that hasn't already been said? It seems like whenever the SAL announced a Commanders Project, we go above and beyond the call. Then we announce that the Detachment fund raiser will be similar to last years, just hoping that we can do somewhere near what was raised last year for Comm. Dadds project. As of the afternoon of the function we still had 10 tickets to sell. Before the dinner was served they were gone. Squadron 135 once again stepped up to the plate and served another wonderful meal. Once again we were fortunate to get the skilled Draw Down veterans from the

Northern Central District, who made the races run somewhat smooth although the distributor did not send out the race programs. This was just another challenge for those old game veterans.

I want to thank each and every person throughout this great Detachment that helped make this event as profitable as it was. I will not give you the total amount raised, however I will say that we exceeded last year's total by several thousand dollars. Yes that was several thousand. My hat goes off to everyone. If you just purchased a ticket, or ran around getting the prizes, or worked in the kitchen, this could not have

happened without your help.

I am not revealing the total amount collected until the DEC meeting at 191. That will be the day that we reveal the total amount collected for those unfortunate children whose parent(s) made the ultimate sacrifice.

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

VAVS Variety by Tom Deal

The weather is about to break and we will be cutting grass before we know it. Volunteer to help a veteran clean up his yard from the winter. There are plenty of veterans in everyone's community that need help. If you don't know anyone who needs help, post a note on your Post make a donation to one of the VA bulletin board that you can help and leave a number. Keep visiting the VA Centers and hospitals as these Veterans

always need cheering up, Just a visit is all a lot of them require to help them keep going every day. Get involved and plan a party for a group. Voluntary Services will help you plan and organize a party or function. It's never too late to 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**

Adjutant's Archives by Bill Matoska

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veterans benefits and human interest stories. The *Update*'s front page also features links to reunions, emblem sales, and advertisers who offer discounts and special offers to Legion Family members. Readers may also link to current issues of other Legion publications. If you would like to subscribe to the weekly Update, visit The American Legion Web site at www.legion.org. Click on "what's New," then click the "subscribe" line in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

Consolidated Report Form: The 2007-2008 Sons of The American Legion Consolidated Report Forms were distributed with the Detachment Convention package to every squadron Adjutant. A reminder to everyone that these report forms for the purpose of judging for Detachment Awards is May 29, 2008. These forms along with any and all correspondence are to be sent to my attention at 3115 Orchard Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21234. If there any questions regarding the information to be put on the form, it can be addressed at the Commission Meetings on April 13th which precedes the D.E.C. Meeting. If you can not attend this session send your

questions to me and I will get them to the appropriate Chairman for answering.

Convention Delegate Fees: Please note that effective at this 35th Annual Convention in June, payment of delegate fees for each squadron is mandatory in accordance with the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws. This new policy has been approved by the Sons of The American Legion Commission of the Department of Maryland and will align the Detachment with the Department of Maryland American Legion and the National Organizations, which also strictly enforces this policy. The cut-off for delegate strength to determine your squadron's delegate fees is close of business on May 29, 2008 as provided by Department Headquarters. The only exception to this mandate is if your squadron is experiencing financial hardship at this time. To authenticate this hardship, representatives from the Department of Maryland Sons of The American Commission will visit your squadron at your convenience to audit the squadron's financial documents to verify this status and waive the fees. The fee is \$15.00 for each delegate registered in addition to any delegates at-large the squadron any be eligible for. A delegate at-large is any elected

Detachment Officer, Current District Commander, and all Past Detachment Commanders. Once your squadron membership is determined as of the May 29th cut-off at Department Headquarters reference the Detachment Convention Package sent for this 35th Annual Convention and the Delegate Strength Information page is located after the cover page with a break down of membership and convention delegate allotment.



Annual Detachment Convention Golf Tournament

Cost: \$70.00 per Player \$100.00 to 1st Place Team \$60.00 to 2nd Place Team



Friday June 20, 2008 8:30 AM Start Maple Run Golf Course 13610-A Moser Road Thurmont, MD 21788

> **Luncheon To Follow Golf** Soda & Beer Included

Long Drive and Closest To The pin Prizes



District News

Northern Central News

As we enter the final quarter of our year, I still have a busy schedule until can only ask, "Where did it go?" This has been one heck of a ride for our District. We've been in First Place in membership since the DEC meeting in December. To most District Commanders this would be a pleasure. Not for me, as I am constantly looking over my shoulder and watching the Western District. Then of course there are those Districts from the Eastern Shore, who will sneak up at the last minute and bump you down to 5th place in the bat of an eye.

I only wish that I could take credit for at least some of this. All I can say is that with the group of Officers we have in the District, and the outstanding Commanders, Adjutants, and 1st Vice Commanders, at the Squadron level, there is little doubt that we are where we are, for so long. I offer a giant salute to each and every membership person in this District.

Although we are in our final months, we

convention time. Here are some of our activities:

First and foremost is our District Fund raiser. Although he is busy putting together his funding and campaign as our next National Commander from Maryland, Joe Gladden stepped up to chair the American Legacy Scholarship Program for the Northern Central District. He has worked very hard to put together a Poker Run on APRIL 26, 2008. We will gather at Towson Post 22 at 9:00am for a ride throughout our District and return to Towson for food and beverage. This is open to all riders; 2, 3, or 4 wheels, and all entrants will receive an American Legion Legacy Run t-shirt. The entry fee is \$30.00 per rider in advance, 35.00 on the day of the event. More info will be available at the DEC meeting.

The following day we will gather at Post 182, Slate Ridge, in Whiteford for our Spring meeting on April 27th at 1:00 Pm. This will also be our nominations of officers for the upcoming year.

We will continue right into May with a District Picnic at Joseph L. Davis Post 47. a District Bowling Tournament, and our Annual Picnic at the BRECC for our Veterans.

As I continue to make my visits to each Squadron, please know that I appreciate all of the hard work that you have done for this District, the Detachment, and the local programs that we are supporting.

For our Veterans and Kids,

Ed Steininger Sr.

Commander

Northeastern Shore Gazette

It's hard to believe that this S.A.L. fiscal vear is almost over and that our convention is right around the corner. But Squadron has done. You all have done it's not too late if you haven't given a donation to one of our campaigns.

A hearty thank you goes out to all outgoing officers. Your hard work has shown from the local Squadrons, community and through the National level.

Report time is coming up again. Start

getting those numbers together. We really need to report what every something over the past year that you should get credit for. If you need help, feel free to contact me and I will get you some, we need to have a report from every Squadron.

The North Eastern Shore District Reception honoring Dept. Commander Haggard, Dept. President Wheeler, Junior President Wilson and our Detachment

Commander Weinzirl will be on Sunday. April 27 at Sgt. Preston Ashley Post # 228 in beautiful downtown Rock Hall. Social hour starts at 1 pm. The cost is \$20 per person.

Our next NESD meeting will be on June 1 at Cecil Post 15 10:30 a.m. 129 W. Main St. Elkton, Md.

Yours in Service. Ken Jones NESD Commander

South Eastern Shore Sentinel

Nominations, Nominations, Convention. Convention. Two big events coming soon. By now you should have selected your nominating committee for the initial nominations for the upcoming administrative year 2008 - 2009. There has been a change in the registration process for convention delegates for this and all future years. In the past if you only sent one delegate to the convention from your squadron you only paid one delegate fee. In keeping with the policy of The American Legion Department of Maryland the Detachment of Maryland has approved to follow their policy. Regardless of the number of delegates you send you will have to pay for the

number of delegates allowed your squadron based on your squadron membership. As an example in the past if you were allowed 4 delegates but only sent one you paid the fee x 1.

With the new policy in effect you will have to pay for 4 even if only one goes. If the correct amount is not sent in you will not receive your new membership cards, until the correct amount is paid.

I would like to thank the following squadrons for supporting our 2nd annual SESD dinner: Squadrons 16, 64, 91, 94, 145, 218, 231 and 237. Your support was instrumental in making this a success. I would also like to thank my

home Post Legion 64 and AL Auxiliary Unit 64 for their assistance.

VERY IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER TO PREPARE YOUR REPORTS FOR THIS PAST YEAR. Any squadron needing assistance please feel free to call me and set up a meeting.

Last but certainly not least, please get any remaining membership in ASAP. We have fallen in relation to our position last year. Remember membership is the life blood of our organization. DO YOUR PART!

Yours in Service Fulton "Bud" Singleton Commander

Southern Maryland Times

Thank you to all the Squadrons who have survive. sent in membership. All Squadrons should be at 90% membership by April 9th. Less than 50% of our District Squadrons have met that goal yet, so we still have work to do. Thank you to Squadrons 7, 220, 227 and 295 who have already reached 4 star and Squadrons 86, 274 and 276 who have reached 3 star in membership. Please remember membership is the lifeblood

of our organization, without it we cannot

Thanks to everyone who supported our 2nd Annual SMD District Draw Down and congratulations to Severna Park Squadron 175 who won the \$1,000 grand prize. We will be donating at least 50% of the proceeds to Joe Gladden's national campaign fund, and many thanks to everyone from Greenbelt Post 136 Legion family who worked so hard to

make this event such a success. We are also looking for another Squadron to host this event next year.

Our next SMD District meeting will be Sunday April 20th at Wheaton Post 268 and our District caucus will be held Sunday May 18th at Greenbelt Post 136.

Yours In Service Tom Eloshway Commander

NEC News by Maurice Morton National Executive Committeemen

Once again it is a pleasure to bring you all greetings from our National Commander Ray Giehll and the National Organization!

Maryland is holding its own this year in Membership. We currently stand 13th in the Nation at 85.837% of goal. We are ahead of the National Average of 81.515%. It's good to see the S.A.L back in front of the goals that were set. National Membership is now running over 7,000 members ahead of goal at 262,008. Let's keep up all of the good work as our Race Cars speed down the backstretch.

A number of our members visited our National Vice Commander East Tom Marsden in his home state of New

Jersey. While there the group braved the members to make a special point this horizontal rain to visit an American Icon of freedom, the Statue of Liberty. I really enjoyed the tour and learned a lot about the many immigrants that braved the Atlantic Ocean to settle in America, "The Land of Opportunity". Commander Bear represented Maryland well on this weekend. He presented Tom Marsden with an American Flag that had flown over Fort McHenry and he delivered an excellent report at the Sunday "unofficial meeting". Bear will also be setting a wreath during the National Conference Memorial Tour to be conducted on Sunday March 30.

Commander Giehll has proclaimed Saturday May 17 as National Veterans Assistance Day. He is asking all

day of helping a Veteran in some way. We can do this as a Squadron Project or as individuals. Imagine the affect if everyone would participate!

Some upcoming dates to remember:

-Washington Conference March 30-Apr 2 -90% Membership Target Date- April 9 -Spring NEC-May 3-4 -Consolidated Report Cutoff-May 29th -National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona-August 22-24 I look forward to seeing everyone at Goldstar Post 191!

Maurice Morton National Executive Committeeman

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234



"Bringing Veterans and Kids Programs To Bear"



The Future by Joe Gladden

Greeting To All My Friends

We are off to a great start on the National Campaign Trail.

On February 16, 2008, my home squadron Overlea-Perry Hall 130 held a National Campaign Dance. The evening was a great success thanks to all those members and friends from across the Detachment. There were 14 different squadrons in attendance and almost every Detachment Officer was also there. Through the efforts of many people from my Squadron and Legion Family, over \$4,000.00 was raised towards the Campaign. Personal donations were made that night by Tommie Bryantt Greenbelt Sq136 \$25.00 and Mike Gray, Joseph I. Davis Sq.\$50.00. Also, Bob Snukis from Dundalk Squadron 38 could not come that night, but instead sent a \$100.00 personal donation to the Campaign. I want to thank my comrades from Overlea-Perry Hall Squadron 130 and from Post and Auxiliary 130 for all their help and support putting on this

fundraiser.

On February 22, 2008, Southern Maryland District held their Annual Draw Down at Greenbelt Post 136 with part of the proceeds to be donated to the Campaign. While I don't have a dollar figure to report yet, I can tell you that they showed myself and my wife Bobbie, campaign team member Ken Jenkins, and Past National Commander Bill Matoska and his wife, Shelly, the great Southern Maryland District Hospitality. The company was warm and friendly and the food was fantastic. While my number in the Draw Down was not a winner, I was certainly made to feel like one. During the course of the evening, SMD Commander Tom Eloshway, won a fifty/fifty worth \$185.00 and made a personal donation of it to the Campaign and Ron Gould, DJing for the evening raffled off a few different items, and donated \$182.00 of his funds to the Campaign. I want to thank Southern Maryland District and Greenbelt Squadron, Post and Auxiliary for everything they did to make the

evening a success.

Donations have also been received from Glen Burnie Squadron 40 \$250.00, Mahool Potts Squadron 2 \$150.00 and Liberty Squadron 122\$150.00 to the campaign. I want to thank each and every member of these squadrons for their donations. Being actively involved in my Squadron, I know how hard it is to raise money. So I appreciate each and every dollar that these squadrons have deemed worthy to go to my campaign.

If your squadron can have a fundraiser, I promise to be there if you book the evening with me. I want to 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