



# *“The Pride”*

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

[www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org)

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Seminar Issue - September 27, 2015

## Commander's Corner

I'd like to start off my first article as Detachment Commander by congratulating our 2014-2015 Commander, JR Don Hall on a VERY successful year. I also want to extend my congratulations to all of the newly elected officers of our Squadrons and Districts as well as the Detachment of Maryland for the years of 2015-2016. I salute you all for "Stepping up to the Challenge" and making it another fantastic year. By working together, we can and will make this year a successful year. I cannot believe I am now the Commander. It has been a short 5 year journey to become the Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. I would like to thank everyone for the support that they have shown over the years and helping me get to this honored position. I would not be here without your help and I am still calling upon you to help me become a great Commander for the Sons of the American Legion. This year my slogan will be "Sons Helping Vets Build a Better Future" and my project will be MCVET. Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training. I thought long and hard before choosing my Commander's Project for this year and look forward to the support from our Legion Family.

I plan to travel to as many events as I can. If you are having an event and would like me to attend just let me know and I will do my best to get there. Please take time regularly to take a look at the Detachment webpage at [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org) and look at the information that is on there for everyone to share. Web master PDC Bear Weinzirl encourages everyone to send him information to have posted

on the page and also encourages everyone to use the page to find information about what is going on around the state at other post. It is not just for fundraisers either; this page contains information on all of our programs and more. This page will be updated by all chairmen during the year regularly so don't think just because you have read it once you don't need to look at it anymore. Please use the page as a source of information.

Our Seminar/DEC meeting will be held on Friday through Sunday, September 25, 26 & 27 at Camp West Mar in Frederick County. This is a very important meeting that every Squadron Commander or a representative should attend. There will be an abundance of information presented on this day that will be of great benefit to you. Seminar Packets and Blue Books will be distributed. Our Commissions and Committees will be laying out our goals for the year and how we can accomplish them. Past National Commander Bill Sparwasser will be holding a class to help all DEC better understand their job and give them the information and tools needed to do so. If you have never attended one of PNC Sparwasser classes we are sure you will walk away with a lot of great information. We would like to see every DEC from each District in attendance for the class. The more information we have and understand, the more we can spread the word and help all of our Blue cap members in every Squadron across our great state. We will be going over the consolidated report forms and providing instruction on how to fill them out properly. Please make an effort to attend this seminar. I hope to see you there. [Just a reminder- Detachment Commissions and

Committees will meet one hour prior to all DEC meetings]. I look very much forward to traveling this great state with Department Commander Lou Trott and Department President Doris Reynolds, promoting the programs of The American Legion Family. I plan to represent you in a way that will make you proud to say that you are a member of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Maryland. In closing, always remember all of our troops in harm's way serving all over the world.

*"Sons Helping Vets Build a Better Future"*

Jeff Seiler

Commander  
Detachment of Maryland  
Sons of The American Legion

## Adjutant's Corner

**D.E.C./Seminar:** The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Seiler, on September 26, 2015 at 1:30 P.M. The meeting is being hosted at Camp West Mar, located at 14509 Brown Rd., Sabillasville, MD 21780. Lunch will be served to anyone attending beginning at noon. At 1:00 P.M., PNC Bill Sparwasser will be conducting the first training session for this administrative year which will be focusing on the duties and responsibilities of a Detachment Executive Committeeman.

**Campout & Commander Retreat**  
We are hosting a weekend Camp Out at Camp Westmar, 14509 Brown Rd,

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Sabillsville MD 21780, from Friday September 25 to Sunday September 27. The first DEC will be held at Camp WestMar on that Saturday, so since you're coming for that, why not make it a weekend. There are sleeping facilities available (bring your own blankets and etc...), as well as areas for tent camping and campers (no hookups). We will have activities for our Junior members and we are providing meals all three days. Just bring your beverage of choice and your children or grandchildren. There will also be a Corn Hole Tournament for Senior members and their families at the conclusion of the DEC Meeting.

Yours In Service,  
Bill Matoska  
Detachment Adjutant  
matoskaw@yahoo.com  
443-710-9664

## Get your Game on for MEMBERSHIP!

Comrades,

What a great year in membership in 2015. The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Maryland set an all-time high in membership with more than 16,000 memberships.

The final numbers will not be posted until the first of the year. This will be a tough act to follow, but I'm very upbeat and excited to have the opportunity to work membership this year. As a team, we will continue to hold monthly conference calls with our district commanders. Our goal is to work with our members who have not renewed their membership. Statewide, there are more than five hundred members who have yet renewed. Another goal is to recruit members. I am confident there are potential members in our Legion family who are not signed up. We must work with our Veterans and Auxiliary to search for those eligible sons, grandsons, great grandsons, step sons, step grandson and step great grandsons. We must continue to recruit new members and grow this great organization. We must also help The American Legion and The Auxiliary grow their membership as well. So, let's roll up our selves and get to work. I'm



looking forward to a fantastic year growing our membership!

Yours in Service

Ray Edwards Jr. Membership Chairmen  
1st Vice Commander  
[rayjred@verizon.com](mailto:rayjred@verizon.com)  
(410) 215-9354

## Americanism Report

The AMERICANISM COMMISSION of The American Legion was created in 1919 during the by the National Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1919. As a Detachment, we have always been and will continue to support to all the Americanism programs. Our success this year will truly rely on our blue hats to support our *Community, State, and Nation*. Just reach out to a local organization and ask what we can do to help. Supporting Local blood drives, The National Emergency Fund, Flag Replacement, Boys and Girls State and Boy scouts are some of the ways we can support our community.

Thank You to every member of the Detachment and all or our Legion Family members for supporting the programs, which fall under Americanism.

Yours in Service to Legion Programs,  
Joe Lohman, Americanism Chairman

## Flag Replacement Program:

Start thinking about how you can help your Post out with purchasing flags for Veteran's Holidays and the laying of the flags on the graves of our veterans or out in your community. Make sure to track your efforts and keep a record of the replaced flags as indicated on the replacement form. If you are looking for a Flag Retirement Program/Ceremony, please contact me. Also, please let me know if your need Flag Replacement Forms. Let's get out there and replace those worn out flags.

For God and Country  
Larry Ford  
Flag Replacement Program Chairman  
Email: [lafld@comcast.net](mailto:lafld@comcast.net)

## Boys State

The 2015 Boys State was held on the campus of McDaniel College, in Westminster Maryland. The Maryland Boys State program began on Sunday, the 21st of June 2015 and graduation held Saturday, the 27th of June 2015. During that week the boys held elections for their city mayor and staff, the mayor appointed citizens to city positions and they wrote their city charter. They also hear some great speakers and asked intelligent questions during question and answer session during the week. They held elections for their governor and his staff and then elected their senior and junior senators along with their alternates. The Senior and Junior Senator represent Maryland Boys State at The American Legion's Boys Nation. That event is held in Washington DC in July. The boys also go to the Statehouse on Friday and sit in the delegate's chamber and talk to Tony O'Donnell, an alumnus of Maryland Boys State. Something new is a Facebook page for the 2015 Boys State and a Facebook page for anyone who is an alumnus of the Maryland Boys State program.

Squadrons should start holding fund raisers now to help offset the cost to the post instead of waiting till March or April. Also you can use funding from businesses in your communities to also help offset the cost. The cost is still \$300.00 per boy. Ask your Post Commander if he has appointed a Boys State Chairperson. That Legionnaire is the coordinator between the post and the area schools. Remember that all male students will have completed the eleventh grade and will be in the twelfth grade when school starts in the following August. If you would like to join the program there will be a meeting at Post 276 in Severn MD at 12 pm on the 12th of September 2015.

If you have any questions about Boys State, call the Department of Maryland The American Legion or call, email, or text me.

Dennis J. Renehan  
Committee Chairman  
Boys State Staff  
Fort City CIC  
[dawgtrucker@yahoo.com](mailto:dawgtrucker@yahoo.com)  
410-330-3003

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### **National Emergency Fund:**

The National Emergency Fund continues to need our help. The current economic challenge along with the ongoing national disasters (such as the fires in the Western part of our country and hurricane season) has forced our Legion family to rely on NEF for assistance. Your continued support of this program is greatly appreciated. We are asking each squadron to donate at least \$1.00 per member. This should be a very obtainable goal.

Yours in Service,  
Jerry Saunders,  
NEF Chairperson

### **Community Affairs:**

As we begin the new administrative year, remember to be an integral part of your local communities. Outreach and support of local activities and youth organizations is a great way to keep our mission and our purposes in front of the communities we serve. Your involvement in local activities may be what makes the event a success, and don't forget to include the Legionnaires and Auxiliary members of your home post in your outreach programs, our Legion Family is only strong when we work together!

On Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we are providing a cookout at the Fisher House at Bethesda Naval Hospital. This annual event is well attended and much appreciated by the residents of the Fisher House and our wounded warriors. If you would like to attend contact me and as always donations are appreciated, both monetary and in kind donations accepted.

Don't forget to let us know what you're doing in your community so we can share the good news with everyone.

Yours in service,  
Bob Manzo  
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  
Joe Lohman

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER**

Child Welfare – CWF Chairman Tom Clavell has ask for support this year with making as many donations as possible. He is coming up with plans on ways to raise fund for the CWF so be ready. As well as

Children's Miracle Network – CMN Chairman Jerry Sykes is asking that if possible all squadrons donate \$1.00 per member this year. We have been and will always be a big supporter of CMN so please continue to support this great cause.

So once again let's continue to support all of our children and youth projects this year

Thank you  
Children and youth Chairman  
David Hullihen  
Children & Youth Chairman

## **Casey Cares Newsletter**

As we start a new administrative year I am excited to be involved with Casey Cares. As I am sure everyone is aware Casey Cares is a locally created program for critically ill children and their families. They try to make life a little more pleasant for the families with what most of us take for granted. A night at home watching a movie from "NetFlix", gift cards from any number of stores, donations of pajamas to "Kami's Jammies", and Crazy socks just to mention a few. If you find that you have any of these items or perhaps an extra set of tickets to one of our many local attractions, please consider donating them. Those little things we can sometimes take for granted can mean so

much to these families.

On Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup> members of three squadrons representing 2 districts got together to help make a special day possible for about 60 Casey Cares families. Your SAL members helped with the Casey Cares Annual Sagamore Farms Cookout. Bobby Keys and David Hullihen from August J Ravoio Squadron 195 provided the grills and cooked some hotdogs and hamburgers. They must have been really good, since a couple of the children came back for seconds! Bob and Carla Wickline from Hampstead Squadron 200 provided a special treat in the form of fresh cut French Fries. What party for children wouldn't be complete without desert. Bob Chilcoat from Towson Post 22 provided a special desert: old fashioned cotton candy. Not only did the children get to eat these special treats but some wanted to learn how to cut the fries and how to collect the cotton candy onto the cone. Of course your chairman was present handing out the hamburgers and hotdogs with the help of Erin Ritter and Leslie Silverman from Casey Cares. All this could not be possible without the special help of Bob Keys, Dave Hullihen, Bob Wickline, Carla Wickline and Bob Chilcoat. I send all of you a special thank you for your help.

It is the little things that can make life seem more enjoyable to everyone.

Up and coming events are the \$10,000 Raffle being held at the Rock N Roll Bash on September 26<sup>th</sup> checkout the Casey Cares web site at [www.caseycares.org](http://www.caseycares.org) for more information. Remember the Holidays are approaching and what better way of celebrating then to help make a special day for a child. Checkout the Holiday Giving brochure at <http://caseycares.org/uploads/file/HG%20Brochure%202015.pdf>.

Serving Maryland's Children

Kraig A Dean

Casey Cares Chairmen

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

410-440-2449

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## Toys For Tots

Let's make this year our best year ever with all of the Detachment of MD Squadrons working together along with me. I am sure that we will have a great year. May I suggest that you contact your post home and set up collecting new unwrapped toys, as well as cash donations, starting after Labor Day. Also, if you plan on having other fund raising projects at your post, could you please name a person as chairman and contact me with what you are planning, so that I may keep a report. Also, we can place your event on the Toys For Tots website, as well as the SAL website and also Facebook. I can handle contacting your coordinator for your post and have them send you collection boxes and pick up toys when needed. I also can tell you how to do this yourself, if you like. Now for the bad news! Now in closing, I simply want to say how proud that I am to be your chairman this year and proud of all the officers and blue hats in this great organization.

For God and Country,

Eddie Souder

Toy for Tots Chairman

## Special Olympics— Maryland

Hello Again,

As we get this year started and each of us is working on our budgets I ask to remember the Special Olympics of Maryland. As a program moves out of being the Commanders project like SOMD was last year at times the thought of it gets moved on also. Please remember the Sons of The American Legion has a long history of working with and for the great athletes of SOMD. We had a fantastic year last year for the program and we are looking to support the bowling tournament

again for years to come. That will cost \$15,000.00 a year in donations, not counting pledges for the Polar Bear plunge. We still do get to report and get credit for plunge donations but it does not count toward the money we need to raise annually for the bowling tournaments.

Volunteers are still needed all the time and this is a chance for you to work for one of our programs and have a great time doing it. I will be putting dates on the webpage and handing them out as they come in for bowling, winter games, and other chances to volunteer. We will again be having our annual raffle so please help sell those tickets. It is given to each Squadron based on your membership, so if we all sold \$1.00 ticket we would raise over \$10,000.00 just for bowling. It can be done with your help. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at [dhall1967@verizon.net](mailto:dhall1967@verizon.net).

Still Stepping Up to The Challenge,

PDC. JR Hall

Chairman

## Legislative Alert!

I want to start this year by saying we need to remain vigilant and talk about Veterans benefits and issues to our representatives and congressmen.

Get to know who they are in your local districts and ask what they are doing about our Veterans and their needs.

Every year we hear about the budget and proposed cuts, we need to remain strong in our support for our veteran's benefits that they have earned. I have asked for everyone to sign up for legislative alerts on the National web site and I know many have. I want to put another push for everyone who said I will do it but never got to it. T

here have been a few times this year where we needed almost instant notification for a certain bill or hearing that we needed immediate action on. I hope you will consider signing up right now and when you get that alert voicing

your opinion to our representatives for our Veterans.

The American Legion will let you know the specific issue and where it stands on the issue. All you need to do is click on the take action and submit. We need to help take care of our Veterans. Get involved, take action, stand up and be counted fighting for our Veterans. The American Legion website <http://www.legion.org/legislative> scroll down to LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER and go to the Take Action page. I will still send out e-mails when I get them but most of the time we need to act fast and e-mails are not the way to do business.

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

## VAVS Variety

Wow, where has the summer gone? It's time to get back to business like we ever stop. This year I have the responsibility as chairman of VA&R. I'm very excited about this appointment because I have the opportunity to work with some great knowledgeable guys who can educate me about places like Perry Point, MCVETS and Charlotte Hall just to name a few. I am hoping that my work schedule allows me the opportunity to visit these homes this year, getting a firsthand look and understanding of what goes on inside and being able to talk to the veterans. By doing this I believe when you talk about programs like VA&R you talk about it from the heart not from what you read or what you have heard. Coming up on September 19<sup>th</sup>, the Perry Point Carnival will be starting around 1 PM. This year's theme is Be a Good Sport, so come on out and show your support. If you can't come out to Perry Point, donations are accepted. I would just like to thank everybody in advance who donates or volunteers.

Yours in Service,

VA&R Chairman  
Jim Alexander

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## Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

*“the only Veterans Home in the state”*

I attended the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Service Organization Liaison Committee meeting on August 22. The SOLC is made up of representatives of Service Organizations such as the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans. The two annual events sponsored by the SOLC are the Carnival and the Christmas Ice Cream Social. The Carnival will be held on September 12 from 1:30 PM to 4PM. The theme this year is “Military Celebration.” Tables are set up in the multi-purpose room and the residents receive gifts from the many organizations participating. The Christmas Ice Social will be held on December 12 from 2 PM to 4 PM. In addition to ice cream, each resident who attends the social receives a Christmas card with \$5 inside. If you are interested in volunteering for either event contact me. If you are interested in donating to either event, send your donations, to Toni Carr, 11320 Keystone Ave., Clinton, MD 20735. Make checks payable to CHVH/Service Organization Liaison Committee and indicate which event in the memo line.

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. The bingos hand out \$2,400 a year, so please consider making a donation. Remember, CHVH is the only Veterans Home in the state and has residents from all over Maryland. Donations should be sent 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.

The Charlotte Hall Veterans Home has been “Serving Those Who Served” since 1985. If you would like to find out more about opportunities to help, contact me or visit their website, [www.charhall.org](http://www.charhall.org).

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)

Thank you to the Detachment Commander for making MCVET his program this year. The words of Thanks from the Students, Faculty and Board are merely a small jester back to the Detachment and the American Legion Family from across the state for the great support they show to this program.

We look forward to hosting as many tours as you request to show case the facility and services provided to our Veterans’. 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 let me know if anybody is sick or has passed away. If anybody would like a service at the funeral home or at the grave site, also let me know.

The morning was gray  
And a wee chickadee  
Sat high on the branch of an  
Old willow tree  
He chirped out a song, with  
Staccatos and cheer  
Was pleased with the sound  
And listened to hear  
The birds in the woods as  
They echoed his song  
Soon, the whole world was  
Singing along.  
It didn't take much, just a  
Song from the heart,  
All the chickadee did was  
Just give it a start----

Gracious Father, grant us The strength and courage to “from the heart” just give it a start to set new goals and achieve greater heights. Be with us as we go in Thy Name to work in Service for God and Country and programs of The American Legion and The Sons Of The American Legion.

In Thy Name we pray. Amen.

For God and Country  
In His Service,  
Larry Ford

Email: [lafltd@comcast.net](mailto:lafltd@comcast.net)  
Cell: 443-413-4710

**Commander’s Project / MCVET** [Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training]

MCVET Incorporated on February 25,

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1993, the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Corporation designed to provide homeless veterans and other veterans in need with comprehensive services that will enable them to rejoin their communities as productive citizens.

Their mission is to provide homeless veterans and other veterans in need with comprehensive services that will enable them to rejoin their communities as productive citizens.

MCVET has the ability to serve over 200 veterans at any given time from around the state of Maryland daily at its 100,000 square foot facility located in downtown Baltimore, MD, with the support of over 40 staff members. MCVET provides its students with comprehensive services including case management, employment services, education services, life skills training, addiction counseling and recovery, housing, meals, and secure facilities to receive these services from. I'd like to ask for your support in getting behind this program, which is in direct support of one of the core Pillars of The American Legion. Thank you to everyone who has already made a donation and I'd like to ask for your continued support of this very special charity that provides uplifting programs! This program and the other programs that benefit our veterans of our country. Thank you in advance, to the members of the Legion Family

"Sons Helping Vets Build a Better Future"

Yours in Service,

Mike Obremski  
Project Chair

## **Time and Place Committee**

We're heading back to Laurel for the 43rd Annual Convention! Specifically Laurel Post 60!!

We want to extend our Thanks and appreciation to Laurel Post 60 Commander Lee Luby and her group for putting together a great convention this

past June. We're looking forward to another great convention!

We are looking at other hotel arrangements and will have those details available by our Fall DEC.

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).

For God and Country,  
Bill Hill  
Chairman

## **North Eastern Shore Times**

Hello comrades I would like to introduce myself to those who have not met me. My name is Freddie Taylor your newly elected district commander. We just finished our first district meeting and it was well attended we were honored to have our detachment commander present and he spoke on his commander projects for the year. As a district I am asking all squadrons to support this project and the rest of the American legion programs. As always membership is our number one priority and thank all of the N.E.S.D squadrons as we are the first district to have no zeros in membership. Here are some upcoming events in our district

Upcoming events:

1. October 3rd crab feast @ Post #296  
35.00 per person all u can eat

2. October 17th squadron #228 pit beef sale @ Rt 20 Jude find Rock Hall Md.

3. Squadron # 278 every Saturday crabs and crab soup until the end of October

Freddie Taylor  
Commander: N.E.S.D.

## **South Eastern Shore Gazette**

I Greetings from the Lower Eastern Shore.

Our first SES District meeting will have been held on August 23rd, 2015 at Post 218 in Sharptown Maryland before this article is published in the Pride. I'd like to say "Welcome Back" and let's get our sleeves rolled up and get busy.

The SES District finished in first place for 2014-2015 membership year. Thank You's go out to all members of this District for stepping up to the challenge last year. This year's Detachment Membership Chairman is Ray Edwards, one of our own. I'm sure he will issue a challenge to this District at that first District meeting. Once again, Thanks to those Squadrons who are working hard on their membership this year. Great job!!! If your squadron has a zero or the infamous "Goose Egg" your squadron needs to step up your game and get busy.

The 44th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion will have been held in Baltimore MD on the 28th, 29th, and 30th of August. If you attended this event I hope you had fun and learned somethings about this great organization.

The Detachment Camp Out is coming up. This event will be held at Camp WestMar just outside of Thurmont MD. The dates for this is September 25, 26, and 27, 2015. Meals will be served while there. On 26 September there will be a Class for DEC men at 1 pm followed by a Detachment Seminar at 1:30 pm. There is a corn hole tournament starting at 6:30 pm that evening.

The Fall DEC meeting will be held on 15 November 2015 at Post 36 in Chestertown MD at 1 P.M. If you have not been to a DEC meeting, you should attend one. You will be amazed.

If your Squadron is having an

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event, please post it on the Detachment's webpage by contacting Larry (Bear) Weinzirl at [NESD@AOL.com](mailto:NESD@AOL.com). This is a way for other members of this district or detachment to know what is going on in your squadron and this district.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

Dennis J. Renehan  
Commander  
SESD

## Southern Pride

I bring you greetings from the "Great Southern Maryland District". As summer winds to a close it's time to roll up our sleeves and start working with our American Legion Family to kick off the 2015-2016 Legion year.

Some squadrons have already started... #136 & #172 got started with a pool party/picnic on August 1st with the proceeds going to MCVET, our Detachment Commander's project this year.

The American Legion held their Department Convention in July at O.C. I was able to attend the fish fry and the SMD exchanging of the hats. We also look forward to the upcoming National Convention in Baltimore. I am proud to say we have Sons who have volunteered to be delegates and represent the SMD. You can check the Detachment website for further information.

We had our organizational meeting on August 9th at Post #172. I want to say "Thank You" to the DEC's who are coming back and the new Sons who are stepping up this year. It is our Great DEC'S that make our District successful. All squadrons should be contacted by your DEC Men shortly.

We had a great year with membership last year... over 100%... Thank You! Let's make it three years in a row. I know we can do it, in fact, we are already ahead of where we

were this time last year. Please don't forget about your District Dues. We were 100% last year for the first time in years. Dues are only \$20.00 and can be mailed to our finance officer or given to your assigned DEC Man.

We have the following upcoming SMD Events. Labor Day Weekend picnic on September 6th (Details pending). The 3rd annual Chuck Wagon cook-off will be on September 12th at Post #60 with the proceeds going to MCVET. Our Annual Draw Down will be on November 7th at Laurel Post 60. 150 tickets will be sold. Admits 2 people for dinner, entertainment, and a chance to win \$\$\$\$. Tickets can be purchased from any SMD Officer or DEC Men. Our next SAL SMD meeting will be held on October 4th at Rockville Post #86 at 1pm. All Squadron Commanders, adjutants, and "Blue Caps" are welcome. We can only grow if we get new Sons with new ideas.

Yours in Service

Joe Weik  
SMD Commander

## NEC NEWS

The 44<sup>th</sup> National Convention of The Sons of The American Legion was held in Baltimore on August 28-30, 2015. The Detachment of Maryland had many delegates and guests in attendance. For many of us it was the first time attending a National Convention in our home state or the first time attending a National Convention. This is one to remember, the Detachment held a dinner at Post #40 and assisted with the parade and also received 3<sup>rd</sup> place for our news letter the "Pride".

Many of our delegates received a onetime appointment to the various commissions of our organization to help judge reports to finish out the administration year 2014-2015. As we conclude this convention National Commander Mike Moss has been "Building Bridges to Our Future", like raising donations for the American Legion Endowment, National

Emergency funds and with 14 Detachment having an all time high including Maryland in membership. This is also the time we congratulate National Commander Mike Moss for a have a great year representing over 350,000 members of the S.A.L... On Sunday we elected a new National Commander, Kevin Collier from the state of Alaska. "R.O.C.K.E.D." **Remembering Our Commitment** Keeping it **Every Day**, through duty, honor and service to The American Legions programs. National Vice Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs congratulated the Eastern Region for all their support and invites to their respected Detachments. He enjoyed traveling and learning how the Detachments handle their membership and raising funds for various programs and good ol' hospitality. With elections for National Officers comes the election of five National Vice Commanders. This year the East nominated and elected Bill Hill from the Great Detachment of Maryland to the Office of National Vice Commander East, Congratulations Bill from all of us.

Yours in Service,

Andy Dadds

Nat'l Executive Committeeman (NEC)

## Public Relations Advisory **We want to brag about you!**

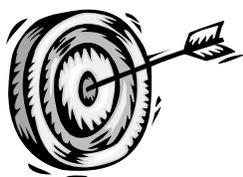
If you are hosting an event, or have had a successful one which you just want to brag about, please send an outline. It may be about either what's taking place or what has taken place. Provide some details around what the event may be supporting, such as a Draw Down to raise funds for a scholarship program, 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.



"Sons Helping Vets Build a Better Future"

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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



**2016 Membership Target Date:**

<i>September 9, 2015</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>October 14, 2015</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>November 13, 2015</i>	<i>35%</i>
<i>December 9, 2015</i>	<i>45%</i>
<i>January 20, 2016</i>	<i>60%</i>
<i>February 10, 2016</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>March 9, 2016</i>	<i>80%</i>
<i>April 13, 2016</i>	<i>90%</i>
<i>May 11, 2016</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>* July 26, 2016</i>	<i>105%</i>

Delegate Strength Target Date

**Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2015—2016**

**Campout / Commander Preparatory Retreat / DEC**

September 25th —27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Camp West-Mar

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

November 15th, 2015 / Chestertown Post 36 @ 1pm

**Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training** at The Grand Hotel

**Special Olympics Maryland Draw Down** @ Post 166

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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

January 31st, 2016 / Synepuxent Post 166 @ 1pm

**Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown**

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 / Susquehanna Post 135 @ 5pm

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

April 3rd, 2016 / Rockville Post 86 @ 1pm

**43rd Annual Detachment Convention**

June 24th to 26<sup>th</sup>

Laurel Post 60

2 Main Street, Laurel, MD