



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



“The Pride”

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

Volume 2013~2014 Issue 5
Convention Issue June 21—22, 2014

Commander’s Corner

As my year is winds down, the accomplishments of the Detachment of Maryland SAL continue to pile up.

The contributions to the my Commander’s Project, the Legacy Scholarship Fund have well exceeded the \$50,000 mark. Thanks to the entire Legion Family for their support. A special thanks to the Legion Riders for letting me share their passion for this project.

We have plunged and dunked for Special Olympics, run the track for the Child Welfare Foundation, biked the countryside for Casey Cares. We have taken part in bull roasts, crab/shrimp feeds, band concerts, bartender competitions, spaghetti dinners, fish fry's, and pig roasts. We have contributed to raffles, peel-offs, and other games of chance.

We have done all of this to help the children, the veterans, and their families. We have helped individuals and groups. If there was anyway we could help we did!

I have been the spokesman for the Detachment of Maryland but it is the “Blue Caps” that get the job done.

It has been my pleasure to serve with the best bunch of officers a Commander could asked for. JR Hall, Jeff Seiler, and Ray Edwards, went above and beyond the call of duty to make this year a

success. The future of this Detachment is in good hands.

I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge the work of Adjutant Bill Matoska and Sr Asst. Adjutant Bill Hill. They had the daunting job of keeping me straight this past year. Thanks gentlemen, you have my sympathies.

Last but not least, I want to thank my wife, Charlene, for putting up with my strange and erratic work schedule, and trying to fit in all the SAL events. I know the honey-do list has turned into a book.

I will continue to serve In whatever capacity as needed and wish the incoming Detachment Commander JR Hall a fantastic year.

I have never been more proud to be a member of the Sons of The American Legion.

For God and Country

Bill Stem
Commander

Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion

Adjutant’s Corner

Convention Schedule: Welcome everyone to this 41st Annual Detachment Convention. The transition of our host hotel to a new owner has been a challenge for your Convention Team to keep in place all of the amenities we have taken for granted over the years. We need to remember that the new owners

inherited our contract from the previous group and naturally have a different business plan for groups like ourselves. In the end all has worked out to keep everything status quo for this year and we look forward to their proposal for the 2015 convention.

Registration is once again being facilitated by PDC Mitch Gilbert in the Cloakroom area by the Maryland Ballrooms which are east of the main lobby. Registration will begin at 5:30 PM on Friday, June 20, 2014 and will remain open until 8:00 PM.

Registration will then re-open at the same location on Saturday, June 21, 2014 beginning at 7:30 AM. The convention will convene on Saturday, June 21st in the Maryland III & IV Ballrooms which are just down the hall from the registration area. This session is scheduled to recess at approximately 11:30 AM and is scheduled to re-convene on Sunday at 8:30 AM in the same location. The Harmison-Whitney Bowling Tournament is scheduled to begin at 12:15 PM sharp and is again the Timonium Lanes located at 2165 York Road, Timonium, Md. 21093. A special thank you to Jerry Saunders and JD Saunders for stepping up and taking over the Bowling Tournament this year. The Horseshoes, Superstars, and Korn Hole Tournaments will be back at the Westinghouse Pavilion Area at Oregon Ridge Park and are scheduled to commence at 4:30 PM. Thank you to

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

each of our chairpersons for these events as well; JR Hall-Kornhole, Dave Hullihen-Horseshoes, and Rose Matoska-Superstars. There will be a picnic at the Westinghouse Pavilion of hamburgers, hot dogs, and refreshments which is free of charge for all members of the Legion Family and is being facilitated by Robert Hill. Robert secured donations to make this possible for everyone so be sure to give him your thanks. One special note that effective this year there is a **No Smoking** policy at the Oregon Ridge Park. Please abide.

Yours In Service,
Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant
bill.matoska@comcast.net
443-710-9664

Get your Game on for MEMBERSHIP!

Hello Again Comrades,

As I write this article I am very proud of our Detachment membership and I want to Thank every Blue Cap member, every Squadron Commander, Squadron Adjutant, District Commander and membership chairman. We have had a great year and our Detachment Membership team has worked hard. I am hoping that we meet our goal of 100% by the beginning of our convention, but if for some reason we fall short it simply will not be because of a lack of effort by all of the gentlemen that spent time on the phone and in many meetings trying to Score for Membership. We have at the end of May four districts over 100%, Baltimore, Southern Maryland, Mountain, and Western Maryland. Great job!! We also have North Eastern Shore and North Central over 99%, which is working hard.

Our Theme of Scoring for membership had points given each month for attending meetings, participating in conference calls, being the first districts with out o's, and making national goals. This is different than just awarding the district that has the best numbers at each report because the size of districts and the work it takes. Congrats goes out

to Commander Karl Kibler and the North Eastern Shore District for winning the Scoring for Membership title. And Thanks to the entire district Commanders that put forth a great effort. I have to send a special Thanks to SMD Commander Jimmy Alexander; he is the only District Commander that made every conference call. That is doing the little things, and as a friend of mine once told me. Take Care of the Little things and Big Things will happen.

Thanks to Everyone!

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

JR Hall
Membership Chairmen
1st Vice Commander



Americanism Report

This year has gone by very quickly and it's hard to believe it is almost over already. I can only imagine how Commander Bill feels as his year is already up and he is ready to pass on the torch to the up- coming Commander. I know this being my first time as Chairman of any committees it sure has flown by. I have enjoyed being your Americanism Chairman and hope I have done a fairly good job.

All my guys have done a fantastic job as well. Thanks go out to NEF Chairman Jerry Saunders, Boys State Chairman Dennis Renehan Flag Replacement Chairman Jerry Sykes, Youth Contest Chairman Bill Sparwasser and Community Affairs John Egerson. Because of you guys I believe we have had a very successful year. Donations are as always great for this committee and all of the final results will be available at convention. Great job guys and thanks once again. Hope to work with you all in the future.

As of this writing the Fisher House visit will have taken place on May 31st and I would like to take this time to thank those who did show up to help out. If you are reading this you know who you are. If you have donated to any of the Americanism projects be sure to put all your donations and hours on your reports and make sure your squadron gets all the credit they deserve. Don't forget we will still take donations at conventions so please bring them with

you.

Thank you All

God Bless you and God Bless America

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.

NEF Chairman
Jerry Saunders

Children & Youth Corner

Comrades,

Thank you for all your support throughout this year. As chairmen of Children and youth, I'd like to "Thank" one person that really went above and beyond the call of duty. That person is none other than Karl Kibler from NESD.

Our children and youth bowling raffle is still on going and will be given away on Saturday, June 21st at the convention. Please bring all outstanding money and ticket stubs for the drawing.

I'd like to "thank" all who served under my leadership this year. I'm looking forwarded to serving another year as chairmen. My main goal next year is too get more Legion families involved in the Children and youth programs.

Serving Our Future

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

Casey Cares Newsletter

As we finish up a very successful and busy year, I want to thank everyone that has helped to make this program a great one once again. As our year started out our year we were contacted by Casey and asked to support their **Netflix** program, which is the first time that they had made such a request. You responded as anticipated, overwhelmingly, once again. As of this writing we have raised over \$10,410.00

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

towards this. This also went along with the usual donations to Kami's Jammies of almost 100 sets of pajama's to help the needy children of this program.

I call that a good year. And of course this being our 10th year for our annual Bike Ride, a new venue was tried, which sorry to report, has not been held as of this writing, but should prove to be bigger and better. A big THANK YOU to Chairman PDC Bill Hill, and all those involved in setting up this year's ride. A Thank You, also to PDC Bear Wienzirl, for his continued support and relentless donation drudging for all of our Children and Youth Programs.

Just to let you all know, that a resent news letter from Casey Cares, stated that within the past several months, they had donated over 400 pairs of Pajama's to local hospitals, and just this past week held another rolling party with over 200 more pairs ready to go. So I can only say, every dollar counts, and every set of pajama's matters.

Having been the Casey Cares Chairman for several years now, I just could not imagine the pain and suffering that these children go through every day, and the burden that this takes on the families involved. Casey Cares helps relieve a little of this burden, and for at least once a year, sometimes more often, they put smiles on some deserving faces. This can only be done through our continued support.

Once again, THANK YOU ALL, that have made this dream come true.

Serving Maryland's Children

Ed Steininger Sr.
Casey Cares Chairman
edwardsteininger@Yahoo.com
443-807-1495

Child Welfare Foundation

At the Spring NEC meeting in Indianapolis on May 2-4, 2014, it was announced that The American Legion

reached the six million dollar marked for CWF. The Detachment that put us over that mark was the Detachment of Florida. The National Children and Youth commission is searching for a new slogan for seven (7) million.

Thank you continued support of this program.

Yours In Service,
Chris Dadds
CWF Chairman

Special Olympics—MD

Maryland Special Olympics

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 years winter and summer games. Our great organization joined forces and had another successful year. Remember our Special Olympic athletes need our support to complete their dreams.

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

For God and Country,
Jim Alexander
jimalex831@verizon.net
(443) 623-9907

Legislative Alert!

I have been preaching to everyone in the past and trying to keep you informed and up to date on current legislation coming before Congress. This is not always easy as there are so many bills, it very hard to cover them all. I have tried to forward the most pressing issues and forward the upcoming voting dates in hopes of getting the message out for the focus issues. We need to stay vigilant with letting Congress how we stand on Veteran's issues. I have said it before and I am saying it again, it is very important to contact your representatives often to let them know how you feel. Get to know your local officials as this is our first line and you are more likely to be able to talk in person and see what their stand is on the issues.

As always I am listing web sites with contact information for our Senators (<http://www.senate.gov>) and Congressmen (<http://www.house.gov/>), check them out from time to time. 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

How do we Thank A Hero or Veteran?
Easy answer ANYWAY WE CAN !!!

We have a lot going on this month and the next couple of months. Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July. We just had National Veterans Assistance Day. I hope we are all out there making a difference it can be as simple as a 5 minute visit or cards or a smile and a handshake. With all the flags being put on the graves of our veterans I came across this saying I thought I would share.

“That piece of red, white and blue bunting means five thousand years of struggle upwards. It is the full-grown flower of ages of fighting for liberty. It is the century plant of human hope in bloom.”

From Alvin Owsley World War 1 Veteran,
U.S Ambassador and past National Commander of The American Legion

As we enter into the last quarter of our year we need to check our accounts and see if there is any extra left in there to a little more for our veterans. I know we have made a lot of donations and some have more to come, but it is not just about the donations but what we can do to volunteer to help our veterans to wrap up the year. Make sure your squadron is keeping track of the time and monies being donated to all our veteran programs such as Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Fisher House, VA Medical Centers in Perry Point and Baltimore, and MCVETS just to name a few.

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

(Continued on page 4)

*(Continued from page 3)***Charlotte Hall Veterans Home**

On September 20, the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Service Organization Liaison Committee (SOLC) will host the annual Carnival at the CHVH. The SOLC is comprised of representatives from a number of Service Organizations including the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. I am proud to represent the S.A.L. on this committee. This year Squadron 82 will, once again, buy, cook and serve lunch for the many volunteers.

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 Past Detachment Commander Buddy Mastin or myself. Additional help is always welcome.

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

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

The Department of Maryland—Auxiliary met their project goal and has purchased complete Wii systems (t.v., gaming unit, controllers, stands, etc). The systems will be installed this summer. Thank you to Department Presidents Program Chair, Michelle Hill and to all of the Auxiliary Units across the state who supported this project.

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:

Please pass information along to our Chaplain for any Legion Family members.

Thank you and God Bless.
Ed Steinger. Sr.
Detachment Chaplin

Commander's Project

'OUR VETERANS' CHILDREN ARE OUR LEGACY'.

Several weeks ago on May 26, 2014 many of us spent the day to remember, reflect and honor the veterans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to their county. This special day is usually in the minds of Americans once every year.

Unfortunately, family and friends of fallen soldiers grieve on a daily basis; this is especially true with children as they try to understand how they lost a parent. Along with the grieving comes the possibility of financial hardship. With limited benefits it becomes very difficult for these families to live a normal life and plan for the future.

In 2001, the American Legion created the 'Legacy Scholarship Fund' to support the children of our fallen heroes. Children who have lost a parent during active duty are eligible to receive scholarship funds to help reduce the cost of increasing college tuition. Since this program has been in place, many children have benefited from this program. It's the least we can do to support the children after losing a parent in the war overseas.

Maryland Detachment Commander Bill Stem has chosen the Legacy Scholarship Fund as his project for the year. With a modest goal of \$50k, it is my pleasure to announce that we successfully reached our goal in 10 months. I personally want to thank all four organizations of the American Legion for their support this year (*American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, American*

Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Riders); along with those who have made personal donations to the project. As I reflect back to the generous donations and special fundraisers, I can truly say it's an honor to be part of this organization. I also want to thank everyone who has supported the program by purchasing a T-shirt. Although the T-shirt program was aimed to promote LSF awareness, we ended up with more than \$7000 in sales.

It's been a great year and let's keep supporting the children of our fallen heroes.

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

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

North Eastern Shore Times

I would like to thank everyone for the great year that I had as Commander of the North Eastern Shore District. Our officers and DEC men have done a great job this year. A right hand salute goes out to our Three Star Squadrons: 18, 36, and 246 and our Four Star Squadrons 15, 135, 194, 228, and 296. The rest of our Squadrons are all close to reaching their goal. I appreciate all of the effort that goes into getting the membership sent in.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 4)

Please use our website:

<http://squadron135.tripod.com/nesd>.

Bear Weinzirl has done a great job keeping it updated. This webpage is used to keep you informed of what is going on in the District, the Detachment, and even the National Organization.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, you can contact me at 410-829-9317 or email me at homer51@comcast.net.

See you at the Convention.

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

South Eastern Shore Gazette

First of all, I want to congratulate National Sons of The American Legion Commander Joe Gladden for a wonderful job representing the SAL and the Detachment of Maryland. It's been a trying year for the SESD. I could not do all I'd hoped because of my bout with cancer. I have decided not to run for any office next year until I know my battle with cancer has been totally won.

There are a lot of great people in our district that worked hard and I "Thank" them for their work this year. In closing, remember to "Thank" our Veterans for their service, without their sacrifice, our freedom would not be possible.

In Service,
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. Let's give Joe Lohman the support and guidance that you gave me for another successful year.

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.

Yours in Service,
Jim Alexander

SMD Commander

Western Maryland Tribune

The Western Maryland District will be having a draw down at convention for our fundraiser this year. This is a 350 Ticket Draw down. Tickets are \$20.00 each and we are giving away \$4,000.00 If anyone is interested in obtaining a ticket please contact Robert Hill or Jeff Seiler. I would like to thank all the squadrons for hosting out district meetings. Please be aware that Western Maryland District does have a Facebook page where one can join and see what is going on at our local squadrons. 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 almost 5,000 members. Right now we are in 3rd place at just about 99.96% we are just 2 members away from our Goal. Great job but we still need some members to be sent in. We are still head of last year by almost 100 members. Keep up the good work. Also Please do all you can to support our Commanders project American Legacy Project! Thank you

I also would like to Thank all the squadrons and officers of Western Maryland District for supporting me over the last 3 years and I am Happy to say CONGRATULATIONS to Robert Hill our new Western Maryland District Commander and wish him Great Success!!

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

NEC NEWS

I bring you greetings from National Commander Joe Gladden. Commander Gladden's membership theme is "SHOOTING TO THE MOON". Many Detachments across the Nation are reaching for the moon with several coming close.

May 2-4 members from the Detachment traveled to Indy for the spring NEC meetings. During that weekend we attended various commission and committee meetings. Our officers

attended the NMI classes.

Congratulation goes out to Jim Alexander for graduating NMI III.

Vice Commander Turner from the East address the region regarding membership. We are heading low on the moon but our ship is running low on membership. The East is at 91.435% with Maryland in 4th place in the East with 96.437% and 14th in the Nation and a renewal rate of 87.39%. We passed all goals set by National but we fell short of the 100% for May 14, 2014. Now is the time to go after the members who have fell through the cracks by not renewing, sometimes all it takes is a phone call or a visit. Now is the big push for Commander Gladden's goal of 106% by July 23, 2014.

Frequently asked questions;

How can I become more involved in assisting with veterans' issues in my community?

The American Legion elects individuals to serve as Service Officers at the local, District, state and national levels. There are many established Legion programs to assist veterans. Contact a Legion Service Officer in your area and find out where your assistance might be needed.

Can donations be made to the CWF as a memorial?

Yes. Memorial certificates are made for donations of \$20 or more. Donations of \$300 or more are recognized with plaques.

Dates to remember;

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 Americanism 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
(410) 708-4144



“Our Veterans’ Children are our Legacy ”

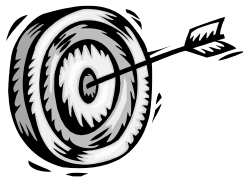
3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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

The office of Detachment Adjutant has received endorsement correspondence for the following individuals who have been endorsed by their respective squadrons, posts, and districts to hold Detachment Office for the administrative year 2014-2015.

- Commander-JR Hall Squadron #40
- 1st Vice Commander-Jeff Seiler Squadron #11
- 2nd Vice Commander-Ray Edwards Squadron #218
- 3rd Vice Commander-Dave Hulihan Squadron #195
- Sgt-At-Arms-Jim Alexander Squadron #40
- Judge Advocate-Dan Robinson Squadron #256
- Chaplain-Jerry Sykes Squadron #19
- Finance-Ed Steininger Squadron #182
- Historian-Bob Filippi Squadron #183
- Alternate NEC-Bear Weinzirl Squadron #135
- National Executive Committeeman-Andy Dadds Squadron #36

Dates to Remember—2014



Department of Maryland Annual Convention

July 15-18, 2014

Ocean City, Md.

Sons of The American Legion National Convention

August 22-24, 2014

Charlotte, NC

Detachment of Maryland Annual Camp Out & Leadership Workshop

September 19-21, 2014

Camp West-Mar

Detachment of Maryland Seminar & Detachment Executive Committee Meeting

September 27, 2014

Overlea Perry Hall Post 3130

Membership Target Dates

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%