



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



***“The Pride”***

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

Volume 2014/2015: Issue 2  
Fall Issue November 22, 2014

**Commander’s Corner**

Hello Again,

It is hard to believe that it has been four months since our convention and we are already preparing for our Fall meeting. These four months have gone fast and I would like to keep you updated on some of the great things that has been going on. I have had the opportunity to tour the VA of Maryland's facilities with Commander Baker and President Brown and it has been a wonderful experience. There is a lot more going on at each of these places Perry Point, Greene Street, and BRECC and I encourage everyone to get out and visit and volunteer at your closet VA facility. I want to thank the Department of MD ALA for the work they do to set up these tours it is an honor to take part in them.

We also have just had the cookout at the Fisher Houses in Bethesda on October 25th and it was a great day. I would have to say the best turnout I have ever seen at one of our cookouts there. Chris Dadds and Jimmy Alexander worked hard to prepare for this and their hard work paid off. Every veteran and family member there enjoyed the food cooked by PDC Tommy Deal, PDC Bob Trueblood, Jeff Seiler, Dave Hullihen and others. I want to Thank everyone that made the trip with us. We also had one of our members that is also active duty make the trip, Jonathan Alexander took one of his days off to spend it with us and I think that shows his continued

commitment to the Sons of The American Legion. Thanks again to everyone.

I also had the chance to go to Ocean City and address the ALA at their Fall Conference this October. It again was an honor to go in with Commander Baker and speak before a great crowd they had present. It was nice to see the many displays and the work our Department of Maryland Auxiliary is doing, Great Job Ladies and Thank you for the invitation again.

Traveling around this great state and seeing many members of our Legion Family has been a lot of fun. The campout at Camp WestMar was a great experience for everyone and I hope to see that event continue to grow each year. Making new friends and spreading the work that we are all trying to accomplish as Sons seems to be the easy part of this job with so many great things going on. I encourage everyone to keep letting everyone know the things you are doing back home in your Squadron and District by putting them on our Detachment webpage and posting them on our Detachment Facebook. Let’s share information and get the word out.

Our membership is just behind last year’s numbers and I hope to see a nice increase coming as the end of the year approaches us all. Please join in and help Vice Commander Seilers as he works to "Make a Pitch for Membership." Also December 31st will set the bar for our all-

time high for 2014, if you have anyone that has not paid last year membership try to get them to join in, we are getting closer to 16,000 members.

As I close out this message I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season. Please take time to be with family and friends and don't worry so much about the gifts you buy but more about the gift we can give from our heart. Love and friendship is priceless and during the holidays we need to share them both. Try to visit a veteran and share some time with them and their families too. Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

*"Stepping up to The Challenge"*

JR Hall

Commander  
Detachment of Maryland  
Sons of The American Legion

**Adjutant’s Corner**

**D.E.C. Meeting:** The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander JR Hall, on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 1:00 P.M. The meeting is being hosted at Francis Scott Key Post 11, located at 1450 Taney Ave., Frederick, MD 21702. The post phone number is 301-662-9345.

After the meeting a light luncheon will be served compliments of Squadron No. 11 consisting of cold sandwiches and salads. After the luncheon Squadron No. 11 is hosting the Detachment Cash Blast with

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

all proceeds benefiting Special Olympics Maryland. The tickets are selling for \$10 per ticket with a total prize money pay out of \$2000 based upon the sale of 350 tickets. You do not need to be present to win, therefore, if you wish to support this most worthy cause contact Detachment 1st Vice Commander Jeff Seiler at [jefsei@safeco.com](mailto:jefsei@safeco.com). After the Cash Blast the post is hosting Karaoke in the lounge along with a dinner menu from 5:30 until 8:30. Since it will be a late evening for those that stay for the Cash Blast and Karaoke, Jeff has secured a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn next to the post home for \$115 per evening under the block code of SAL. The Hampton Inn phone number is 301-696-1565 and their street address is 1565 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick, Md. 21702.

### **Special Olympics Maryland**

**Bowling Competition:** On Sunday, November 16th, the Glen Burnie Bowl America located at 7155 Ritchie Highway, is hosting a Regional Bowling Tournament for Special Olympics Maryland. Once again Special Olympics is reaching out to the Legion Family for volunteers to assist with scorekeeping, lane marshal, and awards from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Volunteers will receive training shortly after arrival. You must be at least 14 years of age to volunteer and all volunteers must register via, <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s2014BowlingVolunteer>. Commander JR Hall is asking all volunteers to meet him at the Bowling Alley at 8:45 AM. 30-35 volunteers are needed for this event and Commander Hall emphasized that it is not mandatory to be able to work until 2:00 PM. Any time you give will be helpful and appreciated.

### ***Detachment Training Sessions***

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 11am  
Grand Hotel in Ocean City

We are conducting our 4th Annual Training Session during our Winter D.E.C. time in Ocean City. See the

information below to take advantage of our discounted hotel rates. Booking at this rate is available through **December 24, 2014.**

### **GUEST ROOMS AND GROUP RATES**

\$ 57.00 Limited View Rooms  
\$ 62.00 Premier View Rooms  
\$ 67.00 Ocean Front Rooms  
Plus applicable taxes ~

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!**

We discussed the definition of Membership in our first newsletter and now I want to discuss the definition of team. What is the Definition of Team? Team --

1. Come together as a team to achieve a common goal.
2. A group of people with a full set of complementary skills required to complete a task, job, or project.

We are all a team of the great organization The Sons of The American Legion. The membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Just like our theme this year "Baseball" We are all a baseball team and we are all "Making a Pitch for Membership"

My 1<sup>st</sup> goal is to get more of our younger members involved. I would like to see 50 Junior members at our convention this year. Let's get those young members that we all have and let's get them involved. The 1<sup>st</sup> push was to go to The American Legion & Auxiliary Meetings and get dual members and grandsons joined up.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> thing I want our Squadron Commanders to do is to attend a Boy Scout or Cub Scout Meeting at your post

or one of the Scout troops or Cub Packs that your Squadron or Post support. Then ask all the Boy Scouts or Cub Scouts if their father or grandfather served in the Military and if they did please hand them an application. I have done this in our Squadron and it has gotten us 5 new members.

This is a great way to obtain new and younger members that can and possibly attend our convention this year.

Right now we are 301 members behind from last year. That is a large number and I would like to see us get those renewals in and get caught up to last year and by our Meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November I would like to be ahead of last year. Let's clear the benches and hit some home runs and stay away from those sinkers.

Out of our seven districts, North Central District is in 1<sup>st</sup> place and has ZERO goose eggs. In second place is North Eastern Shore district with ZERO goose eggs. In 3<sup>rd</sup> place is South Eastern Shore District with only 1 goose egg. Southern Maryland is in 4<sup>th</sup> place with 3 goose eggs. Baltimore District is in 5<sup>th</sup> with 1 goose egg and they did score some runs and met and exceeded the November 13<sup>th</sup> goal. 6<sup>th</sup> place is Mountain district with 2 goose eggs and Western Maryland is bringing up the rear with only 1 goose egg. I heard that Western Maryland is changing up the lineup and will be caught up very shortly.

We are now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. November 13<sup>th</sup> is our next goal which is 35%. We have 5 districts that have already reached that goal. Northern Central, North Eastern Shore & South Eastern Shore Districts have already exceeded our December 10<sup>th</sup> Goal of 45%. They have been hitting some Grand Slams, Excellent job to those 3 districts, way to make that Pitch for Membership. We still have 2 districts that have not reached the goal but they have another week to do, so that change up is just what Mountain district may need as they are just 2.41% away and Western

(Continued on page 3)

*(Continued from page 2)*

Maryland district which is just 2.89% away from our goal.

Overall we are at 42.08% which is great. Thanks to all the hard work that the district commanders and squadron commanders have done to meet and exceed our goals. However, we still have 33 squadrons out of 111 that still have to reach that 35% goal, but there is still time to reach it as we have another week. Let's get running those bases and get those membership renewals home.

For the District Commanders I will be holding monthly membership calls on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, you will be receiving an email prior to each call. The first call will be held on Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and if you have a Squadron Commander that would like to attend please feel free to give him the information. Our first call will be prior to our second DEC meeting which will be on Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup>. After the meeting there will be a drawdown and then Karaoke to follow into the evening. If you want to get a room at the Hampton Inn they are charging 115.95 a room. Just ask for the SAL block to reserve a room.

I am looking forward having and serving with everyone to have a great year.

Yours in Service

Jeffrey Seiler  
Membership Chairmen

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

## **Americanism Report**

October 25 was "Let's say thank you to our veterans and their families day" at Fisher House in Bethesda. SAL volunteers provided a wonderful lunch and Mother Nature gave us a beautiful day. It was my first time being there and it was quite a rewarding experience. Seeing the look on the veterans and their family's faces was very gratifying. We would explain we're the Sons of The American Legion and we are here to say thank you for your service. A few of the veterans would respond back "thank you,

no one has done anything like this for us before". As you can see the Veterans of Fisher House need us to keep coming back so they know that they are appreciated for all that they have done and what they and their families have been through. Fisher House is very important to the families of our military by giving them a place to stay in her time of need; it is truly a home away from home in a warm setting while their love ones are being treated in one of the VA hospitals.

Please keep the donations coming in so we can keep providing a comfortable moment and a smile for veterans and their families.

We've always been and will continue to be a Detachment that shows its great support to all the Americanism programs. Our success this year will be through the continued support we provide to our Community, State and Nation.

### **Flag Replacement Program:**

Do you have a Flag Replacement program in your Post? This is a worthwhile program that your squadron should consider implementing in your Post. Implementing the Flag Replacement program in your Post is easy to do. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, information is at the bottom of the page.

This is a program whereby flags in the community that are worn, torn or faded can be replaced by new flags. Squadrons can advertise in their communities that old flags can be brought to their Post and be replaced with a new flag. The person bringing in the flag must complete in full a Flag Replacement form. That is for every flag that is replaced a form must be completed. For example, if a person requested five flags, five replacement forms need to be completed.

Squadrons can sponsor fundraisers in their Post to raise monies to buy flags. Squadrons can purchase American flags at all Detachment meetings. Remember, Veteran's Day is fast approaching and your squadron can place flags on the graves of veterans in your communities.

Awards will be given to the two top squadrons who have replaced the most flags. That is, same rules apply as last year. Please make sure you indicate on the form, the size of the flag. Five points will awarded for 3x5 flags and smaller flags will count for 1 point. Again, the Flag Replacement form must be completed with each flag given out. Replacement forms will be available at all Detachments meetings as well as flags. Also, you can download the form on-line under Americanism at the bottom of the page. If you have any questions, please contact Gregory Taylor ([gregohl1@verizon.net](mailto:gregohl1@verizon.net)) or 301. 233-0663.

Yours in Service,

Gregory Taylor,  
Flag Replacement Chairperson  
[gregohl1@verizon.net](mailto:gregohl1@verizon.net)

### **Boys State**

Stats from 2014 Maryland Boys State Program

193 boys graduated from program this year that is up from 174 in 2013, 173 in 2012, and 156 in 2011. -- 66 posts sent money in to support boys this year. -- No businesses donated directly to Boys State at the Dept level. Post 282 collected donations from 3 local businesses to sponsor the 12 boys they sent to Boys State. -- 73 posts, counties, and districts sent applications to Boys State. One from Germany and one from DC are included in these numbers.

Sr. Senator Jeremy Price was sponsored by Carroll Post 31 in Westminster and attends Westminster HS. Jr. Senator Miles Walker was sponsored by Post 194 in Rising Sun. He was recruited by Post 300. He attends Atholton HS. Governor Maurice Harris was sponsored by Post 275 in Glenarden and attends Surratsville HS.

On December 5th, American Legion Post 64 in Salisbury is holding a quarter auction to support the Boys State /Girls State programs. Auction will start at 7 PM. If anyone would like to help out by

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

donating items please call 410-749-9814. There will have homemade soup and subs for sale. All funds raised will go to support these programs.

Dennis Renehan  
Committee Chairman &  
Boys State Staff member

(410)-330-3003

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

### **National Emergency Fund:**

Our National Sons of The American Legion Commander Mike Moss has set a goal to raise \$50,000 for The National Emergency Fund. NEF was created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Also The Preamble to The American Legion says it the best with the words "devotion to mutual helpfulness". This phrase is our pledge of support to Legionnaires and their family members. NEF is there to give help to those affected by a Natural Disaster. You must be a member in good standing in The American Legion Family in order to apply and be awarded funds from this program.

Here in Maryland, if every Squadron donated .50 per member we could raise approximately \$8,000. This would be a huge support to Commander Moss in making his goal. Mainly it would show how strong the Sons are in Maryland. Also personal donations would be huge support as well.

Donations may be mailed to:

The American Legion  
National Emergency Fund  
P.O. Box 1954  
Indianapolis, IN. 46206

OR

Turned in to your Squadron or the Detachment

Yours in Service,  
Jerry Saunders,  
NEF Chairperson

### **Community Affairs:**

On October 25th we had our annual cookout at Fisher House in Bethesda. I would like to second the Chairman's

thanks to everyone for your help and donations for this event. It's starting to get cold out now and time to help families in your town or county. Now is the time to ask for new or lightly worn coats and other items for those who need a little help getting ready for winter. You can contact your local churches and county services on how to help these families, so please "Step Up."

Yours in Service,

Chris Dadds  
Chairperson

### Five-Star Program:

The Five-Star award program is for all members of The Sons of The American Legion who show dedication and knowledge in the Five-Point program of service consisting of the following: Patriotism, Citizenship, Discipline, Leadership and Legionism. If you would like learn more contact PNC Bill Sparwasser.

Yours in Service,

Americanism Chairman  
Jim Alexander

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER**

Comrades,

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Volunteers are needed for SOMD Bowling tournaments that are about to start at different locations around the state. The Polar plunge is just around the corner. Reminder the new start time is 3pm at Sandy Point State Park. The winter games are not too far off. Volunteers are need to support the winter games. We are about to roll out the bowling raffle. The tickets are \$1.00 each and will be giving away at the convention in June 2015.

The American Legion has awarded a local Maryland company a grant. **Cure Search for Children's Cancer** of Bethesda, Maryland, was awarded \$31,500 for their project entitled, "Cure Search 2014 Educational Video Series." This grant will produce and distribute videos on staying healthy while on

chemotherapy, eating healthy and information on clinical procedures such as biopsy and ultrasound. The American Legion Auxiliary and **The Sons of The American Legion** sponsor this grant.

Ray Edwards

Children & Youth Chairman

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

(410) 215-9354 Cell

## **JOSH DOG**

Canine therapy dogs have been around for years and often comfort patient's in hospitals with their unconditional love. As an extension to that mission, the Josh and friends Project emerged by introducing children to the book "I'll Be OK" and a cuddly stuffed animal named Josh. The goal was to help children with the overwhelming anxiety of a hospital stay. The GI Josh program started as a connection between the Detachment of Arizona, Sons of The American Legion. The Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) and Josh Dogs group. This was created to bring some level of comfort to children of deployed service personal. Children struggle with separation issues when parents are deployed and the whole "I'll Be OK" piece is helpful here as well. Children do learn coping mechanisms and skills through the story/book that features Josh and his friend Smudge. We encourage all squadrons to pick up the challenge and purchase a Josh Dog to give out at nearby children's hospital or purchase a GI Josh Dog and get it to a deployed military member's child. Please purchase one Josh Dog and display it at your Post. This should spark interest from members of your Post. The dog and book are available for a special American Legion rate of \$26.00 as a set from the website. <http://www.joshandfriends.com> or 1-877-455-2365. The normal cost is \$39.95 each.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Sykes

(Continued on page 3)

*(Continued from page 4)*

## Casey Cares Newsletter

As we prepare to enter this Holiday season, there is not much going on at Casey Cares as far as fundraising, however they are still busy as little elves around the office. They are gearing up for their Holiday Giving program, continue to send birthday gifts to all their patients, as well as their Pizza night gift surprises, and continue to collect and roll pajama's for Kammie's Jammies. So as you can see, things are still busy around the Casey Cares office.

I want to take a moment to thank our Advisor Chairman, George Grossnickle for once again going to The American Legion Children & Youth Committee, and securing a \$5,000.00 check for this program as he has done many times. If you missed our seminar, and this presentation, then you missed the expression on the faces of the Casey Cares families that attended our meeting. This check will go to the Holiday Giving Program.

I spoke with Dawn from Casey Cares and was advised that with our help this past year, they will be able to provide the following. 6,500 tickets for family outings, vacations for 250 children and family members, group parties for 600 people, birthday surprises for 500 children and delivering 5,000 pajamas to area hospitals. As you can see WE are having a profound impact on these families.

If you or your Squadron want to know how you can help more, feel free to contact me, or call Cortney direct at 443-568-0064, or at Cortney@CaseyCaresFoundation.org. And as always, THANK YOU for your continued support.

Things as simple also as a Pizza party for a family one night brings; joy and smiles to many faces. This can only be done with your support.

The weekend after our "SAL Convention", Casey was reluctant to ask for help, cooking for her Annual Car Fair; held at Sagamore Farms. I contacted the NCD, and with a food donation from A.L. Howes Agency, arranged by Unit 22, President Lynette Dean, who alongside her, her husband Kraig, served the 80 people food cooked by Det. 3rd Vice; David Hullihen, and

NCD; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, Bob Keyes, another Successful event on behalf of the SONS.

The next Casey Cares function is the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock N Roll Bash, to be held at RAMS Head Center Stage at the Maryland LIVE Casino, on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. The same night is the Annual \$10,000 Raffle- Drawing; Tickets are \$100.00 each, with only 500 printed. This would be a good change to help make a donation to Casey Cares with a chance to win \$ 10,000. Adjutant Matoska has a few tickets or contact Casey directly at 443-568-0064.

We are hoping for another GREAT YEAR from the "SONS", but this can only happen with your help.

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

## Child Welfare Foundation

Mr. Garland Murphy Jr. (Department of Arkansas) laid the groundwork, and the Child Welfare Foundation was duly incorporated on July 9, 1954. Although a separate corporation from The American Legion, its Board of Directors are all Legion members – three from the National Executive Committee, three from the Finance Commission, and three from the National Commission on Children & Youth. CWF was formed to assist non-profit organizations with a way to educate the public about the need for care of children across the nation.

I would like to see each squadron set a goal, for a donation based on the number of members in your squadron. Set a goal that you feel you can achieve and have fundraisers to achieve that goal. If you need help with ideas on fundraisers, please let me know.

Also I have CWF Cans, Piggy Banks, and brochures on Child Welfare Foundation. If you need any of these tools for your fundraising for CWF, please call or email me.

Yours In Service,  
Larry Ford—CWF Chairman

## Toys For Tots

Toys for Tots is a worthy program hosted by the U.S. Marine Corp every year and every year The American Legion family turn out in full force to ensure hundreds of thousands of children in the state of Maryland and around the United States wake up to toys this Christmas. Let this year be no exception as we begin to plan fundraising events. Please let me know how I can be of help or service to you and your Squadron in helping your event to be the best it can be.

Reminder: We are collecting new unwrapped toys and donations for our annual Toys for Tots drive at our Fall DEC on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at American Legion Post 11 in Frederick, Maryland. There will be several Marine representatives at the meeting to collect Toys and donations. Please help provide a joyful Christmas to those who are less fortunate.

For God and Country,  
John Egerson

## Doug Henley Memorial—Laps of Love

Planning for the Fourth Annual Laps of Love is under way. Plans are currently being made for this year's event and there will be a couple changes. We will be moving to a new venue due to Spalding having more and more events there. We want to Thank Spalding for three great years and helping us start this great event. As discussed and voted at our last DEC the name of the event will now be, "The Doug Henley Memorial Laps of Love."

The date right now is tentatively May 9<sup>th</sup> in the morning. We will have all information on our website, in our next Pride and at the January DEC as we get all information completed.

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

Thanks and I look forward to your help and support.

*"Stepping up to The Challenge"*

JR HallCommander

Detachment of Maryland

## Legislative Alert!

The General Election was November 4 and now we know the new representatives that will be taking office. You can reach out to them now and make sure they hold true to their campaign promises and let them know you will be watching their voting on the issues shaping this country for the next several years. They are mixing in with current representatives so don't forget to keep in contact with them as well. We need all members of Congress to know where we stand on Veteran's issues. I know I sound like a broken record however it is very important to contact your representatives now to let them know how you feel. We need to stand strong in support of our Veterans and our Country. Here is a web site for up to date information on representatives, voting calendars, legislation and much more dealing with the legislative process: <https://www.congress.gov/> check it out there is a wealth of knowledge to be learned by just one visit. If I can be of assistance feel free to call or e-mail me. Let's all be Sons stepping up to the challenge and help our Veterans.

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

## VAVS Variety

Don't forget the holidays coming up Christmas and Thanksgiving so please Visit our vets. I would also like to take this time to mention that Commander JR Hall has toured the Maryland VA centers with Legion Commander Baker and President Brown as of this writing

they have all toured Perry Point, Green Street and Loch Raven. As always each one of these VA centers and/or hospitals can always use monetary donations. If you do make donations put this and all donations for any VA programs you make throughout the year on your reports. If you make donations directly please let us know by providing a copy of your donation to the Detachment Adjutant, so that you get the proper recognition.

**Perry Point:** Will host their annual Christmas gifts give away and they need help and gifts. This will be as always done on Christmas Eve. They can always use the help. Please keep in mind some of these veterans may not have families and can always use a lift on this special holiday. Support and donations for this event and all other things going on at Perry point Hospital throughout the year. Perry point is still looking for drivers to go from there down to the Poconos. You do not need to lift any one nor have to have a special license. It is just a regular van. They run there at least twice a day.

**Loch Raven:** Chairman Bob Fillipi has informed us that the bus trip to Gettysburg, which took place on Oct 25 2014 was very successful and there were 20 veterans and 4 staff member in attendance. Thank you to all who supported this event.

Yours in Service,  
Dave Hullihen - VA&R Chairman

## Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

*"the only Veterans Home in the state"*

The Southern Maryland District continues to hold a bingo at the Veterans' home on the third Monday of each month. Two hundred dollars are given out to residents at each bingo. If you are interested in donating to the CHVH Bingos, send your donation to SMD Finance Officer Al Rhodes, PO Box 56521, Virginia Beach, VA 23456, earmarked for CHVH Bingo. If you are interested in volunteering your time

contact PDC Buddy Mastin or myself. Additional help is always welcome

From 2 pm to 4pm on December 13, the CHVH Service Organization Liaison Committee (SOLC) will host the annual Christmas Ice Cream Social at the CHVH. In addition to ice cream, each resident will receive a Christmas card with \$5 inside. If you are interested in donating to the CHVH SOLC, donations should be sent to Richard Bamberger, Treasurer, CHVH SOLC, 2209 Pinefield Court, Waldorf, MD 20601. 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.

The CHVH is the only Veterans home in the state of Maryland and the residents there have earned the right to expect the support of Sons of The American Legion members across the state.

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)

The Detachment is set to again provide a luncheon to the residents on December 20th (Saturday before Christmas) thanks primarily to the generous donations and support of the Legion Family of Post 40 and others from the Maryland Legion Family. Update: The new stove purchased by the NCD-SAL has been installed and works great. We're now looking for a way to transport the old stove to Camp Westmar in Thurmont, MD. If you're able to help, please let us know.

For God and Country,  
Bill Hill  
MCVET—Board of Directors  
Detachment Liaison



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

## Chaplin's Corner

Please keep those who are home recovering in your prayers.

To God Be All

The Glory, God is Faithful in all we do in love, deeds, Life.

Time after time we were the ones to meet the needs of others when others were busy and chose to walk away. Our Lord was there and reminded us in the thick of fray. He is there... in dark times when words of Thanks are distant Memories recall that God knows all things. Our father is ever Mindful of how we serve. And he shall reward us beyond All we deserve.

Let us Not forget to finish the course we have begun.. Let us keep in Memories of the passing of our comrades!

Thank you and God Bless.

Jerry Sykes  
Detachment Chaplin

## Commander's Project / Special Olympics Maryland

IT'S PLUNGE TIME!!!

From now until we hit the Bay at Sandy Point on January 23rd, Gearing up for The Polar Bear Plunge is Job One!

Whether you plan to get every hair on your head soaked or just your hairy big toe, plan on signing up on the web site, raising all you can, and joining us Friday afternoon. If it's your plan to be a silent (warm and dry) partner, spread the word, raise donations, and join us too, there's plenty of room on the beach.

Find all you need to know and do on [somid.org](http://somid.org). Plungers should join the "Sons of The American Legion Challenge Team" so all of our work can be seen as one effort. Thousands of people will visit this site

and having our name listed as a major fundraiser is HUGE!

Yours Truly has also joined the SUPERPLUNGE team. I'll be a part of the elite group that Plunges 24 times in 24 hours. In order to qualify for this honor, I am committed to raising \$10,000 on my own so if you know someone with a corporate donation quota they need to reach please, send them my way.

You can keep track of the SAL team as well as my Super Plunge progress on the Plunge web page.

Yours, Chillin for the cause,

"Sons Stepping up to The Challenge"

Yours in Service,  
Eddie Souder  
Project Chair

## Time and Place Committee

We're heading to Laurel for the 42nd Annual Convention! Specifically Laurel Post 60!!

We want to extend our appreciation to Laurel Post 60 Commander Lee Luby and her group for putting together a great proposal and supporting the Detachment. We're looking forward to another great convention!

Details for the hotels, bowling and other events will be detailed in the convention packages being distributed shortly after the new year and will be updated on our website [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org) and distributed to the Districts at the D.E.C. Meeting.

For God and Country,  
Bill Hill  
Chairman

## North Eastern Shore Times

Thanks We are closing in on the end of 2014. This is the time of year to get our membership paid up for 2015. Our District is in second place in the Detachment as of 10-24-2014. We are 63

ahead of last years' pace and are at 46.08% of goal. Thanks to Squadrons 18, 70, 228, 246, and 296 for being above 50%. Call our members that have not paid. Get them caught up before January 1. RETAIN!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ALL Squadrons should achieve at least THREE STAR STATUS!!!

Upcoming Squadron events:

Talbot Squadron 70 will host a soup and salad night on Tuesday November 18 and Tuesday December 9 from 4-6 P.M.

Contact the Post (410-822-9238) for more information.

Squadron 194 will serve steamed and fried shrimp with fixins on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in November, January, and February from 1:30 to 5:30 P.M.

Squadron 296 will be holding a fried shrimp meal on Friday November 14 from 5-7 P.M.

Music will be provided by the Oil City Ramblers (a bluegrass band) from 7-9:30.

They will also be having an oyster extravaganza on Friday December 12 from 5-7 P.M.

Our next N.E.S.D. meeting will be held on December 7 at Post 70 in Easton starting promptly at 10:30 A.M.

Commanders: Part of your responsibilities as the elected leader of your Squadron is to be involved in this meeting. ALL Squadrons should be in attendance.

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

Sons Stepping Up To the Challenge

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

## South Eastern Shore Gazette

Greetings from the Lower Eastern Shore.

Our next District meeting will be held on November 23, 2014 at Post 123 in Berlin starting at 12 P.M. EVERY SQUADRON

(Continued on page 8)

*(Continued from page 7)*

**NEEDS TO HAVE SOMEONE IN ATTENDANCE.** The Fall DEC meeting will be held on 22 November 2014 at Post 11 in Frederick at 1 P.M. If you have not been to a DEC meeting, you should try to attend one. You will be amazed. Sons Stepping up to The Challenge.

Toys For Tots is in full swing. Contact John Egerson for more information about this great program. Sons Stepping up to The Challenge.

The district's webpage is almost completed. If your Squadron is having an event post on it on your district's webpage and also on the Detachment's webpage by contacting Larry (Bear) Weinzirl at [NESD@AOL.com](mailto:NESD@AOL.com).

Membership is increasing throughout the district. Thanks to those Squadrons who are working hard on their membership and not holding their dues. Great job!!! Sons Stepping up to The Challenge.

Veterans Day is fast approaching. What is your Squadron doing to honor those Veterans? Sons Stepping up to The Challenge.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

Dennis J. Renehan

Commander  
South Eastern Shore District

## **Southern Pride**

Greetings from SAL Southern Maryland District;

I had the pleasure of attending 8 squadron meetings so far this year. Everyone seems eager to continue pushing membership and support Commander Hall's 4-pillar challenge. Our backlog of district dues is cleaning up and the squadrons appear to be on target with our overall mission.

We are doing well with membership as we already surpassed November's goal. I personally want thank all squadrons for a job well done. We still have a few squadrons with goose eggs but I am confident that they will be turning in membership shortly.

I want to thank Squadron 259 and their post family for hosting the first SAL Southern Maryland District travel club

event of the year. The travel club plans on visiting Post 7 in Crownsville, Post 248 in Hughesville and Post 235 in Beltsville. Additional information regarding dates and times will be sent out via email to all squadron commanders.

The next SAL SMD district meeting will be held at Post 131 Colmar Manor on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. There should be a representative from each squadron attending the meeting. Thanks again to Squadron 259 for hosting the first district meeting of the year.

I also want to thank all the squadrons who purchased tickets to the SAL SMD annual drawn down. This is the first time in a while where all 150 tickets were sold prior to the event. The results from the November 1<sup>st</sup> event will not be available due to the Pride cutoff date.

Until next time, keep pushing membership. I want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Please don't forget to support our Veterans on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Yours in Service,  
Joe Lohman  
SMD Commander

## **Western Maryland Glory**

I hope everyone is having a good year so far! The district has been very active in supporting the four pillars. Membership is a little down from last year so let's try and make a good push for the end of the year/beginning of 2015. Remember membership is the lifeblood of our organization, the more members we get the more support we get.

Let's make sure we are using the SAL Detachment website to promote all of the great events that we have to support our veterans and children & Youth!

The Holiday season is right around the corner so make sure to keep the veterans and children in your minds. Toys for Tots is an amazing program designed to donate toys to children in need! Also your local VA home is always willing to accept donations whether it be

monetary, clothes, or otherwise. Please let me know if there is anything you need, I'm only a phone call away.

**Happy Holidays to Everyone and Be safe!**

Robert Hill

WMD Commander  
Cell: 240-678-8742  
[BigRob90@MSN.COM](mailto:BigRob90@MSN.COM)

## **Northern Central District**

I am very proud of Northern Central District that we have maintained First Place in Membership. This has been done by the efforts of everyone. I want to thank the Detachment Executive Committeemen, Squadron Commanders and Membership Chairmen for a job well done in getting the Membership downtown. Also, I want to thank everyone for getting rid of the goose eggs. Let's keep up the good work and remain in First Place in Membership.

My project this year is Hero Dogs, Inc. Hero Dogs raises and trains service dogs and places them free of charge with our nation's Veterans to improve quality of life and restore independence. They are an IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization and operate entirely on donations. Veterans with disabilities have given enough, let us give back to them. Our next meeting is Saturday, November 15, 2014. It will be held at August J. Ravieo, Post #195 starting at 1 pm. We will have a representative from Hero Dogs to talk to us about their program and will bring a trained dog. Please try to attend this important meeting to hear about this worthwhile program. All are welcome!

Our Annual NCD Pool Tournament will be held at the Rogers House Tavern, 226 North Washington Street, Havre de Grace 21078. The date is Sunday, February 15, 2014, starting with registration at 11:00 am and the tournament starting at 12:00 noon. They have many pool tables, so the tournament moves right along and there

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

will be cash prizes awarded. Also we have a raffle for a Joss Pool Cue Stick, valued at \$365.00. They are \$1 a piece or \$5 for 6 raffle tickets. The money that is raised from this event will go to my project – Hero Dogs. All of the Legion Family is invited to join in our fun. Please contact myself or Jerry Saunders, Pool Tournament Chairman (Email: [saljerry@comcast.net](mailto:saljerry@comcast.net) Cell: 443-807-1131) if you have any questions or want Raffle Tickets. I am very excited about the rest of the year we have planned. Please try to come out and participate at our events.

Yours in Service,

Larry Ford  
NCD Commander  
Cell: 443-413-4710  
Email: [lafld@comcast.net](mailto:lafld@comcast.net)

## NEC NEWS

I bring you greetings from National Commander Mike Moss. "BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE" is this year's theme by working together to enhance our organization and programs. Increasing membership and working the 4 pillars of The American Legion. The National Commander's projects are the National Emergency Fund and American Legion Endowment Fund.

**The National Emergency Fund**, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy. The fund provides up to \$1,500 for qualified Legion Family members and up to \$5,000 for posts.

The eligibility requirements are:

Applicant must have been displaced from his or her primary residence due to a declared natural disaster.

Applicant must provide copies of receipts of items required to

meet immediate needs such as temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.

Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.

**American Legion Endowment Fund**, in 1925, World War I veterans, widows and children continued to struggle to return to a regular life. The members of The American Legion, aware of the grave responsibilities entrusted to them by those who had served, knew the time had come to take action. Since those early day, tens of millions of dollars have been distributed to disabled veterans and children of those who served our great nation. More information can be found on The National American Legion and National Sons of The American Legion web sites.

Members of the Detachment traveled to Indy for the Fall NEC meetings. Our members participated in the various commission meetings with strong participation in discussions.

Congratulation goes out to Commander Hall for graduating the Detachment Commanders Class. We had 1 resolution passed by the NEC which changes the way the Consolidated Report Forms are judged. All Commissions will be using the same format.

The leading candidates for National and Vice Commanders held a luncheon on Saturday which includes our very own Bill Hill for Vice Commander East, 2015-2016.

National Vice Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs presented Commander Hall with a certificate for passing the membership goal of 25%. Our membership stands at 30.149% which places us 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the East.

Yours in Service,

Andy Dadds

Nat'l Executive Committeeman (NEC)

## Commander's Challenge

Sons Stepping up to the Challenge

Commander Hall has issued a Challenge this year and I want to ask "Have you stepped up to the Challenge yet?" The four pillars are what the American Legion is based on and we need to make sure we are doing our part to teach more about these four pillars. Completing the Commanders Challenge will accomplish that for you. I know it's still early to complete the challenge however you can start by checking off the easy ones, such as ordering a plaque from Detachment. Send in your check for \$100 for your Squadron, get that one out of the way. More detail is available in complete letters sent out however here is the Plain and Simple:

- ◆ Special Olympics of Maryland Donate \$200.00
- ◆ VA&R: Purchase a Plaque dedicated to Vietnam Veterans from Detachment \$100
- ◆ Americanism: Sponsor Boy or Girl to State Program \$200 or teach a flag etiquette program at local school.
- ◆ National Security: Submit a Police Officer/Firefighter of the year the Dave Barr Jr. Memorial Trophy

For each Squadron, District, or others meeting the Commanders Challenge they will be honored for "Stepping up to the Challenge" at the Commanders banquet at the end of the year. For Posts and Auxiliary Units who want to Step up to the Challenge: The only difference will be the Plaque to donate to the Post can be any war or conflict you want to recognize. If a Squadron wants to donate a second plaque you can also specify what the second plaque will be presented in honor of. All plaques need to be purchases through the Detachment of Maryland.

*On behalf of Commander "JR" Hall I want to Thank You in advance for participating in our first ever "Commanders Challenge"*

Challenge Chairman

PDC Tom Deal

[Tom.deal@verizon.net](mailto:Tom.deal@verizon.net)

443-206-0402



“Sons Stepping up t The Challenge ”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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



**2015 Membership Target Date:**

September 10, 2014	10%
October 8, 2014	25%
November 13, 2014	35%
December 10, 2014	45%
January 21, 2015	60%
February 11, 2015	75%
March 11, 2015	80%
April 8, 2015	90%
May 13, 2015	100%
* July 23, 2015	105%

Delegate Strength Target Date

**Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2014—2015**

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

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

Francis Scott Key Post 11 @ 1pm

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

January 24<sup>th</sup>—25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 1pm

Synepuxent Post 166 @ 1pm

**Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown**

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Susquehanna Post 135 @ 5pm

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

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Rising Sun Post 194 @ 1pm

**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Detachment Convention**

June 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>

Laurel Post 60