



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



“The Pride”

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

Volume 2013 Issue 2
Fall Issue November 10, 2013

Commander’s Corner

Just got back from the Fall NEC in Indianapolis. Great to get around our comrades from around the country. National Commander Joe Gladden conducted a great meeting. Congratulation to our own 3rd Vice Commander Ray Edwards on receiving his Volunteer of the Year Cap.

Everyday I become prouder of the members of the Detachment of Maryland. The outpouring of support for my project has been incredible. Joe Lohman, Project Chairman, has been a Wildman, attending events and selling the project t-shirts. Great job Joe!

One of these events was The Squadron Cook-off at Beltway Post #172. Squadron’s #60, #66, #136 and #172 participated. Disney-Bell Squadron #66 was declared the winner by myself and the other Detachment officers, who were asked to be judges. The best news is that they raised almost \$5,000 for the Legacy Fund. Thanks to all involved.

Membership is going wild! 1st Vice Commander, JR Hall, is doing a fantastic job in inspiring the “Blue Caps” to surpass the Sept 9th goal of 25%. As of this writing all Districts have exceeded the goal and as a Detachment we stand at 32.97% Keeping the scoring going!

Don’t forget to mark your calendar for our State Convention, June 20th – 22nd. All the Legion Family are invited. We will be back at the Hunt Valley Inn at the

Wyndham. It will be a weekend of celebration.

As the year continues, my hope is work in unison with the rest of the Legion Family to address all the programs of the SAL . We have a lot on our plate, but I’m sure we have the appetite and the capacity to devour every morsel and at the end be fully satisfied.

For God and Country

Bill Stem
Commander

Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion

Adjutant’s Corner

D.E.C./Seminar: The Fall Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander, Bill Stem, on November 10, 2013 at 1:00 P.M. The meeting is being hosted at Benedict A. Andrew Post No. 296, located at 6200 Main St., Queenstown, MD 21658. The post phone number is 410-827-8182.

Directions: From the western shore take US-50 East toward Ocean City. Once across the Bay Bridge continue on US-50 East at the US-301 and US-50 split. Right after the split take the MD-18 W exit which is Main Street. The post is approximately .3 mile on your left. This exit is a right turn just before the Queenstown Premium Outlets.

MySAL: The American Legion National Headquarters has designed a **FREE** and secure internet site to assist Squadron Adjutants in their day-to-day

membership processing duties. This site serves as a direct portal from the local squadron to the National Headquarters’ membership system. Features of this site include; view and edit squadron membership, generate reports, reports available in CSV file format allowing users to work with the data in other applications such as Microsoft Excel and Access, and squadron inquiries. Please note that the payment process for individual membership dues does not change. Your squadron must continue to transmit membership cards and dues payments to Department Headquarters.

The site address is mysal.org which was developed to mimic the mylegion.org site which has been well received by our legion counterparts. I received an overview of the functions of this site at the Fall National Executive Committee Meeting and as a squadron adjutant myself, I believe the features of this site will be a great asset in my administrative responsibilities as a squadron adjutant. The demonstration allowed the user to search for members by name or ID number, see payment history for all members, find contact information for all members, view, download and print rosters of current, expired, deceased, undeliverable, and current paid membership, view and edit squadron membership information, and even locate a squadron. To gain access to this new site you need to download the registration form which can be found on the Detachment of Maryland website at mdsal.org and go to the Publications and Forms tab. The form requires approval signatures from both the squadron and post adjutants before it is sent to National Headquarters. Once national

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staff verify officer signatures and receive approval from department, they will email instructions directly to you on how to create a mysal.org account that will require a username and password for access. The squadron adjutant on file at National Headquarters is the administrator of the site, but sign-on credentials can be shared.

Detachment Training Sessions

January 25th, 2014 @ 11am

Grand Hotel in Ocean City

We are conducting our 3rd Annual Training Session during our Winter D.E.C. time 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!

Open Forum: Once again, 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
443-710-9664

Get your Game on for MEMBERSHIP!



GREAT JOB
DETACHMENT OF
MARYLAND MEMBERS,

We are really off to a Great start on reaching our Goal of 100% by June at Detachment Convention.

On our October 9th National goal of 25%, 6 out of 7 of our districts are well over the 25% mark and the 7th is within striking distance and working hard. Our Detachment stands at 29.99 and leads the way for the East Region. Our next goal date is November 14th and we need to be at 35% and we have NCD 41.31 and Baltimore 38.01 well over the 35% mark and NESD 34.34 less than one percentage point away. This is all great work that is being done by so many of our membership team. I believe that all districts are in a position that they can work and get us to have 7 out of 7 districts over 35% by November 14th. Let's strap on our helmets and breakthrough the line and score for membership.

Speaking of Scoring for membership let me give you the current points as we stand:

- 1) NESD 21 points
- 2) NCD 20 points
- 3) SMD 18 points
- 4) Balt.-SESD- MTN all with 16 points
- 7) WMD 14 points

I want to Thank those districts that took part on the conference call in September and as you can see those two points make a difference, I hope to have full participation on our October conference call.

All these numbers are great to see headed in the right direction but there is still a certain number out there that bothers us all. The number zero (0). Now in the month of September We finished up with three districts with no 0's on their score sheet, Thank You NESD, NCD, and WMD. That is Awesome that this was accomplished, now let's all get on the phone, in our cars for a trip, and write some emails and get those other 0's out of here.

Let's not get comfortable and after the 1st Quarter of the game (3 months) is

over and we are doing Great. Let's again look at your game plan, make the needed adjustments, and score more and give up less. As said in the meetings there are Squadrons out there that need some coaching and we need to get out to them and offer our help and help them get a better game plan. What have you done this week for membership? When you check on Friday's to see where we stand ask yourself that question. If you have nothing to say, make a change so next week you can say you did something to help membership.

Thanks for all the work and effort going into membership and lets finish the 1st half Strong!!!

Please remember all of our Soldiers,

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at dhall1967@verizon.net.

Don Hall, Jr.
Membership Chairmen
1st Vice Commander

Americanism Report

We're continuing to support all of our programs and encourage each Squadron to reach out to your community and lend a hand during this upcoming holiday season. We're still setting up a date to visit the Fisher House in Bethesda in the spring of 2014 and we'll provide updates in future Pride articles and on our Detachment Facebook page when available. We're also trying to arrange a visit for the Fisher House on Andrews Air Force base but we have been unsuccessful as of this writing.

Again please think about bringing items such as toiletries, drinks, snacks, dish liquid, scrubbing pads, trash bags, etc. to the next DEC meeting so we may include these in our to bring during our to the Fisher Houses. Ask your Post or your Auxiliary for donations, all is accepted and appreciated.

Flag replacement; start getting this done, just make sure all paper work is completed so you get the credit you deserve.

Please consider sponsoring either or both programs of Boys and or Girls State all donations are appreciated and is a great investment for a great child of the future.

We always welcome donations so please

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ask your squadrons to do so at your next meeting. If you make donations directly to a program or local group/charity, please let me know so it can be recorded with in the Detachment and to help ensure your Squadron or District, receives the recognition they deserve. Thanks again and I look forward to seeing you at future DEC meetings.

Americanism Chairman
Dave Hullihen

Children & Youth Corner

Special Olympics Maryland will hold their bowling tournament on Sunday, December 1, 2013. The location is being reviewed and we will make the location announcement at the fall DEC meeting on November 10, 2013. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Jim Alexander or myself to sign up. There will be two shifts.

The polar plunge is scheduled for Friday, January 24, 2014 at Sandy Point State Park. Start time is 4pm. The Special Olympics website is up and running. Sign up today. Contact Jim Alexander with any questions.

Before we know it, the Winter games for Special Olympics Maryland will be here. This year's event will take place at Whitetail Ski resort. If you have not volunteered for the event and would like to help out, please contact Kim Alexander or myself.

Raffle tickets are now being distributed to all District Commanders. Raffle tickets will be forwarded from District Commanders to all Squadrons. It is based on each squadron's membership. Funds raised will be applied towards Special Olympics Maryland Bowling Tournament. Tickets are \$1.00 each. More information to follow.

The third annual LAPS of Love will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014. Once again, the location for this event will take place at Archbishop Spalding High School. Save the date.

Ray Edwards
Children & Youth Chairman
rayjred@verizon.net
(410) 215-9354 Cell

Casey Cares Newsletter

As the Holiday seasons approach, let's keep the struggling children and families

of Casey Cares in mind. They are having a Holiday's Giving program drive from now until Christmas. The Rock n Roll Bash was a huge success, as was their raffle for \$10,000. They are now asking for donations to help ease the burden of the Holidays. And of course, in keeping with their unselfish support of this great program, Susquehanna Post 135, in Perryville, has donated \$3,000, to us. Stay tuned for more info as we present Casey with this check. The Kami's Jammie's program is still going strong, with having donated over 18,000 pairs since it's start, and we can't wait to start sending donations for Netflix program, which provides families with a Netflix subscription for a month, for the cost of about \$10.00 per family.

Remember that every dollar goes a long way with Casey Cares, so bring those checks to our DEC?

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
443-807-1495

Children's Miracle Network

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you what Children Miracle Network (CMN) does for our Children. The CMN Hospital treats children with anything from Asthma to Cancer. These Children aren't from a faraway country but are our very own. Please consider making a donation.

Yours in Service

Larry Griffin

Child Welfare Foundation

No article submitted at this time. Please continue to support this very worthy program as it continues to provide assistance to those Children of this great country!

Yours In Service,
Chris Dadds
CWF Chairman

Toys For Tots

Hello, my name is Gregory Taylor, the Toys for Tots coordinator. I hope that all the squadrons are now collecting new unwrapped toys to bring to the fall Detachment meeting in Queenstown. I am sure that we will have a great year. May, I suggest that you contact your post home for approval and set up collecting new toys if you have not already begun. To get started, go to Maryland Toys for Tots website, and type in your county. Also, if you plan on having a fundraising event, please contact me with the information. I need to keep a record of your event, toys collected, value of the toys collected, and monetary donations. You can post your event on the Maryland Toys for Tots website, as well as, the SAL website. If you have a problem, please feel free to contact me. I can contact the coordinator for your post and have them send you collection boxes and pick up toys when needed or I guide you through the process. I am in the process of having two marines at our fall meeting in Queenstown, MD.

Now in closing, I want to say that I am proud to be chairman this year and proud of all the officers and blue caps in this great organization. Again, please feel free to contact me for any reason.

For God and Country,

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

Special Olympics—MD

As we start the 2013/2014 year we can all start to look forward to taking our plunge into the Chesapeake Bay on January 24th at Sandy Point State Park. All you have to do is go to www.plungemd.com and go under American Legion Family plunge team to sign up or donate. Remember the athletes need our support in either volunteering or donations. Also coming up quick is the Special Olympics Winter Games. These games will be held at White Tail Ski Resort in February 2014. Check your District for volunteering opportunities.

Here are some you may be interested in:

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Nov 2nd – SOMD Soccer State
Tournament at 2840 Crown Rd, Eden
MD 21822 at the Crown Sports Center
Nov 17th – Zombie Invasion 5K Run/
Walk at Laurel Springs Regional Park,
5940 Radio Station Rd, LaPlata MD
beginning at 10am

For information on any volunteering
opportunities go to Special Olympics
website www.somd.org

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

Boys State

The American Legion Maryland Boys
State Program would like to see a
positive trend in the attendance of this
program. This has happened the last two
years with the addition of one city in
Boys State. This can only happen with
the support of all The American Legion
Posts and or their Sons of The American
Legion Squadrons in the state.

The cost to send a boy to Boys State is
still \$300.00 per boy. How can we
afford this? Have a fundraiser, a 50/50
raffle, or put a jar on the bar in the
lounge. Don't forget you can go out in
your community and solicit funds from
businesses to get sponsorships to Boys
State.

Ask your Post Commander if there is a
Chairperson for the Boys State program
for the Post. If the answer is no, ask the
Post Commander to appoint someone to
this chair. If the answer is yes, ask who
chairs that position. Let that chairperson
know your squadron is interested in
sponsoring a boy to Boys State. If the
Post sent boys to Boys State and invited
them to speak at one of their meetings
ask if you can attend that meeting.

Vietnam Memorial Post 295 sponsored
the Boys State Governor, Towson Post
22 sponsored Senior Senator to Boys
Nation and Arick L. Lore and Post 274
sponsored the Junior Senator to Boys
Nation.

Remember Boys State attendees are
tomorrow's leaders.

If you need information concerning Boys
State, please contact me or Mr. Roger
Butt, Director of Maryland Boys State.

Dennis Renehan
Committee Chairman & Boys State Staff
member

(410)-330-3003

dawgtrucker@yahoo.com

Legislative Alert!

The Government Shutdown should be an
important note to all of us, as it affects
us all directly or indirectly. The
shutdown sent workers home to include
National Guard troops, some training
has been curtailed to non-deploying
units and services at various
installations to veterans have been
curtailed if not stopped. I hope everyone
will take note and let your Senators and
Congressmen know that they are
responsible for not doing their job. They
did not reach an agreement, they did not
do their job and they need to be held
accountable for that. Let them know not
to place blame on either party, they all
have a job to do and they all failed to do
it and hold them accountable. The
Budget should be an important item and
should not always wait until the deadline
for serious talks. We should be taking
care of OUR country first, protecting our
freedoms. I am a Civilian federal
worker at Aberdeen Proving Ground and
as of this writing am furloughed. I am a
tester for the Army testing weapons,
vehicles and equipment used by our
troops to help defeat the enemy and
protect our troops. While the shutdown
has delayed necessary testing it puts a
further burden on our military of not
being able to use any new technology to
help and protect them, putting them in
unnecessary risk. We need to let
Congress know we don't ever want to go
through this again. Our country and our
military need full support of the country.
It is very important to contact your
representatives now to let them know
how you feel. 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.

As I receive the legislative updates from
The American Legion Legislative
Commission ([http://www.legion.org/
legislative](http://www.legion.org/legislative)) I will continue to send them

out. 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

VAVS Variety

Yesterday is history, our History which
makes us Proud Possessors of a Priceless
Heritage. A Heritage we must now take
care of. This brings us to the project
"MIAP" Missing in America Project.
There are thousands of remains
unaccounted for. For generations they
waited unclaimed and forgotten. Today
"MIAP" is seeking out what could
potentially be tens of thousands of
unburied veterans who served in war
throughout the past century. The
American Legion Family has partnered
with "MIAP" and we want to see them
honored and given a resting place for
those forgotten hero's. If one needs any
information on "MIAP" please email or
call me.

Today is the "Present", It is a 'Gift' The
present is to listen and hear what our
veterans have to say. We are losing
approx... 22 veterans a day to Suicide.
That is more than what we lose a day to
all the conflicts overseas. We really need
to reach out and visit our VA hospitals
and make contact with the veterans and
help our veteran's needs today. Do not
wait until tomorrow as tomorrow will
never come, it will always be today the
"present a gift" and please be a gift and
help our veterans who have been injured
in the past, our "present" for today's
freedom.

In other news The Fisher House steps up
to the plate and agreed to offer the
families of a service member that was
killed in combat an advance grant until
the government can make
reimbursements. The Fisher House will
also cover flights, hotels and other
incidentals for the family members. The
Fisher House is best known for the
network of comfort home built on the
grounds of military and VA medical
centers nationwide and in Europe.

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At our Next DEC meeting we are asking that the squadrons please bring items off the wish lists so that when we go to the Ice Cream social/Christmas party. The Sons of The American Legion can make a difference and give the veterans some of the home items off of the wish list. I want to be able to fill up my car with items. Please help our veterans. Please plan on working to attend one of the Christmas Parties at Loch Raven, Charlotte Hall, Baltimore VA, Perry Point, McVets or the Washington DC VA Medical Center. 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.

Yours in Service
Jeffrey Seiler
Jeffrey.Seiler@yahoo.com

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

On December 14, the CHVH Service Organization Liaison Committee (SOLC) will host the Christmas Ice Cream Social from 2-4 PM. In addition to ice cream and entertainment, each resident receives a Christmas card with \$5 inside. Donations for the Ice Cream Social can still 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. Detachment members will be on hand to distribute Wish List items to the residents.

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.

The emergency generator replacement project is basically complete and the generators have supported outage events without incident. During a loss of normal power the home experiences about a ten second loss as the generators start and stabilize. Once stable, the

generators supply all the power the building demands. It is such an improvement to have all normal services available and no longer have to deal with the temporary measures and dark rooms.

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

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

MCVET—
We are continuing to solicit monetary donations and games to help support 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.

Glen Burnie Legion Family will once again sponsor a Christmas luncheon for MCVET, along with assistance from the extended Legion Family within Maryland. This humbling experience of having an opportunity to help our Veterans' is a very warming during the holiday season and anytime throughout the year. If you would like to know more about how you or your squadron, post, unit or ALR is able to help support this program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

Chaplin's Corner

Sick Call and Relief:

As of this writing, I have been very busy. Sending cards of condolence and get well, flower arrangements for to the families who have lost members of our Legion Family and visiting or making phone calls to pass along our best wishes for those whom I've been able to.

Thoughts and prayers go out to all these families; SESD Commander Albert was hospitalized, and is still fighting these

problems. Past Detachment Sgt-at-Arms, Ken Jenkins II has been in and out of the hospital over the past month with testing, and seems to be doing well. 1st Vice Commander Tony Koontz of Sqd 171, daughter is in the hospital, and needs prayers. Mike Stanford of Sqd 17, just lost his baby brother, a Federal Firefighter, after a long fight with cancer.

As our government cannot agree on a budget, and many family members are being affected, please think of our Veterans that are being threatened with not knowing if and when they may get benefits again. After sending prayers to them, contact your Congress people in Washington, to settle this.



Just a reminder, we are a Legion family, and cards will be sent to any family in need, so 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.
Ed Steinger, Sr.
Detachment Chaplin

Commander's Project

"OUR VETERANS' CHILDREN ARE OUR LEGACY"

Although Commander Stem's 'Legacy Scholarship Fund' project is off to a good start, we still have a way to go to meet our \$50,000 goal. As we get closer to the holiday season please remember to support the children of our fallen veterans. Many children will be spending the holidays without a parent this year as their mother or father lost their life while serving our country and fighting the Global War on Terror. In fact, it is estimated that over 11,000 children have lost a parent in the war overseas. We must continue to find it in our heart to support the 'Legacy Scholarship Fund' and help support single parents with sending their children to college. I want to personally

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thank all who have supported the project by making a donation, holding a fundraiser or simply purchasing a T-shirt. Your contribution has made a difference in the overall success of this program. The first



fundraiser of the year was held on Sept 28th at Beltway Post 172 in Lanham. Four Squadrons from Laurel, Greenbelt, Bowie and Lanham held a cook off that netted close to \$5000 for our Commanders Project. I want to thank all involved for making this a very successful event. Squadron 40 in Glen Burnie will hold a fundraiser to support the Commander's project on Friday November 1st. The squadron's master chef will prepare a delicious steak dinner for members and guests who plan to attend. The next scheduled fundraiser will be held by South Eastern Shore District on Saturday January 25th. More information should be available at the next Detachment meeting.

More information about the program may also be found at www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy

Yours in Service,
Joe Lohman
Project Chair
squadron60@verizon.net

Convention Commission

Look for future update after the first of the year! 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.

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

Time and Place Committee

Time & Place – If you have a location which you would like to the committee to consider, please submit a completed package, by the Spring DEC in April, so we may have time to review and make the appropriate contacts, prior to our convention in June, which is where any new locations or revisions to future sites will be announced. 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

North Eastern Shore Times

Well, we are closing in on the end of 2013. This is the time of year to get our memberships paid up for 2014. We are third in the state as of 10-11 and are 109 ahead of last years' pace. Thanks to Squadrons 36, 70, 246, and 296 for being over 50% of dues paid. Call your members that have not paid. Get them caught up before January 1. RETAIN!!!

Our next NESD meeting will be held on December 8 at Post 15 in Elkton at 10:30 A.M. Commanders: Part of your responsibilities as the elected leader of your Squadron is to be involved in this meeting. ALL Squadrons should be in attendance.

Please use the webpage (nesdsal@aol.net) to advertise your upcoming events and see what other Squadrons are doing throughout the Detachment.

Supporting the Legacy Scholarship Fund,

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

South Eastern Shore Gazette

Congratulation to Squadron 87 for becoming the first 4 star squadron for

the South Eastern Shore District. A right hand salute to

Commander John Egerson. Job well done. It is time to get rolling on membership. Mail out notices to all members who have not paid this year.

The South Eastern Shore District will be raffling a Gun Safe that will hold 18 guns. Cost is \$5.00 each with only 300 tickets being sold.

I would like to thank everyone for all the well wishes and prayers. My operation went well and the next few months will be challenging.

For God and Country,
Terry Albert
Commander S.E.S.D
(443) 783-2701

Southern Pride

We have started the year with two very successful events. The 2nd Annual Beach Party/Cookout and the 1st ever Cook-off. The Cook-off was a fundraiser to raise money for the Detachment Commander's project with around 200 attendees raising approximately \$4900. I would like to thank everyone who helped put these events together and those that showed up to show their support.

Another event coming up is our 7th Annual Southern MD District Drawdown. It will be held at Post 40 in Glen Burnie on November 9th, tickets are now available. For morning information, contact Joe Weik at rjweik@verizon.net or you can contact any SMD officer.

All DEC men have been assigned Squadrons and should be making contact with each other, so everyone can get the information needed to be able to succeed in our District. Membership is still coming in slowly right now; we are currently in 4th Place with 5 Squadrons with zero memberships submitted. Let's help our 1st Vice Joe Lohman, make phone calls or visit your assigned Squadron we need to be at 35% by November 14th, right now we are at 32%. Keep up the great work!

Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 17th at 1pm at Post 60 in Laurel MD.

Yours in Service,
Jim Alexander
SMD Commander

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Western Maryland Tribune

Great job to all the squadron's for getting membership in, we were either the first or second district to have "O" goose eggs. Our second meeting is November 17th at 12:00 pm at Squadron Steadman-Keenan #96 Brunswick MD 18 South Maple Ave Brunswick MD 21716. Please plan on attending this second meeting and all the others. We had a very poor turnout at our first meeting. All the squadron commanders and Adjutant's will receive a letter stating time and location and a packet. The Western Maryland district will be having a draw down at convention for our fundraiser this year. Each squadron will be responsible for 15 tickets and I will make sure you get them. They will be available at our next meeting. We also have Special Olympic tickets for a raffle to help with the cost of the Special Olympic Bowling tournament. 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 2nd place in Membership last year. That is a lot to be said with over 4,800 members. Also please do all you can to support our Commanders project, the American Legacy Project! Thank you

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

Ta-Ta Tribe

Our 2nd Annual Ta Ta Tribe gathering was held at S.A.L. Fall NEC, where warriors, braves and squaws from around the country came to gather and support our great program to help raise money for Breast Cancer Research. The tribal elders "Chief Mystical One—Bill Matoska (PNC), Chief Womp Um—Cliff Smith (PNC), Chief Lightning Bolt—Don

(JR) Hall, Warrior Stir a Pot—(PDC) Tom Deal and Warrior Jim Jim—Jim Alexander held council and once again members of the tribe and new "braves" donate \$20 to have their pinky painted pink and be sworn in to the Tribe. After the weekends ceremonies were complete, we set new high for donations and raised over \$1400 for this great cause. Thanks to all of the Old and New members of the Tribe for your support and if you would like to join us at the next Fall NEC to be sworn, until then we'll see you in Indianapolis in October 2014!

Tribal Chief

(PDC) Bill Hill

NEC NEWS

I bring you greetings from National Commander **JOE GLADDEN**. National Commander Gladden's theme this year is "**UNITED IN SERVICE**". United in Service to the programs of the American Legion, to our Communities, States and Nation. Commander's project this year is the "**LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP FUND**". Past National Chaplain Larry Ford will be the Chairman for this program.

MEMBERSHIP THEME "Shooting for the **MOON**". Goal for this year is to reach 375,000 members. National Commander Gladden is asking all blue cap members to help "Recruit, Retain and Reinstate" members in the Sons of The American Legion. Our membership chairmen's need our help to reach this goal.

National Vice Commander Bob Turner is asking the Detachments in the East to help facilitate National Commander Gladden' goals? Membership in the East is coming in slow which have us well behind the goal of 25% for October 9th which we are at 15.254%. Maryland is doing great with 31.389% of membership turned in. We are second in the East and 9th in the Nation.

On October 11-13 we traveled to Indy to attend the Fall NEC. During this

weekend our members will be attended the various commission and committee meetings as well as the Detachment Commanders and Adjutant classes. Here are a few dates to remember;

Washington Conference March 23-26, 2014

Serving Our Veterans Who Served Us,
Andy Dadds
National Executive Committeemen
BDADDS@baybroadband.net
(410) 708-4144

National Commander's Homecoming

The Detachment of Maryland is hosting the homecoming of our own, Joseph Gladden, on March 21-22, 2014 at the Hunt Valley Inn-Wyndham Hotel in Hunt Valley, Maryland. The celebration begins Friday with a dinner and music at Parkton Post No. 256 for a meager cost of \$20 per person and then after returning to the Hunt Valley Inn there will be karaoke in the Maryland Hospitality Room until midnight. Then on Saturday a tour of the Naval Academy is scheduled to leave the hotel at 9:30 AM with lunch on your own in downtown Annapolis. Then on Saturday evening the climax of our celebration will take place with a reception dinner at the Hunt Valley Inn honoring Joe's service to the organization beginning 5:30 PM. After the reception, the Maryland Hospitality Room will again feature a karaoke session from 9:00 PM until midnight. A complete homecoming information and pricing package can be found on the detachment web page under the National Homecoming tab. Don't delay making your arrangements for this event as rooms at the Hunt Valley Inn and dinner tickets are limited. **We need everyone's help.** The Detachment of Maryland is subsidizing many of the cost associated with the homecoming to keep cost at a minimum for this event. In an effort to offset these cost the Detachment of Maryland is selling ads which will be published in the Homecoming Program and will be distributed during the Reception Dinner. Maryland is known nationally for their pride in always conducting a

(Continued on page 8)



“Our Veterans’ Children are our Legacy ”

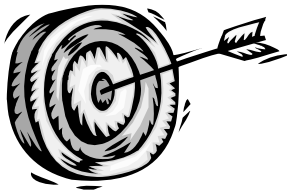
3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

We’re On The Web Visit Us At www.mdsal.org

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First-class operation. Your support by purchasing a homecoming ad will help ensure this tradition continues. Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours In Service,
The Homecoming Committee



2014 Membership Target Date:

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

Fall D.E.C. Meeting

November 10th, 2013

Benedict A. Andrew Post 296 @ 1pm

Winter D.E.C. Meeting & Training Session

January 25th—26th, 2014 @ 1pm

Synepuxent Post 166 @ 1pm

National S.A.L. Commander Homecoming

Joseph Gladden

March 21st—22nd, 2014

Hunt Valley Wyndam

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 13th, 2014

Hampstead Post 200 @ 1pm

41st Annual Detachment Convention

June 20th to 22nd

Hunt Valley Wyndam