



## Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland



# *“The Pride”*

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Joe Gladden

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### Commander's Corner

Delegates to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Members of the Detachment of Maryland!

It's been an honor to serve as your Commander for the administrative year 2012 – 2013 and one that I will cherish forever as one of the greatest years in my life. I've broadened old friendships, made numerous new ones over this past year, and have memories which will stay with me forever.

My year is at an end and the best comment would be to say “We did it!” The Heroes to Hometowns project exceeded our goal, the Save the Ta-Ta's project was a success, the programs of the American Legion were supported and honored by your dedication, and the citizens of this great State and across the Nation benefitted from your dedication. There's not a great deal more that could be said about how this group of 15,000 plus members of the Detachment of Maryland and the collective support of the American Legion Family within Maryland, have once again come together and showed the rest of the country how it's done.

To the Squadron Commanders – Thank you! Without your support as a “blue cap” member, there would be nothing to brag about and none of the programs would have reached the level of support achieved within the Detachment. It is with extreme pride on my part that we had this opportunity to lead the members of this Detachment together, and it was a pleasure to work beside you. To all of my Vice Commander's ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Bill Stem, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice JR Hall and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Jeff Seiler, outstanding job this year, gentlemen. I look forward to watching you continue in your progression toward

the office of Detachment Commander and Thank you! To the other Detachment Officers, District Commanders and DEC Members, thank you for your service and support over this past year, and I wish you success in whichever path you take beyond the roles you fulfilled this year.

To all of the Committee and Commission Chairmen and Members, I extended my appreciation and the thanks on behalf of the entire Detachment for setting new standards for others to follow, when it comes to supporting the various programs we here in the Detachment champion.

So, to allow you more time to enjoy the articles of the those that I've mentioned above, I'll limit your reading and leave you with this thought, “no one stands taller than when they kneel to help another” and remember that without your dedication and support, we would not be the leading Detachment within this organization. I know some wish to emulate and others envy!!

A special Thank You goes to Michelle, Erika and Robert Hill for their support over this past year and for being there when I needed you the most. Just think, now I can get to those items on the “honey do list”!! And, I will have more time to bug you about how college life is going and when you're getting married and settling down....

This is my last time to say this, so please continue to remember that as we support our many functions and programs throughout the year, to have fun while doing so. We often forget that 100% of our 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 would not pass up this opportunity to extend a right-hand salute to all of our Veterans who have served or are serving now and say “Thank you” for your service to our great Country!

May God continue to look over our Military, our Families, and the United States of America!!

“Serving America's Heroes”

Bill Hill

Commander

Detachment of Maryland

Sons of The American Legion

### Adjutant's Report

**Convention Schedule:** Welcome everyone to this 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Detachment Convention. Registration is once again being facilitated by PDC Mitch Gilbert in the Cloakroom area by the Maryland Ballrooms which are east of the main lobby. Registration will begin at 5:30 PM on Friday, June 21, 2013 and will remain open until 8:30 PM. Registration will then re-open at the same location on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning 7:30 AM. The convention will convene on Saturday at 8:00 AM in the Maryland III & IV Ballrooms which are just down the hall from the registration area. This session is scheduled to recess at approximately 11:30 AM and is scheduled to re-convene on Sunday at 8:30 AM in the same location. On Saturday do not leave anything in the ballroom due to the possibility of the hotel having an affair in this location Saturday evening.

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**Junior Convention:** "The Matthew Buckler Program for Junior members" will take place in the Garden Room on both Saturday and Sunday. All junior members are asked to attend the opening ceremonies on Saturday and will be released to attend their session after opening ceremonies. The Legionism Star of the 5-Star program will be reviewed and tested during this year's junior session. PNC Bill Sparwasser and SAL Chairman George Grossnickle will be the presenters of this program. The younger members not testing for the five star program will be escorted to Parlor 1041 on the first floor where they will participate in a wii video game tournament and/or partake in some arts & crafts activities. This is being facilitated by Rosemarie Matoska and all parents are welcome to monitor the activities or help with the junior members in attendance.

**Bowling Tournament:** The Harmison-Whitney Bowling Tournament is scheduled to begin at 12:15 PM sharp and is again being held at the Timonium Lanes located at 2165 York Road, Timonium, Md. 21093. The tournament must begin on time with or without those that are registered are present. Volunteers are needed to assist with monitoring and score keeping on the lanes with the younger participants.

**Horseshoe—Superstars—Korn Hole Events:** All three of these activities will be back at the Westinghouse Pavilion Area at Oregon Ridge Park and are schedule to commence at 4:30 PM. By popular demand the Korn Hole Tournament chaired by JR Hall is returning with a \$10.00 entry fee. Remember, team entries must be co-ed with one male and one female member of the Legion Family 18 years of age or older. The winners of this event will once again receive a gift card for each member. The Ed Matoska Memorial Horseshoe Tournament will be chaired by Bob Trueblood with a \$10.00 entry fee and will take place up the hill by the pavilion. The Superstars Games for all of our junior members will be ran by Neal Sprucebank and Rosemarie Matoska and will take place on the downhill side of the pavilion. New games and activities are being introduced to those participating in an effort to stimulate new interest in these games. **Please note;** the more activities a junior member participates

in the more opportunities that participant has to win the grand prize of a new wii system or 5 chances to win a gift card to Toys-R-Us.

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## GOING TO WAR FOR MEMBERSHIP!

### News from the front on the War for Membership

Warriors, (as of May 31<sup>st</sup>) We are so close to winning this War! Some Commanders have already crushed the enemy and have secured their sectors. South Eastern Shore District has done an excellent job reaching 104.71%. Western Maryland District not far behind at 100.64%. All other Districts are in striking distance.

Don't hold membership, sure it gives you an up for next year, but we need those numbers now. We should win this war before we fight the next one. Let's get to the 105% by National Convention and send Commander Hill into Houston triumphant

For God and Country  
Bill Stem  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander  
SAL Detachment of MD 410-598-9355  
Wstem84809@aol.com

### Chaplin's Corner

#### Sick Call and Relief

PDC - Dave Bartlet, Home Recovering - Squadron 222, Charles Smothers-House of Pines, Easton, MD Squadron 77, Hilton Purnell - Squadron 231, Darrell Teller Jr. - Squadron 231, Wayne Jones - Squadron 243

#### Squadron Everlasting

George Shipley - Squadron 18, Gordon Lawrence - Squadron 243, Jim Salisbury - Squadron 243, James "Slim" Brittingham - Squadron 64, Hugh Vinson -Squadron 243, George Matthews - Squadron 243, Walter Morris -Squadron 26

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there; I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow,

I am the sun on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circling flight.  
I am the soft starlight at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there; I did not die.

#### **Post Everlasting**

Alfred Newton-Duncan Showell Post  
231, Willard Sterling (Mopey) Hasson-  
Susquehanna Post 135

Thank you and God Bless.

Ray Edwards  
Detachment of Maryland Chaplin  
[rayjred@verizon.net](mailto:rayjred@verizon.net)  
(410) 215-9354 Cell

### Americanism Report

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 May 18th there was a great turn out of support that helped out with the Fisher House luncheon. This is the

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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 loved 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.

**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 to 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 of our Legion Family members for supporting the programs, which fall under Americanism.

Yours in Service to Legion Programs  
Jeffrey Seiler  
Americanism Chairman

## Flag Replacement/ Placement Program

First I would like to say that I am sorry for the email mix-up and getting flag forms out late. Please get forms in asap to make it easier to count. Anyone who needs forms, please email me at [cdaddssal@gmail.com](mailto:cdaddssal@gmail.com)

Chris Dadds  
Flag/Replacement Chairman

## VAVS Variety

As American Legion National Commander Kountz stated "Every Day is Veterans Day". It's our duty to help our aging veterans, offer to shake their hands and say "Thank You" for your service to our country.

We have achieved the goal set by Detachment Commander Hill for his commander's project. The Southern Maryland District continues to take care of Charlotte Hall, year after year with several activities. American Legion Post 91 donated \$14k and Squadron 91 donated an additional \$3k for the new kitchen for skilled nursing activities at Charlotte Hall.

Loch Raven nursing home is in need of a new ice machine. Several donations have come in but more donations are needed. If you wish to help, please contact Reginald Frazier at American Legion Post 263.

A special "Thanks" to Kraig Dean and the NCD for their hard work raising money for McVets. Through the district's efforts, several well needed kitchen items were purchased.

We had a great turnout for National Veterans Assistance Day at Fisher House on May 18, 2013. Thank you for a great year and remember, we can make a difference.

Serving Veteran and Their Families,  
Ray Edwards Jr.

## Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

On September 21, 2013, the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Service Organization Liaison Committee (CHVH SOLC) will sponsor the annual CHVH Carnival. This year's theme is World Traveler. Many of our Auxiliary Units have already signed up for a table where the residents will receive a variety of gifts. Last year 146 volunteers showed up to help make the carnival an enjoyable experience for the residents. About half of the volunteers were young men and women from the JROTC units from the high schools in St. Mary's County. In addition to helping set up, these young people assist the

residents from and to their rooms. This year Squadron 82 will be providing lunch for the volunteers. If you are interested in donating to the CHVH SOLC, donations may be sent to Richard Bamberger, Treasurer, CHVH SOLC, 2209 Pinefield Court, Waldorf, MD 20601.

As the only Veterans Home in the state, the residents of CHVH deserve our complete support.

Dave Tatman  
CHVH Representative  
[tatman\\_david@comcast.net](mailto:tatman_david@comcast.net)  
301-645-1537

## Loch Raven VA CLC

On Monday June 3 the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the new addition next to the Rehabilitation Center was held. Senators Mikulski and Cardin were present for this event. Yours truly was asked to take part as a veteran patient mover to get them to the ceremony and then to the multi-purpose room for refreshments and entertainment. Regular Scheduled Volunteers annual training is being conducted through the summer at various locations. This training is mandatory for those volunteers. As you read this article Squadron 183 will have completed its 17<sup>th</sup> annual Father's Day cookout at the center. This year they were joined by members of the Northern Central District. Thanks to all that helped with this affair.

The next VAVS meeting for LR VA will be held on June 25 at 2 pm.

If you feel like holding an affair or making a donation you may contact one of the following offices; Recreation Services at 410-605-7000 x4649 or Voluntary Services at 410-605-7000 x5877.

Have a great Summer  
Bob Filippi  
VAVS Representative

## Commander's Project

At times when we select a project and set a goal there may be some that think to themselves – is this a good project and is the goal reachable? At the beginning of this year some did wonder if we would

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reach the goal set by Commander Hill and it gives me great honor to tell you that we reached it! I know I have thanked everyone multiple times but we all know that it doesn't take a few individuals to make reaching our goals successful, it takes all of us across Maryland to join forces and we did it!! So once again, I say THANK YOU!

Reaching this goal will give us the opportunity to help support "Home of the Brave" over on the Eastern Shore which is free to veterans. Commander Hill had the opportunity to visit recently and came back very enthusiastic about the work they do with the veterans. This facility needs the Detachments support so they can continue operating and to help with improvements.

As long as threat to our freedom there will be service members in need of our help. Please continue giving donations to Heroes to Hometowns.

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

## Children & Youth Corner

Hello Again Comrades,

Well it is hard to believe that we are finishing another year this quickly. I would first like to take time to thank every Squadron, Unit, and Post that helped all of our children and youth programs this year with donations and hours that you all volunteered. Over \$35,000.00 in donation to our children and youth programs has been reported and countless hours that we all have volunteered. That is AWESOME !!!!!

As this year went by and many of us worked together at games for Special Olympics, cookouts for Casey Cares and veterans, Laps of Love, or other great events I know you walked away with a great feeling inside. Volunteering for a Sons of The American Legion event that is going to help somebody in some way is so satisfying. Those that helped out with the Special Olympics bowling tournament this year got to know how

much fun it can be to help others and enjoy doing it.

I hope to see everyone is Hunt Valley to celebrate our year and all we did at the 40th Annual convention. Many will receive awards and praise for the work we did this past year and to you all I say congratulations, however no award will take the place of the smiles that get put on a face of a child that is helped by our volunteers and donations. I would also like to thank the entire Children and Youth committee: Jimmy, Larry, Ed, Dave and Ray that we miss so much, for all your hard work this year.

Remember Our Children are our Future,  
JR Hall

## Maryland Special Olympics

I would like to thank everyone that gave their time this past year supporting the events of the Maryland Special Olympics. Without volunteers like yourself the athletes could not go out and enjoy the day competing and challenge themselves to reach goals. The Maryland Special Olympics depends on us! Please continue to check your Districts, communities or the Maryland Special Olympics ([www.somd.org](http://www.somd.org)) for opportunities to volunteer.

Our children are our future!  
Jim Alexander

## Child Welfare Foundation

As in years past, Maryland has once again supported CWF. At the beginning of the year, I set a goal of \$1.00 per member. With so many worthy projects to donate to, I can only hope that you remember to donate as you see fit.

Currently we are way behind in our goal. There is still time, however the cut off for this administrative year is May 31, 2013.

Yours In Service  
Larry Ford

## Casey Cares Newsletter

As this is my last newsletter for our

calendar year, things continue to get busy at Casey Cares. Their Annual Golf/Tennis Tournament was just held and sounded like a great time was had by all. They got all of the golf in just before the monsoon rain came. Last month they celebrated their 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kami's Jammies. In June of 2008 the first pajama party was held at University of Maryland Children's Hospital. Since then they have provided 13,919 pairs of jammies to children on extended hospital stays. I want to thank everyone that has helped with this program this year, but let's not stop now. I will continue to collect pajamas at all DEC meetings.

Our next big event is the 5K-1 mile fun walk to be held on Aug. 3 starting at 8am. This will start and end at Camden Yards in Baltimore. You can go on line at [caseycaresfoundation.org](http://caseycaresfoundation.org) for more details.

This past month has been very emotional for me, as I found out that a young man that Casey introduced us to last year, Ashton Dean, has been hospitalized at Johns Hopkins. Ashton was our Ride Ambassador last year for our Annual Casey Cares Bike Ride. As of this writing, he seems to have conjured another scare and setback, but thanks to the talented Dr's at Hopkins, he remains with us to fight on. You can follow his progress on Facebook, under Ashton's Angels, A Team. Here is wishing Ashton a speedy recovery.

Casey Cares continues to reach out not only to Maryland hospitals but is very active with patients at the Philadelphia Children's Hospital also. Those children are sent to Phillies games as many of ours are privileged to attend Oriole games, the Ringling Bros. Circus, and so many other activities that I do not have enough paper to list. This can only be done through continued support from organizations like our own.

I would be remised if I did not thank Vice Commander JR Hall for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Laps of Love. Once again, there was another great turnout by the Special Olympians and Casey Cares Families. Thank You JR and thanks to everyone that supported this event again.

Finally the details have been finalized for our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Casey Cares Bike Ride. It will be held on July 27<sup>th</sup>, starting in Aberdeen at Bernard L. Tobin Post 128, and ending at Mt. Airy Post 191. This is a busy day for motorcyclists. The Crisfield ALR is holding their Annual

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Crab Feast, however, if you would like to ride local, back roads and eat food from a grill, then we are the way to go.

Registration opens at 10 am or before, with coffee and donuts from ALR 128 and Squadron 128. The cost is the same, \$25.00 per person. I hope to see many familiar faces that day.

It has been a pleasure to serve as YOUR Casey Cares Chairman this year, but actually Casey and you guys do all the hard work.

Here is hoping for a successful Convention.

Ed Steininger Sr.  
edwardsteininger@Yahoo.com

## Legislative Alert

Here are the American Legion's Legislative Priorities for 113<sup>th</sup> Legislative Congress: 1. Protecting veterans and DOD from the harmful cuts imposed through sequestration, 2. Mental health care, 3. Oppose any further increases in TRICARE fees, including prescription drug fees, 4. Stolen Valor Act, 5. VA claims backlog, 6. Disabled veterans tax/widows tax, 7. DOL-VETS and TAP, 8. Small business verification, 9. End veteran homelessness, 10. Quality education through Post-9/11 GI Bill, 11. Military to civilian credentialing, 12. The American Flag. I am listing these topics to ask you if you know what each of these are about? You should have heard of some of them but maybe not all and can find a wealth of knowledge about them online. I challenge you if you don't know what they are about, go to the web site and read what they are about:

<http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/>

[legislative priorities 113.pdf](http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/legislative_priorities_113.pdf) 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. Get in touch with our elected officials and let them know we care about our Veterans. I am listing web sites with contact information for our Senators (<http://www.senate.gov>) and Congressmen (<http://www.house.gov/>). I am always available to discuss and issues or to help find information you need feel free to contact me if you need any assistance or if I can be of any help.

Tom Deal  
Legislative Chairman  
tom.deal@verizon.net

## National Campaign Update

Dear Team Maryland,

Can you believe that in just over two months we will no longer be talking about my candidacy, but be counting down the days that I have left in office as National Commander.

I want to thank all those people that took part on the Campaign Cruise. We had over 66 cabins and over 140 people on the cruise. It was so cool being on the ship. Everywhere you went, you saw somebody from our group. This was an incredible fundraiser for the campaign. The winner of the cruise raffle that we held had an incredible time. They were not previously members of the American Legion, but have since signed up and wished that they had done it years earlier.

We also did the drawing on the Campaign rifle. The winner was Larry Wilson, squadron commander of Sq. 194 in Rising Sun, MD. I want to thank all those people that sold and bought tickets. Thanks to all the tickets that were sold, the campaign will be making a donation to the Legacy Scholarship Fund for over \$1,350.00. It was my belief that the campaign needed to give back for all that has been given to me.

One thing is perfectly clear to me. This journey that I have been on for these last several years was only possible because of the hard work of so many people here in Maryland. Countless members of all the organizations of the Maryland American Legion Family have made my journey possible and have made me want to take this journey. I have always said that I did not want to take this journey alone, and I have not. So many of you were there in spirit and in many cases, actually there.

I will never be able to truly thank you. Words cannot truly express how I feel, but I hope my actions as National Commander will make you proud and glad that you were part of Joe's Journey!

**For God and Country**

## Joe Gladden

Leading Candidate for National Commander  
Sons of The American Legion  
2013-2014

## Northern Central District News

How fast a year goes. It seems like just yesterday we getting ready for Convention. For the NCD is has been a good year, although there were a few bumps in the road we overcame them. I am so proud of, and offer my sincere thanks to, my team of officers, committee men, advisor and DEC. They met challenges and supported the NCD in an exemplary fashion. Along the way, 5 Squadrons: Towson # 22, Reisterstown #116, Overlea-Perry Hall #130, Parkton #256 and Jackson & Johnson #263 all made Four Star membership and 4 Squadrons: Edgewood Service #17, Liberty #122, Bernard L. Tobin #128 and Slate Ridge #182 all made Three Star membership. Congratulations!

We held several successful events during the year for my Commanders Project, Home of the Brave, which falls under the umbrella of Commander Hill's Project, Heroes to Hometown. Also, we held our annual Perry Point Carnival for disabled veterans and St. Patrick's Day luncheon at McVets for homeless and recovering veterans and will do our annual Father's Day cookout at the Loch Raven VA in Baltimore.

I would also like to congratulate Commander Hill and his entire team for a job well done this year. It has been a pleasure working with everyone in the NCD and at the Detachment level. And in closing, let's keep the momentum going in our support of the leading candidate for National Commander, our own, Mr. Joe Gladden.

God Bless, our troops, both here and abroad and the USA!

Bob Spencer  
NCD Commander

## Northeastern Shore Herald

I want to thank everyone for the great

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year I had as Commander of the North Eastern Shore District. All of our district officers are returning for another year. I feel blessed to have their support.

A right hand salute goes out to the 3 Star Squadrons 18, 21, 36 and 4 Star Squadron 15, 135, 194, 228, 278, 296 and 4 Star Counties Cecil and Queen Anne's. also our District has achieved 4 Star Status and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Detachment.

Please use our website <http://squadron135.tripod.com/nesd>. Bear Weinzirl has done a great job keeping it updated. This webpage is used to keep you informed of what is going on in the District, the Detachment and even the National Organization. Email us at [nesdsal@aol.com](mailto:nesdsal@aol.com) and your function will be put on the webpage.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, you can contact me at 410-829-9317 or email me at [homer51@cpmcast.net](mailto:homer51@cpmcast.net). See you at the Convention.

Please Support Heroes to Hometowns,  
Karl B. Kibler  
Commander: N.E.S.D.

## **Southern Maryland Pride**

No article submitted

## **South Eastern Shore Gazette**

Fellow Comrades,

As I prepare to leave office as District commander, I would like to "Thank" all the members of the South Eastern Shore district for their hard work during the last two years and for all their support. We have accomplished some wonderful projects for the Veterans and our youth. As the next district commander enters office, my wish is simple, please continue to support the new officers as you have done the last two years.

Our district has experienced growth over the last two years. We were able to

recruit new members and retain as many of our current members as we could. All in all, It has been my pleasure to lead the way in membership. This year, we finished with 13 squadrons with 100% or higher and twelve of them, reaching three or four star status. Eight Squadrons achieved all- time highs in membership along with our district. I say "Thank You".

I would like to give a special "Thank You" to SESD Advisor Ralph Cordrey and American Legion District Commander Sharon Egerson for their support, their wisdom, their love and dedication to this great organization.

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

## **Western Maryland Tribune**

Western Maryland membership did very well this year. We are in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and made 4 star in Membership. 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 squadron's, and a special congratulation to Squadron 282 in reaching over 600 members. We will be having a great hospitality room this year at our convention please plan on attending. We will have the dates for our next year's meetings at convention. Thank you to all the squadrons that hosted the district meetings this past year. 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.

Yours in Service  
Jeffrey Seiler  
Western Maryland District Commander  
[Jeffrey.Seiler@safeco.com](mailto:Jeffrey.Seiler@safeco.com)  
Home (301)695-4439  
Cell (240)367-0564

## **NEC NEWS**

I bring you greetings from National

Commander Chris Huntzinger. During the spring NEC Detachments across the country presented Commander Chris with \$4000 dollars for his project "FISHER HOUSE" and donations to the following programs, Child welfare Foundation \$85,788, National Emergency Fund \$8,396, Children's Miracle Network \$4,650 and Operation Comfort Warrior \$2,300.

The Detachment was well represented at the NEC with members participating in the various committee's and commission meetings. Several members were in the NMI classes I, II, and the following graduated from NMI III, JR Hall, Ken Jenkins and Bill Stem. During the weekend the Detachment hosted a luncheon for Leading Candidate Joe Gladden which was attended by over 100 legion family members.

National Vice Commander John Waite addressed the Eastern Region thanking the Detachments who have surpassed the National membership goals. Maryland membership stands at 94.039% which puts us 19<sup>th</sup> in the Nation and 5<sup>th</sup> in the East and a renewal of 85.87%. Now is the time to go after the members who have not paid their 2013 dues and remind them why they are members and let them know what the S.A.L. is all about. Invite them to meetings and talk to them at the post and make them feel welcome.

Here are a few dates to remember;

- Membership Target Date 105% & Delegate Strength Target July 24, 2013
- National Convention (Houston, TX) August 23-25, 2013**
- American Legion Day September 16, 2013
- National Children & Youth Conference September 20-22, 2013
- National Americanism Conference September 27-29, 2013
- Fall NEC & Detachment Commanders & Adjutants Conference October 12-13, 2013**

Servings Those Who Served Us  
Andy Dadds  
National Executive Committeemen



## “Serving America’s Heroes”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

We're On The Web Visit Us At [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org)

The Detachment of Maryland and Gold Star Squadron No. 191 will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, both adult and child beverages for all Legion Family members in attendance, **free of charge**. As a special treat Squadron No. 191 will be donating and roasting a pig in addition for everyone to feast upon. Our permit at the park is for beer and wine only and if anyone decides to bring their own refreshments to Oregon Ridge, they must be in boxes, pouches or cans. No glass containers are permitted in the park. The park address is 13401 Beaver Dam Road, Cockeysville, Md. 21030. **Remember**, all events are open to all members of the Legion Family. There is absolutely no reason for our wives, daughters, girlfriends, or children to be sitting idle during all of our activities. There is something for everyone regardless of age or gender. You will also note that the entry fees have been reduced to \$10.00 for all activities except Superstars which is free of charge for all participants under the age of eighteen.

**District Hospitality Rooms:** The district hospitality rooms are reserved for both Friday and Saturday evenings beginning at 5:30 PM until 12:30 AM. The line up is as follows: Southern Maryland District is in Salon E, Southeastern Shore in Salon F, Northern Central in Salon C, Northeastern Shore in Salon B, and Western Maryland in Salon A. The Salons are located on the lower level and can be accessed by using the elevator or stairs from the hotel's room area or by using the escalator right across from the delegate registration counter in the hotel's conference area on the first floor. The Southern Maryland and Western Maryland Districts will be providing musical entertainment for everyone's enjoyment throughout the weekend. As a courtesy to those districts, please bring your own refreshments with you when visiting these districts during their musical entertainment sessions.

**Color Guard:** This year the detachment has a Color Guard registered to either compete or provide a demonstration which is Squadron No. 86 from Rockville. This will

take place on Sunday morning at 7:30 AM and will be outside in the parking lot east of the hotel complex just outside the doors of the conference center. A lot of effort and practice is required of the individuals in a Color Guard and your support by observing their demonstration would I know be greatly appreciated. Immediately after the Color Guard demonstration the Memorial Service will commence at 8:00 AM in the Maryland III & IV Conference Center Ballrooms after which the convention will re-convene.

**Guest Speakers:** This years convention will have National Vice Commander East, John Waite, from the Detachment of Vermont as our National guest of honor. Vice Commander John has had a very successful year serving our area and I know he would enjoy you introducing yourself to him as he attends the various events throughout the weekend. On Saturday we will have the esteemed Edward Chow, Secretary for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, and representing McVets (The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training) will be Executive Director David Clements and our own Ms. Sandi Dutton, Past National President, who serves as the President of the Board for McVets. Our core programs we support will also be sending representatives to address us and render thanks to the Detachment for your continued support. From the Veterans Administration, Program Manager-Voluntary Service, Ms. Susan Kern; from the Casey Cares Foundation, Program Development Coordinator, Ms. Dawn Weissman; and from Special Olympics Maryland, Senior Director of Special Events, Ms. Betsy Jiron.

In closing, I want to thank the Detachment of Maryland for once again bestowing upon me the privilege to serve you as your Detachment Adjutant. As always, each year is a fulfilling and rewarding experience.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska

Detachment Adjutant

### Detachment Elections 2013-2014

The Detachment of Maryland has received and filed endorsements for the following individuals to hold Detachment Office during the Administrative Year 2013-2014 from their respective Squadrons and Districts.

They are as follows:

Commander: William Stem  
Reisterstown Squadron #116

1st Vice-Commander: Donald Hall Jr.  
Glen Burnie Squadron #40

2nd Vice-Commander: Jeffrey Seiler  
Francis Scott Key Squadron #11

3rd Vice-Commander: Raymond Edwards  
Dor Wic Squadron #214

Sgt-At-Arms: David Hullihen  
August J. Ravieo Squadron #195

Chaplain:

Finance: Larry Griffin  
Hurlock Squadron #243

Historian: Robert Filippi  
Parkville Squadron #183

Judge Advocate: Daniel Robinson  
Parkton Squadron #256

Currently serving a two year term through the end of the administrative year of 2104 are the following:

National Executive Committeeman:  
Past Detachment Commander Andy Dadds  
Frank M. Jarman Squadron #36

Alternate N.E.C.:  
Past Detachment Commander Mark Gilbert  
Overlea Perry Hall Squadron #130