



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

# “The Pride”

Volume 2011 Issue 5

Convention Issue June 22, 2012

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

## COMMANDER’S CORNER BY BUDDY MASTIN

I cannot believe this year is already ending. It doesn't seem that long ago that I was being installed as Detachment Commander. Thank you to everyone who has supported me and our American Legion Family programs throughout the year. I have enjoyed this year immensely and I am very proud of the year the Detachment of Maryland has had while I was Detachment Commander. I have travelled the state visiting our VA Centers, McVets, Charlotte Hall, our Fisher Houses and much more. I plunged in the Bay for The Polar Bear Plunge. I attended our National S.A.L. Commander Jim Robert's Homecoming in Florida and help guide our National American Legion Commander Fang Wong on a tour during his visit of Maryland. I enjoyed traveling to the District Receptions meeting new people and socializing with people who are becoming old friends.

I cannot say enough to thank the many people who stepped up to the

plate and helped raise over \$90,000 (an all-time high, no less) for a new bus for Charlotte Hall. It doesn't seem that long ago we were happy to raise \$30,000 for a project. Thank you to Bill Stem for chairing my Commanders Project. Please make sure you stop and see the van at either the S.A.L. or

American Legion Conventions before we deliver it to Charlotte Hall. It is amazing what we can do when we all work together. You the blue cap member and the rest of The American Legion Family should be very proud of the job you have done raising money for

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## ADJUTANT’S CORNER

BY BILL MATOSKA

### Convention Schedule

The 39th Annual Detachment of Maryland Convention will convene at 8:00 AM on Saturday, June 23, 2012, in the Maryland Ball Rooms located on the first floor to the left of the hotel lobby as you enter from the front of the building. Immediately after the opening, PNC Sparwasser has secured the ATF agency to give a demonstration using their trained dogs in a hostile environment before the junior members are released for their training session. **Please take note**, on Sunday, June 24, 2012, the convention will reconvene at 9:00 AM in

the **Hunt Ballroom**. The Hunt Ballroom is located on the lower level of the hotel and can be accessed by using the escalator across from the Delegate Registration Area in the Maryland Coatcheck Room. The entrance hallway to the Hunt Ballroom is to the rear of the escalator after stepping off. There will be a Memorial Service in the Hunt Ballroom preceding the re-convening of the convention on Sunday at 8:00 AM.

### Junior Convention:

“The Matthew Buckler Program for Junior Members” will take place in the Garden Room on both

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# MEMBERSHIP BY BILL HILL

The "Membership Cup Race" has come to an end and did we have one heck of a race. We set new highs (4-Star) for three (3) Districts and twenty-nine (29) squadrons, along with reaching (3-Star) for twenty-six squadrons. Outstanding!

The final stretch of the membership race appeared to be coming down to a "Photo Finish", but when the South Eastern Shore District took the final strides, they did it in a big way and turned in fifty-nine (59) membership during the last week of the race and gave no doubt as to who came across the finish line in 1<sup>st</sup> Place. Congratulations to the entire NESD and all of the other Districts for a job well done!

**The final official standings are:**

Win – South Eastern Shore District @ 107.2 of goal – (1,403 members)

Place – North Eastern Shore District @ 103.2% of goal – (1,581 members)

Show – Western Maryland District @ 101.13% of goal – (4,821 members)

**Rounding out the race:**

Mountain District @ 98.71% of goal – (612 members)

Southern Maryland District @ 96.39% of goal – (3,632 members)

Northern Central District @ 94.27% of goal – (2,764 members)

Baltimore District @ 80.94% of goal – (293 members)

As you know the program was a straight-up race towards the finish line and from my vantage point it was a great

race! There were no extra points for "no goose eggs", no weekly or monthly points for being in the lead, and no special consideration for having the smallest or largest membership count. In the end it came down to a great group of District Commanders leading the way and an equally great group of squadron members supporting them throughout the entire race.

As promised the District Commander(s) who finished the race with 100% of their membership goal will receive a customized polo shirt, with the wording "Membership Cup Race, 2011 – 2012, 100% Achievement" and, if they reach the 105% goal, the percent will be adjusted to what they achieved and printed in larger letters. So, I look forward to presenting these shirts at our annual convention, and please come out and show your support for all of the District Commanders.

Detachment update: We are currently 109 members ahead of this same time last year (15,106) and we're 186 members away from reaching 100%. However; we still have time to reach the final National goal of for this administrative year of 105% by July 26<sup>th</sup>. So let's continue our push for membership and send our Detachment Commander to the National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, being held in Indianapolis, IN with the additional bragging rights of meeting this goal.

If you have any question, looking for suggestions or want some general information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Service to God and Country,  
 Bill Hill  
 Membership Chairman  
[Hill1062@MSN.COM](mailto:Hill1062@MSN.COM), Cell: 301-928-1411



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT BY TOM DEAL

I continue to send out weekly e-mails with the legislative updates from The American Legion Legislative Commission. They have asked to remind ALL members of the Sons Organization to watch for discussions

of Veterans Issues, we need to stand strong in support of our Country and our Veterans. We all need to contact our Senators and Congressmen to let them know where we stand on the issues. There are links on our web site

to several web sites for specific information. Information drop sheets were sent out on topics of major concern to the American Legion. Get out and VOTE!

Tom Deal

# COMMUNITY SERVICE BY ANDY DADDS

As we come this year comes to a close I want to thank all of the volunteers who helped with the picnics at Andrews Air Force Base Fisher House and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Fisher Houses at NSA/Bethesda. Truly the families staying

here appreciate the time we took out of our busy schedules to prepare food for them to enjoy while their loved ones are being treated at one of these facilities.

I hoped everyone filled out their year-end reports with all of the services

they have done around their communities as well as their post homes.

Andy Dadds  
 PDC  
 410-708-4144  
[bdadds@baybroadband.net](mailto:bdadds@baybroadband.net)

## AMERICANISM REPORT BY JEFF SEILER

Here we are at the end of the administrative year. And now is the time to start thinking about the new administrative year. This year you may want to start a new program or new way to keep better track of your records. This is the time to do that. Let's make this next year another outstanding year. We've always been and will continue to be a Detachment that shows its great support to all the Americanism programs. Supporting Local blood drives where the blood banks are low due to the natural disasters we are having, or by supporting a scout troop. **Flag Replacement Program**, Now it the time to start thinking about our next administrative year. Think about helping the Posts out with helping to purchase flags for Veteran's Day and help with the laying of the flags on the graves of our veterans or out in your community as appropriate. 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. (3 x 5 flags will count as 5 points and small flags will count

as 1 point) If you are looking for a Flag retirement program/ceremony, please contact committee Chairman Chris Dadds. There will be a prize for first place for the most flags retired. **Community Affairs** On April 21<sup>st</sup> there were a select few that helped out with the Fisher House luncheon. This is the first time all the food was cooked and eaten. It was a great success as we fed and conversed with a good bit of Wounded Warriors and Fisher House residents. Fisher House as you know is very important to the families and military by giving them a place to stay in their time of need. It is truly a home away from home. It's a warm setting for them while their love one is being treated in one of the VA hospitals. Please keep in mind our next luncheon will be at Andrews Air Force Base in the fall. DEC. Chairman Andy Dadds PDC **Boys State** This legion program is very rewarding for those young men who are chosen to participate. Boys State is among the most respected educational programs for high school students. Participants are exposed to the rights and privileges and duties and responsibilities of a citizen. We are

encouraging each squadron to support your home post by providing any level of support necessary. Chairman Jerry Saunders Sr. **National Emergency Fund**, The National Emergency Fund continues to need our help. With the continued economic challenges we face as a world, the support this program provides to so many, is greatly appreciated. Please continue your aid or our Legion family. We are asking each squadron to donate at least \$ 1.00 per member. I believe this is a very obtainable goal. We need to help In this time of needs where there are so many natural disasters, the fires in Texas, The flooding in the Northeast and South just to name a few. Thank you again for your continued support. Chairman Larry Griffin. Thank You to every member of the Detachment and all or our Legion Family members for supporting the programs, which fall under Americanism.

For God and Country  
Jeff Seiler  
Americanism Chairman  
Jeffrey.seiler@safeco.com

## CASEY CARES BY ED STEININGER

As I sit here reading the Summer Bulletin of *Kite Tales*, from Casey Cares, I am getting interested in all the events and outings Casey Cares does for their families. Then all of a sudden, I see two stories of The Sons of The American Legion. Page 1 discussed the Annual Golf & Tennis Tournament at Chartwell Golf and Country Club on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Page 2 was letters from Casey Cares families. And then the lead article on Page 3 was our Laps of Love Program. She personally thanked our organizer, JR Hall, and 2 of our longtime supporters, Propst & Sons Sports, and Convenience Catering, and went on to mention the other groups that this event helped. She also stated that their share of the money raised will enable her to provide over 25 Family

Festivities to her families throughout the year. Not a bad compliment for a couple of hours of enjoyment at a great facility. Great job Vice Commander Hall. Now it is up to us to make this bigger and better next year.

Then I continue reading and there is an article on the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala. She lists the sponsors in bold print. Gold included two banks and Alex Brown, three well-known names around MD. Four Silver Sponsors which included Med Star Health, and The Sons of The American Legion. That in it- self was amazing, but what was not mentioned, was the fact that for us to be a Silver Sponsor, the donations started with a nice healthy check being donated by our

Commission Chairman, George Grossnickle, from the American Legion, and, for one of our programs! That was just breath taking for me.

As with many of our programs, donations have been down, thanks to the state of the economy, however it is good to know that what we do donate goes to such good use and serves so many families.

Now as we wrap up another great year, let us not forget that we still have one more huge Casey Cares event coming up in July. Mark your calendars; "July 21<sup>st</sup> " is our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Casey Cares Bike Ride. Past Detachment Commander Tom Deal, and Board of Director for Casey Cares, has mapped out a good ride this year. We will gather at Post 128,

## CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER BY JR HALL

Hello Comrades,

Where has this year gone to? It seems like it was just yesterday we were making plans and now we are wrapping things up and getting ready to celebrate what a great year it has been. I would first like to thank all of the members of the Children and Youth committee for their work on all of our programs. With the Sons stepping up as we did for the Commander's Project there were a lot of worries that we would not be able to support our other programs, but I am happy to say that we may not have met other years dollars amounts on every program, but the success is measured by more than just a dollar amount. Toys for Tots for received donations given to help our children, Special Olympics of Maryland was having a down year for finances and then the Winter Games were cancelled due to warm weather. Well, our Maryland Delegation did get to perform in the Nationals based on previous years' results, and there were Squadrons and Units that stepped up to make

extra donations to help. Casey Cares had another fantastic year and the Sons of The American Legion were right there with them. This year as a long time board member Bear Weinzirl was moved to the Casey Cares Advisory Board, Past Detachment Commander Tom Deal was placed on the board to keep the Sons represented. I personally felt that we talked more about CWF this year then we have in a while and a new awareness is a great feeling. Bud Singleton worked hard to again bring a new awareness to the work being done at Johns Hopkins with CMN and did a great job collecting money at every opportunity.

Our first year of the Laps of Love was a great success and helped us be able to get back to the levels of donations to Casey Cares, Special Olympics and CWF that we had in years past. I would like to Thank everyone that helped make it as successful as it was. Past Department Commander Doug Henley was one of the first to step up and offer help and he did all he could to make is a

success and it is our Past leaders that are still doing all they can that make our organization what it is. PNC Brett Beall along with son David worked the concession for Doug's company "Convenience Catering" at the event and they all donated their time. PDC Henley donated all food for participants and then turned in all moneys from purchased items. Thank you all again. We all look forward to next year's event.

I hope to see everyone at Convention as we celebrate a great year.

Remember Our Children are Our Future  
JR Hall  
Children & Youth Commission Chairman



## VAVS VARIETY

BY RAY EDWARDS

Over the past three years, I have been involved with Walter Reed Army Medical Center and working with our wounded warriors. This year is no different. Throughout the year, we organize fundraising events that pays the expenses to bring five combat wounded soldiers to the Eastern Shore of Maryland. This is a great program and I highly encourage you to come out and support this cause. This past year, I volunteered to help and cook meals at Fisher House (Andrews Air Force Base and Bethesda). This is a wonderful experience. Our Commander's project this year was Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home. My point is, there are other veterans that need help. Let us remember, it's our responsibly to take

care of the older Veterans as well.

This year has been a learning experience for me. A "Thank You" to those squadrons around the State that helped with other Veteran cause this year. I have excepted the Chairman position next year for VAVS and look forward to working with everyone next year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Serving Veterans and Their Families,  
Ray Edwards  
VAVS Chairman 2011/2012  
[rayjred@verizon.net](mailto:rayjred@verizon.net), (410) 215-9354

### Loch Raven VA CLC

On May 26, the Northern Central District held its annual Cookout at the Loch Raven Campus. The VA

also had live music and a car show scheduled for the veterans on the same day. From what I saw it was a great success. Thanks to all who took part in these events. On June 17, Fathers Day, Parkville Squadron 183 will hold its annual cookout and I know this will be another great success. Please consider joining these two groups and hold your own event at the facility.

Voluntary and Recreation Services are always looking for new groups or individuals to get involved in activities at the facility. If interested call Sandra at 410-505-7000 x4649 or Barbra 410-605-7000 x 5877, for more information.

Bob Filippi  
VAVS Representative

## COMMANDER'S PROJECT BY BILL STEM

It has been a pleasure being Commander Mastin's Project Chairman. The outpouring of support has been heartwarming and humbling. Your contributions will make the lives of our veterans at

Charlotte Hall more secure and enable for greater mobility. Be sure to inspect the fruit of your labors, by touring the bus here at the convention.

Thank you all again.

Yours in Service  
Bill Stem  
Email: [wstem84809@aol.com](mailto:wstem84809@aol.com)  
Cell: 410 598-9355  
Home: 410 526-6559

## MARYLAND SPECIAL OLYMPICS BY JIM ALEXANDER

I want to thank all of our volunteers that worked hard to make the years events run smoothly. I also would like to thank Jackie Isphording, Maryland Special Olympics, for all the assistance she gave me this year. It's our volunteering and donations that help the athletes follow their dreams

and reach their goals. This year we raised a little over \$15,000, let's make next year even a better year with more participation and donations.

Please check your districts for volunteering opportunities. Go to

Maryland Special Olympics website for events in your district.

Our children are our future!  
Jim Alexander  
443-623-9907  
[jimalex831@verizon.net](mailto:jimalex831@verizon.net)

## CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK BY BUD SINGLETON

I would like to thank everyone for their support of the Children's Miracle Network this year. Our critically ill children will always be in need of our help.

As you move into your new fiscal years, please remember to include CMN in on your budgets for donations in 2012-2013 year.

Respectfully  
Fulton "Bud" Singleton PDiC  
DEC Chairman CMN

## COMMANDER'S REPORT BY BUDDY MASTIN

*(Continued from page 1)*

this van.

I would like to thank all of my Detachment Officers, Commission Chairmen and members and our DEC men for a wonderful job this year. You have made my job easy. To our blue cap members: Thank you for the awesome job you are doing at your Post homes raising money and supporting our veterans and community. It is you, that makes myself and the other officers look good. Keep up the good work.

Membership is doing well, we are 126 members ahead of last year. South Eastern Shore, North Eastern Shore and Mountain Districts are 4 Star and Mountain District is 3 Star, but keep that membership coming in

so we reach the National Goal of 105% before National Convention. Though this may be a slow time for us after convention, the veterans and children of our community need our help all year long. You can help do yard work around a veterans or deployed servicemen house. You can do an open house picnic for your community at your Post Home. You can do a group visit one of our VA Centers, Mcvet or Charlotte Hall. You could schedule a cookout or cleanup at one of the Fisher Houses. Did you know they have a new Fisher House at the Washington VA Center? The main thing is to try and keep your Squadron busy this summer and get your members involved.

I hope to see you all at this convention. Please come up and say hi. Thank you for affording me the

opportunity to serve you and this great organization as Detachment Commander. It has been an honor and a privilege. I just wish my Mom and Dad could have been here to enjoy this with me, my wife, my daughter and my grandson. I hope I made you and them proud. Remember, every end is a new beginning. God Bless our Troops and God Bless America.

Serving America's Veterans Every Day,  
Edward 'Buddy' Mastin  
Detachment Commander  
[buddymastin@hotmail.com](mailto:buddymastin@hotmail.com)

## NORTHERN CENTRAL NEWS

I want to thank everyone for all their hard work this year. While we finished 6th in membership, I am still very proud of all that squadrons that reached 3 and 4 Star Status.

My Commander's Project this year was raising funds for kitchen equipment for

the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training. I am happy to report that we reached my goal of \$4,300.00. I look forward to in the near future to go shopping with the kitchen Manager to purchase some well needed equipment.

I want to thank all my officers for all their hard work this year and I want to wish next year's officers a great year!

For God and County  
Kraig A. Dean  
kraigdean@yahoo.com  
410-440-2449

## JOE'S JOURNEY

At the 2011 National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion held in Minneapolis, MN, the National organization announced Past Detachment of Maryland Commander Joseph Gladden from Overlea-Perry Hall Squadron 130 as a leading candidate for National Commander. This puts Joe in line to be elected to this high office in August of 2013 in Houston, Texas. To support Joe's dream of becoming our National Commander, we are requesting the assistance of the

entire Legion Family from Maryland in raising the monies needed to support his campaign. If you can assist us by scheduling a fundraiser for Joe's campaign, please contact our Fundraising Chairman J.R. Hall at [410] 365-7758 or [dhall1967@verizon.net](mailto:dhall1967@verizon.net).

Any donation that your organization can make to assist us with "Joe's Journey" would be greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to "National Campaign

Fund" and mail to National Campaign Treasurer William Hill, 10940 Festival Dr., Boyds, Md. 20841. For additional information or questions, please contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Larry "Bear" Weinzirl,  
National Campaign Chairman,  
[484] 880-0320,  
[nesdsal@aol.com](mailto:nesdsal@aol.com)

## ADJUTANT'S CORNER BY BILL MATOSKA

*(Continued from page 1)*

Saturday & Sunday. All Junior members will attend the opening ceremonies on Saturday and will be released to attend their session after the ATF dog demonstration. The ATF personnel will then speak briefly at the Junior Session which is being chaired by PNC Bill Sparwasser. The Discipline Star of the Five Star Program will be reviewed and tested during this year's Junior session. Anyone interested in testing for this star should contact PNC Sparwasser or S.A.L. Department Chairman, George Grossnickle.

### **Bowling Tournament:**

The Harmison-Whitney Bowling Tournament is scheduled to begin at 12:00 PM and is being held at the Timonium Lanes located at 2165 York Road, Timonium, Md. 21093. The tournament will begin on time

with or without those that are registered are present.

### **8-Ball Pool Tournament:**

This is a double elimination tournament and will begin at 12:30 PM at Johnny C's Arcade & Billiards located at 22 Church Lane, Cockeysville, Md. 21030. This tournament has two categories of completion; a senior division for anyone 21 years of age and older and a junior division for anyone of and between the ages of 13 to 20 years old. See Chairman Jerry Saunders as soon as you arrive to draw your first match and begin play.

### **Horseshoes-Superstars-Korn Hole:** **New venue and game this year.**

These events will be held at Towson American Legion Post No. 22 located at 125 York Road, Towson, Md. 21204. The games are scheduled to begin at 4:30 PM. and will be held in the rear of the post in the picnic area.

A bus has been chartered for those interested to transport everyone from the Marriott to Towson Post beginning at 3:30 PM. and will make as many trips to and from these locations as needed. There is no need for anyone to drink & drive. The new game this year is a Korn Hole Tournament chaired by JR Hall with a \$10.00 entry fee. This is a co-ed event with all teams having one male member and one female member of the Legion Family. The winning team will receive a \$25.00 gift card for each member. This is an opportunity to get the ladies involved in our convention and having fun doing so. Once again there will be refreshments, hamburgers and hot dogs for all those in attendance compliments of the Detachment of Maryland. Yours In Service,  
Bill Matoska

## NORTHEASTERN SHORE GAZETTE

It has been a very exciting first year as Commander of the North Eastern Shore District.

I have been re-elected for a second term and am looking very much forward to it. Thanks to all N.E.S.D. officers, D.E.C. members, Squadron Commanders, and especially all of the blue cap members that have made this a great year for the North Eastern Shore. Everyone did a great job with our programs. Special congratulations goes out to Cecil Squadron 15 on the success of their Ice Splash which raised over \$39,000 for Cecil Co. Special Olympics.

In membership, our District came in

2nd place in the Detachment. As of June 1, we were a Four Star District and 103.66% of our goal. A heartfelt salute goes to Three Star Squadrons: Posts 21, 36, 70, 77, 246 and Four Star Squadrons: Posts 135, 194, 228, 278, 296.

Congratulations also to Detachment Commander Buddy Mastin on his successful project to purchase a handicapped bus for Charlotte Hall and thank you to all N.E.S.D. Squadrons for your assistance.

Please consider supporting Joe Gladden in his quest to become our National Commander. Special thanks

also to my Adjutant Larry "Bear" Weinzirl, Department

Judge Advocate Dr. Gordon Browning and Past NESD Commander Ken Jones for their help in guiding me through, for me, uncharted waters.

I will do my best to make 2012-13 an even better year for the North Eastern Shore District.

See you at the Convention,

Karl B. Kibler

Commander: N.E.S.D.

410-829-9317

[homer51@comcast.net](mailto:homer51@comcast.net)

## SOUTH EASTERN SHORE HERALD

It's hard to believe that another year is about to come to an end. My first meeting in July, we set some very obtainable goals for the 2011/2012 upcoming year.

The goals were simply: Communication, Fundraising and most important, Membership. With the help of my DEC officers, Terry Albert (Squadron 64), Dennis

Rennehan (Squadron 243) and Leon Adkins (Squadron 218), the goals we set earlier in the year, would not have been achieved. Gentlemen,

"Thank You" for your dedication and support.

A special thanks to Commander John Egerson (Squadron 87) and Detachment Finance Officer Larry Griffin (Squadron 243) for always lending a helping hand. I would also like to thank American Legion District Commander Frank Fraley (Post 243) and SAL District Adviser Ralph Cordrey (Post 218), for their ongoing support throughout this year.

District Achievements this year, Number 1 in membership, 8-Four Star Squadrons, 4-Three Star

Squadrons, 1-Squadron at 100%, Set all time high in membership with 110 new members over previous high of 1300, Turned in 13 consolidated reports and donated over \$5k to the programs of the Sons of The American Legion. Job well done!

Serving Veterans and Their Families,  
Ray Edwards  
(410) 215-9354 Cell  
[rayjred@verizon.net](mailto:rayjred@verizon.net)

## WESTERN MARYLAND TRIBUNE

Western Maryland membership did very well this year. For the largest number of members we did outstanding job, but please let's keep those memberships coming in. Congratulations to all the 3 star and 4 star squadrons. Western Maryland is raffling off a 42" television at our annual convention in Hunt Valley. Please sell as many as you can. This is an important fundraiser for the

District. Our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of year will be held on October 21st 2012 1:00 pm at Webster B Harrison Squadron #26 Hancock MD. If anyone needs directions please ask we will get you there. This year at Convention the Western Maryland District is having a combined hospitality room, with the Mountain District. Please welcome all the Mountain district members and make them feel comfortable

among us. I hope everyone makes an effort to attend our district meetings. Please be aware that Western Maryland District does have a Facebook page where one can join and see what is going on at our local squadrons.

Thank you  
Jeffrey Seiler  
WMD Commander  
[Jeffrey.seiler@safeco.com](mailto:Jeffrey.seiler@safeco.com)

“S.A.V.E.D.”

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

3115 Orchard Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21234



## TIME AND PLACE REPORT BY BILL STEM

Reading this you are at the 2012 Detachment Convention. Enjoy the events and the camaraderie. Come away with a greater understanding of the Sons of The American Legion

and the past year's accomplishments. Look forward to returning here next year to celebrate another great year.

Yours in Service  
Bill Stem Chairman  
Email: [wstem84809@aol.com](mailto:wstem84809@aol.com)  
Cell: 410 598-9355  
Home: 410 526-6559

## NEC NEWS BY ANDY DADDS

I bring you greetings from National Commander Jim Roberts. Commander's membership ride is almost done but we still have a lot of work to do. Remember we are getting back to basics with membership, renew, retain and reinstate. We have nine detachments already at or over the May 9<sup>th</sup> goal of 100%.

The Eastern Region membership is standing at 94.140% which has the region in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. We have two Detachments at or over the 100% goal. The Detachment of Maryland stands in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the region at 96.364% missing the 100% goal. The next membership goal is 105% on July 26, 2012. With a lot of work we can reach this goal. Maryland's renewal rate is 87.11% which is great

based on our membership.

May 4-6 2012 members of the Detachment traveled to the spring NEC in Indy. During this week end we sat in on the various committee meetings. Our Vice Commanders and Jim Alexander attended the NMI classes. Remember the National Convention this year will be in Indianapolis Indiana on August 24-26, 2012. If you are planning on going please send in your form to the Department of Maryland with room deposit, in order to get a room in the Department Hotel. Also let Detachment Adjutant Matoska know your travel plans so he can coordinate who will be attending the committee meetings during the convention.

Future dates to remember;

Membership Target Date 10% (2013)  
September 12, 2012

American Legion Day September 15, 2012

National Children & Youth Conference September 21-23, 2012

National Americanism Conference September 28-30, 2012

**Fall NEC & Detachment Commanders Conference October 13-14, 2012**

Membership Target Date 25% (2013)  
October 17, 2012

Membership Target Date 35% (2013)  
November 15, 2012

Membership Target Date 45% (2013)  
December 12, 2012

Andy Dadds,  
PDC  
NEC Committeemen

## SOUTHERN MARYLAND TIMES

I want to thank all the officers of the Southern Maryland District. I also want to thank all the squadron commanders and the Blue Cap members. The SMD had a great year thanks to all the support that was given to all the American Legion Programs.

I also want to congratulate Past SMD District

Commander and current Detachment Commander Buddy Mastin for having a great year serving the Detachment of Maryland. I am also very proud of the way the SMD supported Buddy's Bus Project. Many thousands of dollars were raised in the SMD for this great project.

Once again, without your support, the success of my year would have never happened.

Yours In Service  
Dave Sprucebank  
Commander