



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



***“The Pride”***

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

Volume 2013 Issue 1  
Seminar Issue September 8, 2013

**Commander’s Corner**

As this is my first Pride article as Commander, I thought I would let you know a little about myself.

I have been a member Reisterstown Squadron #116 for over thirty five years serving as Commander seven times. My eligibility comes from both my grandfathers. My father’s father served in WWI and died from complications from mustard gas . My mother’s father served in WWII as a guard at Fort Knox. I serve in their honor. I am a Past NCD Commander and have served on various Detachment commissions and committees as I worked through the chairs.

My project this year is the Legacy Scholarship Fund, with my slogan “Our Veterans’ Children are our Legacy”. My goal is to raise over forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.) for this cause. The children that have been left behind, when one or both of their parents have made the final sacrifice for our country, cannot be forgotten . I am asking the entire Legion Family , Post, Auxiliary, Legion Riders, and SAL, to get behind this project.

Other programs will not be forgotten, the National Emergency Fund is especially in need, because of all the havoc recently caused by Mother Nature. Casey Cares, Special Olympics, Child Welfare Foundation, Veteran Homes and Hospitals, and all the other great

programs of The American Legion will be addressed , as is the tradition and Commitment of the Detachment of MD.

Membership is as always a prime focus of the Detachment and I am looking forward to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Hall’s theme for this year.

I will also be focusing on increasing attendance at our annual convention. Promoting all the activities and camaraderie that make it truly a Legion Family event.

Finally, I want to congratulate my friend Joe Gladden on becoming the 6<sup>th</sup> National Sons of The American Legion Commander from Maryland. “ Good Luck Joe”

I am looking forward to great year, and with the help the Legion Family I know I will.

For God and Country,

Bill Stem  
Commander

Detachment of Maryland  
Sons of The American Legion

**Adjutant’s Corner**

**D.E.C./Seminar:** The first Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Detachment Commander, Bill Stem, on September, 8 2013 at 1:00 P.M. The meeting is being hosted at Patrick Henry Post No. 34, located at 5526 Belle Grove Road,

Baltimore, MD 21225. The post phone number is 410-789-9682. At this session the new S.A.L. Confidential Books and Report Form information packages will be distributed. The Commission and Committee Chairmen will be presenting their objectives and goals of their respective programs for this new administrative year. All squadron commanders or their representative should make an effort to attend this session.

**Directions:** The post home is located just south of the Baltimore City line in northern Anne Arundel County making this meeting site one of the most centrally located meetings in the detachment this year. From the Baltimore Beltway I-695, take Exit 6A, N. Camp Meade Road/MD-170 which turns into Belle Grove Road and the post home will be on your left from this direction.

**Detachment Training Sessions:**

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 @ 11am

Grand Hotel in Ocean City

We are conducting our 3rd Annual Training Session during our Winter D.E.C. weekend in Ocean City. See the information below to take advantage of our discounted hotel rates. Booking at this rate is available through December 25, 2013.

**GUEST ROOMS AND GROUP RATES**

\$ 55.00 Limited View Rooms

\$ 60.00 Premier View Rooms

\$ 65.00 Ocean Front Rooms

Plus applicable taxes  
Rooms are available now!

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

**Detachment Camp Out:** The squadrons of the Northern Central District are sponsoring a Camp-Out for all Family members of the Legion Family. This is an excellent opportunity for members of the Detachment of Maryland to bring their children, grandchildren, spouses and parents to a S.A.L. sponsored event designed exclusively for having fun. The Camp-Out is scheduled for October 25-27, 2013 and is being hosted at The American Legion facilities in Western Maryland District, Camp West-Mar. The camp has a dining hall and all meals beginning Friday evening through breakfast on Sunday morning will be provided by the Northern Central District. Many activities and games will take place throughout the day on Saturday for all ages. No camper will be too young or too old to participate in some activity if they so choose. The facility has 6 cabins which can sleep 120 campers. If you are inclined to stay in your own tent the camp can facilitate that as well. The facility is located at 14509 Brown Road, Sabillasville, Md. 21780, which is in the Cactoctin-Thurmout area of the state. For the purpose of planning for meals please RSVP to either Detachment C&Y Chairman, Ray Edwards at rayjred@verizon.net or myself at bill.matoska@comcast.net. In the event that our family members befriend each other in a social setting, they may be more apt to support and participate in our community work and business sessions. Just a thought.

**National Convention News:** The National Convention for the Sons of The American Legion has just concluded in Houston, Texas on August 23-25, 2013. The Detachment of Maryland had the distinct honor of having Joe Gladden of Overlea-Perry Hall Squadron #130 elected to the high office of National Commander for the Sons of The American Legion. We all wish Joe a safe and productive year and everyone will have the opportunity to do so in person at Joe's homecoming reception on March 22, 2014 at the Hunt Valley Wyndam. Please mark your calendars now for this event as details will be forthcoming. Another individual from the Detachment of Maryland that deserves recognition and our congratulations is

Detachment Third Vice-Commander, Ray Edwards of Sharptown Squadron #218. Ray now has the distinction of being recognized as the National VAVS Volunteer of the Year. This is the highest award that can be bestowed on an individual within our organization for their voluntary service to our nation's veterans. I know we all agree that the national organization could not have chosen a more deserved individual. On this same note Blake-Blackston Squadron #77 has repeated as the National VAVS Award winner on the squadron level. Jr. Past Detachment Commander, Bill Hill, received a National Membership Retention Award for the detachment maintaining a 90% plus retention rating. Harry White Wilmer Squadron #82 from LaPlata repeated as National History and Scrapbook winners. Congratulations to all. The National Executive Committee at the Post Convention Meeting ratified the following individuals from the Detachment of Maryland to serve the National Organization; Bill Hill as National Sgt-At-Arms, Bruce Paquin as Aide to the National Commander, Tom Deal on the National Legislative Commission, JR Hall on the National Internal Affairs Commission, Buddy Mastin on the National Americanism Commission, and Ken Jenkins on the Homeland Security & Civil Preparedness Committee.

In Service,  
Bill Matoska  
Detachment Adjutant  
[bill.matoska@comcast.net](mailto:bill.matoska@comcast.net)  
443-710-9664

## Get your Game on for MEMBERSHIP!

Hello Again Comrades,

As we kick off a new year remember it is never too early to start pushing membership renewals and new members.

But let me ask you all this, Has your Squadron came up with a plan on how they will work renewals? I think often we all just think that it will happen and wait for them to start coming in and then it is soon to late and we are behind on membership again. My goal this year is to be at 100% by our Detachment convention and I really believe it is something we can do together. Why not plan a strategy for membership this



year?

Maybe kick off your year by sending out a private letter to each one of your members and let them know of the great works your Squadron does and what their money is going to help even if they are not a truly active member? Maybe send a copy of your upcoming events you have already planned and ask everyone to help you to be successful. If you don't ask they probably won't help or join in. But if you explain what you are doing and ask them to be apart you may be surprised at who will respond and show up. Maybe you can think of your own way for your Squadron to ignite membership and move forward fast. Let's not just sit and wait for the membership to arrive on their own, let's get working for membership and see who can score the most for our organization.

I will be unveiling my membership theme for this year along with all my plans for membership at the September 8th DEC meeting at Post 34. I hope you will be there to help me kick off a great year for membership and be a part of the team driving to score big for membership of our Great Detachment. Let's put Maryland on top this year when it comes to membership and show the Nation our Maryland Pride.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at [dhall1967@verizon.net](mailto:dhall1967@verizon.net).

Don Hall, Jr.

Membership Chairmen

1st Vice Commander

## Americanism Report

Hello everyone! Hope you all had a good and safe summer. Now it is time to get back to work. I would like to take this time to thank you all ahead of time for your support for this year. Thank you Mr. Commander for your confidence in me to make me your Americanism Chairman, I look forward to the challenge.

One of my projects this year is the Fisher House. I have already contacted the Fisher House in Bethesda to plan a cook out again this year. We're set to host a cookout on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>

(Continued on page 3)

*(Continued from page 2)*

2014. Look for additional information in future Pride articles and DEC meetings. I am hoping we can get plenty of volunteers to help with this outing. I had been there before with Past Detachment Commander Bob Trueblood when the Fisher House was his project. This is truly a worthwhile project. I also went there last year with Commander Bill Hill, Vice Commander Jeff Seiler, Chaplain Ray Edwards, Jr. and others within the Legion Family. The families staying there are so glad to see you and really love what we do for them. They can never thank us enough and really can't believe that we do this for them. We just simply tell them no, we thank you for your sacrifices and for what you do for us.

I will be gathering monies and any donations I can throughout the year for this event and others. I will be looking for anything from toiletries to cereals dish liquids and household items, including snacks and fruit juices for the kids.

Thanks again and I look forward to seeing you at future DEC meetings.

Americanism Chairman

Dave Hullihen

## Children & Youth Corner

Comrades,

As my tenure begins as Chairman of the Children & Youth Commission, I pledge to work hard in supporting all of the children & youth programs and keeping the Detachment traditions strong.

In the weeks ahead, my goal is to talk with all of my program chairmen and discuss ways for us to create some new excitement in what we do. We may create a competition between districts in raising funds for our Laps of Love program.

Volunteers are always needed for the Maryland Special Olympics events. November is just around the corner and we will need volunteers for the Bowling tournament. The winter games will be here before we can blink an eye.

We must continue to collect PJ's for Casey Cares and when needed, volunteer to show support for this worthy cause. We should be thinking about collecting donations and or toys for our annual Toys for Tots drive. Let us not forget the Children's Miracle Network and Child

Welfare Foundations, as well.

So, let's roll up our sleeves and get to work. Always remembering "Maryland Pride" is what makes this the best Detachment. Thank you,

Our future depends on our children

Ray Edwards

Children & Youth Chairman

[rayjred@verizon.net](mailto:rayjred@verizon.net)

(410) 215-9354 Cell

## Casey Cares Newsletter

It is indeed a pleasure to serve once again this year as your Casey Cares Chairman. We've had a very busy summer. Our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike Ride had nice weather and a large group of riders. I want to thank PDC Mastin for putting it together along with Post 128 ALR, and their Director G Man, Gary Ivey, for all the help.

We then attended the Casey Cares, 5K run/ Fun Walk on Aug. 3, at Camden Yards. There were over 1700 registered participates in this event. Pictures were spread all over Facebook for your viewing pleasure.

Now for this year's project from us. Casey doesn't usually ask us for anything, however this year is different. She has a program called Netflix. She provides families with a Netflix subscription for a month, for the cost of about \$10.00 per family. This program has been so well received by the families, which they have gone through all their budgeted funds for the year already. They have asked that we continue or donations, however earmark them for Netflix.

We will continue to support or collect for Kammi's Jammi's, and any other program that Casey Cares sponsors, but unless the donation is earmarked for a specific program, all of our money will go to Netflix this year. As in the past, I am available if anyone has questions, or concerns about Casey Cares.

Here is hoping that we have another great year for Casey Cares.

Serving Maryland's Children  
Ed Steininger Sr.  
Casey Cares Chairman  
[edwardsteininger@yahoo.com](mailto:edwardsteininger@yahoo.com)  
443-807-1495

## Child Welfare Foundation

As we approach the \$6 million mark in donations to ALCWF, we must continue to work hard and remember that our children are our future.

In its 58th year, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has awarded \$734,220 to 20 nonprofit organizations whose mission is to care for the overall well-being of America's most precious natural resource—children.

The grants were approved during CWF's annual board of directors meeting in Indianapolis on Oct. 14, 2012. The following are two local Maryland firms who were awarded grants and a description of what their funds will be used toward:

**CureSearch for Children's Cancer** of Bethesda, Md., funds and supports children's cancer research, and provides resources to all those impacted. The organization was awarded \$25,500 for its project, "Childhood Cancer Care for the Whole Patient: CureSearch Webinar Series." This grant will provide funding for three webinar programs to help families manage the psychosocial aspects for having a child with cancer. The Sons of The American Legion sponsored this grant.

**Immune Deficiency Foundation** of Towson, Md., provides accurate information to those who have been diagnosed with a primary immunodeficiency disease. The organization was awarded \$48,500 for its project, "The Little Zebra – A Children's Storybook." The grant will produce an illustrated children's storybook that will

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

help explain primary immunodeficiency disease to a child or his or her peers. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsored this grant.

Yours In Service,  
Chris Dadds  
CWF Chairman

## Toys For Tots

Hello, my name is Gregory Taylor and I am your Toys for Tots coordinator for the Detachment of Maryland this year. I would like this year to be a banner year for the Toys for Tots program. In order for that to happen, the Detachment of MD Squadrons working together along with me can make this happen.

May I suggest you start by working with your post home and set up and start collecting new unwrapped toys, as well as, cash donations, starting after Labor Day September 2, 2013? 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 and possibly lend a hand.

Also, your event can be placed on the Toys for Tots website, as well as the SAL website. I can handle contacting your Toys for Tots coordinator for county or area and have them send to your Post collection boxes and pick up toys when needed. I can also tell you how to do this yourself, if you like. I would like to get a commitment from the U.S. Marine Corp at Fort Meade, MD that they will have a Marine at our fall DEC meeting.

In summary, I simply want to say how proud that I am 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,

Gregory Taylor  
(301) -233-0663  
Gregohl1@verizon.net

## Boys State

The American Legion Boys State program is the best program The American Legion has. It had its start in Illinois during 1935, but Maryland didn't get involved until 1947. It is a weeklong immersion of politics with writing a city charter, electing their city officials, state officials, and Boys Nation representatives along with guest speakers every day. These boys will remember this week for the rest of their lives and the friendships they made.

The Boys State program is held at Washington College in Chestertown Maryland. The program starts on Sunday, Father's Day and ends the following Saturday with a graduation from the program.

The boys need to be entering their senior year when school starts back up in August. The boys can be from a public, private high school or home schooled. The cost to send the boy is \$300.00 per boy. I'm encouraging all squadrons to either help their Post send a boy or your Squadron can send a boy. Also, you can try to have an outside business sponsor the boy.

SAL members can volunteer to become a counselor. You may contact the Boys State Staff member, if you have one in your Post, any Boys State Staff member that is attending the Sons of The American Legion DEC, or myself. The next Boys State Staff meeting will be Saturday, September 7th at 10 AM at Sgt Preston Ashley Post 228 in Rock Hall Maryland.

Dennis Renehan  
Committee Chairman & Boys State Staff member

(410)-330-3003

[dawgtrucker@yahoo.com](mailto:dawgtrucker@yahoo.com)

## Legislative Alert!

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.

For God and Country  
Tom Deal  
Legislative Chairman  
[tom.deal@verizon.net](mailto:tom.deal@verizon.net)

## VAVS Variety

Here we are in a new year already and the Holidays are just around the corner. Please plan on working to attend one of the Christmas Parties at Loch Raven, Charlotte Hall, Baltimore VA, Perry Point, McVets or Washington DC VA Medical Center. Dates will be provided at our next meeting in September. I know all of them will need help and all are welcomed. There will be a need for Christmas Gift bags, donations, and all types of gifts. With this being the beginning of the year we need to start working on contributions to these homes and medical centers. This is what we are here for to help out our veterans in times of need. We will be planning to tips to Charlotte Hall, Perry Point and those dates will be provided at our September meeting.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has reached another milestone in its disability claims transformation process – over 30 percent of the current disability claims inventory is now digital and accessible to claim raters in VA's electronic claims processing system, which has now been fielded ahead of schedule at all 56 Regional Offices across the country. This effort is a key part of transforming outdated paper processing into an electronic system that is delivering disability claims decisions for Veterans more quickly. In addition, all incoming paper claims are transformed into digital records for electronic processing using VA's new claims processing software and electronic repository.

New Benefit Takes Effect August 6 for First-Time Filers The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today [August 1, 2013] that Veterans filing an original Fully Developed Claim (FDC) for service-connected disability compensation may be entitled to up to one-year of retroactive disability benefits. The retroactive benefits, which are in effect Aug. 6, 2013, through Aug. 5, 2015, are a result of a comprehensive legislative package passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

last year.

Yours in Service  
Jeffrey Seiler  
[Jeffrey.Seiler@yahoo.com](mailto:Jeffrey.Seiler@yahoo.com)

## Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

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

On December 14, the CHVH Service Organization Liaison Committee (SOLC) will host the Christmas Ice Cream Social from 2-4 PM. As the S.A.L. Detachment of Maryland representative to the SOLC, I'm proud to say this event is always well attended. Last year, 85 residents participated. In addition to ice cream and entertainment, each resident receives a Christmas card with \$5 inside. Donations for the Ice Cream Social should be made out to CHVH-SOLC with Christmas Ice Cream Social in the menu line and sent to the SOLC Treasurer Richard Bamberger at 2209 Pinefield Court, Waldorf, MD 20601.

The Southern Maryland District continues to hold a bingo at the Veterans' home on the third Monday of each month. If you are interested in donating to the CHVH Bingos, send your donation to the Detachment earmarked for CHVH Bingo. If you are interested in volunteering your time contact PDC Buddy Mastin or myself. Additional help is always welcome.

LaDonna Mohler is the Director of Volunteer/Community Outreach at the CHVH. If you are interested in volunteering at the CHVH, contact LaDonna at [lmohler@hmrmd.com](mailto:lmohler@hmrmd.com) or 301-884-8171, ext 664.

If you are interested in learning more about the CHVH, log on to their website, [www.charhall.org](http://www.charhall.org), and take the virtual tour. The tour takes less than 10 minutes but provides an insight into the home and the services provided to our Maryland Veterans and their eligible spouses.

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

## Maryland Center for Veteran's Training & Education (MCVET)

MCVET—20 years of service to our Veterans'. Celebrations will take place this fall to recognize the success of the students, staff and supporters of this great program.

It's hard to believe that it's been 20yrs since the vision of a hand full of individuals, with the support of VSO's, the community and federal grants was able to touch the lives of so many of our Veterans' in need. Details will be provided at the next DEC and published on the Detachment Web site.

We are also partnering with the Department of Maryland—Auxiliary to provide Wii systems for each of the group social areas, so if you're interested in providing a monetary donation, a new Wii system or games, please let me know.



For God and Country,  
Bill Hill  
MCVET—Board of Directors  
Detachment Liaison  
(301)-928-1411  
[hill1062@msn.com](mailto:hill1062@msn.com)

## Chaplin's Corner

Sick Call and Relief:

### 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.

Poem provided by past Detachment Chaplain—Ray Edwards.

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 Chaplain  
[rayjred@verizon.net](mailto:rayjred@verizon.net)  
(410) 215-9354 Cell

## Commander's Project

As many of you are aware, Detachment Commander Bill Stem has chosen to support the 'Legacy Scholarship Fund' as his Commanders project. His slogan for the year is '*OUR VETERANS' CHILDREN ARE OUR LEGACY.*'

The 'Legacy Scholarship Fund' is a project that supports and provides scholarships of higher education to children that have lost a parent while serving our country and fighting the Global War on terror. It is estimated that over 11,000 children have lost a parent in the war overseas. This program will assist and help single parents with the goal of sending their children to college.

I'm proud to report that the project is off to a great start. Since The Detachment convention we have sold over \$3500 in T-shirt sales. Commander Stem's goal is to raise \$40,000 so we will continue to need your assistance with helping the children of our fallen heroes.

There are several ways that you can assist with this project.

Donations can be made out to the 'Detachment of Maryland' with the words 'MD LSF Commander Project' in the memo line and presented at any SAL Detachment meeting or mailed to the address below:

Attention: Joe Lohman  
LSF Project Chair  
2 Main Street  
Laurel, MD 20707

If you wish to support the project by

(Continued on page 6)

*(Continued from page 5)*

holding a fundraiser, please contact me so I can assist in any way possible to make your event a success. We will make every attempt possible to have our SAL Detachment officers attend the fundraiser to support your Post and the event.

As a way to spread the word about the 'Legacy Scholarship Fund' and the overall project, we are also selling T-shirts to support the cause. If you're Post, Unit, ALR or Squadron members are interested in purchasing these shirts at \$20, please send me an email at the address below.

#### Upcoming fundraiser

September 28th from 2-6 pm at Post 172 in Lanham MD. There will be a Squadron cook off between Bowie, Lanham, Greenbelt and Laurel. Several of our detachment officers will be judges to determine which Squadron can cook the best Beef Top Round. Tickets are \$15 which includes all you can eat food and draft beer. Additional information may be found under the detachment website (<http://www.mdsal.org/>) under 'Upcoming Events' or contact me at [squadron60@verizon.net](mailto:squadron60@verizon.net)

More information about the program may also be found at [www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy](http://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy)

Yours in Service,  
Joe Lohman  
Project Chair  
[squadron60@verizon.net](mailto:squadron60@verizon.net)

## **Convention Commission**

Our 40th Annual Convention, dedicated to Past National Commander Jim Hartman was a huge success... Thank you to all of the Officers, members and guest for your contributions to this great event. —

This year's convention will be back at the Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn Wyndham. This year we are expanding on our picnic in the park, so look for details.

Again as always, I wish to thank all the members who attended the convention for working with the Convention Commission.

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

## **Time and Place Committee**

Time & Place – As stated above we will be back in the Hunt Valley location 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,  
Bill Hill  
Chairman  
(301)-928-1411  
[hill1062@msn.com](mailto:hill1062@msn.com)

## **Maryland Special Olympics**

As we start the 2013/2014 year I am looking forward to working with the Maryland Special Olympics and bringing the Detachment valuable volunteering opportunities like the Golf Individual Skills Competition on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at Blue Mash Golf Course in Olney MD between the hours of 8:30am – 4pm.

We also have 2013 Kayaking competition on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> at Piney Run State Park in Sykesville MD between the hours of 8am – 4pm. And let's not forget about the big one, the Polar Bear Plunge in January 2014.

Our Children Are Our Future!  
Jim Alexander  
[jimalex831@verizon.net](mailto:jimalex831@verizon.net)  
(443) 623-9907

## **North Eastern Shore Times**

Thanks to all the officers of the N.E.S.D. for returning with me for another year.

Our first District meeting will be held on Sunday September 15, 2013 at Post 296 at 10:30 A.M. EVERY Squadron should have someone in attendance. The fall D.E.C. meeting will be held at Post 296 on November 10 at 1:00 P.M. On Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup>,

Post 296 will host a Detachment Travel Club get together with a DJ from 7-11 P.M. Those needing accommodations can call the Best Western in Grasonville, Md. at 410-827-6767 before 10-18-13 for S.A.L. rates. All Legion family members are invited.

Good job by those who have started turning in membership dues. Those Squadrons who have zeroes please remit some as soon as possible.

Please use our website:  
<http://squadron135.tripod.com/ned/>

If your Squadron is having an event that you want advertised, contact Bear Weinzirl at [nesdsal@aol.com](mailto:nesdsal@aol.com)

Support Legacy Scholarship Fund,

Karl B. Kibler  
Commander: N.E.S.D.

## **South Eastern Shore Gazette**

Greetings,

I hope this article finds everyone enjoying the summer. Congratulations to Ray Edwards for a job well done the last two years as District Commander. May the same be said for his new position as Third Vice Commander within the Detachment of Maryland.

My agenda is simple; I am asking all Squadrons commanders within the South Eastern Shore to pull together and let's have yet another banner year. We must continue to recruit new members and retain are current members.

I will be visiting each squadron at their regular monthly meetings and look forward to meeting each new officer. Please keep track of all your volunteer hours as it should be reported on your consolidated reports. Let's make this our best year ever!

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

For God and Country,  
Terry Albert  
South Eastern Shore District  
Commander 2012/2013

## Southern Pride

Installations are coming to an end and summer is almost over. Now it is time to get back to work for the good of our District and our Veterans. I am very excited to be the Sons of The American Legion Southern Maryland District Commander this year for everyone. One thing I would like to see this year is membership up, consolidated reports and certification forms completed and turned in.

With the help of our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Joe Lohman I don't see a problem getting this done. Our Southern Maryland District Seminar meeting will be at Glen Burnie Post 40 on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm; hope to see every one there.

Mark your calendars for the SMD Drawdown on November 9<sup>th</sup>; more information to follow.

Yours in Service,  
Jim Alexander  
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 10 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 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm at Squadron #42 Morris Frock Hagerstown 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 one can join and see what is going on at our local squadrons. Please let's get those members renewing and get new members. We are the largest district in the state of MD, which by the

way we did make 4 Star and came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Membership last year. That is a lot to be said with over 4,800 members. Congratulations to all the squadrons last year and let's see a repeat and if possible hit first place. Also please do all you can to support our Commanders project American Legacy Project! Thank you

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,  
Jeffrey Seiler  
WMD Commander  
[jeffrey.seiler@safeco.com](mailto:jeffrey.seiler@safeco.com)  
240-367-0564

## Northern Central District News

The NCD had an organizational meeting on August 18th at Parkville Post #183. At this meeting the District Handbooks were distributed to all officers and chairmen. This handbook is a vital communication tool for the district and every squadron commander will receive a handbook from your Detachment Executive Committeeman that is assigned to your squadron. If you have not heard from your DEC representative to make arrangements for a visit to your squadron by September 8th, please notify me immediately so the district can replace that person with someone interested in fulfilling the requirements that were set forth at the organizational meeting. My contact information is by e-mail: [jameson1@comcast.net](mailto:jameson1@comcast.net) or by cell @ 443-413-4710. Our goal for the Northern Central District is for our squadrons to become the most active and committed squadrons to the success of The American Legion programs we have embraced and support. The first step in this goal is to assure that all of our squadrons are informed of the events and activities within the district and across the state. The district handbook is the best communication tool we have to begin this process. The next meeting for the district will be September 29, 2013 convening at 12:30 PM hosted at Towson Post #22. At the conclusion of the meeting we will be sponsoring a Family Picnic at Towson which will include refreshments and games for all ages compliments the district and the Towson squadron.

Yours In Service,  
JD Saunders  
NCD Commander

## NEC NEWS

I bring you greetings from National Commander Chris Huntzinger. During this year the Commander Huntzinger's theme is "Getting on the Band Wagon". The Detachments across the country have been jumping aboard playing music loud. National membership is over 350,363. Many Detachments have reached an all time high. National Vice Commander John Waite traveled to Maryland to attend our 40<sup>th</sup> Detachment Convention. Vice Commander John enjoyed the great Maryland hospitality, visiting the District rooms, bowling, superstars and other activities that weekend. Vice Commander John learned a lot about how we raise monies for the legion programs as well as all of the other programs we support while at our convention. Membership in Eastern Region stands at 98.425% which has us in last place. Unfortunately we fell short on reaching the 100% and 105% goal, our membership is at 98.624% which places us 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation. We should reach 100% by the time we travel to Houston. Maryland's renewal rate stands at 89.67% places us 9<sup>th</sup> over all. We are now gearing up and heading to Houston TX to attend the National Convention. Many of our delegates have National appointments for the convention. Maryland will be hosting a reception for our Leading Candidate for National Commander Joe Gladden. This will be a very special convention because Joe will become Maryland's 6<sup>th</sup> National Commander. Here are a few dates to remember; 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

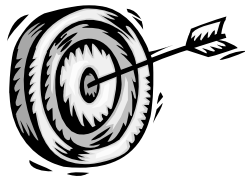
Serving Our Veterans Who Served Us,  
Andy Dadds  
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### **2014 Membership Targets**

September 11, 2013	10%
October 9, 2013	25%
November 14, 2013	35%
December 11, 2013	45%
January 15, 2014	60%
February 12, 2014	75%
March 12, 2014	80%
April 19, 2014	90%
May 14, 2014	100%
** July 23, 2014	105%

### **Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2013—2014**

#### **D.E.C. Meeting / Seminar**

September 8th, 2013

Patrick Henry Post 34 @1pm

#### **Fall D.E.C. Meeting**

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Benedict A. Andrew Post 296 @ 1pm

#### **Winter D.E.C. Meeting & Training Session**

January 25<sup>th</sup>—26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 @ 1pm

Synepuxent Post 166 @ 1pm

#### **Spring D.E.C. Meeting**

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Hampstead Post 200 @ 1pm

#### **41<sup>st</sup> Annual Detachment Convention**

June 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>

Hunt Valley Wyndam