



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



“The Pride”

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

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Commander’s Corner

Well, it’s time to kick off another great year within the Detachment of Maryland and the best way to do so is to extend my congratulations to all of the newly-installed Detachment Officers, Commission and Committee Chairmen and members, District Commanders and DEC men for this coming year. And, most importantly, thank you to the “Blue Cap Members” of the Detachment! You’re what continue to make us a great Detachment!

This year has already had great moments for the Detachment with the delivery of the bus to Charlotte Hall and with winning five (5) National awards (*outlined in this section*) within the Maryland Squadrons. I put a teaser on Facebook about the awards, but you’ll have to come out to the next DEC/Seminar on September 30th to hear the details.

- National History Contest - Best Squadron
- Community Service Award - Best Squadron
- Scrapbook Contest
- Best District Rehabilitation Report
- Best Squadron Rehabilitation Report
- National Americanism - Best Squadron

This year will introduce a new Membership theme, new ideas for supporting Maryland Special Olympics, and a well-rounded plan to continue our outstanding support for Community Service, Veteran’s and Children & Youth programs, which you’ll read more about from the various commission and committee chairmen within the Pride.

We are also introducing a great opportunity for training on SAL programs and leadership, which focus on awareness of what the SAL offers and how to prepare you to be successful. This training will be held in Ocean City at the Grand Hotel on Saturday, December 8th prior to our DEC meeting on Sunday, December 9th. Lunch will be provided for attendees. The training will be conducted by two Past National Commanders, so don’t miss this special opportunity. Registration for this training will be outlined at the September 30th DEC/Seminar.

My theme this year is “Serving America’s Heroes”, which falls in line with my project. It’s not a highly publicized program around the state or country. However, this program is a great opportunity to support local veterans. This year’s Commander’s Project is The American Legion’s **Heroes to Hometowns** Program.

The Heroes to Hometowns Program is a transition program for severely injured service members returning home from the global war on terrorism. H2H establishes a support network for Service Members that allows them to ease into their hometown or new surroundings. The guiding concept of Heroes to Hometowns is transition from the hospital environment and return to civilian life.

The American Legion’s strong support for our troops is especially evident in their willingness to help service members who are severely injured in war, and their ever-supportive families. The Heroes to Hometowns program focuses on reintegration back home, with networks established at the national,

state, and local levels to better identify the extraordinary needs of returning families **before** and **after** they return to help ensure a long-term success. Last year, American Legion’s H2H programs assisted over 1,100 veterans.

Heroes to Hometowns can provide:

- A welcome-home celebration
- Temporary financial and housing assistance
- Home and vehicle adaptation
- Child care support
- Holiday dinners

The goal for this year’s project is to raise \$40,000 -- this will provide a solid base of financial resources to be utilized within the state of Maryland. I believe this will honor the Heroes who have so bravely served in America’s military.

The project chairman is Jim Alexander of Glen Burnie Squadron 40. If you would like additional information such as sponsoring a fundraiser, donations or T-shirts, please contact Jim. His information is listed under the Commander’s Project section of the Detachment’s web site.

This year will introduce a new idea within the Detachment and that is the First Lady’s project. Michelle was asked to support a fundraising project that is well deserving of the SAL’s assistance. That project is Sons Saving Ta-Tas. This will raise funds for Breast Cancer research.

The projects outlined above are great; however, we will continue to support all of the Four Pillars of the American Legion and the various programs. The

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Chairmen have outlined some of their plans and goals for this coming year in their articles and will continue to provide updates to the Detachment's web site, in the Pride, via email distribution, and on Facebook (Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland).

As we settle into supporting our many functions and programs throughout the year, let's always remember to have fun while doing so. We often forget that 100% of support comes from "volunteers" and we need to occasionally remind ourselves of that. Let's not drive our comrades away by being bullish on our expectations of them, but remember to say THANK YOU and take the time to recognize what they are offering; which is their time and support and that is priceless!

I also encourage all SAL members within Maryland to please come out to a Detachment Executive Committee (DEC) meeting and get some additional details on the various programs we support and spend some time with other members of this great Detachment.

If you would like to follow me on my travels throughout the state of Maryland, then check out Twitter @MDSALCMDR.

"Serving America's Heroes"

Bill Hill
Commander
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion
Hill1062@msn.com
(301) 928-1411

Adjutant's Corner

D.E.C./Seminar: The first Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander, Bill Hill, on September 30, 2012 at 12:00 P.M. (NOON). Please take note of the time for this first session. The meeting is being hosted at Parkville American Legion Post No. 183 located at 2301 Putty Hill Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21234. The post phone number is 410-665-9339.

Directions: From the Baltimore Beltway/I-695, take Exit 30A (*which is the same exit number from either east*

or west bound), exiting the ramp you will merge onto MD-41 S/Perring Parkway, proceed .8 mile to the first traffic light and turn left onto Putty Hill Ave. The post home is .3 mile on the right.

Call to All Districts: After the Detachment Convention; Commander Bill Hill, C&Y Chairman Jr Hall, Special Olympics Chairman Jim Alexander, and I, met with the management team from Maryland Special Olympics to evaluate both past and potential initiatives the Detachment of Maryland could embrace to further enhance the relationship with Sons of The American Legion members and the Special Olympic Athletes from everyone's respective community. A new and exciting proposal was explored at this meeting that will support the Maryland Special Olympics' State office, the Counties, and most important, the Special Olympic Athletes. The Detachment of Maryland and the seven Districts will take ownership of the Maryland Special Olympics Annual Bowling Tournament which consists of three Regional Tournaments and the State Bowling Tournament. More than 500 Special Olympic Bowlers come together to compete in these tournaments each year and unfortunately a limitation of finances and resources has resulted in restrictions on the scope of these culminating events and the overall athlete experience. Our partnership with Special Olympics will require both financial and manpower support. Our monetary support will enable more Special Olympic athletes the opportunity to compete and Special Olympic bowlers would be able to bowl three games rather than two games at the current competitions. This will allow the athletes to meet the same standards as bowlers in certified United States Bowling Congress competitions. Nutritious lunches would be provided to all bowlers, coaches, and volunteers who are not currently offered due to cost and a complete array of medals and ribbons could be presented to the athletes. Sons of The American Legion members will help score bowling games, present awards, and serve lunches at the competitions. Each district will take ownership of the tournament in their region where the athletes from that local community will compete making the relationship even more personal and rewarding. The Mountain and Western Maryland Districts will take ownership

of the Western Regional Competition; Baltimore, Northern Central, and the Northeastern Shore Districts the Central Regional Competition; and the Southern Maryland and Southeastern Shore Districts the Southern Regional Competition. The cost for each regional competition is approximately \$5000 for each and will require each district to coordinate with their sponsoring counterparts now to ensure the funds will be available for next year's events; resulting in an exciting opportunity for the Sons of The American Legion to directly impact and enrich the lives of the Special Olympic athletes in our local counties and communities.

Let's also think outside the box and solicit assistance with this new and unique endeavor from our Legion Family members and local businesses. In conjunction of witnessing the smiles and gratitude on the athlete's faces which is the greatest reward each of us can realize, Special Olympics Maryland will recognize the Sons of The American Legion as the presenting sponsor of the Regional and State Tournaments with banners displaying our logo, display the S.A.L. logo on all the tee shirts worn by all volunteers, and recognition of our partnership will appear on the Special Olympics Maryland web site and through other communication channels. These examples can be used to demonstrate the Sons of The American Legion's commitment to the local communities. More details will be brought forth throughout the year.

Open Forum: In an effort to better serve the membership of the Detachment of Maryland we will reserve an area in The Pride for members to ask questions, provide comments or opinions, and give examples of local squadron activities. Any overflow of information or feedback from the membership will be placed on the Detachment web page. This will give every member the opportunity to interact with the leadership of the Detachment and give every member a forum to be heard across the state and assist the leadership to become more informed on the needs of the members. These opinions and/or pictures can be sent directly to me electronically at bill.matoska@comcast.net.

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

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443-710-9664

GOING TO WAR FOR MEMBERSHIP!

This is a call to War! As 1st Vice Commander and Membership Chairman I am issuing orders to all District Commanders, Squadron Commanders, and their members to recruit an army to bring this Detachment to over 100% membership. To do this we have to win many battles. First we have to defeat the "Dreaded Goose-eggs". We can't have any Squadrons "Missing in Action".

Next we have to take the Key Targets. We have already taken "Hill 10%". Congratulations! Our next Key Target is Hill 25% by October 17, 2012. I am ordering all District Commanders (Lieutenants) to rally the troops. Those that lead will be rewarded with promotions. Your goal is to get your Field Promotion to General.

Let's support our Commander and Chief Bill Hill and win this War. If you need to contact me my info is below

Bill Stem
1st Vice Commander
Sons of The American Legion
410-598-9355
Wstem84809@aol.com

Americanism Report

We've always been and will continue to be a Detachment that shows its great support to all the Americanism programs. Our success this year will be through the continued support we provide to our *Community, State, and Nation*. You can reach out to a local organization and just ask what we can do to help. 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...** We have Veteran's Day right around the corner so please plan on attending or having a Veteran's Day program in your area. Check to see if any flags have fallen at the cemeteries or are in need of replacement. 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. **Community Affairs...** We will always make a difference at Andrews Air Force Base by serving the wounded warriors and residences of Fisher House by having a wonderful afternoon lunch. The date is being worked out and we will have it at the Detachment Executive meeting. It is quite a rewarding experience if you have never been to one or have never helped. Please plan on attending and helping out. We visit these Fisher Houses and provide fellowship to the veterans and their families. Fisher House as you know is very important to the families of military personnel 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 that is being treated in one of the VA hospitals. **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. This is the time that guidance counselors at schools need to be contacted with the appropriate information. Please contact 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 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 need 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. Please contact Chairman Larry Griffin.

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,
Jeffrey Seiler
Americanism Chairman
jeffrey.seiler@safeco.com
240-367-0564

Children & Youth Corner

Hello Again Comrades,

These are exciting times when everyone is working to get their year up and running on all the many different levels. As we do, I encourage everyone to make plans to have your best year ever. I once heard it said if you do not plan for the best it will not happen on it's on. Last year, we had a great year in Children and Youth. That was thanks to everyone that raised money and worked for all of the different programs.

Children and Youth is a great area that you can do a lot for without making a donation. Maryland Special Olympics needs volunteers all the time at the many events around the state, so plan on you and your Squadron getting out to some of the events and helping out. Casey Cares is also looking for volunteers to help with their many programs. Maybe your work has tickets to a ballgame or event and you could get some donated to help one of the Casey Cares families. So often alternate ways of helping is not thought of and we just think of monetary donations. While the Child Welfare Foundation and Children's Miracle Network is a lot about our donations, we do have programs and opportunities to do more than just give money. With today's economy, it is not always easy to give donations, so working a couple hours is a great way you and your Squadron can work to help out. Hours worked is also recorded on your consolidated reports and shows that you are doing what we are supposed to do as Sons of The American Legion.

This year will be a big year with lots of events coming up and I hope to see you at some of them. We will be holding our 2nd Annual Laps of Love at Spalding High School on April 20th 2013. There will be some minor changes this year, and as soon as all plans are set, we will get all the information out to you. Don't wait thou, start putting your team together today!! In January the Maryland Special Olympics will again be holding the 17th Annual Polar Bear Plunge on January 26th, 2013, so get your swimsuit ready to take a chilly dip and also possibly work as a volunteer. There will again be a Casey Cares BikeRide coming along too. As you can see, we are excited to do all we can to support our great programs, so I am asking you to make your plans now to be

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a part of it all. I promise you that you will be rewarded in ways you will cherish.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,
JR Hall
C&Y Chairman
dhall1967@verizon.net
410-365-7758

Casey Cares Newsletter

As we start out our new Legion Year, what a busy month it has been already. Since we cannot complain about the rain, it was just a shame that it had to happen during our scheduled Annual Bike Ride. I do want to thank the ALR from Post 128 for braving the weather and riding our first leg of the 8th Annual Bike Ride. A big thank you to the souls that still participated, just for the cause. PDC and Board of Director Tom Deal had an excellent route planned for us, and Casey Cares sent down 2 families to kick off the ride. Tom also advises that for a \$25.00 donation, you may still receive our 8th Annual "Ride for Ashton" T Shirt. A thank you also goes out to our behind the scene ride coordinators, Tim Clark, and John Horner. You had an excellent route picked out.

I have also been requested to post Casey Cares upcoming Events, so here they are: Aug. 26, 2012 Casey Cares is visited by "Secret Millionaire". Everyone is closed lips about the visit; however the exposure alone will bring more families into Casey's program. Tune in for the outcome.

Sept. 29, 2012 is the 10th Annual Rock n Roll Bash at Rams Head Live, featuring High Voltage, Bad Medicine, and Cold Gin, all tribute bands bringing back the music of AC/DC, Bon Jovi, and KISS. Oct. 7, 2012 is the 5K Run/Walk, to be held at the Pulse Health and Fitness Club, with Mark and Christina Markakis as the Race Ambassadors. And finally, the \$10,000.00 raffle is going on now, with the drawing to be held on Oct. 12th. Tickets are \$100.00 each

All of these events can be found at www.caseycaresfoundation.org, or the Casey Cares Facebook page.

This year I would like to push another Casey Cares Program, Kammie's Jammies. Bring in new pajamas, all sizes are welcome, but especially children's

sizes to a DEC meeting. Include the receipt or a copy of, for reporting purposes. I look forward to our Squadrons, once again, making this a banner year for Casey Cares.

Serving Maryland's Children
Ed Steininger Sr.
Casey Cares Chairman
edwardsteininger@Yahoo.com
443-807-1495

Child Welfare Foundation

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's purpose is: "To contribute to the physical, mental emotional and spiritual needs of children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge about new and innovative organizations and their programs." "To make wider, more effective use of the knowledge already possessed by well-established organizations to the end that such information will benefit youth and be more adequately used by society."

Our goal this year is to raise at least \$1.00 per member for the Child Welfare Foundation. Please open your wallets and give generously for a good cause. Many worthwhile programs have been sponsored with the money that has been raised for the Child Welfare Foundation. I want to thank you in advance for any donations that you will be giving to CWF. Your support is greatly appreciated!

I have CWF cans and literature about the Child Welfare Foundation. If any squadron wants information or cans, please contact me (Email: lafld@comcast.net or Cell: 443-413-4710).

CWF cans are a great way to raise money, by putting them in the lounge of your Post or passing them around at your meetings.

Yours in Service,
Larry Ford, Chairman
Child Welfare Foundation
lafld@comcast.net
443-413-4710

Toys For Tots

Hello my name is Ray Groves and I am your Toys For Tots Program Chairman this year. I would like to say I hope this year will be our best year ever with all of

the Detachment of MD Squadrons working together along with me. I am sure that we will have a great year. May I suggest that you contact your post home and set up collecting new unwrapped toys, as well as cash donations, starting after Labor Day Sept 3, 2012. Also, if you plan on having other fund raising projects at your post, could you please name a person as chairman and contact me with what you are planning, so that I may keep a report. Also, we can place your event on the Toys For Tots website, as well as the SAL website and also Facebook. I can handle contacting your coordinator for your post and have them send you collection boxes and pick toys when needed. I also can tell you how to do this yourself, if you like. Now for the bad news! I have a commitment from the U.S. Marine Corp at Ft. Meade, MD that they will have a Marine at our fall DEC meeting in Ocean City, MD on Dec 9, 2012 at Post 166, so be ready.

Now in closing, I simply want to say how proud that I am your chairman this year and proud of all the officers and blue hats in this great organization. Please feel free to contact me for any reason.

For God and Country
Raymond E. Groves
410-861-5557
raymondgroves202@comcast.net

Legislative Alert!

Get out and VOTE! Exercise your right and Get out and VOTE! I continue to send out e-mails with the legislative updates from The American Legion Legislative Commission (<http://www.legion.org/legislative>). I am reminding 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. I am listing web sites with contact information for our Senators (<http://www.senate.gov>) and Congressmen (<http://www.house.gov/>); let them know where we stand on the issues. I have copied the following from The American Legion Legislative web site: The American Legion has published a special report on key election issues geared toward candidates for national office, their challengers, voters and others who are interested. The 28-page report, "Our Pillars, Your Platform," pinpoints the Legion's stand

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on the most critical issues of today such as veterans' health care, jobs and education for returning service members, immigration, benefits and more. Each of the four pillars of the Legion is covered: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. The report was produced on behalf of the Legion's more than 2.4 million members, the wartime veterans of the 20th and 21st centuries who can be found in 14,000 posts and in nearly every community in the U.S. (<http://www.legion.org/pillars>).

Check it out; see what is happening and what legislation is coming up. Get involved and again contact your senator's congressmen and representatives. This is an important election year, ask them where they stand and let them know they need to support the Veteran's issues. Did I mention Get out and VOTE!

For God and Country
Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
tom.deal@verizon.net

VAVS Variety

As the end of the calendar year approaches, there are a number of events scheduled throughout the State of Maryland. September 15th is "Carnival Day" for a number of VA Centers, including Perry Point VA Hospital. There are a number of Squadrons/ Districts involved with Carnival Day. With the Holidays just around the corner, The Department of Maryland Auxiliary has announced their Christmas Gift Shop starting at the end of November and will continue through the middle of December. The date is not yet released for the Christmas Party for Perry Point VA Hospital. There will be a Christmas Party on December 12, 2012 at the Washington DC VA Medical Center. The time will be announced soon. All are welcomed.

Monetary Donations

Monetary donations are used to support a variety of patient activities and services throughout the VA Maryland Health Care System. When making a monetary donation, the donor is asked to specify how they would like their contribution to be utilized in support of our hospitalized veterans. Some of the patient projects that can be supported by your generous

contributions include: Patient Televisions & In-Room Movies, Patient Recreation Activities & Supplies, Patient Holiday Activities & Gifts, Patient Comfort Items, and Hospice Program Activities.

Every contribution, whether from an individual, corporation, organization or private foundation, makes a difference. All monetary donations to the VA Maryland Health Care System are tax deductible and there are no administrative costs associated with processing your contribution. One of our staff members in our Voluntary Service Office will be happy to assist you in answering questions about making a monetary donation or the various patient projects that are currently in need of your support.

In-Kind Donations

The VA Maryland Health Care System accepts in-kind donations of certain toiletries, books, magazines, lap robes, clothing and other miscellaneous items. These donations are used for the comfort and enjoyment of our veteran patients while they are receiving care at any one of our facilities. The need for in-kind donations varies at each facility, so we ask that you to contact one of our staff members in our Voluntary Service Office for a listing of our current needs.

We can make a difference. Please consider donating now to the Veterans Centers, Hospitals, Homes and Veteran programs. Together We Can Make A Difference. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ray Edwards Jr.
VAVS Commission Chairman
(410) 215-9354
rayjred@verizon.net

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

A program of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) is an assisted living and long-term care facility for Maryland Veterans and eligible non-veteran spouses of Maryland Veterans who are unable to take care of themselves due to age or disability. As the only Veterans home in the state of Maryland, the residents of the CHVH deserve all of our support. Information about the CHVH, including

a complete Wish List, can be found on the CHVH website, www.charhall.org, but Carole Lewis, Director of Community Outreach, indicated they are currently in short supply of personal items including T-shirts, underwear (boxers only), handkerchiefs, shampoo (no conditioner), deodorant, toothpaste, etc. They cannot accept travel or hotel size toiletries and all clothing items must be new. If you wish to make a monetary donation, checks should be made payable to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, 29449 Charlotte Hall Rd, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622, with a notation in the menu section how you would like the donation to be used.

For God and Country,
Dave Tatman
CHVH Representative
tatman_david@comcast.net
301-645-1537

Loch Raven VA CLC

Construction at the center is progressing and should be completed by the New Year.

This is the time to plan ahead for the upcoming season. Please consider holding a function at the facility this year. The Orioles are looking good for the playoffs, the Ravens season is just about to start, and then there is Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year. Any of these would make a good time for a function. Recently Recreation Services brought 4 Veteran patients to Parkville American Legion for lunch. I was able to assist with serving and the Squadron picked up the bill. If your Post is in the general area and could provide lunch it is a good way to get these veterans out for a couple of hours.

Please pass this information along to your Post members.

On October 18, 2012 the MD VA Health Care System will host an Enrollment, Eligibility & Benefits seminar. It will take place at Perry Point VA from 9am – 11:45am. Registration will begin at 8:30am. For more info call the Community Outreach Office @ 1-800-949-1003.

For God and Country,
Bob Filippi
VAVS Representative

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kassbob@aol.com
(410) 668-0464

Chaplin's Corner

Sick Call and Relief: The following members have experienced a set back or illness:

SESD - Clearance Meyers (64), David Adkins (218), NESD - Charles Smothers (77)

Squadron Everlasting (I Am Free)

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free, I am following the path God laid for me. I took His hand when I heard Him call, I turned my back and left it all. I could not stay another day, to laugh, to love, to work or play. Tasks left undone must stay that way. I found that peace at the close of the day. If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy. A Friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, Ah, these things I, too, will miss. Be not burdened with time of sorrow. I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow. My life's been full, I savored much. Good friends, good times, a loved one touched. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief; don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your hear and shared with me. God wanted me now; He set me free.

NCD - Russell Dodds (182), SESD - Wayne Bromley (123) and Joseph A. Cahall (218)

Please feel free to contact me or keep me informed as to all members who are ill or who have passed.

Thank you and God Bless.

Ray Edwards
Detachment Chaplin
rayjred@verizon.net
(410) 215-9354 Cell

Commander's Project

I would like to start off by saying thank you to Commander Hill for this opportunity to represent his project, Heroes to Hometowns.

Heroes to Hometowns (H2H) is designed to welcome home service members who, because of injuries sustained, can no longer serve in the military. H2H establishes a support network and coordinates resources for

severely injured service members returning home.

Heroes to Hometowns can provide:

- A welcome home celebration
- Temporary financial and housing assistance
- Home and vehicle adaptation
- Child care support
- Holiday dinners

Commander Hill's goal for this year's project is to raise \$40,000. This will provide a solid base of financial resources to be utilized within the state of Maryland.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the program or want to help with a fundraising event.

For God and Country,
Jim Alexander
Commander's Project Chairman
jimalex831@verizon.net
(443) 623-9907

Convention Commission

Convention - This past convention went well, the Marriott is setup to run conventions such as ours. We had a couple logistics issues, but there impact was kept to a minimum, and we need to thank the various members that kept it that way so the majority could have a great convention!

This year's convention will be back at the Marriott Hunt Valley. This year we are researching adding vendors to our convention. Things are at the very beginning of that research, but if anyone would like to suggest vendors or the types of vendors, I will add that information to what is being put together. Again as always, I wish to thank all the members who attended the convention for working with the Convention Commission and me.

For God and Country,
Mitch Gilbert
(443) 286-2629
muvya@aol.com

Time and Place Committee

Time & Place – As stated above we will be back at the Marriott Hunt Valley next year. The Detachment has a work sheet

of minimum requirements for our convention, if anyone wishes to look for other convention locations, contact me for the list and I will get it to you.

For God and Country,
Mitch Gilbert
(443) 286-2629
muvya@aol.com

Maryland Special Olympics

As we start the 2012/2013 year we can all start to look forward to taking our plunge into the Chesapeake Bay on January 25, 2013 at Sandy Point State Park. All you have to do is go www.plungemd.com and go under American Legion Family plunge team to sign up or donate. All the money raised will be going to the Special Olympics of Maryland and its athletes. Remember the athletes need our support with either monetary donations or volunteering at their events.

Check your District for volunteering opportunities.

Here is one that you may be interested in:

2012 Fall Sport Festival
October 20, 2012, 7:30am to 4:30pm
Mount St Mary's University –
Emmitsburg MD

Our Children Are Our Future!

Jim Alexander
Commander's Project Chairman
jimalex831@verizon.net
(443) 623-9907

Northern Central District News

From the NCD to all of the newly elected, and advancing officers of the Detachment of Maryland and all of the Squadrons, congratulations from the NCD. For those of you who don't know me, I am Bob Spencer, the new NCD Commander. This year my goal is to 'Renew and Refresh' the NCD. I have a great compliment of officers and together we will grow and help the Detachment grow as well. Currently we are in 1st place in membership, but we have seen that dwindle as in years past. I personally would like to communicate with all of the District commanders to get a feel of what they do and how they

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do it, not only for membership, but also for projects and fundraisers. Perhaps the NCD can offer suggestions to other Districts as well. Communication is the only avenue in which we have to go. God Bless Our Troops and the USA

Bob Spencer
NCD Commander
Rjstravel@aol.com

South Eastern Shore Gazette

Congratulations to the Detachment of Maryland for reaching 100% in membership prior to the National Convention. My hope for 2012/2013, we reach the 100% goal prior to the end of May 2013.

I would like to thank all Squadrons within the South Eastern Shore District for setting all-time highs, achieving 3 star or 4 star awards. As a district last year, our growth exceeded 1,410 members. My goal for 2013 is simple, continued growth and exceed 1,500 members. We must also do a better job retaining our existing members this year.

Our latest fundraiser is well under way. We are raffling off another scooter this year. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. Anyone who needs tickets, please contact Terry Albert, Squadron 64 (443) 783-2701. The drawing will be at the SESD Christmas party on December 16th. We also have Cruise raffle tickets on sale. There will be two winners drawn on December 9th at the DEC meeting in Ocean City, Maryland. Each winner is eligible to take one additional person on the cruise. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. The cruise is to raise money for Joe's Journey. The cruise will take place April 21, through 28, 2013. For additional information, please contact Terry Albert or myself. There will be Training on December 8, 2012 at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland for all members. Following the training, a fundraiser at Post 166 for Joe's Journey will take place from 4pm to 8pm. Stay tuned for additional information.

Serving Veterans and Their Families,
Ray Edwards
South Eastern Shore District
Commander 2012/2013
(410) 215-9354 cell

rayjred@verizon.net

Southern Pride

Greetings to all the squadrons from the Great Southern Maryland District. We hope everyone had a great summer. The SMD is excited about the upcoming year. A number of squadrons have sponsored fundraising events for Joe Gladden's Campaign for National Commander.

The Southern Maryland District had its Organizational meeting on Sunday, August 19, 2012, at the Glenarden Post 275. The next Southern Maryland District meeting and seminar is Sunday, October 7, 2012 at 1pm at the Oxon Hill Post #248. Please remember that these meetings are for your benefit and a great source of information for our new Squadron officers and members. I hope to see you there.

The SMD hosted its first cookout and beach party in Crownsville, MD on September 2, 2012. The event was well attended and everyone enjoyed themselves, especially the kids. Next year will only be better. The SMD will have its annual Draw down at Post 40 in Glen Burnie. The cost of the ticket is \$35.00 for two people. This includes dinner and limited drinks. For ticket information, contact Joe Lohman of Laurel Squadron 60.

Membership is the life-blood of this organization; please get your membership in. Also, continue to recruit new members and reclaim old members. Let's get back to being the number one District in the Detachment of Maryland. Yours in Service,
Gregory Taylor
SMD Commander

Western Maryland Tribune

Wow here we are in another year already. The Western Maryland District has 18 squadrons and of those 18 squadrons, we only have 3 that need to send in some membership cards. Please, let's get rid of those goose eggs before our first meeting. Our First meeting is October 21st at 1:00 pm at Webster B. Harrison Post #26 in Hancock, MD. Please plan on attending this first meeting and all the others as well. I would like to thank all the squadrons for hosting out district meetings. I hope everyone makes an

effort to attend our meetings. Please be aware that Western Maryland District does have a Facebook page where you can join and see what is going on at our local squadrons. Please let's get those members renewing and get new members, as we are the largest district in the state of MD. Now is the time to start recording what is being done for the end of year reports. I would like to see all 18 squadrons turn in a report this year! And please do all you can to support our Commander's Project "Heroes To Hometown"!

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,
Jeffrey Seiler
WMD commander
jeffrey.seiler@safeco.com
240-367-0564

Joe's Journey

Well after years of dreaming and hoping and planning, the finish line or the beginning line is insight. At the close of the National Convention in Indy, I am proud to say that my name was announced as the Leading Candidate For National Commander. In 330 days give or take a view and God willing, the election will take place and I will become Maryland's 6th National Commander.

But before this ever takes place, there will be many trips and thousands of miles to be traveled on the campaign trail. Please know that as I travel on this journey that I know that none of this would have been possible without the support of my campaign team, my Maryland Legion Family and my family. So much hard work has taken place behind the scenes and so many people have donated not only of their money, but of their time. To each of you that has organized a fundraiser, attended a fundraiser, sold a raffle ticket, bought a raffle ticket or worked in the many different capacities that is making this journey a success so far, I say thank you.

By the time you read this I will have traveled to Austin, TX for the Texas DEC Meeting and I will probably be on my way to Indianapolis, IN for the National Children & Youth Conference. As of now, I have trips planned to Delaware, New Hampshire, Colorado, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and New York with I am sure

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more to come. I will keep you updated on Joe's Journey on Facebook.

United In Service
Joe Gladden
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NEC NEWS

August 24-26, 2012 Delegates of the Detachment of Maryland traveled to Indianapolis Indiana for the 41st National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion. Delegates attended the commission and committee meetings where judging took place in selecting our National winners and getting a better understanding of the National Organization. National Commander Jim Roberts thanked all of the blue cap members for a job well done. During his year the Sons raised over \$506,000 for CWF, \$78,000 for Fisher House and \$14,000 for NEF.

On Sunday August 26 the Nation elected Chris Huntzinger from the Detachment of Pennsylvania as the National Commander for the Sons of The

American Legion. Commander Chris is a charter member of Pennbrook Squadron #730 in Harrisburg PA. The membership theme for this year is “Get On The BAND WAGON” and toot our horn and remember all we have to do to get new members is “JUST ASK”. Fisher House and Wounded Warriors programs are this year's National Commanders projects.

There were 1,500 reports turned in to be judged at the convention with the Detachment of Maryland receiving an Honorable Mention with a Membership renewal rate of 91.12%. Blake-Blackston Squadron #77 received the Kirby E. Kepler Award for best Squadron along with the North Eastern Shore District receiving the Allen I. O'Brian award for Best District for VA&R. Gold Star Squadron #191 received the Americanism, Gerald Atwood-Edward Beyea-Raymond York Memorial Award. Harry-White Wilmer Squadron #82 won the Scrap and History Book Awards for Best Squadron. Congratulations to all of our winners.

The following members from the Detachment received National Appointments to the various committees and commissions:

Larry “Bear” Weinzirl, Children & Youth

Commission Chairman
Don “JR” Hall, Internal Affairs
Commission
Tom Deal, Legislative Commission
Ken Jenkins, Homeland Security & Civil Preparedness Committee
Edward “Buddy” Mastin, Americanism Commission
Andy Dadds, Sub Committee on Resolutions
Bill Hill, National Assistant Sergeant at Arms and the following received appointments from the National Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion:
PNC Chuck Gannon, National Commander's Advisory Committee
PNC Bill Matoska, National Committee on Committees
At the conclusion of the National Convention I am proud to announce the Leading Candidate for National Commander is our very own Joe Gladden for the administration year 2013-2014.

Serving Our Veterans Who Served Us,
Andy Dadds
National Executive Committeemen
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