



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



***“The Pride”***

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

Volume 2013-2014 Issue 3  
Winter Issue January 26, 2014

**Commander’s Corner**

A new year and a chance to reaffirm our commitment to the projects and programs of the SAL and Legion.

As I enter the second half of my term, it gives me great pleasure to see how the Legion Family has embraced my Project, the Legacy Scholarship Fund. With fund-raisers and raffles planned, and the continuing sales of t-shirts, we are well on our way to reach our goal of \$50,000.

Helping to reach that end, I would like to congratulate Tom Clavell from Hampstead Squadron #200 on receiving the Ravens’ 2013 Community Quarterback Award. Tom received his award before the hometown crowd at the Ravens game in early December. I was honored that Tom called in advance to let me know he was donating the \$3000 award money to the Legacy Scholarship Program. Thanks Tom!

Membership is going strong, First Vice JR Hall has rallied the team and we going for the win. This time of year it starts getting tougher on the membership playing field. It’s time for all “Blue Caps” to become SAL ambassadors and spread the news of the great things that we do. With everyone’s help we can reach the 100% goal by June.

Convention will be here before you know it. I would like to see more of the Legion Family attend this year’s convention. It is a chance to celebrate the

accomplishments of the year and to enjoy the camaraderie of our friends.

Whether it’s monetary donations or time spent helping our veterans and their families, every effort can go a long way making their lives easier. That is what we are here for. We get the job done every year and the best part is that we have fun doing it. Keep up the great work!

For God and Country

Bill Stem  
Commander  
Detachment of Maryland  
Sons of The American Legion

**Adjutant’s Corner**

**Winter D.E.C./Training:** The Winter Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander, Bill Stem, on January 26, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. The meeting is being hosted at Synepuxent Post No. 166, located at 2308 Philadelphia Ave. Ocean City, MD. The post phone number is (410) 289-3166

**National Commander’s Banquet:** We will be celebrating the homecoming for National Commander, Joe Gladden, on March 21-22, 2014 at the Hunt Valley Inn. A flyer has been included in this issue of the Pride for your convenience to share this information with all of the members of your Legion Family. There is a complete Homecoming package available to download and/or print on the Detachment of Maryland web page at [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org). Once on the site go to the National Homecoming tab on the left

and after opening this tab scroll to the bottom of the page and open the complete homecoming package which lists all of the dates, times, costs, and contact information for the entire weekend. You can take part in any and all of the activities scheduled throughout the weekend. At the very least we need the members of the Maryland Legion Family to buy an ad extending congratulatory statements and well wishes to Commander Joe. These ads will be printed in the program distributed at the banquet to all of the attendees.

**Renewal Postcard Mailing:** The 2nd mailing of the SAL renewal postcard will be processed and mailed in January. We expect this mailing to be dropped in the mail on or about January 25th to all SAL members whose record at National Headquarters shows unpaid for 2014. This will be the 2nd notice with a follow up postcard mailing in April 2014 which will be the last one for the 2014 membership year. As a reminder, these mailings are made in conjunction and subsequent to membership target dates. Therefore, please follow these membership target dates closely and transmit as many memberships as you can before these dates. This saves the organization considerable dollars in postage costs.

**SAL “Honorary” Life Code:** Honorary life is something that can be awarded by Squadron/Post to an individual for specific deed or acts. He must be an existing SAL member and eligible for membership in accordance with the established eligibility criteria as outlined in the SAL National Constitution and the awarding Squadron/Post By-Laws. To report this

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information, you can submit a member data form and mark the appropriate block "Honorary Life". The record will be coded at National Headquarters. When the annual membership cards and registers are printed, a code "H" will appear on the membership register that denotes "Honorary Life". Be advised that older versions of the member data form do not contain this block. In that case, just write on the form wherever space is permitting. Squadron/Post Adjutants should sign this form to confirm this status.

### **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. time in Ocean City.

This training is geared toward an introductory level of leadership, such as public speaking, understanding the protocols of a meeting and leading/organizing a squadron/committee/commission. Last years training was completed by 30 members of the Detachment and we look forward to exceeding that amount this year. So bring your questions, or just sit and observe. Remember: This training is meant for your benefit, so please take advantage of it and potentially bring something new back to your Squadron, or share something new with the Detachment.

**Date of Birth Information:** The capturing and collecting date of birth information for the National records of our members has been a slow process. This information is contained on the membership register for every member of the SAL. Many squadrons throughout the state have not submitted this information accordingly. The information is needed for demographic needs as well as future actuarial studies used for insurance plans, etc. The information can be submitted accordingly by postcards, date of birth form, member data forms, date of birth forms, or online at [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)

(when available) in the change of address area in the section marked on the web page. Detachment Executive Committeemen are encouraged to pass this information along to all squadrons and members during their visitations.

### **The American Legion Magazine:**

All members of the SAL can subscribe to The American Legion Magazine for 12 issues for only \$6.00 per year. Readers can enjoy articles about foreign affairs, ordinary citizens accomplishing extraordinary things, military valor, veteran's health care. history, etc. Keep up to date with programs with programs of The American Legion and items of general interest. Send a check or money order for \$6.00 along with your complete name, address, date of birth, phone, e-mail, and SAL ID number to: The American Legion, Data Services—N0808, Magazine Non-Member Subscriptions, PO Box 1954, Indianapolis, In. 46206.

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

### **Get your Game on for MEMBERSHIP!**

Let me start off by saying

"Great job on membership in 2013!!!!"

As I write this article our Detachment is at 63% and it is still December.

With 6 out of 7 districts already above the 60% National goal for January 14th. I know that all of our districts will make the National goal on time and I applaud the work we have done so far to get membership where it is. Now here is the big question.....

What are we going to do NOW to keep this up?



We took the opening kickoff and drove down the field to score, then we have played great defense and tried not to let too many get away to this point. We just went into halftime with everything looking great. As a team we are doing better than the Nationals Game plan that was laid out for us and

we look pretty good. The start of the second half is one of the most important parts of the game. Will we stop playing as hard? Will we drop our guard and let up on scores? Will we win this or not?

We now have to get into our huddle and plan for everything that may come at us. Dig into those rosters and see who has not been put in the game yet and get them in. We need everyone that we have on our team and we need to add more players. Let's continue to score for membership and make our goal that we have set for being at 100% by our Detachment convention. Did you know that we as a Detachment have not missed a single National goal? Will you help us keep up that trend? Are you willing to do your part? If we all do that would mean we would beat our own goal too. The National goal for May 14th is 100%!!!! I believe if we keep working and doing all we can that it is possible. How great would that be for our own National Commander Joe Gladden to be at the NEC meeting in May and talk about his home Detachment getting 100% already! Let's do it!!!!

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

JR Hall  
Membership Chairmen  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

### **Americanism Report**

As of now we are doing pretty good with donations for all our projects under Americanism but we can always use more. Don't ever think we can't, so please continue to donate.

Fisher House in Bethesda will be coming before you know it and we will continue to announce when we will be going there. We can always use donations monetary and of course items such as Toilet paper, paper towels, soap detergent, dish liquid, snacks and fruit juices for the kids among others. So please bring some at the next DEC meeting in January.

Please continue to donate your flags and support out flag replacement programs and make sure you keep records of all you do. Boys and Girls State are also one of our programs that can use our support along with the NEF which has

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been used a lot lately with all the natural disasters that have hit us.

Don't forget the Adopt a Highway and 10 Ideal programs.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next DEC meeting and thank you all for your support for our programs.

Americanism Chairman  
Dave Hullihen

### **National Emergency Fund (NEF)**

The American Legion National Commander has raised \$90,390.00 which puts them at 9.04% of Commander Dellinger's Goal of \$1,000,000.00.

Maryland has contributed \$7,060.00 which puts us at 25.02% of our goal of \$28,222.50.

The SAL's support helped in raising the donations collected. No one knows what the year of 2014 will bring us but just knowing we have a program like NEF takes a lot of worries off our families.

With the support from every squadron within the state we can watch NEF grow and be there for The American Legion Family in the time of any natural disaster.

We will be accepting donations at the DEC Meeting at Post 166 in Ocean City, MD on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

NEF Chairman  
Jerry Saunders

### **Children & Youth Corner**

With the New Year under way, we need to be thinking about the activities of our children.

By now, each District Commander should be distributing raffle tickets for the Special Olympics Bowling program. Tickets are \$1.00 each. Please send all ticket stubs and money to Ray Edwards. The drawing will be Saturday night June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 at our yearly convention.

The Special Olympics Polar Plunge will be here before you know it. Please continue to work to get your sponsors and donations.

The Special Olympics Winter Games are just around the corner. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Jimmy Alexander to fill out your volunteer forms.

PJ's are still needed for Casey's care.

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.

Our Children are our future!

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

### **Casey Cares Newsletter**

The Kami's Jammie's program is still going strong, with having donated over 18,000 pairs since its start, and we can't wait to start sending donations for Net Flix 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](mailto:edwardsteininger@Yahoo.com)  
443-807-1495

### **Children's Miracle Network**

Happy New Year to all we hope you had a safe holiday.

We would like to THANK YOU if you have made a donation to the CMN project, if not there is still time to do so. Children Miracle Network Hospitals are celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Since 1983, the organization has raised more than \$4.7 billion -- most of it a \$1 at a time -- for a 170 Children's Hospitals across the United States and Canada, which, in turn, use the money where it's needed the most.

Right now there's a Children's Miracle Network Hospital working to save the lives of kids in your community. In fact, 62 children enter a Children's Miracle Network Hospital for treatment every minute -- that's one child every second.

Some are battling cancer. Some are suffering from traumatic injury. Others require constant care because they were born too early, or a genetic disease. Regardless of why they are there, 170 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals always have their doors open. So please help keep things going to help our Children.

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**

Thank you to the Marine Corps League and their great support of this worth while program. We had a great showing of support at our Detachment meeting in Queenstown.

We want to extend a special Thank you to everyone who was able to provide an item or monetary contributions, which made this years program such a success.

It was an honor to be the chairman this year and proud of all the officers and blue caps in this great organization.

Again, Thank You for a successful year!

For God and Country,

Gregory Taylor  
(301) -233-0663  
[Gregohl1@verizon.net](mailto:Gregohl1@verizon.net)

### **Special Olympics—MD**

The Christmas holidays are over so you know what that means were only a couple weeks away from the Polar Bear Plunge which is set for 24 of January at 4 PM at Sandy State Park, we need more plungers we only have a few at the moment. Go on

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line at [plungemd.com](http://plungemd.com) to register or make a donation. Following that event will be the Winter Olympic Games at Whitetail Ski Resort in Pennsylvania. If you would like to volunteer for the Winter Olympic Games you need to go on line at Maryland Special Olympics and fill out a background check form that must be completed. If you have any questions contact Ashley at Maryland Special Olympics.

For information on any volunteering opportunities go to Special Olympics website [www.somd.org](http://www.somd.org)

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

## Boys State

The American Legion Maryland Boys State Program is moving back to McDaniel College in Westminster MD for the 2014 Boys State. The Boys State program will begin on Sunday June 15th 2014 and graduation held on Saturday June 21st 2014. The cost to send a boy to Boys State is still \$300.00 per boy. Do you know how many American Legion Posts in Maryland support this program? Would you believe 56 Posts out of 140 Posts statewide? This does not include any Squadrons. Hopefully I can report back on this later in the year.

If you give your Post a donation to sponsor a Boy to this program, please bring a copy of that check to a Detachment meeting so your squadron can get credit and remember your squadron can report the amount on your squadron consolidated report. The other way is to directly give a donation at a Detachment meeting. Just ensure the check is earmarked Boys State. How can we afford this you ask? Have a fundraiser, a 50/50 raffle, or put a jar on the bar in the social quarters. Don't forget you can go out in your community and solicit funds from businesses or alumni of this program to get sponsorships to Boys State.

Don't forget to 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. The chairperson would be the liaison between their Post, Schools, and the Boys State Committee. Let that chairperson know your squadron is interested in sponsoring a boy to Boys State. The objective for each Post in the state with the help of their squadron should be to send at least one student to this program. Remember this is 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 next Boys State Meeting will be held at Howard L. Turner Post 276 in Severn on January 11, 2014 starting at 10 am.

Remember Boys State attendees are tomorrow leaders.

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

For God and Country

Dennis Renehan

Committee Chairman

Boys State Staff member

Fort City Counselor in Charge

410-330-3003

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

## Legislative Alert!

The Here is what I am asking everyone to do. Go to American Legion website <http://www.legion.org/legislative> scroll down to LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER and click on it, This will take you to a take action page. From here you can see a *Featured Alert* in a blue box and it will tell you to contact Congress now.

There is a Dark Blue button. If you click on that it will open an action alert window and give you more information about the bill and an editable text window to personalize a message.

You do have to enter your name and address but what that does is select the correct representative from your area to send the e-mail to as well as both Senators Mikulski and Cardin.

You will get a copy of the e-mail in your inbox as well. Very simple, try it please, we need to Congress we are here and intend on being heard.

There is still a lot of work to do on the budget. The weekly alerts have not been up to date, however I try to send any information out as I get it.

If I can be of any assistance feel free to contact me. 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.

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

Wow what an exciting Christmas for the Veteran's homes; Charlotte Hall had a great Ice Cream social where all the veterans received strawberry, chocolate and vanilla Ice cream with a Christmas card that contained a \$5.00 bill inside for their own personal use. Santa even made a visit with Mrs. Clause. Some of the Veterans even had 3rds in the ice cream. Thanks to Dave Tateman and crew for an outstanding job.

Perry Point had a wonderful Christmas Eve party where each and every Veteran received a gift bag with gifts totaling \$56.00 in each bag.

MCVET's was another great party on the 21<sup>st</sup> where the whole Legion Family helped serve a wonderful luncheon. Special thanks to Glen Burnie Post 40 Family for sponsoring and supporting the event and to those special helpers from Gold Star Post 191 Legion Family. Each Veteran received and envelope with a cash amount of no less than \$5. Over 115 Veteran's attended the event.

Now with the Holiday's over please still take the time to go and visit our Veteran's at these wonderful homes for our legacy.

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Here is something new and more information will become available this month.

The 34<sup>th</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games. This is coming to Philadelphia this coming year in August. A multi-event sports and rehabilitation program for military service Veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations or other neurological disorders. Attracting more than 500 athletes each year, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games is the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world. Events will take place in the Downtown Philadelphia area, as well as at additional off-site venue locations. When August 12-17, 2014.

The presenters of this event are committed to improving the quality of life for Veterans with disabilities and fostering better health through sports competition. While past Games have produced a number of national and world-class champions, the Games also provide opportunities for newly disabled Veterans to gain sports skills and to be exposed to peer wheelchair athletes. Typically, one quarter of the competitors have never before participated in any type of organized wheelchair sports competition.

Presenters The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America, with sponsorships from corporate, civic, and Veterans service organizations Hosts Philadelphia VA Medical Center and Paralyzed Veterans of America Events Competitive events at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games include swimming, table tennis, weightlifting, archery, air guns, basketball, bocce, nine ball, softball, quad rugby, bowling, hand cycling, trapshooting, wheelchair slalom, power soccer, a motorized wheelchair rally, track and field. Exhibition events are also being planned. Athletes compete in all events against others with similar athletic ability, competitive experience or age.

Also some interesting news, Missing in America Project.

The Missing in America Project (MIAP) with assistance from Legionnaires from American Legion Post 186, Little River, SC, Post 71 North Augusta, SC and Post

193 of Chapin, SC conducted a full military honors funeral service for ten unclaimed Veterans on December 13, 2013 at the Beaufort National Cemetery in Beaufort, South Carolina.

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

### Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

On December 14, the CHVH Service Organization Liaison Committee (SOLC) hosted the annual Christmas Ice Cream Social from 2-4 PM. In addition to ice cream and entertainment, about 90 residents each received a Christmas card with \$5 inside. Jeff Seiler, VAVR Commission Chairman, Gary Shupe, Squadron 82 Commander, and I were among the volunteers who helped to serve the residents. Jeff also brought two boxes of items from the CHVH Wish List. Everyone, residents and volunteers, had a great time.

If you are interested in donating to the Southern Maryland District Bingos held at the CHVH on the third Monday of each month, 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.

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

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—  
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 contact

Michelle Hill—Department Presidents Program Chair @ [mrs\\_hill@msn.com](mailto:mrs_hill@msn.com).

As noted in the VAVS section, it was another great Christmas event sponsored by Glen Burnie Legion Family along with assistance from the extended Legion Family within Maryland.

We even had the honor of the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion in attendance to continue his support of this great show of appreciation to our Veterans.

Humbled as always by this time, he was right there with us serving Ice Cream (donated by the Department of Maryland—Auxiliary). The Nat'l Commander and his mother in years past would play songs on the piano, which was in the facility and the group would sing Christmas Carols. Hopefully, we can bring this back in the upcoming years.

This humbling experience of having an opportunity to help our Veterans' is 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](mailto:hill1062@msn.com)

### Chaplin's Corner

Sick Call and Relief:

No article submitted at this time. Please continue to pray for our Legion Family members and if there are any updates on SAL members from across the Detachment, please pass the information along to our Chaplain.

Thank you and God Bless.  
Ed Steininger. Sr.  
Detachment Chaplain

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## **Commander's Project**

*'OUR VETERANS' CHILDREN ARE OUR LEGACY.'*

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund provides higher education for children whose parent(s) has been killed while serving our country since September 11, 2001. On average the government allocates \$37,000 in college education for these children toward college education. Taking into account living expenses, textbooks and rising tuitions, this benefit covers only a little more than half of college costs in the most affordable situation. And the price tag of higher learning will only continue to rise. The most conservative estimates predict a 5-percent annual increase, meaning that in 16 years the most affordable college education will be \$132,800 (data taken from American Legion website).

The Legacy Scholarship Fund helps subsidize some of the cost that is not covered by the government. The scholarships are only funded by the interest in the trust fund, meaning the higher the principal in the fund, the more scholarships that can be awarded.

Commander Stem's goal this year is to raise \$50,000 for the Scholarship Fund. So far this year we have had several fundraisers, numerous donations and sold over 300 T-shirts for the project. We still have a ways to go to meet our goal so your continued support will be greatly appreciated. It's the least we can do to support the children of our fallen heroes.

We have several fundraisers coming up soon.

January 26<sup>th</sup>, South Eastern Shore District will hold a Drawdown at Post 166 in Ocean City. Cost is \$40 (admits 2 for dinner), (410) 202-6820

February 15<sup>th</sup>, Squadron 116 will hold a Comedy Show/Dinner in Reisterstown. Cost is \$35 (per person) and doors open

at 6:30pm (443-912-7147)

March 1st, Squadron 135 will hold it's 8th annual Detachment Drawdown at Post 135 in Perryville. Tickets are \$40 (admits two) and doors open at 6 pm (443-206-0402)

You can check the Detachment website ([www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org)) under 'Upcoming Events' for additional information. I can be reached at [squadron60@verizon.net](mailto:squadron60@verizon.net) for any questions regarding upcoming events, donations or t-shirt sales. 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**

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](mailto: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 2014, 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  
[hill1062@msn.com](mailto:hill1062@msn.com)

## **North Eastern Shore Times**

As of 12-20-2013, our District is 30 memberships paid ahead of last year and at 64.37% of our goal. Squadrons 21, 36, 70, and 296 are single digits from 3 Star

status. Every Squadron needs to make a big January push to get to at least 3 Star.

The annual Ice plash, sponsored by Cecil Squadron 15, will be held on February 22 at the Wellwood Yacht Club in Charlestown, Maryland starting at 1:00 P.M. This is a wonderful fundraiser for Maryland Special Olympics. Please show your support!!!

Our next District meeting will be held on March 9 starting at 10:30 A.M. at Post 18 in Centreville. EVERY squadron should have a representative in attendance.

The N.E.S.D. Reception will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Post 77 in Easton starting at 2:00 P.M. For tickets at \$25.00 per person contact Joan Sorflaten 410-490-3850.

Supporting the Legacy Scholarship Fund,

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

## **South Eastern Shore Gazette**

Congratulation As we began the second half of our fiscal year, now is the time to make our move on membership. We are ahead of last year's numbers. But, we must dig deep and work with each member and convince them to renew their membership, work to reconnect with our members who we'd lost communication with and recruit new members.

Our District Commander is still undergoing treatments and needs your support. Cards of support can be sent to his home.

Our District is sponsoring the Detachment Commander's project to be held on January 25, 2014 at American Legion Post 166, located in Ocean City, Maryland. For tickets, please contact Ray Edwards (410) 215-9354. Tickets are \$40.00 per couple. We are asking all squadrons to donate an item for the silent auction.

For God and Country,  
Ray Edwards, Jr.—Past District Cmdr  
(on behalf of Terry Alberts)  
Commander S.E.S.D  
(443) 783-2701

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## Southern Pride

Gentlemen of the Great Southern Maryland District, I hope everyone and had a happy and safe Christmas holiday and spent it with their family and loved ones. We've had a great 2013 years so far we had three very successful of events: the Summer Bash Beach Party, Fundraiser for Legacy Scholarship Fund and the Southern Maryland District Drawdown.

Let's make 2014 even better a year as we work on the upcoming fundraisers: March is the Bull and Shrimp Feast. We need to get the 50-50 tickets out for the Maryland Special Olympics bowling tournament; we're trying to raise \$2500 for the District. DECmen make sure to contact your Squadrons and let them know about the tickets.

We are coming on strong in membership so far, great job! The numbers show all the hard work that is being done, it is paying off – keep up the good work!

Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at Post 66 in Disney Bell, Bowie MD.

Again thank you for all you do.

Yours in Service,  
Jim Alexander  
SMD Commander

## Western Maryland Tribune

Our third meeting is February 23, 2014, at 12:00 PM at Gold Star 191 Mount Airy MD 801 Prospect Road Mt. Airy MD 21771. Please plan on attending this third meeting and our last meeting in May. All the Squadron Commanders and Adjutant's will receive a letter stating time and location.

The Western Maryland District will be having a draw down for our fundraiser this year, which will be drawn during the weekend of our Annual Convention. 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 our 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. Right now we are in 6<sup>th</sup> place at just about 61% but we are ahead of last year by almost 500 members and we are about 2,400 members away from making goal. Keep up the good work. 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

## Ta-Ta Tribe

The Ta Ta Tribe hopes that everyone had a joyful Christmas & New Years and looks forward to seeing everyone at our Spring NEC. Thank you for your support and if you would like to join us at the next Fall NEC to be sworn, in 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**. COMMANDER GLADDENS THEME THIS YEAR IS **"UNITED IN SERVICE"**. UNITED IN SERVICE TO THE PROGRAMS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, TO OUR COMMUNITIES, STATES AND NATION.

COMMANDERS PROJECT THIS YEAR

## IS THE "LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP FUND".

MEMBERSHIP THEME **"SHOOTING FOR THE MOON"**. GOAL FOR THIS YEAR IS TO REACH 375,000 members.

Membership in the Eastern Region stands in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Nation, remember we are the largest region with a membership of 139,956. We are only 4% behind the 4<sup>th</sup> place region and well behind the National goal. We have a lot of ground to make up to reach the January 15, 2014 goal of 60%. Maryland we are doing great by passing all goals set by National. By our DEC we will pass the 60% which we are at 59.729% which has us 10<sup>th</sup> in the Nation and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the East. Great job to all membership chairman and all members for helping with membership, this is a team effort and it shows in our numbers.

Here are some frequently asked questions;

### **What is the administrative structure of the Sons?**

Every member of the Sons belongs to a Squadron somewhere. The Squadron is the basic level of membership in our organization. Different states (Detachments) use different ways of grouping numbers of Squadrons together. In most states, Squadrons are grouped geographically and report to their own Districts (also called Areas or Divisions). All Districts (or Areas or Divisions) report to the state headquarters, referred to as a Detachment. All state Detachments report to the National Headquarters. In addition to the 50 state Detachments in the U.S., there are also some foreign countries which are Detachments; Mexico, Puerto Rico, Philippines and France.

### **Who runs the Sons?**

The governing legislative body of the Sons is its National Convention. Detachments (states) send representatives to the National Convention each year to elect national

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### Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2013—2014

#### 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

#### 2014 Membership Target Date:

<b>January 15, 2014</b>	<b>60%</b>
February 12, 2014	75%
March 12, 2014	80%
April 19, 2014	90%
May 14, 2014	100%
July 23, 2014	105%

officers and conduct the business of the organization. Between conventions, authority is vested in the National Executive Committee, also made up of elected representatives from each Detachment. The N.E.C. meets twice annually. Nationally elected officers include the National Commander, five National Vice Commanders (responsible for Detachments in their own regions). The National Chaplain and the National Sergeant at-Arms, National

Commander’s Aide, five National Assistant Adjutants and five National Assistant Sgt-At-Arms are all appointed positions.

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