



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



***“The Pride”***

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

Volume 2013-2014 Issue 4  
Winter Issue April 13, 2014

**Commander’s Corner**

We are entering the “Home Stretch”.

This time, every year, we assess our accomplishments and determine where our contributions should be distributed. At the upcoming Detachment meeting we will be accepting donations for all the great programs that we support. This is not the last time donations can be made but it is the last time you can personally present checks in a public setting. Hope to see long lines of contributors.

Membership is on fire! Congratulations to all the Districts for doing an outstanding job. Vice Commander Hall’s goal of reaching 100% by Convention is well within sight.

Recently we had the annual Drawdown for the Commander’s Project at Susquehanna Squadron #135. The response was amazing. The legion family and all the volunteers from #135 raised in the neighborhood of \$23,000 (final numbers pending) for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. A heartfelt thank you to all. Also I would like to thank my Project Chairman, Joe Lohman, for doing a great job. Joe, with the help of his wife Josie has moved over \$6000 in t-shirts plus attending events supporting the project.

Convention is coming up and I hope we can get a record number of attendees. This is our time to celebrate the past year and reward those that made it great. Please promote this as a Legion Family

event. Bring the wife the kids, not the dog. The Convention Packets should be out soon, so sign-up and help us celebrate the SAL.

Finally, I want to emphasize the importance of the Consolidated Reporting Forms. This is how the squadrons get recognized for all they do. Please take the time to fill them out and get them in by the due date. Let’s strive to get 100% participation.

For God and Country

Bill Stem  
Commander

Detachment of Maryland  
Sons of The American Legion

**Adjutant’s Corner**

**Spring D.E.C.:** The Spring Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander, Bill Stem, on April 13, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. The meeting is being hosted at Hampstead Post No. 200, located at 4600 Legion Lane · Hampstead, MD The post phone number is (410) 239-8082.

**Directions:** From the Baltimore Beltway, I-695, take I-83 North. From I-83 take the Shawan Road W exit, Exit 20B. After 2.3 miles turn right onto MD-25/Falls Road. After 4.1 miles turn slight left onto MD-88/Blackrock Road. After 7.1 miles turn right onto Cedarbrook Rd. and proceed .6 mile and turn right onto Legion Lane. This will be the first right after turning onto Cedarbrook Road.

**National Visitation:** All members be advised that National Vice-Commander East, Bob Turner, will be making an official visit to the Detachment of Maryland on April 11-13, 2014. On Friday, April 11th, Commander Bob will have dinner and refreshments at Overlea Post No. 130 before retiring for the evening. This is an open invitation for all that wish to participate in welcoming the National Vice Commander to Maryland. Dinner is served from 5:30 to 7:30 PM which is a buffet for \$11.00 per person. Social time from 7:30 PM until ? in the post lounge following dinner. On Saturday, April 12th, VC Bob will be attending the Western Maryland District Reception at Post 96 in Brunswick, Maryland and afterwards visit a couple of post homes before retiring for the evening. On Sunday, April 13th, the National Vice Commander will attend our Detachment Executive Committee Meeting where he will address the membership in attendance. If the opportunity presents itself, do not hesitate to introduce yourself to VC Bob. The purpose for his visit is to meet the grassroots members that are the foundation of making Maryland the number one detachment in the nation.

**Consolidated Report Form:** The Consolidated Report Forms have finally arrived from national and are in this mailing. This mailing package contains the Detachment Convention Information & Registration Package, the Ad Sales Package, miscellaneous report forms that include the Squadron Certification Form along with the Consolidated Report Forms. This complete package has been sent to all Squadron Commanders only. All of these forms except for the

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Consolidated Report Form are also located on the Detachment of Maryland web site.

### **National Commander Joe Gladden's Homecoming Banquet:**

The Detachment of Maryland hosted the official homecoming for one our own on March 21-23, 2014 at the Hunt Valley Inn with 248 guest in attendance to welcome National Commander Joe back to his home state of Maryland. The weekend was a huge success and everyone in attendance was very complimentary of how the Detachment of Maryland once again exemplified why they are considered the leader among detachments nationally. An event of this magnitude can not be realized without a tremendous amount of hard work and due diligence by many of our volunteers stepping up when called upon. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to my staff and recognize these individuals that made this event a memorable milestone in Commander Joe's year as he returned to Maryland. Bill & Michelle Hill, JR and Margie Hall, Jim & Donna Alexander, Ray & Teri Edwards, Dan & Carol Robinson, Larry Ford, Ken Jenkins, PNC Chuck Gannon, Ron Knapp, and Shelly Matoska. It took many meetings and volunteer hours these past months and once again I say Thank You All.

**Detachment Convention:** The 41st Annual Convention of the Detachment of Maryland will take place on June 20-22, 2014, and is once again being facilitated at the Hunt Valley Inn & Conference Center in Hunt Valley, Maryland. This is a great weekend where the detachment recognizes all of the hard work and volunteer hours by each squadron with much deserved awards and certificates of appreciation that will be presented with the assistance this year by National Commander Joe. In conjunction with the business sessions on Saturday and Sunday, there are many extra curricular activities for all ages of members of the Legion Family. Remember, all members of the Legion Family are welcome to participate in the convention weekend events which include; bowling, golf, horse shoes, corn hole, youth games, and the S.A.L. 5-star training program. For those less energetic there is always the many hospitality rooms featuring karaoke, hot & cold food, and a variety

of libations in a great social atmosphere. You don't want miss the Detachment of Maryland Convention experience.

If you have any questions or concerns about any detachment sponsored events or programs my contact information is listed below.

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!**

Hello Again to Everyone,

Have you been checking our weekly membership reports? If not go on the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland website, click on membership then, click on link to membership report. You too can get excited with me every week when I get it and see what a fantastic job everyone is doing. They say numbers don't lie, well how about this number Baltimore City is leading our detachment in membership at 98.96%!! Mountain is 2nd with 93.77%, 3rd is NESD 89.68, 4th NCD 89.18, 5th WMD 88.86, 6th SMD 86.51, and 7th SESD 85.19. This is with a couple days left as I write this before our March National goal date of March 12th for us to be at 80%. Our detachment currently is sitting at 87.33 % and that is out of this world as Commander Gladden would say. Our next national goal will be April 9th and that is 90%, I know we can do it.

It is time to really dig in and get to work in the membership game and start working toward finishing out the 4th quarter of the game. It does no good to start strong and lose in the end. We are too strong for that. The district commanders I know have been putting forth a great effort to prepare their teams for the victory and it is in sight. Remember at the beginning of the year we set the goal to be at 100% going into our convention, well the National goal is 100% by May 14th and I believe we can do it. If you have not sent out letters to your unpaid members now is the time to do so, do not just rely on National to send out reminders. If you have and did not get a response, how about building a membership team to sit down and make calls one night to reach out to any

unpaid member??? A little work could go a long way in bringing home the victory. I am looking to get another all-time high this year for our detachment so strap up your helmet, buckle down your pads and dig in at the line and push forward to meeting every goal and showing our Maryland pride.

Here is some food for thought,

On the weekend of May 2-4 we will have our NEC meeting in Indianapolis. Commander Joe will lead this meeting. How great would it be for him to claim that early in the month that his home detachment of Maryland has already reached 100%???? Come on so many worked to get Commander Joe in office, now let's support him the best way we can. Let him brag on our detachment.

Keep on Scoring for Membership

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  
1st Vice Commander

### **Americanism Report**

NEF is doing pretty well this year but could always use more money. Chairman Jerry Saunders is asking that every Squadron try and donate \$1.00 per member which is most cases that really is not too much to ask, but as always we will take whatever your squadron wishes to donate. Please donate to NEF as you saw on the video at the last meeting in OC. there are so many disasters happening all the time. Keeping in mind that this is offered to Post. Aux and the SAL.

Dennis talked about Boys State and how it cost as little as \$ 350.00 to send a boy there and what a difference it can make in a person's future. He also talked about how they have moved it back to its original college.

PNC Bill Sparwasser says he is always around if anyone ever wants to take the 10 ideals or the 5 Star test just get in touch with him he is in the blue book.

We are still going to the Fisher House on May 10th Time will be announced at the next DEC meeting. We are also still asking for donation of money and articles needed at the Fisher House. Things such as soap, dish liquid, toilet

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paper, snacks for kids, juice bottles, canned goods paper towels, trash bags etc. Please bring them to the meeting in April.

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)**

Please continue to support The American Legion National Commander Dellinger's Goal of \$1,000,000.00.

No report submitted at this time.

NEF Chairman  
Jerry Saunders

### **Children & Youth Corner**

Comrades,

To start, "Thank You" to all the volunteers who work the winter games at whitetail ski resort. Stay tuned for the summer games. They will be here before we know it. The Detachment Raffle tickets are slow coming in.

Remember, the funds that are turned in benefit the Special Olympics of Maryland Bowling Program. Tickets are \$1.00 each and we are asking for a one dollar (one Ticket) per member, per squadron. Need not be present to win. First Prize \$500.00 and a Second Prize \$250.00.

With one DEC meeting remaining, we are asking for your support with this raffle. Need Tickets, please contact me. Thank you.

Our third annual Laps of Love is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2014 at Archbishop Spaulding High School.

The registration website is up and running: [www.lapsoflove14.kintera.org](http://www.lapsoflove14.kintera.org).

Be a part of the **First Ever Post Team Challenge**. The Post Family that raises the most money will take home the challenge Trophy for 2014. Any questions, please contact JR hall (410) 365-7758

Please remember, the money raised for Laps of Love, will be split three ways with Casey Cares, Special Olympics of Maryland and Child Welfare Foundation.

Congratulations to Cecil Squadron 15 on a very successful Ice Splash. This year, the squadron raised more than \$48k for Special Olympics of Cecil County. Outstanding job Comrades!

Our Children are our future!

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

### **Casey Cares Newsletter**

We have one more event coming up which helps out 3 of our major C&Y projects. Casey Cares, MD Special Olympics, and Child Welfare Fund.

I am talking about our 3rd Annual Laps of Love. As in the past, we will gather at Arch Bishop Spaulding High School on May 17th, at 10 am. After a short opening ceremony, the walk/run will begin with the first lap being led by MD Special Olympians, and several Casey Cares participants.

Convenience Catering will also be on site providing food and refreshments. You may sponsor a participant online by going to [mdsallapsoflove](http://mdsallapsoflove), or show up the day of the event and make a donation. This event gets larger each year.

Also remember that we are still collecting pajamas for Kami's Jammie's And at Casey's request, help with Netflix, for her families.

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

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

Gentlemen first I want to Thank everyone that made a donation to Children's Miracle Network so far this year. But there are other way a person can donate to this program just a few are Delta Sky miles, Marriot Rewards Points which they could use in send a family on a vacation or maybe to use to go somewhere for treatment. Maybe a donation "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" or could donate a car or truck that you no longer use.

Here are some of the amazing stats about the CMN organization:

Treat 95% of all children needing Lung and heart transplants. Treat 88% of all children with cancer. Treat 76% of all children with cystic fibrosis. Treat 90% of all children with sickle cell anemia. Treat 72% of all U.S. children with pediatric Aids. Devote 60% of their services to children under the age 6 and 25% newborns. Train 60% of the pediatricians and 80% of all pediatric specialists. Educate families about issues like children safety seats, helmet safety and bike safety.

One thing to remember

"We make a living by what we get . . . we make a life by what we give."

Yours in Service

Larry Griffin

### **Child Welfare Foundation**

In its 59th year, The American Legion **Child Welfare Foundation** (CWF) has awarded \$644,005 in grants to 21 nonprofit organizations. The grant recipients were selected by CWF's Board of Directors on Oct. 2013, during their annual fall meeting at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis. The recipients have been awarded the grants to support youth-serving projects and to assist in the dissemination of information to the general public and to specific target groups.

Regional Grant Winners for 2014 are listed below:

**Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation** of Baltimore, was awarded \$25,000 for their project, "Healthy Choices, Healthy Children Booklets." The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this grant.

**Organization for Autism Research** of Arlington, Va., was awarded \$67,400 for their project, "Autism Tuned In." The Sons of The American Legion sponsors this grant.

**Partnership for Food Safety Education** of Arlington, Va., was awarded \$20,600 for their project, "Phase II of the BAC! Fighter National Youth Campaign." The Sons of The

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American Legion sponsors this grant.

### **Tragedy Assistance Program for**

**Survivors** of Arlington, Va., was awarded \$26,500 for their project, "Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors Children's Bereavement Guide." The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this grant.

**Young Marines** of Washington, D.C., was awarded \$90,000 for their project, "Young Marines Drug Demand Reduction." The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this grant.

Yours In Service,  
Chris Dadds  
CWF Chairman

### **Special Olympics—MD**

I would like to thank everyone who braved the cold weather by joining me in the Polar Bear Plunge this year. I also want to thank those that generously donated money, volunteered their time and worked this year's winter games. Our great organization joined forces and had another successful year but we are not done yet. We have an upcoming event that needs volunteers, the Summer Olympic Games. This event is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> at Towson University.

If you're looking for volunteering opportunities for Maryland Special Olympics in your area go to their website [www.SOMD.org](http://www.SOMD.org) and it would give you a listing of all volunteer opportunities.

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

### **Boys State**

Well Squadrons this is crunch time. Has your Post been to see the high schools counselors? Have they gotten names from the counselors? If not, do they know the names of some of the teachers in the schools? Ask them to submit names for this program. For now is when the posts should be contacting the boys to interview them. After that a meet

and greet with the parents and the boys.

The cost to send a boy to Boys State is still \$300.00 per boy. Don't forget you can go out in your community and solicit funds from businesses to get sponsorships to Boys State.

Have you talked to the Post's Chairperson for the Boys State program? Let that chairperson know your squadron is interested in sponsoring a boy to 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.

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)

### **VAVS Variety**

Here we are in the spring of a new year. I am always a happy person and when I see a veteran in a store or out and about I love being able to go up to that person and saying thank you for your service and have a small but worthwhile conversation with that veteran. The joy that brings to that individual is priceless. And that is our heritage. Please take the time and thank a veteran and remember that each of us can make a difference if we choose to do so.

World War II Veterans Can Sign Up for Honor Flight Trips. Honor Flight Capital Region, the newest chapter of the Honor Flight Network, will recruit World War II veterans who live in and around Washington, D.C., to participate in one of two Honor Flight trips scheduled in April. WWII veterans living in Southern Maryland can join the April 26 trip.

Veterans can apply to participate in the trip at [www.honorflightCR.org/veterans](http://www.honorflightCR.org/veterans). For more information visit Southern

Maryland Newspapers Online.

On Wednesday, March 5, The Maryland House of Delegates and the Maryland Senate recognized our Vietnam Era Veterans with a special recognition ceremony in each chamber.

Approximately 100 Vietnam Era Veterans, spouses and friends attended. Veterans and their loved ones were invited on to the floor of the House and Senate and greeted with standing ovations.

Following the ceremonies, guests were welcomed in the Governor's Reception Room, with greetings from Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown, Vietnam Combat Veteran Senator John Astle, Senator Richard Colburn, and Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Edward Chow.

To paraphrase one of our Veterans who attended, he felt truly overwhelmed by the warm welcome home.

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

### **Charlotte Hall Veterans Home**

John J. McNulty Memorial American Legion Post 298, chartered on June 15, 1988, is the only American Legion Post located within the walls of a State Veterans Home. Most, but not all, of their members are residents of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH). The Post is a tax exempt organization and all donations are fully deductible. The "Adopt a Vet" Program, spearheaded by American Legion PDC Gail Murdock, helps pay the dues for members who are on restricted incomes. The dues are \$25, most of which goes to Department and National. If you or your Squadron wishes to make a donation, use the CHVH Donation Form and specify "Post 298 Membership" in Specifics of Donation section. The Post website is [www.mdlegionpost298.com](http://www.mdlegionpost298.com).

Also on the website, you'll find the current "Wish List." LaDonna Mohler, the Director of Volunteer/Community Outreach, told me there was a particular need for body wash.

If you are interested in donating to the Southern Maryland District Bingos

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held at the CHVH on the third Monday of each month, send your donation to the Detachment earmarked for So. Md. District 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—  
The Department of Maryland—Auxiliary has almost reached their monetary goal to provide Wii systems for each of the group social areas, so if you're able to provide a monetary donation, please contact Michelle Hill—Department Presidents Program Chair @ [mrs\\_hill@msn.com](mailto:mrs_hill@msn.com).

Thank you goes out to the Northern Central District for preparing and serving a fantastic lunch during the St. Patrick's weekend, along with a Thank you to American Legion Auxiliary—Gold Star Unit 191 for the donation of ice cream, which was also served.

As always all donations and support are greatly appreciated and as we come to the end of our administrative year, I would like to extend a "right hand salute" to all of the American Legion Family, who have supported MCVET's over the years!

You are GREATLY APPRECIATED!

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

### Commander's Project

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

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund provides higher education for children whose parent(s) have been killed while serving our country since September 11, 2001.

I want to start off thanking the American Legion Family for their support of Detachment Commander Stem's project. We are at approximately 80% of our overall goal and I am confident we will make the \$50,000 by the Detachment Convention. We still need your support with generous donations and fundraisers. It's the least we can do for supporting the children of our fallen heroes.

Since my last article there has been several fundraisers that I want to recognize for their support and hard work for Commander Stem's project.

Squadron 116 in Reisterstown held a Comedy Show in February,

Squadron 135 in Perryville held a drawn down in March and received several generous donations from the Legion community

Post 60 Family in Laurel held a bartender's challenge in March between the four units of their post.

Thanks again for your support. 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, a Wyndham affiliate.

This year we are expanding on our picnic in the park, and are requesting donations be coordinated through Robert Hill ([bigrob90@msn.com](mailto:bigrob90@msn.com)) — so he may ensure we have a great event.

More details on the type of donations requested, will be provided at the Spring DEC.

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

With Spring upon us, it is time to get our membership squared away. As of 3-7-14, our District is in 3rd place and 70 memberships ahead of last year at this time. Great job by all SO FAR. Every Squadron should make a push right now to reach your goal. Minimum of Three Star for each Squadron please.

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Congratulations to Squadron 296 for being Four Star with 102.68% of goal. Squadrons: Remember to take care of sending in your consolidated report form on time. Make two extra copies. Send one to Larry "Bear" Weinzirl P.O. Box 578 Perryville, Maryland 21903 and give one to your Post Adjutant.

A right hand salute goes out to Squadron 15 for their "Ice Splash" fundraiser for Cecil Co. Special Olympics. Over \$48,000 was raised. Great job by all. Thanks also to Squadron 135 for holding a drawdown for Commander Bill Stem's project Legacy Scholarship Fund. Over \$23,000 was raised for this worthy project.

The N.E.S.D. Reception will be held on April 27, 2014 at Blake-Blackston Post 77 starting at 2:00 P.M. For tickets at \$25.00 per person contact Joan Sorflaten 410-490-3850.

There has been a change in our next District meeting. It will be held on June 8, 2014 at Caroline Post 29 in Denton, Maryland at 10:30 A.M. EVERY Squadron should have someone in attendance.

Supporting the Legacy Scholarship Fund,

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

### South Eastern Shore Gazette

I would like to thank all my district officers for filling in for me during my cancer treatments. The SESD is in 7th place in membership, as I write this letter. The time is now, please dig for all membership and turn them in as soon as possible, our last fundraiser is underway. We have a Cash Raffle that will be given away, Saturday, June 21, 2014. First Prize \$300, second Prize \$200.00 and Third Prize \$100.00. Need not be present to win.

Remember all of our service members around the world who are in harm's way. When you see them, thank them for their service. Our next SESD meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 25th, location at Wicomico Post 64 has

been changed. The new meeting place is Saturday, May 24th 12pm at Hurlock Post 243.

Sincerely

Terry Albert

South Eastern Shore District  
Commander

### Southern Pride

Gentlemen, this is my last pride article for the year. I would like take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support this year as Commander. We had a great year going so let's keep it going; we still have a lot of things to accomplish!

We need to continue sending in memberships, I would like to see 100% by Convention, let's make our First Vice Detachment Cmdr. JR Hall proud of his district. Also, we know that the end of the year brings a lot of reporting.

We have consolidating reports, squadrons certification forms that need to be completed and turned in and District dues need to be paid and turned in. DEC men, we need you to contact your assigned squadrons and see if they need any help with any of these reporting's or on membership.

Don't forget we still have raffle tickets to sell for Maryland Special Olympics bowling tournament; so far we've only have one squadron that I know of that's turned in the money for the raffle tickets. All money must be collected and turned in to myself Jim Alexander or Ray Edwards by Convention.

Don't forget we have our Southern Maryland District Shrimp Feast on March the 29<sup>th</sup> at Post 60 in Laurel. Hope to see you there!

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at Edwin Adams Post 293 in Waldorf Maryland.

Yours in Service,  
Jim Alexander  
SMD Commander

### Western Maryland Tribune

Our fourth and final meeting for this year is May 18, 2014 @ 12:00pm and is being held at Kumps Dam, which is located in Emmitsburg MD. Please plan

on attending this final 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 at convention for our fundraiser this year. Please bring the sold tickets with you to this meeting. We will be having our installation of Officers at this meeting and please bring all completed Squadron Certification forms, and reports to this meeting. If one needs help with the forms or reports please call me or email me and I will be glad to help any squadron on getting these completed properly. We will also be doing a collection of items for the Martinsburg VA Hospital at this meeting so please bring something off the wish list to our meeting. For the squadrons that have not turned in the Special Olympic tickets. Please bring them to this meeting 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. Right now we are in 5<sup>th</sup> place at just about 89% but we are ahead of last year by almost 100 members and we are about 650 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

### NEC NEWS

I BRING YOU GREETINGS FROM  
**NATIONAL COMMANDER JOE  
GLADDEN.** COMMANDER  
GLADDENS THEME THIS YEAR IS

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**"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 is doing great in Maryland, because we have surpassed all goals to date set by National. Currently we stand at 84.528% which has us above the March 12, 2014 of 80%. This puts us 7<sup>th</sup> in the Nation and second in the East. The East is in last place but remember we are the biggest region in the Nation. We are less than 1% behind the 4<sup>th</sup> place region. Our renewal rate for 2014 stands at 75.06% which puts at 6<sup>th</sup> place. National Vice Commander Bob Turner has been having weekly conference calls with the membership chairman in our region.

National Vice Commander Robert Turner from Connecticut will be attending our April DEC meeting. Let's show him what Maryland is all about and how we work the legion programs.

Here are some frequently asked questions;

**When was the Sons founded?**

The American Legion established the Sons of The American Legion in 1932.

**The American Legion offers programs for honorary memberships and "Paid Up For Life" (PUFL). Does the S.A.L. offer these same membership programs?**

Not really. Squadrons that want to honor an individual with an honorary membership must take care of renewing that individual's membership annually. There is no way to pre-pay for future years' memberships. Also, there is no program for an individual to make a

lump-sum payment that will cover his membership for the rest of his life. In these respects, the Sons are quite different from its parent.

Dates to remember;

Veterans Assistance Day May 17, 2014  
 Membership Target Date 105% & Delegate Strength Date July 23, 2014  
 National Junior Sports Shooting Championships – Colorado July 29-August 3, 2014  
 American Legion Baseball World Series – Shelby NC August 15-19, 2014  
 The American Legion Day September 16, 2014  
 National Children & Youth Conference September 19-21, 2014  
 National Americanian Conference September 26-28, 2014

**Fall NEC & Detachment Commanders Conference October 11-12, 2014**

Serving Our Veterans Who Served Us,

Andy Dadds  
 National Executive Committeemen  
[BDADDS@baybroadband.net](mailto:BDADDS@baybroadband.net)  
 (410) 708-4144

**10th Annual Casey Cares Ride**

As noted this is our 10th Annual Ride, and we want to make it one of our best rides ever. Imagine this started with support from our very own Past National Commander of the SAL, Bill Sparwasser and now 10 years later, we are continuing our support of this great program through our annual ride.

**Ride Date: June 14<sup>th</sup> (Flag Day)**

**Price: \$20, Rider & \$20, Passenger**

Open to all vehicles: staging will be two wheels lead, trike then 4-wheel... Heck, 18 wheelers are invited.

Departing from: Bernard L. Tolbin – Post 128 (Aberdeen) – KSU at 10am

Departing from: Laurel Post 60 -- KSU at 10am

Arrive at: Hampstead Post 200 – in time for a Flag Retirement Ceremony @ 12pm

Departing from: Hampstead and Arrive at: FSK Post 11 (Frederick)

There will be a Cookout, with burgers,

dogs, etc. (Price – donations requested)

With Potential Horseshoe tourney, or just pitch for fun. We're open to any help or additional suggestions with regards to this event.

Information and forms are available on the Detachment website, or email me directly and I'll send you the forms and flyers.

Hill1062@msn.com

For the Children,

Bill Hill

Jr. PDC / Casey Cares Ride Chair

**Northern Central District**

The Northern Central District has many events still scheduled before convention.

On April 26th, the NCD is sponsoring an Atlantic City Casino Bus trip with all proceeds dedicated to the Commander's Project-The A.L. Legacy Scholarship Fund. Two buses have been chartered for this trip with each departing at 11:00 AM and will be back here at 11:00 PM. The first bus is departing from August Raveio Post #195 with one stop at Overlea Perry Hall Post #130 before heading to the casino. The second bus is departing from Parkville Post #183 with one stop at the Sleep Inn off Rout 24 in Harford County before proceeding to the casino. The casino destination this year is the Showboat. The cost of this event is \$40.00 per person which includes a box lunch on the way up to Atlantic City, a variety of libations on the trip up and back from the casino with some games of chance on the trip up as a warm up for the days activities. The Showboat is giving everyone a \$20.00 voucher upon our arrival to the casino. A great deal for a great time while supporting a great cause. The contacts for this event is Dave Hullihen for departing from Post #195 or Bill Matoska for departing from Post #183. The NCD is sponsoring a Bike Ride on May 10th beginning at Towson Post No. 22 with all proceeds again dedicated to Legacy Fund. The Chairman for this event is Larry Ford.

The NCD will sponsor a cook-out for the patients at the Loch Raven VA Facility on May 17th at 12:00 PM. All volunteers are welcome. The next meeting for the NCD is on May 18th at 1:00 PM hosted at Parkton Post #256.

JD Saunders,

Northern Central District Commander



"Our Veterans' Children are our Legacy"

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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



**2014 Membership Target Date:**

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

**Dates to Remember 2013—2014**

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

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

Hampstead Post 200 @ 1pm

**Spring NEC & National Management Institute Training**

May 3-4, 2014  
Indianapolis, IN

**41<sup>st</sup> Annual Detachment of Maryland Convention**

June 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Hunt Valley Inn

**Sons of The American Legion National Convention**

August 22-24, 2014  
Charlotte, NC