



Sons of The American Legion



## *“The Pride”*

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

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

Volume 2022/2023: Issue 2  
Fall Issue - November 13, 2022

### **Commander's Corner**

Greetings from your Detachment Commander.

My year has started a little slow because I've had Covid for the third time, but I believe I am on the mend.

The weather didn't cooperate, so we had to cancel our campout at Southern Maryland Youth Camp. We are going to try and have a campout in April.

We are going to start a Junior's Program with elections, training and activities. Hopefully, we can start something at our November 13th DEC Meeting at Reisterstown #116 at 1 pm.

I want to thank everyone who have donated to my project, which is: Southern Maryland Youth Camp. My goal is to raise \$80,000. I would like to buy a gator, refurbish the air conditioning/heating in some of cabins and fix and buy new bunks.

November is here and is going to be busy. We start with the PDC Crab Feast on Nov. 5th, from 1 – 5 pm. Veterans Day is on Nov. 11th. Please plan to attend a Veterans Day Program at your Post or a another Post. Reach out to a Veteran, they may need your help with something.

At our next DEC Meeting on Nov. 13th, please bring a new toy or make a donation to Toys for Tots.

The Annual Legion Christmas Party is December 11th at Towson American Legion #22 from 1 – 5 pm. Please plan to attend, fun to be had by all!

Our Mid-Winter DEC Meeting is February 3 – 5. We start the weekend with Polar Bear Plunge at Sandy Point State Park. You can support The American Legion Family by going to the Polar Bear Plunge website. All events will be held at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City. Rooms for the SAL are available now at a discounted rate.

Have a Happy Holiday Season!!!

God Bless You and God Bless America!!!

Larry Ford  
Commander

443-413-4710

### ***“Developing Our Youth For the Future”***

#### **Adjutant's Corner**

##### **Fall D.E.C.:**

The next Detachment of Maryland Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Ford, on November 13, 2022 at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting is being hosted at Reisterstown Post 116, located at 1090 Westminster Road, Reisterstown, MD 21136.

**Detachment Youth Forum:** All members that are of High School age and younger will assemble and elect their own Detachment Commander and associated officers to represent the youth of the Detachment of Maryland prior to this DEC Meeting. This is an inaugural event and needs everyone's support. This initiative is a result of the input received from our youth in attendance at the Detachment sponsored Youth Training Sessions. Once completed, the Youth Group of the Detachment will meet three times per year; The Annual Campout, The Mid-Winter Session and at the Detachment Convention. The Youth Group will determine their own initiatives and provide feedback as to how they can support the programs and determine what they need to be successful. The Youth Group will also brainstorm how they can become more involved and active on all levels of the Detachment Organization. This forum will convene at noon prior to the DEC under the guidance of C&Y Chairman, Jason Miller.

##### **Fall N.E.C. Historical Event:**

For the first time in the history of the Sons of The American Legion, the Leading and Trailing Candidates for National Commander of the S.A.L. were permitted to host an official

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Meet a Greet Reception during the weekend of the National Executive Committee Meeting at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN. It was an honor and privilege for the Detachment of Maryland to present their Leading Candidate for National S.A.L. Commander, JR Hall, from Glen Burnie Squadron No. 40, at this historical event. The Maryland Legion Family had 25 members make the trip to Indianapolis as volunteers to host and work the room for JR which is why Maryland has and continues to lead the Nation as the Detachment for all to emulate. A Big Thank You and Job Well Done to all making JR proud of his Detachment. A special thank you to Maryland Legion Family members, American Legion Past National Commander, Ric Santos, and American Legion Auxiliary Past National President, Sandi Dutton, for being part of the reception line with our candidate JR Hall, JR's wife Margie and our own PNCs, Chuck Gannon and Joe Gladden.

### **22-23 National Appointments**

The new format for appointments to serve on National Commissions and Committees became effective at the N.E.C. Meeting this past October with the appointment year starting at the adjournment of the Fall N.E.C. until the adjournment of the Fall N.E.C. in October, 2023. At this session the Detachment of Maryland received the following appointments to serve the National Organization. PNC Chuck Gannon to the Commander's Advisory Committee, PNC Bill Matoska as Co-Chairman to the Committee of National Appointments, PNC Jim Hartman as Co-Chairman of the Selection Committee for National Vice Commanders, PNC Joe Gladden as SONA Representative for Internal

Affairs, PDC Tom Deal as Chairman of the Legislative Commission, PDC Bill Hill as Chairman of the Finance Commission, PDC Bear Weinzirl as Consultant to Committee on National Appointments, PDC Bill Stem as a member of the VE & E Commission, Joe Lohman as a member of the American Commission and Robert Hill as Vice Chairman of the Media and Communications Commission. Congratulations to all on these well deserved appointments.

### **Open Forum:**

In an effort to better serve the membership of the Detachment of Maryland we will reserve an area in The Pride for members to ask questions, provide comments or opinions, and give examples of local squadron activities. Any overflow of information or feedback from the membership will be placed on the Detachment web page.

This will give every member the opportunity to interact with the leadership of the Detachment and give every member a forum to be heard across the state and assist the leadership to become more informed on the needs of the members.

These opinions and/or pictures can be sent directly to me electronically at [matoskaw@yahoo.com](mailto:matoskaw@yahoo.com)

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska

Detachment Adjutant

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

443-710-9664

## **Commander's Project**

"Southern Maryland Youth Camp"

Due the inclement weather from Hurricane Ian, the Southern Md. Youth Camp Campout had to be

cancelled. We are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

Commander Ford would like to encourage all Squadrons to make an effort to support his project. All funds raised will go to repairing and improving the Southern Md. Youth Camp.

Reisterstown Squadron has announced a Bull, Oyster, and Shrimp Feed on November 5th. Proceeds from this event will go to the Commander's Project.

Any Squadron planning a fundraiser for the project, please contact me at the email below, so we can get it advertised on all the Detachment social media.

I have t-shirts with the project's logo for sale at \$25. If you would like a t-shirt, please contact me.

Our goal is \$80,000, do what you can to help us reach this goal.

"Developing Our Youth For the Future"

Bill Stem

PDC and Commander's Project Chairman

[Wstem847809@aol.com](mailto:Wstem847809@aol.com)

410 598-9355

***"Sons Continuing the Tradition of Caring"***

### **•Firing up our membership potential in the community.•**

I am super excited with the start of the 2023 membership year. I must say I was concerned how the renewals would come through after the late distribution of cards to our squadrons. However, everyone has really stepped up to get a quick start to the new year.

As of 9/23/22, all four regions hit their 10% goal on time and currently are tied for first place in the

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membership challenge. The Detachment is at 20.96% and only 635 members shy of hitting our 25% goal which is due on October 13, 2022.

We still have some work on our plate as several squadrons are struggling to hit the 10% goal. Region officers and DEC men need to continue to work with our squadrons to ensure they get the assistance needed to be successful in meeting their individual goals for the year.

Once again, my theme this year is 'Firing up our membership potential in the community.'

The theme is focused on targeting new potential members using the four-pillar approach within your local community.

VA&R – Talk to veterans about being a dual member in your own post.  
Children & Youth – signing up our children and grandchildren  
Americanism – signing up members in other non-profit organizations within the community  
National Security - signing up our first responders in your community.

This is a perfect opportunity to begin a special relationship with your local firefighters and police officers.

Another goal is to get back to the pre COVID days of 16,000+ members in the Detachment of Maryland. In addition, I would like to see our member renewal rate hit 92% this year, which is 1.06 higher than what we accomplished in 2022.

Keep up the excellent work and I look forward to seeing everyone at our DEC meeting on November 13th, 2022

Joe Lohman  
Membership Chair  
1st Vice Commander  
Squadron60@verizon.net

## **Americanism Report**

First and foremost, I would like to wish all veterans a Happy Veterans Day and say "Thank You for your service nobly done"

Americanism is only one of the four pillars, and its success or failure all depends on everyone to get the job done. We all need to help support the programs at hand. If we don't this Pillar will not be able to stand and the other three pillars will need to take all the weight. I am sure we do not wish to have that happen.

Boys State - I ask each squadron to sponsor a bright and well deserving youth. This program is a great way for our future leaders to understand and learn more of our government and how it works.

Scouting - Does your squadron or post sponsor a troop? If not, is there a local trop you might be able to help support. As an Eagle Scout myself the scouting program helps to teach our youngsters many skills that they can use now and later on when they are adults.

NEF—Today this now even more needed for our help due to Hurricane Ian blowing its way through Florida. Many Post homes were destroyed in its patch and so were many personal homes. Some of which can be our very own Legion Family members. I ask for each Squadron to help step up and make a donation to the NEF as it will go to support those who need it most.

FFFH (Flying Flags For Heroes ) - Last year this was the National Commanders project and at our recent NEC meeting it was asked to not forget all the good we did by getting the flags placed.

The goal has been set this year for 1.5 Million flags to be placed nationwide. I know that

Maryland can help put forth your best efforts and make a substantial showing. The website for Flying Flags for Heroes is [www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com)

Some additional goals have also been passed down from the NEW Americanism Commission.

Increase Squadron Participation in American Legion Baseball, Boy's State, Oratorical by 10% and Increase entries for scrap book and history books by 25%.

We are all here to "inculcate a sense

of individual obligation to the community, state and nation". We are proud of all we do and let your pride show. Pass along what your squadron is doing to me as I want to hear of all your good deeds supporting our Americanism programs.

Remember we are all a T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More )

For God and Country

Michael Obremski

Americanism Chairman

Detachment of Maryland 2nd Vice Commander

Email : [usnavyBB62@gmail.com](mailto:usnavyBB62@gmail.com)

## **THE BOYS STATE UPDATE REPORT:**

Thank you to all who attended the September 24th Committee and Staff meetings at Post 278 on Kent Island. Afterwards was a crab feast was held for the staff. Fun was had by all that attended.

Things that were discussed were the need for younger American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members to come on board as counselors, office, security, or medical staff.

The COVID response that occurred on Thursday afternoon went smoothly and in a timely manner. Only the boys from overseas were the last ones to leave on that Saturday which would have been Boys State Graduation Day. City Mentors are boys that have attended and graduated from the Maryland Boys State program. They help the boys adjust to the rigors of this demanding program. The program is in need of those that have graduated from high school in 2020 and 2021. If you know of a boy that your Post or Squadron sponsored, ask them if they would like to be a Boys

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State City Mentor. Contact the Director of Maryland Boys State/ Department Adjutant Russell Myers if you have any questions.

Need to increase participants of Maryland Boys State. Seventy some boys was okay this past year but the program would like more participants. So, like membership in the Sons, now is the time to get those high school counselors thinking about which Juniors in their high school would they like to see in this program.

The program has not raised the tuition cost since 2015. The cost of tuition for 2023 Maryland Boys State will be \$425.00. If your Post or Squadron can raise half or ¾ of the tuition cost, contact a Post or Squadron near you and ask them if they would like to share the cost of the sponsorship.

The dates for the 2023 Maryland Boys State are 18th to the 24th of June 2023. This program once again will be held at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland.

The next meeting will be in late January 2023. Location and time TBD.

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

### **National Emergency Fund:**

As relief efforts continue in Florida after Hurricane Ian, the Department of Florida has endorsed three staging areas to serve as collection points for supplies coming from out of state.

“As we continue to emphasize, for everyone’s safety, the coordination of

items into affected areas requires communication and specific instruction. We need to ensure that people get items that are needed and have adequate space to receive them,” Department Commander Eunice Butts and Department Adjutant Bruce Comer said in a message to Legion Family leadership.

Those bringing in supplies from out of state are asked to coordinate with the Department of Florida by calling department headquarters at 407-295-2631.

The department-endorsed staging areas for relief supplies are:

- Department of Florida headquarters, 1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810 (hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)
- Palm Bay Post 117, 189 Veterans Drive SE, Palm Bay, FL 32909
- Fort Lauderdale Post 222, 4250 NE 5th Ave., Oakland Park, FL 33334

The department is also accepting donations to its Hurricane Relief Fund, which is used to distribute funds and purchase items for affected posts, members and communities. Donations can be made online at <https://www.floridalegion.org/resources/hurricane-relief/donate/> or mailed to The American Legion, Department of Florida, Attn: Hurricane Relief, 1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810.

Indicate if you want your donation to go to a specific post.

When natural disasters like tornadoes, floods or wildfires strike, The American Legion’s National

Emergency Fund swiftly delivers needed money to veterans in their communities.

This is the kind of work the Legion Family does during disasters. Donations to the NEF help with the recovery efforts. Please consider making a donation to the NEF.

For God and Country

Bill Stem PDC/NEF Chairman

**If you need assistance, please contact...**

[WWW.LEGION.ORG/EMERGENCY/APPLY](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/EMERGENCY/APPLY)

### **Flag Replacement:**

Hope all are still well and continuing supporting the Sons of The American Legion programs. The Flag program means more than just putting up a flag, it shows everyone that you love your country and strongly support our veterans of all forces. Majority of the sons have never served but you get out there and participate in the programs one way or another.

With that being said you may not have served in any branch, but you are serving every time you work for a program so there for you are serving by supporting our communities and mainly our veterans active or non-active. My hand goes out to every one of you with my thanks. So, for now support your Post homes, events to raise money and the passing out of the American Flags. May God Bless each and every one of you. Feel free to e-mail me @ [saljerry@comcast.net](mailto:saljerry@comcast.net)

Chairman

Flag Replacement Program

Jerry Saunders, Sr.  
[saljerry@comcast.net](mailto:saljerry@comcast.net)

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*(Continued from page 4)***CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER**

The holiday season is quickly approaching, and I hope all of our Squadrons are planning and preparing their campaign to collect new unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. Get creative and team up with local businesses, your local fire department or place a collection box in an area with high traffic. Be sure to notify your communities about your collection efforts via advertisements, social media, etc.

Sadly, our Annual Detachment Camp Out was canceled this year due to rain. Have no fear! It will be back better than ever next year!

Since we were unable to gather our junior members together during the camp out, we are asking them to join us at Fall DEC meeting at Reisterstown, Post 116 on November 13th. We will meet at 12:00pm and discuss what our younger members would like to do or participate in with activities, as the Detachment builds upon our junior program. Please bring your suggestions!

As I stated during our Summer DEC, I am asking all of our Squadrons to step up efforts to recruit and retain junior members. Create activities and fundraising events that your juniors can participate in. The American Legion Auxiliary also has a great junior program, and all SAL juniors are invited to participate. Reach out to your Units.

Let's be sure the Detachment is well represented at the Special Olympics of Maryland Bowling State Championship on December 4th in Gaithersburg. Opening ceremonies begin at 10:00am.

As you are holding your events supporting our Children & Youth Programs and involving your junior members, send us some photos of your Squadron in action! Photos and descriptions can be sent to me at SAL246Betterton@gmail.com.

Our program chairman work very hard to provide us with information on the various programs we support. Let's thank them by turning that info

into action and work together to achieve great results!

We are SAL Strong!

Jason Miller

Children & Youth Chairman

SAL246Betterton@gmail.com

410-490-2550

**Casey Cares Newsletter**

As the holiday season approaches let's remember that everyone doesn't have the ability to get out as easily as most of us can. Some of those less fortunate are the families in the Casey Care's program. If you are looking for some place to make donations, Casey Cares will take all kinds of them, like gift cards for food, cash, and pajamas of all sizes.

For those that might know, Casey Cares Foundation takes care of critically ill children and their families by providing things like trips to baseball games, football games, a weekend trip to Ocean City, movie and pizza night packages. The Detachment has been supporting this foundation for over 20 years.

Mark Fayer Sr.

Chairman – Casey Cares

**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 Christmas with a smile. Let this year be no exception as we begin to plan fund-raising 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 13th. Please help provide a joyful Christmas to those who are less fortunate.

For God and Country

**Special Olympics—  
Maryland**

The next big thing on the calendar is The Annual Special Olympics Bowling State Championships in Gaithersburg.

The Detachment of Maryland sponsors this event so please make an effort to be there at least for Opening Ceremonies. Plan to be there by 9:30 a.m. Of course, as always, if you're interested in volunteering you can sign up on their web page.

The Polar Bear Plunge is scheduled for February 2-4, 2023. The American Legion Family Team is always invited to join The Police Plunge at noon on Friday, February 3. We will be recognized for our annual support and then we



PLUNGE!

The Plunge Team page is live and waiting for you to sign up. Follow this link, <https://support.somd.org/team/458725>, or just go to [plungemd.com](http://plungemd.com) and find The Police

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Plunge. Go to "Join a Team" and type in "The American Legion Family Team."

Many times we find ourselves reaching into our own pockets to support functions we attend. This is your chance to reach into other peoples' pockets (ask first, don't get weird) to give them a chance to thank us for the work we do. Ask your boss, your family, your neighbors, Facebook friends. You may not get \$100 from anyone but I bet you can get \$10 from 10 people.

Also, remember to put February 26-28, 2023 on your calendars--it's Winter Games!!

Eddie Souder ~ Chairman  
 eddie.souder@verizon.net  
 301-706-3960

**DOUGLAS HENLEY MEMORIAL**

**LAPS OF LOVE**

Hello To All,

The 2023 Doug Henley Memorial Laps of Love will take place during our next convention at Delta Hotel in Hunt Valley on June 24th during the detachment cookout and youth all-star games.

So while you are planning your budgets and donations as a Legion, Squadron, Unit or as an individual for the upcoming year. Please think about helping these three programs, Special Olympics, Casey Cares and CWF by donating to the Laps of Love.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me and I will do my best to help you. Thank you for your continued support and everything you have already done to help with this great program.

Sincerely,  
 Bobby Miller II  
 443-986-3493  
 bdigital262@yahoo.com

**Legislative Alert!**

Legislative: VoterVOICE is the most important thing you can do to help our veterans. If you sign up for alerts when an important bill is coming for a vote you will be notified by e-mail and can simply email a form letter to your senators or Congressmen and ask them for support for that bill. It is easy and very needed. The VoterVOICE web page is [www.votervoicenet.com/americanlegion/home](http://www.votervoicenet.com/americanlegion/home) Do it TODAY! Do not delay, its easy, once you get to the site you can see what The American Legion is asking us to talk to our representatives about. VERY important for each of us to get involved and support our veterans. This is one simple request. As always if you need help, feel free to call or email me. The American Legion VoterVOICE QR Code is below. American Legion VoterVOICE QR Code

Scan this code with your smartphone and sign up for VoterVOICE

Help our Veterans  
 Sign up Today  
 Share this page with others!

*Tom Deal*  
 Legislative Chairman  
 Detachment of Maryland

**VAVS Variety**

Greetings fellow Sons,

With the holiday seasons quickly approaching, I wish each of you a

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Great New Year.

We, as sons, should be thinking about what we are able to do to help our veterans at this time in both VA Facilities and own communities. You can check with your Post Commander or Service Officer to see if they are aware of anyone that may require assistance. We should keep in mind that during the holiday season suicide rates increase, not only for the members of our community, but especially for veterans. The current rate of suicide for veterans now stands at seventeen per day.

Please remember to give your Veteran and S.A.L. friends a Buddy Check simply to let them know you care.

Respectfully,  
 Leon Adkins, Squadron #218  
 Chairman, VAVS  
 410-713-9523  
[ledadki@gmail.com](mailto:ledadki@gmail.com)

**Charlotte Hall Veterans Home**

*"the only Veterans Home in the state"*

All visitors and volunteers are required to show a copy of their COVID vaccination card.

The SMR bingos are being held on the third Monday of each month. Two hundred dollars are given out to residents at each bingo. If you are interested in volunteering your time, give me a call. Additional help is always welcome. To make a monetary donation, send checks to SMD Finance Officer, 2 Main St., Laurel, MD 20707, with a copy to Detachment Adjutant Matoska.

On September 16, six residents from the skilled Nursing side and three staff members attended the Squadron 82 event which hosted baby back rib dinner, as guests of the

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Post 82 family.

It was my pleasure to deliver three 32" televisions to the CHVH. Two of the televisions were from Duncan-Showell Squadron 231 and one was from Stanley Cochrane Squadron 16.

The Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is the only Veterans Home in the state of Maryland. If you would like to make a donation, check out the website, [www.charhall.org](http://www.charhall.org). Wish lists and donation forms will be available at each Detachment meeting.

For God and Country,

Dave Tatman

CHVH Representative

[tatman\\_david@comcast.net](mailto:tatman_david@comcast.net)

301-645-1537

### **Perry Point VA Medical Center**

Perry Point VA campus provides primary care and specialty health services, including mental health care, audiology and speech, dental services, care for Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), vocational rehabilitation, and more.

Perry Point VA is bringing more volunteers back to help our veterans. This is great, getting back to some kind of normalcy to help our veterans and see them smile. Holiday time is approaching, please consider donation to the Holiday account.

Every inpatient veteran will get a gift bag full of goodies for Veterans Day and at Christmas. For some of them, that's all they get, so consider helping put a smile on their faces. Perry Point does have a museum for visitors to tour with all the history of Perry Point. It is open Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They are accepting some in-kind donations by appointment.

Please call Voluntary Services to see if they are accepting what you have and to schedule an appointment to drop off your items.

Tom Deal

Perry Point VA Rep.

### **VA Clinics**

Greetings,

I will highlight different VA Clinics throughout the year, starting with the Cambridge VA Clinic.

Cambridge Clinic

830 Chesapeake drive

Cambridge MD 21613

410-228-6243

Hours: M-F 8AM to 4:30PM

Services provided:

Audiology and Speech - Mental Health - Military Sexual Trauma Care – Optometry – Podiatry - Primary Care - Prosthetics and Rehabilitation - Pulmonary Medicine - Social Work – Telehealth – Urology - Woman Veteran Care

Please let your veteran population know about this clinic and its services.

All VA Clinics are on a High Covid Status.

Everyone must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Screening for Covid 19 symptoms may take place at the entrance.

Approved visitors only.

Phone and video appointment options may be available

Yours in Service,

Bob Manzo

VA Clinics Representative

### **Heroes Haven**

As I am writing this article, Heroes Haven is preparing for our Annual October Deer Hunt. We have three confirmed attendees; possibly one more, also we have ten returning alumni. They will be hunting in Dorchester and Wicomico Counties for Sika and White Tail Deer.

A welcome parade will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 followed by a welcome dinner at DOR-WIC Post # 218. Dinner served by Mission BBQ. A banquet will be held on October 22, 2022 at Sharptown Fire Department Memorial Building to honor this year's Veterans. Week will end Sunday Morning with a sendoff breakfast for our veterans at Post #218.

God Bless our Veterans, may they stay in good health until we meet again.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Adkins

Heroes Haven Representative

### **Loch Raven Medical Center**

We are fast approaching the Holiday Season and if you or your Squadron would like to do something at this time for the VA consider this for a donation. Each year the VA gives in patient veterans a Holiday Gift Bags. The bags are valued at \$70.00 each and contain many useful items. If you or your Squadron would like to make a donation to this worthy event, see the information below. There are 400 beds within the 3 medical centers in the VAMDHCS.

Checks payable to  
VAMHCS

Memo

VAMHCS Holiday Account 1097

Mail to: VMHC Attn. Mail Room

Building 19 H

Boiler House Road

Perry Point, MD 21902-9900

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## Chaplin's Corner

Please keep those recovering at home in our prayers.

Let us not forget to finish the course we have begun. Let us keep in our memories the passing of our comrades.

Please let me know of anyone on sick call or the passing of any member.

E-mail me at; [bizybill@hotmail.com](mailto:bizybill@hotmail.com)

Thank you & God Bless,

William Yeagy

Detachment Chaplain

## Time and Place Committee

### 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Summer of 2023

It's a little over nine (9) months away!!! This great milestone for the Detachment of 50 years of coming together from across the state of Maryland to show our comradeship within Maryland and how to support the various programs. Leading the way for our continued support of The American Legion and all of the programs they support, as well as a few others.

Remember there will be a banquet as well during the weekend on Saturday evening, with more details with regards to how to participate and what is involved, coming out over the next several months.

We're working hard to ensure a fantastic weekend of events are enjoyed by all to help us celebrate this major milestone for the Detachment.

Look for more details to come in future Pride articles, and posted on the Detachment website, as [WWW.MDSAL.ORG](http://WWW.MDSAL.ORG).

On behalf of the 50<sup>th</sup> Convention Committee, we look forward to seeing your ideas and if there are any questions, please let us know.

To: Past Detachment Commander

Re: Memories from your year as Commander to be included in the 50<sup>th</sup> Convention Book

Past Detachment Commanders, please let me start by thanking you for your contribution of time and service to this great Detachment of Maryland. Without your leadership and guidance over the years, we could not have become the successful and well-respected Detachment that we are today.

Our request is to ask if you would please take the time to send me a short summary/outline of your year as Commander. It could include special moments at an event, time with other leadership within the Legion Family during your year or highlights of your convention. Or, anything you would not mind sharing with the 15,000+ members of the Detachment.

The goal is for something around a couple of paragraphs, but not to exceed a page. These memories will then be disbursed throughout the 50<sup>th</sup> Convention Book. If you have pictures, send those along as well, with as much information about those in the picture as possible. (Names, date, location, event) -- All photos will be returned. Please send your items to me by March 31, 2023 so they may be included.

You may submit by sending email with the details, attaching a word document to email, or by writing something the ole fashioned long hand version.

Mail Picture to:  
19040 Festival Drive  
Boyd's, MD 20841

or

Send Digital to:  
[Hill1062@msn.com](mailto:Hill1062@msn.com)

Our hope is to have everyone share their memories and to see you at the Detachment of Maryland 50<sup>th</sup> Convention.

Joe Gladden & Bill Hill ~ Co-Chair

## Eastern Shore Region

The warm weather has come and gone, and the cooler weather is setting in as we approach the holiday season. It is nice to see so many of our Squadrons up and down the Eastern Shore holding fundraising events and supporting multiple raffles. Remember, holding these activities, and supporting one another, allows us to fulfill our commitment to supporting The American Legion programs.

Let us help you advertise your events and show the community what we are doing. Be sure to send your event information, ads and pictures of your activities to Jason Miller at [info@esrmdsal.org](mailto:info@esrmdsal.org). Our region website is [www.esrmdsal.org](http://www.esrmdsal.org) and our facebook page can be found @esrmdsal.

We did extremely well with membership last year. As of this writing, we are currently 2nd place in the Detachment. I am confident we will continue to improve these numbers and end with another good year.

Detachment First Vice Commander, Joe Lohman our Membership Chairman is "Firing up our membership potential in the

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community". Let's all support this challenge by reaching out and networking with our local fire departments, law enforcement and other organizations. The potential for membership growth is all around us!

As I have stated before, the attendance of our Squadrons to Region and Detachment meetings is crucial. If your leadership is not available to attend, please be sure to send someone to represent your Squadron. I am also asking everyone to let me know, how we can improve our attendance at these meetings.

The holiday season tends to me a difficult one for many. "Be The One" to reach out and check on our Veterans. We all should be continuing to do Buddy Checks throughout the year.

Detachment Children & Youth Chairman, Jason Miller is asking our Squadrons to step up efforts to recruit and get junior members actively involved.

As a reminder, the Mid-Winter Conference in OCMD is quickly approaching, February 3rd to the 5th. I would like to see a large turnout from the Eastern Shore! This is a great opportunity to learn and network with your fellow Squadrons across the Detachment. Please remember to make your room reservations early. I wish you all a great Holiday Season.

"When we all join in, we rise together"  
"Developing our Youth for the Future"

*Buster Blackiston*  
Commander  
Eastern Shore Region  
410-708-6541  
roundtop729@atlanticbb.net

## Northern Central Region

Well so far considering we got our membership cards late I think everyone has done a fantastic job getting membership in, great job by all. We need to get behind the Commanders project this year, as always, we seem to pick a very good project. This year is Southern Maryland Youth Camp, with his motto "Developing our Youth for the Future."

I talked to Commander Larry, and he said if I know anyone having a fundraiser for his project to let him know, he will do his best to be there. So, writing in this pride may be the best way to let everyone so we can all support his project. So please let me know and I can have Bill Hill insert it into the pride for you.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday November 27th 1 pm at Patrick Henry Post 34 on Belle Grove Rd. But keep in mind we will be having Squadron Commander and Adjutant classes that same day starting at 11 am.

Regional Adjutant Mark Sprucebank and PNC Joe Gladden will be conducting these classes; please come as these are very good classes especially if you are just starting out as an SAL Officer. Hope to see everyone there. Yes, it's a Sunday and yes, the Ravens play but it's a late game and an away game. So, let's all be there.

All D.E.C. men are requested to turn in your DEC Reports of the Squadron Meetings you have attended so far this administrative year.

For God and Country

Dave Hullihen  
NCR Commander

## Western Maryland Region

The first regional meeting of 2022-2023 was held on September 27th at Grantsville Squadron 214. The Region was honored to have American Legion Western Maryland Region Commander Bob Ouelette and Vice Commander Paul Fowler in attendance. Thanks to Grantsville for their hospitality.

Attendance at the meeting was low, it would be great if more squadrons participated at the region level. The next region meeting will be December 17, 11 am, at Morris Frock Post #42 in Hagerstown.

I have had the pleasure of visiting several squadrons. I have been to meetings at Clopper-Michael in Boonsboro, Potomac in Williamsport, and Glen W. Eyster #282 in Woodsboro. I also attended a tremendous picnic hosted by Fort Cumberland #13 in Cumberland. If your squadron is having an event or would like me to attend a meeting, please don't hesitate to contact me.

As of September 23rd, WMR was in last place in membership with 14% of members renewing. I know we are a region that finishes strong and am sure our numbers will improve. The WMR has 3 of the 4 largest squadrons in the Detachment, I know our position will improve when more renewals from them come in. Some squadrons are having membership drives, they are a good way to encourage early renewal and to recruit new members. Please send in your renewals as they come in, don't wait to send them in all at once.

The WMR will be holding a cash raffle. Tickets will be \$5 each and available from any WMR officer. First prize will be \$500, second prize will be \$300, and third prize will be \$200. The drawing will be held at the Winter DEC Meeting on

*(Continued on page 10)*

*(Continued from page 9)*

February, 4 2022.

Yours in Service,

John Davies  
WMR Commander

[calldontsend@hotmail.com](mailto:calldontsend@hotmail.com)  
717-387-3638

## **NEC Update!**

Greetings,

I had the privilege of representing the Detachment at the recently completed NEC meeting in Indianapolis, along with Alternate NEC Tom Deal. It was a full weekend of committee meetings, training and of course the NEC meetings. Tom and I participated in the NEC orientation training held on Saturday afternoon. It was an informative and interesting meeting.

On Sunday, we heard from both National Leaders; the American Legion Auxiliary National President brought greetings and American Legion National Commander Jim Troiola spoke on the "Be the One" campaign for veteran suicide prevention. He is calling on all members including Sons to take up the call and to "Be the One", that reaches out to veterans and help them get the support and help they need. The commissions reported on their respective meetings and goals for the coming year.

Five resolutions were presented with two being referred to committee for further clarification, two were for candidates for future National Office and one was approved concerning the certification of VA Reps and Deps. Our Leading Candidate for National Commander, JR Hall, spoke to the assembly and did his usual great job. Additionally, the budget for 2022-2023 was presented

for review.

Maryland held a Meet the Candidate Reception for JR on Saturday Night. It was well attended and well received by all. This is a first at the national level, as previous candidates were not allowed to hold this type of official event.

Planning for the 51st National Convention in Charlotte is underway. This will be the big one, as our own JR Hall will be elected National Commander. It would be great to see many members of the Maryland Legion Family be there for this event. I am sure more information will be forthcoming on the convention.

As of the October 6th Membership report, we are currently ranked 20th in the nation with 24.14% renewed towards the October 19th 25% Target, I am sure we will surpass that by the time this is published. The next target date is November 9th for 35% of goal.

Yours in Service

Bob Manzo

NEC

**"Be the One"**

## **JR's Journey- The Leading Candidate Heads To Charlotte**

I am excited to announce that JR is officially the Leading Candidate for National Commander. This means that campaign will be kicking into high gear to get to Charlotte, NC in August of 2023.

We currently have a couple of official campaign fundraisers going on. For a \$5.00 chance the winner and a guest will sail with us on the JR's Journey Cruise out of Baltimore on the Carnival Legend on April 16-

23,2023. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. We are also extending a special opportunity to each squadron, unit, or post. If you sell at least \$300.00 worth of tickets, then you can keep half the money and donate it to the charity of your choice. This is a great way to offer a cool prize without having to worry about paying for the prize. Simply sell tickets and we take care of the rest. If interested, reach out to me and I will send you as many tickets as you want. The drawing will take place at our Fall DEC meeting in November 2022. If you need tickets, please contact me at [joeglad123@aol.com](mailto:joeglad123@aol.com) or 443-742-0842.

If you're not feeling lucky and simply want to book a room on the cruise, reach out to our travel agent, LuAnn at 443-618-4403 and she will give you all the details. The great thing is that the cruise does not have to be fully paid until January of 2023. Make a \$500.00 deposit, select your cabin and make payments on it until you are paid off. Come join JR, myself, and many others on what I know will be a great week at sea and in the Caribbean.

At our Detachment Convention in June 2022, we started the Gun Raffle. JR has designed a beautiful Big Henry "Big Boy 45" Rifle. It's been engraved with all of the military branches and other American symbols. Tickets for this the gun are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. If you need tickets for the gun, or you are having a gun bash and you want us to bring the gun, please contact

Tom Deal at [tom.deal@verizon.net](mailto:tom.deal@verizon.net) or 443-206-0402.

Another way you can help is by donating directly to the Campaign. We are blessed to have several donations come in already from around the state and from all branches of The American Legion Family. These donations should be made payable to the National

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Support Fund and sent to Tom Deal  
1434 Clayton Street Perryville, MD  
21903-2534.

Let's show JR that we care and support him. Over the next 12 months, I call on you to "Step Up To The Challenge" and make JR's Journey a success.

United In Service

Joe Gladden

National Campaign Chairman

Past National Commander 2013-2014

[Joeglad123@aol.com](mailto:Joeglad123@aol.com)

## Commander's Challenge

Detachment Commander Larry Ford has continued the Challenge this year and concluding with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention. I want to explain how *every* Squadron or Region can meet the challenge.

The goal is to continue to raise awareness for the Four Pillars of The American Legion.

And to those who do not know they are:

*VA&R, Children and Youth, Americanism, and National Security.*

The challenge is fairly simple, *Americanism, Children & Youth and the VA&R portions of the Four Pillars requires a monetary donation of \$1 per member based on your respective squadron's previous year's membership at the designated cut-off date for each pillar made payable to the Detachment of Maryland There will be a requirement of at least a \$50 minimum donation with a \$250 maximum donation toward each pillar depending on your squadron membership, i.e., if your squadron has 60 members you will make a donation totaling \$180-\$ 60 for each pillar.*

*National Security: Squadrons will Honor a Police Officer or Fire Fighter in your area for their service to the community. One entry per Squadron. One winner will be chosen from each District and sent to Detachment where one winner will be selected for Police Officer/Fire Fighter of the Year and presented at Detachment convention in June. The winner will receive the Dave Barr Memorial Trophy:*

Plain and Simple:

1. Americanism: Donation based upon squadron membership.
2. V A&R: Donation based upon squadron membership.
3. C & Y: Donation based upon squadron membership.
4. National Security: Submit a Police Officer/Firefighter of the year.

The four pillars are what The American Legion is based upon, and we need to make sure we are doing our part to teach more about these four pillars.

For each Squadron, Region, or others meeting the Commander's Challenge they will be honored by receiving 2 gratis tickets to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. After completing the challenge in year two, an additional 2 gratis tickets to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala be rewarded and then after year three and for completing the challenge for three consecutive years an additional four (4) tickets for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala will be awarded resulting in the potential reward for meeting the Commander's Challenge of 8 tickets for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. When you have met the requirements of the Challenge for all four pillars you will need to verify completion with Chairman, Karl Kibler. Do not wait until the end of the year to validate, when you have completed the

challenge send in the information and you be notified you have met the challenge.

Posts and Auxiliary Units may also participate in the "Commander's Challenge" utilizing the same criteria and receive the same awards.

If you are not sure of your current status regarding gratis Gala tickets, reach out to Senior Assistant Adjutant, Bill Hill, for your ticket totals you have earned so far.

*On behalf of Commander Fayer and the Vice-Commanders, I want to Thank You for participating in the "Commanders Challenge"*

*Yours in Service*

*Karl Kibler*

*Email: homer51@comcast.net*

*410-829-9317*

## 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. Please send all articles to:

Bill Hill (PDC)

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM



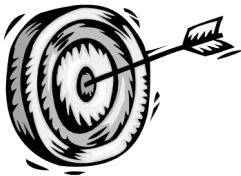
“Developing Our Youth For the Future”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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

Follow us on Facebook:

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland



**Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2022—2023**

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

November 13, 2022 / Reisterstown Post 116 @ 1pm

**Legion Family Fundraising Event**

January 28, 2023/Superior Catering Hall-for tickets contact

Detachment Commander Ford, Dept. Commander Holcombe or Dept. President Brittain

**All events for this weekend will be at The Grand Hotel**

**Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training**

**PDC Ray Edwards Memorial Children & Youth Fundraiser—Draw Down**

Tickets now available—See PDC Manzo or Vice Commanders Lohman or Obremski

February 4, 2023 (Saturday)

**Winter D.E.C. Meeting**

February 5, 2023 @ 11am

**Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown**

March 4, 2023 / Perryville

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

April 15, 2023 / Greenbelt Post 136 @ 11am

**50th Annual Detachment Convention**

June 23rd to 25th, 2023

Delta Hotels-Marriott

Hunt Valley, MD 21031

**2023 Membership Target Date:**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 10%**

**OCTOBER 19, 2022 25%**

**NOVEMBER 9, 2022 35%**

DECEMBER 14, 202 45%

JANUARY 19, 2023 60%

FEBRUARY 15, 202 75%

MARCH 15, 2023 80%

APRIL 19, 2023 90%

MAY 17, 2023 100%

\*\*JULY 26, 2023 105%

\*\* Delegate Strength Target Date

