



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



“The Pride”

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

Volume 2014/2015: Issue 3
Winter Issue January 25, 2015

Commander’s Corner

Hello Again to All,

I hope to find everyone had a great holiday season and is now ready to get to work in 2015.

It is so hard to believe that half of my term is now behind me, it is flying by and I am enjoying each time I get to represent our Detachment. Since our last Pride went out we have had another very successful DEC in Frederick at Post 11. I want to Thank all that attended the meeting, bought tickets for the cash blast, and made the meeting a success. The entire Post 11 Legion Family could not have done a better job and I would like to Thank them all again.

The Special Olympics of Maryland Bowling tournament for 2014 has now come and gone and I was so proud to be there for the Regional in Glen Burnie and finals in Gaithersburg to represent the Sons of The American Legion as the presenting partner of the tournament. We had a good number of our Legion Family that showed up to volunteer and I want to Thank all of you also. The event was a great success and I hope next year you will be able to make it out and see what a great experience it is for these wonderful athletes.

This year we had a small gathering of officers and some district commanders to talk about where we now are standing in our goals for the year and where we need to get to. I know all that were invited could not make it since it is a busy time of year, but I Thank all that came and I want our members to know we are not just sitting around hoping everything is going to turn out well. But we are working to make things happen, to improve on what we have done, and make our organization the

best it can be.

Our Mid-Winter meeting is coming up very soon and I hope to see you all in Ocean City. We will be honored to host our National Commander Mike Moss for the weekend. Commander Moss will be taking the cool dip into the Chesapeake Bay on Friday with our Legion Family and be with us for Saturday and Sunday’s events and meetings. Please help to make him feel welcomed to our great state. Any Squadrons that are planning on making any donations to NEF, this would be a great time since it is one of Commander Moss's project for the year. PNC Sparwasser has some great classes for us scheduled on Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon there will be a drawdown at Post 166 and Sunday we are going to have another great DEC meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

“Stepping up to The Challenge”

JR Hall

Commander
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion

Adjutant’s Corner

D.E.C./Winter: The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander, JR Hall, on January 25, 2015 at **12:00 P.M.**

The meeting is being hosted at Synepuxent Post 166, located at 2308 N. Philadelphia Ave., Ocean City, MD 21843. The post phone number is 410-289-3166.

Detachment Training Sessions

January 25th, 2015 @ 11am

Grand Hotel in Ocean City

We are conducting our 4th Annual Training Seminar during our Winter D.E.C. session in Ocean City. Attendance is encouraged by all SAL members. These classes are open and available to all members regardless of the position you may hold back at the squadron or district level. There are two training modules scheduled for this session which are the Squadron Consolidated Report Form (Dos and Don'ts & FAQs) and the second is a Time Management & Role Playing Module for anyone holding a position of responsibility within the organization. Again, this training is open to all members.

General Information

MYSAL: MySAL is now available for those squadrons who apply. MySAL.org is a secure internet site linked to the membership data base for the Sons of The American Legion. This portal site provides officers with access to the membership data and member-management tools. For further information go to www.legion.org/sons and click on the mysal link. Just a reminder-you must be a paid up member and only one person per squadron can qualify. If you desire to have more than one person from your squadron to access MySAL simply use the same user id and password as established. Remember, this site contains sensitive information and the access should not be shared unless there is an administrative need.

Renewal Postcard Schedule: The initial mailing of the annual S.A.L. renewal postcards took place in September, 2014 and will be followed with the second mailing in

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January, 2015, and then a final mailing will be in April, 2015. Therefore, please follow the membership target dates closely. This saves the organization considerable postage costs. The renewal mailings will be made usually within a couple of days following the target date in that respective month of mailing. The membership target dates are posted on the detachment web page and are also listed on the back page of The Pride.

Subscription-The American Legion

Magazine: All members of the S.A.L. can subscribe to The American Legion Magazine for 12 issues for only \$6.00 per year. Keep up to date with programs of The American Legion and items of general interest. Send a check or money order for \$6.00 along with your complete name, address, date of birth, phone, e-mail and S.A.L. ID number to: The American Legion, Data Services--N0808, Magazine Non-Member Subscriptions, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, In. 46206.

CWF 100% Per-Capita Banner: The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation will be continuing the incentive program for the award year 2014-2015. Each squadron donating at least one dollar for each member will receive a banner/streamer. The form for submitting this request can be found on the S.A.L. web page at www.legion.org/sons.

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

Get your Game on for MEMBERSHIP!

As the Detachment goes we are doing well. We have met and exceeded the December 10th goal and have already met the January 21st goal of 60%. We are actually at 64.80% so congratulations goes out to all of the District Commanders for stepping up to the plate and getting those hits.

Right now we are 109 members behind from last year. We need to see who has not been up to bat and make sure we get everyone in the lineup and make sure that they all get their chance to Step up to the plate and take a swing at the pitch for Membership. We need to dig deep

and stay focused before we get to the 7th inning stretch

Out of our seven districts, North Central District is in 1st place at 72.99% and has exceeded the January 21st goal and is sliding into 3rd base towards the 6th inning goal of 75%... In second place is North Eastern Shore district at 68.37%. In 3rd place is South Eastern Shore District at 66.44% and right on their heels rounding the base is 4th place Southern Maryland at 66.23% All 4 of these districts have already exceeded out January 21st of goal of 60%. Fantastic Job!! Coming in 5th place is Baltimore District at 59.28% and in 6th place is Western Maryland at 59.19% and last place is Mountain District at 49.16%. All of our districts met the December 10th goal of 45% and we are all on our way to beat the January 21st goal of 60% Again great Job!!

Here we are in the 5th inning heading towards the goal of 60%. I know when we are at our meeting in January all our districts will have made that goal and will be heading to the 6th inning towards the February 11th goal of 75%. Let's make sure we get everyone in the lineup and make sure everyone gets a chance to bat. We need to find a way to get everyone signed back up and keep their membership current. At the Meeting I will be bringing up a new challenge to all the districts and this will be something new for most of the districts.

Also at our meeting we will be discussing how to get our Juniors involved and to attend our convention; I will have a small packet for our District Commanders to hand out to your squadron commanders.

Yours in Service
Jeffrey Seiler
Membership Chairmen
1st Vice Commander

Americanism Report

Happy New Year. Americanism commission is looking forward to 2015

and continue supporting all the programs under Americanism. NEF is our National Commanders, Mike Moss' program this year. I know the Detachment will embrace this program and donate generously.

Look for upcoming information for our next lunch at Fisher House so you can come help us provide a wonderful lunch to our veterans and their families.

Please read the updates on all of the Americanism programs throughout the next few sections of the Pride for additional details, and if you have new ideas or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the members of the Americanism Committee.

Yours in Service,

Americanism Chairman
Jim Alexander

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.

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

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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.

Yours in Service,

Gregory Taylor,
Flag Replacement Chairperson
gregohl1@verizon.net

Boys State

The 2015 Boys State will be held at McDaniel College, in Westminster Maryland. Boys State will begin on Sunday, the 21st of June 2015 and graduation will be held Saturday, the 27th of June 2015. The cost is still \$300.00 per boy.

It is that time of year to start preparing for this year's Boys State. Ask your Post Commander if he has appointed a Boys State Chairperson. That Legionnaire is the coordinator between the post and the area schools. All male students that have completed the eleventh grade and will be in the twelfth grade when school starts in August.

Posts should start now to find funding from businesses in their communities or hold a fund raiser. If you have any questions about Boys State, call the Department of Maryland The American Legion or call, email, or text me.

Dennis Renehan
Committee Chairman &
Boys State Staff member

(410)-330-3003

dawgtrucker@yahoo.com

National Emergency Fund:

The National Emergency Fund continues to need our help. With the continued economic challenges we face as a Nation, the support this program provides to so many is greatly appreciated. We need to help in this time of need where there are so many natural disasters; flooding, earth

quakes, wild fires to name a few.

Our National Sons of The American Legion Commander Mike Moss has set a goal to raise \$50,000 for The National Emergency Fund.

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.

Donations may be submitted to your Squadron or the Detachment.

Yours in Service,
Jerry Saunders,
NEF Chairperson

Community Affairs:

Community services is part of the heart of the American Legion's core beliefs and the commitment to "Community" is part of the Preamble for all of the American Legion Family organizations. The Legion recognizes the community is a big part of our way of life and supports it through their support. In many communities the Legion Posts take a major part in helping to better their community by their good values in leadership. They do this by helping youth programs such as baseball, scouting, food banks, etc. and by monetary donations and through volunteering their time. All of this helps set a good example for our young boys and girls, which helps them make good decision in life. Please reach out to your local community organizations during these upcoming winter months to see what help your squadron is able to provide and show our support of the Community.

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

I'm writing this report at the end of 2014. Several squadrons have begun sending in ticket stubs and money for the raffle, which supports, SOMD Bowling. Several district commanders elected not to take tickets at the last DEC meeting. Tickets will be mailed to each district commander, based on your membership in each district. We ask that district commanders distribute tickets based on membership of squadron within their districts. The drawing will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2015 at our Detachment convention. Again, I would like to see each squadron, purchase tickets for the drawing based on your own Squadron membership.

Please remember, with the holidays behind us, we must not forget about the sick children. Commander Hall has asked each Squadron to purchase Josh Dogs this year. Future plans will develop to deliver the Josh dogs to the sick children in our area. Let's kickoff the new year with a great effort with Josh dogs and making a difference, to a sick child. The children that are supported through Casey Cares, are in need of pajamas and still are in need of sponsors for the Netflix program.

Volunteers are needed for the winter games. Once again, we will be at White Tail Ski resort. Please bring a friend and let's show our support for the great cause. I look forward volunteering and cheering on the athletes each year. The 4th annual "Doug Henley Memorial LAPS of Love" event is just around the corner. Please remember, all monies raised we be split three ways between SOMD, CWF and Casey Cares. Once

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again this year we will present the Legion Family group that raises the most money with the trophy. There is a new location for the event this year.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Our children and the youth in our communities, are our future. God Bless.

Ray Edwards

Children & Youth Chairman

rayjred@verizon.net

(410) 215-9354 Cell

JOSH DOG

This year we are going to try to visit our hospital's pediatric wards and give Josh Dogs to children that are in the hospital. To do that we need your help. We need Josh Dogs to give to these young patients. We would love to get as many Josh Dogs delivered to our DEC meeting in Ocean City for our first trip to the hospital. Then we will again ask for Josh Dogs to be delivered to our next DEC in Rising Sun so we can go back to the hospital. These dogs will bring a smile to these ill children's faces while they are going thru a tough time.

These dogs only cost \$39.95 and will lift a child's spirit and bring a smile to their face which is priceless.

There is also a GI Josh Dog, which has also been across the nation and given to children that have moms and dads deployed. If you would like to purchase either Josh Dog and bring it to the next DEC we will make sure it gets in the hands of a child that will appreciate it. Please join us all and help bring a smile to the face of a child by purchasing a Josh Dog today.

Casey Cares Newsletter

As we wrap up one year and start to plan for the New Year, the truth is, we as a Legion Family are busy planning out the remainder of our year. We have gotten through the hustle and bustle of the Holidays. The sad part is that for many children out there, they did not get home, or if they did, could not enjoy the

season, due to an illness. Casey Cares was there for many of those families, but only because of our help. There are

Pajama rolling parties each month for distribution to all local hospitals wishing them, Family Fun Nights, tickets to Events for the entire family, and even something as simple as a family pizza night for the family, so as they can enjoy a relaxing evening also. This can only happen from our donations to this great program. Your continued support is still needed. This is the only way that we can make these children and parents smile.

So as we plan out the remaining year, let us not forget our commitment to Casey Cares!

Serving Maryland's Children
Ed Steininger Sr.
Casey Cares Chairman
edwardsteininger@Yahoo.com
443-807-1495

Child Welfare Foundation

"Dedicated to the betterment of all children"

Mission: Though created by The American Legion in 1954, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., is a separate 501 (c) 3 corporation. Our foremost philanthropic priority is to provide other nonprofit organizations with a means to educate the public about the needs of children across this 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.

100% per Capita Banner Program 2014 - 2015: Each squadron donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year will receive a beautiful banner/streamer. To qualify a squadron must donate one dollar per member based upon its official membership total as of June 1, 2014. The squadron has from June 1, 2014 to

May 31, 2015 to complete its donation to CWF. Please see me if you need a Banner Request Form.

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

Thank you to the Squadrons and Legion Families members that donated to this year's Toys for Tots program. No greater joy or expression can be seen then for a child to wake up on Christmas morning receiving a gift. Numerous toys and donation was received and donated to the Marine Corp, churches, and families in need, local battered wife shelters, Children Hospitals and much more. Disney-Bell Squadron 66 donated over \$14, 700 worth of toys to contribute to all these areas and to Charlotte Hall; gave veterans a chance to show love to their children and grandchildren; what a great idea.

Not all the Squadron reported in about the wonderful things they have done, but I would like to thank those that did; To Springhill Squadron 237--\$130.00 in toys, Dor-Wic Squadron 218--\$710 in toys and monies, Wicomico Squadron 64 --\$175 in toys, Blake-Blackston 77 with \$262 in monies and Corporal Herman Hughes Squadron 87--\$1800 in toys and monies that help several families who had not celebrated Christmas in several years and to a family who got burned out of their home on December 23rd. Finally to all the squadrons that donated at the Fall DEC meeting, thank you for making my job as Chairman easy. The hearts of those of us who are children and off-springs of veterans that served and still serving, is still what makes the Legion the Proud Organization we the Sons of The American Legion want to be a part of now and forever . For God and

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Country we love to serve, remember it's not too early to start thinking and preparing for next year's Toys for Tots program. It's been my pleasure, and if I have failed to mention your squadron, know I wasn't informed and I thank you as well.

For God and Country,

John Egerson

Legislative Alert!

The New Year will bring some new Congressmen to the hill 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.

The Washington Conference is February 22-25. The Bus tours of Arlington, Viet Nam and Korean War memorials are scheduled for Sunday Feb 22. Commander Hall will place a wreath at Korean War Memorial in memory of his Grandfather. All Vice Commander are scheduled to attend as well as PNC Gladden.

For God and Country

Tom Deal
Legislative Chairman
tom.deal@verizon.net

VAVS Variety

Visit your vets. If you do make donations put this and all donations for any VA programs you make throughout the year on your reports. Keep in mind just because the holidays are now over let's not forget our veterans they need help all year round.

Perry Point: Chairman PDC Tom Deal said their Christmas party went very well. We extend our thanks to all who showed up to help. As always we are looking for donations at Perry point Hospital throughout the year.

Loch Raven: Chairman Bob Fillipi said the Christmas party was a big success and extends their thanks to all who helped. As always each one of these VA centers and or hospitals can always use monetary donations. Again please take the time to visit our veterans.

Green Street: Chairman Ken Jenkins: Thanks to Ken for stepping up and taking over as chairman. Right off the bat he has attended a meeting there and has come up with a list of items that they need. Several miscellaneous items such as large puzzles, lap robes, magnifying lenses and reading glasses of any strength. Comfort items, shaving cream, lotion, shampoo and razors, if you give razors they must be given at the nurse's station. If you need to contact Ken please call 443-204-1776

Yours in Service,

Dave Hullihen
VA&R Chairman

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

The CHVH Service Organization Liaison Committee (SOLC) hosted the annual Christmas Ice Cream Social on

December 13. In addition to ice cream, each resident received a Christmas card with \$5 inside. Turnout this year was lighter than in previous years but 65 residents had a great time eating ice cream, visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus (Anna Mae Sackie, A.L.A. Unit 82 President), and listening to music provided by Dave Perry, S.A.L. Squadron 172. 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 Legion family was well represented at the social.

Prior to the social, Joe Weik, Squadron 66, and Toni King, Unit 66, delivered four large bags of toys from the Disney-Bell Post 66 toy drive. The toys will be distributed to the residents so they can give them to their children/grandchildren during the holidays.

The Southern Maryland District continues to hold a bingo at the CHVH 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 (our Bingo caller) 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)

Happy New Year!! Once again the American Legion Family from Glen Burnie Post 40 and others from many Post, Units and Squadrons from across the state (the Great Maryland Legion

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Family) put on a fantastic Christmas Luncheon for the students at MCVET. The words of Thanks from the Students to us and from us back to them for their Service to Our Country can still be heard echoing through the dining hall. Great to be able to participate in this wonderful event and as always, looking forward to helping with it again next year. MCVET always has a need for basic toiletry items such as; disposal razors, small shampoo & lotion bottles. Men & Women's new socks and underwear (all sizes). These items are primarily used to support the Day-drop-in program. This is where homeless veterans are able to come in and take showers, rest for a bit, get a hot meal.

Here are the five distinct programs within The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET)



- ◆ Day Drop-In Program
- ◆ Emergency Program (13 weeks)
- ◆ Transitional Housing Program (up to two years)
- ◆ Follow-up Program, and 80 Single Room Occupancy apartments (SRO).

A natural progression will be to go from the Day Drop-in Program, to the Emergency Program, to the Transitional Housing Program, to the SRO.

If anyone is interested in more information or a setting up a group tour of MC VET, please contact me.

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

Chaplin's Corner

Please keep those who are home recovering in your prayers.

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

Thank you and God Bless.

Jerry Sykes
Detachment Chaplin

Commander's Project / Special Olympics Maryland

By the time you read this Commander Hall and the rest of the SAL Challenge Team Plungers will be towed off and warmed up nicely from our venture into the frozen waters of The Chesapeake at Sandy Point. We will also be celebrating the fact that we, along with thousands of other Plungers, volunteers, and supporters, helped to raise a few Million dollars for Special Olympics Maryland. This event took place January 23rd and 24th beginning with Commander Hall joining me and the rest of the Super Plungers for 5 plunges in a row. Each representing a separate branch of the military. On his 5th plunge the Legion Family joined in to make a very noticeable Splash!

Although the event is over donations can still be made to sponsor your favorite Plunger or the SAL Challenge Team through the Special Olympics web site.

There are other events happening around the detachment that benefit the Commanders project. Some will have happened by the time this issue is distributed while others will be held as soon as January 24th and through the end of the fiscal year. Below are 2 and others will be posted on the SAL web site, www.mdsal.org, as the information becomes available.

2/28/15 – Cecil County Squadron 15, with help from the Post 15 Family, will hold their annual "Ice Splash" benefitting Special Olympics Cecil County in Charlestown MD, between Perryville and Elkton. This is a MUST SEE.

3/28/15 - Detachment Draw Down –
Susquehanna 135

Along with fundraising is our continuing call to all members for their volunteer efforts at Special Olympics sporting events. Listed are some dates to consider. If you can make it give me a call for info or contact Special Olympics directly. And **bring a friend**.

2/23-24/15 – Winter Games, Whitetail Resort, Mercersburg PA

3/21-22/15 – Basketball, Frederick

6/5-7/15 – Summer Games, Towson

Finally, to report on the Bowling tournament from December 7th. The Detachment of Maryland is the Presenting Sponsor of this event and we were well recognized for it. Our emblem was seen on banners, posters, and t-shirts. We were also represented well that day as Cmdr. Hall and others were there to help where they were needed.

"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.

For God and Country,
Bill Hill
Chairman

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North Eastern Shore Times

As we start 2015, I would like to thank the District officers, DEC men, and all Squadron Commanders and Adjutants for all of their hard work. Our District is doing a good job at the half way point. Let's make the second half even better. Now to my favorite topic. MEMBERSHIP. As of 12-24-2014 our District is in 2nd Place in the Detachment at 68.37%. We are 32 memberships ahead of this time last year. There are three Squadrons: 18-246 -296 that are over 90%. With five Squadrons needing less than 10 more memberships to be Three Star. Great job so far. Now comes the fun part. Getting the 521 more turned in that we need to be a FOUR STAR DISTRICT. That has to be our goal. I am counting on each Squadron to do their job and be at least Three Star.

Upcoming events:

Squadron 135 has a Texas Hold-em tournament on February 7. Registration is at noon.

Squadron 296 will be having their second annual Wildlife dinner on February 21 in the pavilion starting at 4 P.M.

Squadron 15 will be hosting their annual "Ice Splash" on February 28 starting at 2 P.M. at Wellwood Country Club in Charlestown.

Squadron 296 will produce a Bull and Oyster Roast on March 28 in our pavilion. Time: TBD

The next North Eastern Shore District meeting will be held on March 15 starting promptly at 10:30 A.M. at Post 77 in Easton, Maryland. ALL Squadrons should have a representative at this meeting. You can count on me reminding you again. Get it on your calendar. I want ALL thirteen Squadrons to be there.

The North Eastern Shore District Reception will be held on April 26 at Post 135 in Perryville.

Each Squadron received the raffle tickets to support the Maryland Special Olympics Bowling Tournament at our last District meeting. Let's get these tickets sold and sent to 2nd Vice Commander Ray Edwards as soon as possible!!!!!!

Please use the webpage and contact PDC Bear Weinzirl to advertise any functions that your Squadron is having.

Here is wishing all a healthy and Happy New Year!!

Sons Stepping Up To the Challenge

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

South Eastern Shore Gazette

I hope all district members and their families had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With the holiday season behind us so is half of the Sons of The American Legion year. Important events are happening in our district these next months. Are you ready to, Step Up To The Challenge, to attend these events. That means Squadron Commanders, Squadron officers, and any district members.

The next District Meeting is on the 18th of January at Post 243 in Hurlock at 3 PM. The next weekend is full of events. Starting with the Polar Plunge which is being held at Sandy Point State Park on the 23rd of January with numerous detachment and district officers doing the plunge. This is a special event that helps the Special Olympics of Maryland. If not plunging, sponsor someone who is. Also that same weekend is the Detachment Training seminar to be held at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City MD on the 24th at 1130 AM. That same night at Post 166 in Ocean City MD is the District's \$1000.00 Draw Down. Ticket is \$40.00 and admits 2 for Dinner and enters holder of ticket into the draw down. Dinner is from 3:30 to 5 PM following with Silent Auction, Horse Races, 50/50 Raffles and a cake wheel. It is a great time and event so plan on attending. On the 25th is the

Detachment Winter Meeting also held at Post 166 starting at 1 PM. Also the Sons of The American Legion National Commander Mike Moss will be attending all these events that weekend. His project is the National Emergency Fund. This district needs to have a huge turnout since this is in our backyard. Step Up To The Challenge.

Also the District is doing the Chili Cook-off again as a fundraiser at various posts within the district. Needing volunteers to help with this event, contact Ray Edwards or Leon Miller if you would like to help with this event. Remember district members volunteering is rewarding and helpfulness. Step Up To The Challenge.

Dennis J. Renehan
Commander
South Eastern Shore District

Southern Pride

I would like to start off by saying Happy New Year from the SAL Southern Maryland District officers and DEC men. I hope everyone had a nice holiday with family and friends.

As we begin the second half of the legion year it's important that we keep in mind the Commanders challenge to support the four pillars of the American Legion. We already had one squadron that completed the challenge and several more that are near completion.

We are doing an excellent job with membership as we hit each of our monthly goals during the last six months. At the time of this article, we still need to turn in another 1,358 in membership to hit our yearly goal of 3,855. It's important to turn in membership on a regular basis. We will continue to have the 100%, 105% and top membership by category awards for squadrons in the Southern Maryland District.

Our next district meeting will be Sunday February 8th (1:00 PM) at Post 136 in Greenbelt. All squadrons should have a representative in attendance so we can pass along any information from the

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Detachment of Maryland.

We will be holding our annual Bull & Shrimp feast on Saturday March 14th (2-6pm) at Post 136 in Greenbelt.

Information regarding ticket prices and sales will be available in early February.

Until next time, stay warm and keep working on membership.

Yours in Service,
Joe Lohman
SMD Commander

Western Maryland Glory

I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Holiday Season! 2015 is upon us and we are going to make this an amazing year. Membership renewals are very important this time of year. I know it's going to be difficult but I also know we have one of the strongest membership teams in the nation. Our District reception this year will be held at Post 239 Cascade on April 11th. Tickets and information will be sent out here in the near future. I would love for the District to have a strong representation at this event.

Consolidated Reports are going to be another vital part of this last half of the year. This is a way for everyone to show the state and nation what your squadron and our District has done throughout the year. If you have any questions I will be more than happy to ride out and guide you through it.

Our next District meeting is February 22nd, 2015 at Morris Frock Post 42 at 1PM. Attendance has been down a little bit, so please send at least one representative from your Squadron and I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,

Robert Hill
WMD Commander
Cell: 240-678-8742

BigRob90@MSN.COM

Northern Central District

Good job guys, Northern Central District is still in First Place in Membership. This has been done by the efforts of everyone. Let's keep up the good work and remain in First Place.

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, 2015, 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 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 Cell: 443-807-1131) if you have any questions or want Raffle Tickets.

Our next meeting is Sunday, February 22, 2015. It will be held at Essex, Post #148 starting at 1 pm. We will have our MCVET's Luncheon on March 14, 2015 at the MCVET Center, 301 North High Street, Baltimore, MD 21202 starting at 11:00 am. NCD's Bus Trip to Atlantic City will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 11:00 pm. The tickets will be \$45 and lunch and drinks are included in the price. If you are interested in going, please see me or Dave Hullihen (Cell: 410-446-5468). Proceeds from the Atlantic City Bus Trip will go to Hero Dogs.

Don't forget about the Winter DEC Meeting at Synepuxent Post #166, Sunday, January 25, 2015 starting at 1:00 pm and the Draw Down on March 28th to benefit the Detachment Commander's Project at Susquehanna

Post #135 starting at 6 pm.

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: lafltd@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. Commander Mike will be traveling to the Detachment of Maryland on January 23-25, 2015. While here he will be joining the Maryland team and plunge for Special Olympics at Sandy Point State Park, then heading to Ocean City for the weekend with the Detachment. Please find time in your schedules and come meet your National Commander at the Winter DEC. Please show your support for the Commander Mikes projects.

National Commanders project 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.

American Legion Endowment Fund, in 1925, World War I veterans, widows and children continued to struggle to return to a regular life. The

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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 days, 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.

National Vice Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs is proud of our membership, we passed all goals set by National and we are ahead of January 21st goal of 60% with 60.885% which has us 13th in the Nation and 3rd 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 for

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

443-206-0402

Public Relations Advisory

We want to brag about you!

If you are hosting an event, or have had a successful one which you just want to brag about, please send an outline. It may be about either what's taking place or what has taken place. Provide some details around what the event may be supporting, such as a Draw Down to raise funds for a scholarship program, or a Dance to support the Detachment Commanders Project and an event, which may be purely held in your community to support a local program such as a food bank, or children's clothing drive. We'll do our best to publish them on the Detachment website in advance of the event and we'll help get the word out to the Detachment and Legion Family. One article will be published in each upcoming Pride in this section and will highlight the event, those who supported/hosted it and whatever final goal was achieved. Let's get the word out around the fantastic things this great Detachment of

Maryland does to support the Four Pillars of the American Legion. A good pat on the back for your local Squadron or District in print is always a great way to say "Thanks"! Please send all articles to:

Bill Hill (PDC)

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM

Junior Member Forum

All though there is not an official distinction between the levels of membership within the SAL, we recognize the age differences and associate those under the age of 18 as Junior members. This section will be dedicate to articles and information specifically addressed to these members. So, as a challenge moving forward we are asking the following of not only the Junior's, but to the parents and grandparents.

Send in articles or questions, which come directly from or are address a younger member's interest or questions. As many articles as possible will be published in this section of the Pride.

Some things to think about or consider are; what would make a younger member interested in coming out to a Squadron, District or Detachment meeting or event. Do you/they attend meeting/events today, if not, why not? Do they want more things geared toward their interest and if so, what are they? Tell the Officers what you want to see. Junior members are the future of this great organization and without your contribution moving forward, we run the risk of becoming an extinct organization. We want to hear from you, the Junior members who will become the future leaders of the Sons of The American Legion. Send in articles or questions to the Detachment Officers. Please submit articles and comments to:

Sr. Assistant Adjutant

Bill Hill (PDC)

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM



“Sons Stepping up t The Challenge ”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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



2015 Membership Target Date:

<i>September 10, 2014</i>	10%
<i>October 8, 2014</i>	25%
<i>November 13, 2014</i>	35%
<i>December 10, 2014</i>	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 2015

Winter D.E.C. Meeting & Training Session

January 24th—25th, 2015 @ 1pm

Synepuxent Post 166 @ 1pm

Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown

March 28th, 2015

Susquehanna Post 135 @ 5pm

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 12th, 2015

Rising Sun Post 194 @ 1pm

42nd Annual Detachment Convention

June 26th to 28th

Laurel Post 60

2 Main Street, Laurel, MD