



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND**

“The Pride”

Volume 2010 Issue 4

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Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

COMMANDER’S CORNER BY TOM DEAL

The Legion Family Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics on January 28th was well attended and the Legion Family took the chilly plunge in the waters of the bay in stride raising over \$19,000. I thank everyone who plunged and donated to help this very worthwhile cause. I also attended and assisted at the Winter Games this year at Whitetail and was amazed at the participation and excellent coordination for all the events. Everyone had a job and accomplished it with great pride in what they were doing. The games were at a new venue this year but everyone adapted to the change and the games went on easily. I did attend National Commander David Dew’s homecoming in February. On behalf of Detachment of Maryland, I presented Commander Dew a shadowbox with a flag flown over Ft McHenry in his honor by National Vice Commander Joe Gladden and myself. I

want to thank everyone for all their help and effort with the Detachment Draw Down in March at Post 135, it was a huge success and the Wounded Warrior Program is reaching my goal of \$40,000 thanks to many of you. My project chairman JR will have more on the

Wounded Warrior Program. By the time you read this I will have toured all the VA hospitals in Maryland as well as Martinsburg, WV and Washington DC. I have also toured MCVET’s and all of these facilities are servicing our Veterans well
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ADJUTANT’S CORNER BY BILL MATOSKA

D.E.C.: The next meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee will take place at Francis Scott Key Post No. 11 on April 10, 2011 convening at 1:00 P.M. hosted by Squadron No. 11. All Commission and Committees will meet at 12:00 P.M. prior to the convening of the D.E.C. The post address is 1450 Taney Ave., Frederick, Md. 21702 and the post phone number is 301-662-9345. To access the post from the east take I-70W toward Frederick. Once in the Frederick area merge onto US-40 via Exit 53B toward US-15/Gettysburg. US-40 becomes US-15N and from US-15 take Exit 16/Motter

Ave. Turn right onto Motter Ave./ Oppossumtown Pike, then turn left onto Thomas Johnson Dr. and then make the 1st left onto Taney Ave. The post is on the left.
MTD: The Member Training and Development Committee will hold a training session at Post 11 on April 10th beginning at 10:00 A.M. This is the last training series for this administrative year focusing on the Consolidated Report Form. This session is open to all members who wish to attend and is being held for the convenience of all
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CRABBIN' FOR MEMBERSHIP BY BUDDY MASTIN

I hope that everyone is out there "Crabbin' For Membership". Make sure your traps, poles and lines are in working order and haul in those crabs (members). And remember, we even keep the small ones. The goal of each crabber (district) is to have a full pot of crabs (members). The contest to fill your pots with members will be based on percentage as posted on the last Friday of each month started in August and ends in May. The District with the highest percentage will get 7 points, 2nd place 6 points, 3rd place 5 points, 4th place 4 points, 5th/6th/7th places 3 points each. The first crew to have zero goose eggs will get 3 bonus points. And, the first District to reach 100% will get 3 bonus points. The winning District will get a bushel of crabs. As of March 1st, Southeastern Shore is in 1st place with 52 points and Northern Central is in 2nd place with 36 points. Make sure your pots and nets are in good shape and no crabs (members) get out of your pots. Thank you to all the Squadrons who have sent in membership lately. On the National Report we are in 3rd place in the East. We are at 85.2% and getting close to the 90% target date. With your help we can make it. *All*

membership chairmen should be sending out postcards or calling members on the phone encouraging them to renew their membership and remind them they are a vital part of our organization. Everyone please remember the three R's of membership: Recruit, Retain and Reinstate. Recruit new members, Retain the members you already have and Reinstate the members that have been gone for more than a year. You can check out where your Squadron stands with membership at <http://www.mdlegion.org/SALMBRSHP.pdf>

Upcoming Membership Target dates are: April 13th, 2011 90%, May 11th, 2011 100% and July 27th, 2011 105%. We need your help to make Maryland a 4 Star Detachment this year under my watch. So, get out your traps and poles and Let's Go Crabbin' Hon.

Edward 'Buddy' Mastin
Membership Chairman
1st Vice Commander
buddymastin@hotmail.com

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER BY KEN JENKINS

We are coming to the end of our year. This will be the last DEC meeting before we meet again in Hunt Valley for our annual convention. I want to thank and commend all the members of the Children & Youth Commission for a job well done this year. I have enjoyed serving as chairman, but everyone made that job easy with all the hours of service performed by each of our members and the many dollars donated to the various programs we support.

At our final DEC meeting on April 10th at Francis Scott Key

Post 11 in Frederick, I am hoping that you will dig down deep in your pockets and check books and make this a banner year for the children of our communities. Bring those checks and proudly donate them. No donation is too small. The power of our group is that we work together and collectively we make a difference.

Yours in Service
Ken Jenkins II,
C&Y Chairman,
kenjen007@yahoo.com, 443-204-1776

COMMANDER'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

and I want to thank all the volunteers for all you do at each of those facilities as well. With only about 3 months left until convention, my year has flown by and I have had a fantastic time this year. I thought I knew a lot about the American Legion but, this year has taught me that this is an amazing organization with a wide variety talents and it is good to see so many volunteers working for The American Legion and our Veterans and their families. I

am confident this year we will again reach new highs in our programs. The convention packets should be out and the Consolidated Report form for each Squadron in the Squadron Commander's packet. Every Squadron needs to turn in a report and let us know what you have done. Last year we received only 66 reports and we need to all take a few minutes to put down on the form everything you have done. PNC Sparwasser and the training and development team will have done three training sessions around the

state this year and this was an excellent time to learn what you can claim, how and where to put it on the form, great job.

Always remember all of our troops in harm's way serving all over the world. God bless our service members and God bless America.

Saluting our Wounded Warriors

Tom Deal
Commander
Cell: 443-206-0402 Home 410-642-2561, tom.deal@verizon.net

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOUNDATION BY KEN JONES

Well, here we are already into March and we still in need of donations for the National Emergency Fund. I know everyone realizes that this is a good cause and one of the only raisers that can be used by the

American Legion Family in case of an emergency. Please keep mind when getting donations together, talk to your Legion and Unit and see if they can help with donations. I ask each Squadron to donate at least \$1 per

member. I believe this an attainable goal.

Yours in Service
Ken Jones
NEF Chairman

TIME AND PLACE REPORT BY BILL STEM

The convention itinerary has been set. The venues are the same as last year. We were hoping to use the new MVP facility for our bowling but unfortunately the construction will not be ready in time. The layout is as follows...

Golf: Fox Hollow Golf Course (formerly Longview) in Timonium

Bowling: AMF Lanes in Timonium
Pool: Johnny Cs in Cockeysville
Superstars and Horseshoes: Oregon Ridge Park in Hunt Valley

Convention packages are already sent or will be soon. They will also be available online from the Detachment website. We are looking at other locations for the 2012 Convention

as well as the possibility of extending our stay at Hunt Valley.

Your in Service
Bill Stem Chairman
Email: wstem84809@aol.com
Cel: 410 598-9355
Home: 410 526-6559

ADJUTANT'S CORNER BY BILL MATOSKA

(Continued from page 1)

squadrons located in the Mountain and Western Maryland Districts. Chairman Bill Sparwasser and his instructor team have been well received at each training session across the state throughout the year and the positive feedback from these sessions has prompted the MTD Committee to present a special session at this year's Detachment Convention. This training session's theme will be the "Executive Manager" and will take place at the Convention Hotel on Friday, June 24, 2011 beginning at 7:00 PM. Details for the room location at the hotel for this training session will be available at the delegate registration table which opens at 5:00 PM.

If interested in attending this training session RSVP to Chairman Sparwasser @ wlspar@aol.com.

Convention Package: Every squadron has now received two copies of the Convention Information & Registration Forms, Ad Sales, Detachment Forms, and Consolidated Report Form Training packages. Additionally, every Squadron Commander has received

their official 2011 Consolidated Report Form for their squadron. All Detachment Forms, the Consolidated Report Form, and Convention Registration Forms and monies are due back on May 27, 2011. The May 27th date is also the official cut-off date for all Detachment Awards which will be given out during the Convention session.

Administrative Check List: This is a busy time of year for each of us as our administrative term comes to an end and I want to remind everyone on some actions that are time sensitive. If you have a candidate for Detachment office get those endorsement letters completed at the appropriate levels and sent to me for recording. As squadron elections take place, Squadron Certification forms need to be updated and sent in and don't forget to give your District Commander a list of names of those that plan to attend the National Convention in Minneapolis, Minn. Remember, two actions must be completed before you can pick up your 2012 squadron membership cards at this Detachment Convention. First, your squadron delegate fees

must be paid in accordance with the delegate criteria listed in your Convention Package and second, your Squadron 2011-2012 Certification Form must be completed and received. On the district level a Certification Form must be filled out for the newly elected Commander and Adjutant and a list of Detachment Executive Committeemen for the 2011-2012 administrative year. These need to be ratified at the Detachment Post Convention D.E.C. meeting.

Renewal Postcard Mailing: The next National membership renewal mailing is scheduled for April 2011 which will be the last renewal mailing for the 2011 membership year. As a reminder, these mailings are made in conjunction and subsequent to membership target dates. The next target date is April 13, 2011. Please transmit as many memberships as possible before this date. This saves the organization considerable dollars in unnecessary postage costs.

Yours In Service,
Bill Matoska
Bill.matoska@comcast.net

AMERICANISM REPORT BY BILL HILL

The administrative year is drawing to an end and before you know it we'll be joined together at our annual Detachment Convention, so start collecting your meeting minutes and notes in preparation for completing the consolidated reports. This is our opportunity to brag about what the "Blue Cap" members have done, when it comes to supporting the programs of the entire American Legion Family. Last year was very impressive to see the numerous programs this Detachment supports, when reviewing the consolidated reports, so let's make this one another outstanding year!

Flag Replacement Program

Memorial Day is just around the corner, so please lend a hand to place flags on veteran's graves, or throughout your community as appropriate. A good group is your local Boy Scout group if you're looking for someone to support. End of year reminder that the Detachment continues to sponsor an award to the top Squadron for Flag replacement. Make sure to track your efforts, and keep a record of the replaced flag as indicated on the replacement form, (3x5 flags will count as 5 points and smaller flags will count as 1 point). If you are also looking for a Flag Retirement program/ceremony, please contact committee chair.

Chairman Jim Alexander

Community Affairs

We supported just about everything you could imagine, from community food banks, church kitchens, cleaning up around the post, ball fields, play grounds and if memory serves me correctly we even adopted -a-highway. Please continue to show your support and don't forget that spring is just around the corner and there are plenty of new opportunities to plant gardens, lay mulch and just lend a hand.

Chairman: Jeff Seiler

Boys State

This Legion program is very rewarding for those young men who are chosen to participate. We are encouraging each squadron to support your home post by providing any level of support necessary. More information will be provided at future DEC meetings and on this site in the near future.

Chairman Ken Jones

NEF

The National Emergency Fund continues to need our help. With the continued economic challenges we face as a Nation, the support this program provides to so many, is greatly appreciated. Please continue your aid of our Legion family. We are 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.

Chairman Ken Jones

Email: JKJ44@AOL.COM

I would also like to extend my appreciation to all of the sub-committee chairman for your support this year.

Thank you to every member of the Detachment and all of our Legion Family members for supporting the programs, which fall under Americanism.

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,
Bill Hill

Americanism Chairman

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM



BOYS STATE BY KEN JONES

Boys' State has been a program of the American Legion since it's inception in 1935. It is among the most respected educational programs for high school students. At Boys' State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges and the duties and responsibilities of a citizen. High school juniors are

selected by the local American Legion Posts to attend this program. In most cases, the expenses associated with attending the program are paid by a sponsoring Legion Post or another community organization. This year's cost is \$300 per student. In Maryland, Boys State is conducted annually at McDaniel

College in Westminster, MD. It starts on Father's Day and runs through the following Friday. Any donation your Squadron can make would go a long way to offset the expenses per student.

Yours in Service
Ken Jones

COMMANDER'S PROJECT BY JR HALL

My Fellow Comrades

Oh What A Night!!! The Commander's Drawdown was a success again. Thanks to so many people. First, thanks to all the guys from Squadron 135 and the other members from around the state that did a great job on the food and work it takes to make a successful event. Thanks to all the people who sold and bought tickets from all over the detachment, which enabled it to be an early sellout. And finally thanks to all of those who showed up ready to give and spend their money to make the night the success it was.

The evening was a great time for everyone. We raised over \$20,000.00 for the Wounded Warrior Project,

and we are not that far away from reaching our \$40,000.00 goal.



Hopefully with our April meeting just around the corner and some fundraisers still going on throughout

the detachment, our goal will be met by our April meeting.

I can't thank everyone enough for the work that the Squadrons, Units and Posts have done to help us get where we are today, which is already well over \$30,000.00!!! I know that we will reach our goal and with that we will have be able to help a lot of our Wounded Warriors that have served our Country, so well. I hope to see you at our next meeting and hopefully at convention, as we celebrate a great year and reaching our goal.

Serving Our Veterans,
J.R. Hall
Project Chairman

MARYLAND SPECIAL OLYMPICS BY MARK GILBERT

I want to thanks all the volunteers who helped at the Winter Games. It was the first year held at Whitetail and from all reports the rain on Monday didn't dampen any ones spirits. The staff at Special Olympics emailed me that all the feedback was great and our volunteers did an outstanding job. They sent their

heartfelt thanks for all of the hard work. The next big event is the Summer Games at Towson University on June 10th - 13th. We always need volunteers to help out and you will feel good that you did. Keep those donations coming in. We are a little behind our normal

donations at this time, but we have time to make it up. If you have ever been to a Special Olympics event you know it is a worthwhile program.

In Service to Our Children,
Mark Gilbert

THE EAST BY JOE GLADDEN

I would just like to thank the Detachment of Maryland and my Post Legion Family for such a

wonderful Homecoming Weekend. Words cannot properly express the gratitude that I feel towards

everyone that helped out and that attended. Thanks again.
Joe Gladden, National Vice Comm.

NORTHEASTERN SHORE GAZETTE

Greetings from the North Eastern Shore. It's time to make sure we get that membership sent in. The District is hovering between 5th and 6th place, so now is the is the time to push for membership. Phone calls are best place to start. It's also time to get started on Squadron year end reports. It's

super important to fill out the consolidated report forms. I believe there are a lot of Squadrons out there that are giving donations and doing work that has reportable hours, but are not filling out their consolidated report forms. So I ask you, please, take the time to complete that report.

Our District meeting is June 12 at Benedict Andrew Post #296 in Queenstown at 10:30 a.m. Try to come or send someone from your Squadron.
Yours in Service,
Ken Jones
NESD Commander410-829-9974,
jkj44@aol.com

SOUTHERN MARYLAND TIMES

Hello There to everyone,

WOW the year is flying by and we are getting to close to summing up another year and moving into another. The District is working hard on membership and as I write this we are in third place and just a percentage point out of second. It's time to get a strong membership drive together to wrap up our year in great fashion. Me and several of our District officers attended the Southern Maryland District ALA Lunch and Meeting in February and had great fellowship. I also attended the Legion's District meeting and had the chance to speak to our Legionnaires throughout the district. I would like to Thank Commander Bill and

President Linda for the invitation and the welcome I received at both.

Over the last couple of years the Southern Maryland District SAL has increased its number of consolidated reports turned in, however we are nowhere near where we could be if we had more Squadrons fill those reports out and get them turned in. I ask for all Squadrons to at minimum sign your report and fill out any information you can and turn it in. It doesn't take long and you can report anything you have done. Remember, any donations are able to be claimed on the report. If you need help, call your DEC or me and we will be happy to help. At minimum, send in on a piece of paper what you think and we will help with where it

should go. We need to get everyone to send in their report.

Also don't forget, with convention coming, to make all your needed arrangements. Get your Squadron certification report filled out and pay for your delegates. Try to take out an ad in the convention book. Don't forget that Southern Maryland's own Buddy Mastin will be installed into office this year, so you can show your support to Buddy in your ads. As always, if there is anything I can do, please contact me.

J.R. Hall

Southern Maryland District
Commander

NORTHERN CENTRAL NEWS

By now all District officer's, DEC s, and Squadron Commanders should have the Districts "Pic 3 Raffle" tickets. These are for the month of May and the winners are designated by the evening three digit State Lottery numbers. Please do you best to sell these tickets. The proceeds will help the District with its many projects. All moneys should be in by April 30th.

We have fallen on hard times

comrades! We are languishing in sixth place, unfamiliar territory for the NCD. Please make every effort to get your membership in so we can move back to the top. If you need any assistance please contact me or First Vice Commander Kraig Dean 410-440-2449.

We are having a bus trip to Atlantic City's Showboat Casino on April 2nd. The price is \$40 with \$30 being returned by the casino. All proceeds

will go toward the Commander's Project, Loch Raven Veteran's Center. Contact Bob Snukis if you want tickets. 410-299-0216.

By the time you read this we will have had our St. Patrick's Day Luncheon for the vets at McVets, which is always a good time.

Our next meeting is April 17th at Essex Squadron # 148 at 1:00 PM. Please make every effort to attend

LEGISLATIVE REPORT BY BILL STEM

Members of the Legion Family have been attending hearings on the various bills pertaining to veteran affairs. We still need an outcry from the rank and file. Please contact your local representatives and press them to bring these bills out of committee and give them a chance at debate.

Slots bill for all non-profit organiza-

tions.

Exempting veteran retirement payments from state tax.

Charlotte Hall – gifts and grants – ability to accept and spend.

Mcvets Center – funding bill

Women's Veteran's Center – for Baltimore City.

These are just a few of the bills crucial

to our veterans help us to educate your legislators to bring them to a vote.

Yours in Service

Bill Stem Chairman

Email: wstem84809@aol.com

Cell: 410 598-9355

Home: 410 526-6559

VAVS VARIETY BY JR HALL

Hello To All,

Guys as we enter into the last quarter of our year we need to check our accounts and see if there is any extra left in there to do a little more for our veterans. I know we have made a lot of donations and some have more to come, but it's not just about donations, but what we can do to volunteer to help our veterans to wrap up the year. Please make sure when you're filling out your consolidated report forms, so that you claim all of your volunteer hours and donations that you made this year.

Also, remember that in May we will have National Veterans Assistance Day and make sure you and your Squadron plan to do some to help

out a veteran on this special day. I hope that all of our Squadrons will take the time to get out to visit our veterans and are spending some time with them.

Let's take the last couple months and do what we can for all of our veterans.

Yours in Service,
Don Hall Jr

Loch Raven VA Community Living Center

The 2nd Annual Valentines for Veterans Concert on February 12 was a great success. Over 2400 concert goers, including veteran and active duty inpatients from the Walter Reed

Army Medical Center, Maryland Center for Veterans Education & Training, VA medical centers in Washington, DC, Martinsburg, WV, and throughout Maryland had a great afternoon.

Anew service being offered by the VA is the medical Foster Home program. This service is for veterans who do not want to live in a nursing home but have no support. For more information please call Crystal Taylor, LCSW-C 410-605-7629.

The next LR VA CLC VAVS meeting is on Tuesday March 22, at 2 PM

Bob Filippi
VAVS Representative

SOUTH EASTERN SHORE HERALD

Attention all bike riders. The first annual SESD Poker run is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, 2011. All proceeds will benefit Detachment Commander Tom Deal's "Wounded Warrior Project". Flyers will be mailed shortly on all the details.

Congratulations to all SESD members on maintaining first place for membership. The SESD is 93.33% of goal with 205 members needed to reach 100%. Please keep in touch with those who have not paid. Lets top last years 3 star effort and

achieve 4 star this year. Congratulation to Wicomico Squadron 64, Corporal Herman Hughes Squadron 87, DOR-WIC Squadron 218 and Springhill Squadron 237 for achieving 4 Star status and reaching all time highs for membership. Job well done.

From the members of the SESD, a special thank you to PNC Bill Sparwasser and The Member Training & Development Committee for providing training at American Legion Post 64 on January 30,

2011. The training session was a great success with 10 of 14 squadrons attending.

In closing, please continue to recruit new members. Volunteerism is down across our nation. We must recruit younger eligible members. Be a mentor and teach them to take pride in giving back to their communities, veterans and the elderly.

Serving Veterans and Their Families,
Ray Edwards Jr.
South Eastern Shore District Adjutant
(410) 215-9354

CASEY CARES BY DAVE HULLIHEN

This maybe my final pride article for this year, so I would like to take this time to thank everyone and every Squadron, Post and Auxiliary that contributed this year to the Casey Care Foundation. We have done very well once again. It seems every year; it just gets better and better. I did not actually set a goal this year, but I do believe we surpassed last year's totals and I would like to

make it very difficult for next year's chairmen to surpass this year. I do not like to set goals because if you do and then don't meet them it seems as though you have failed and I believe as long as you raise donations that helps that organizations then you have done your job. So I am asking again from now till the end of the year to continue to send in donations or bring to our Detachment

meetings, right up till convention weekend. Once again thanks to all who have made it so much easier for the families of Case Cares and don't forget the Casey Cares ride in July.

Yours In Service
Dave Hullihen Casey Cares Chairman
dave.bwh@verizon.net

“Saluting Our Wounded Warriors”

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND

3115 Orchard Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234



NEC NEWS BY ANDY DADDS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

I bring you greetings from National Commander David Dew. Commander Dew says thanks to all of the Detachments for their hard work and commitment to accomplish goals. During the weekend of February 25-26, 2011 a delegation from the Detachment of Maryland attended National Commander Dew's homecoming in Plano, TX which they enjoyed a great Texas hospitality.

Maryland is "Racing for Membership" and passing all goals set by National. The Detachment membership stands at 81.746% ahead of the March 9, 2011 of 80%, let's keep passing these goals because the next goal of 90% is just around the corner on April 13, 2011. The Eastern Region is out of last place with 79.547% of membership turned in.

The year is coming to an end because the consolidated report form is coming. Please start getting your

information ready, don't wait till the last minute because doing this report in a hurry you will forget a lot of hours and donations to our programs. The Detachment has held two training sessions on how to fill out this report. With these sessions we should have the best reporting ever.

Here are a few things to remember for the remaining year,

Membership post card renewals, April 2011

National Executive Committee meetings in Indy, April 29- May 1, 2011

Veterans Assistance Day May 2011

National Convention Minneapolis Minnesota, August 26-28, 2011

The American Legion Day September 16, 2011

Fall NEC and Detachment Commander/Adjutant classes, October 8-9, 2011

Here are a few frequently asked questions received at National Headquarters;

Question: Will working with Seniors constitute Community Service?

Answer: Yes. Visits to senior's homes, taking seniors shopping, mowing their yard or anything you do for the seniors in your community is Community Service. Remember, there is no age limit for Service to the Community.

Question: There are speeches that I can use for some of the major Holidays, are they updated on a regular basis.

Answer: Yes they are rewritten to keep the speeches current and relative to today's ever changing information.

Andy Dadds, PDC
NEC Committeemen,