



# “The Pride”

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska  
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

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

Volume 2023/2024: Issue 3  
Winter Issue - February 4, 2024

## Commander’s Corner

I hope everyone had a safe and peaceful holiday. Now it is time to get back to work serving our veterans and community.

Last month I had the honor of presenting a check to the Maryland Special Olympics on behalf of the Detachment of Maryland for \$15,000. This is a program we started about 6 years ago as the primary sponsor of their annual bowling tournament for our state athletes. We had great participation from the Laurel Post 60 family.

The Detachment Caravan continues to roll as we hit nine additional posts since the last publication of Pride.

In October, the caravan team along with SAL SMR Advisor Pat McCoy and several DEC men visited five squadrons in the Southern Maryland Region (Gray Ray #220 in Prince Frederick, Jameson-Harrison Post#238 in Hughesville, Ridge Post 255, Arick Lore Post #274 in Lusby, and Stallings-Williams Post #206 in Chesapeake Beach).

In November, the caravan team joined up with SAL NCR Commander Dave Hullihen and SAL NCR Adjutant Mark Sprucebank to visit four

squadrons in the NCR region ((Dundalk Post #38, Essex Post #148, Towson Post #22 and Jackson and Johnson Memorial Post #263 in Catonsville).

If your squadron or post would like the caravan team to visit your post this year, feel free to send me an email at [squadron60@verizon.net](mailto:squadron60@verizon.net) and we will be happy to setup a trip.

As mentioned in the last issue of the Pride, my project is to build a Pavilion at The American Legion Youth Camp in Cheltenham, MD. I want to thank my project chair Dave Hullihen for all his hard work and assistance in promoting this project. I also want to give special thanks to the squadrons who made donations to the project at our Fall DEC meeting. For additional information regarding this project, please refer to Dave Hullihen' article in this issue of the Pride for upcoming events and special announcements.

Our next big fundraiser supporting my project will be the Detachment Drawdown that will be hosted by Squadron 135 in Perryville. The event is on March 2, 2024, from 3pm to 7pm at the Perryville Firehouse. Tickets are \$50 that admits two people featuring horse races, wheel, cake wheel, silent

auction, pull tabs and more. The ticket also includes dinner and a limited open bar. Please see Tommy Deal, Mike Obremski, Jason Miller, or me for tickets.

Until next time, stay warm during the winter months and I look forward to seeing everyone at the midwinter conference in Ocean City.

Joe Lohman  
Detachment Commander

## “Sons Building a Stronger Community”



## Adjutant’s Corner

**Winter D.E.C.:** The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Lohman, on February 4, 2024 at 11:00 A.M.

The meeting is being hosted at The Grand Hotel, 2100 Baltimore Ave, Ocean City, MD 21842 .

(Continued on page 2)

*(Continued from page 1)*

## **Winter DEC & Training**

### **Session:**

The following Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will include Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training at The Grand Hotel on February 4, 2023 and the PDC Ray Edwards, Jr. Memorial Children & Youth. Both of these activities will be held in the Grand Ballroom. Training begins at 10:00 AM and the Draw Down Event begins at 3:00 PM. We are in need of donations in the way of baskets for the Silent Auction Tables in Ocean City during the Draw Down Event. All proceeds from this are of the event are dedicated to the George Grossnickle Scholarships.

### **The George Grossnickle Scholarship Program:**

The Detachment of Maryland awarded four Scholarship Grants at \$2000.00 each this year to four deserving students through our application process. In order to maintain this activity, donations in any amount is required to maintain this fund in perpetuity. Please consider this most worthy program as your squadrons budget their donations this year.

### **Punchbowl visitation:**

During Pear Harbor week PDC Tom Deal, PDC Bill Hill, PNC Joe Gladden, National Commander JR Hall, and I had the outstanding honor and privilege to place a wreath from the Detachment of Maryland at the Punch Bowl National Memorial Cemetery on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Then on Pearl Harbor Day we were honored to be guest at the 82nd Remembrance Ceremony at Pear Harbor Memorial Park where our own National Commander JR Hall placed a wreath on behalf of all Members of the Sons of The American Legion. Other activities

included visiting the USS Arizona Memorial and the USS Missouri Battleship. This was truly a once in a lifetime experience for each of us. I am also very thankful that our significant others were able to attend and support our activities while representing the Detachment of Maryland.

**Membership:** The final Membership Report for 2023 has just been released and I want to congratulate Commander Joe Lohman on the outstanding job that he and his Membership Team did Last year. The Detachment of Maryland finished with 16,708 paid members with a 2023 Renewal Rate of 91.15%. This is an ALL Time High for the Detachment of Maryland. Great job by all. I am confident Membership Chairman, Mike Obremski, and his team are up to the challenge and will bring the Maryland Train in on schedule and ahead of last year's numbers.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska  
Detachment Adjutant  
matoskaw@yahoo.com  
443-710-9664

## **Commander's Project**

"Southern Maryland Youth Camp"

I am so proud of how everyone is stepping up to help raise money for the Commanders project this year. We just went to Reisterstown #116 for their Bull and Shrimp Feast and while there they presented the Commander a check for \$1,000.00, for his project. Thanks to 116 for their support.

They have not yet figured out how much they made from the event, but hopefully more money from that affair will make its way to us. As I said in the last Pride article, we have 3 Super bowl pools floating around. 1 pool has been sold out the pool. I still have approximately 20 blocks left so, please if you want a block let

me know in OC, and hopefully, it too will be sold out.

Guys we need to step up and donate to this worthy cause. The Southern Maryland Youth Camp does a lot to help our C&Y, so we need to help them. As I said before if anyone is doing a fund raiser for the Commanders project, please let me and or Joe know so we may try to attend. We went to the Bull and Shrimp Roast and had a real good time. If we sell out all 3 pools, we can make approx. \$6,000.00 for his project. So go back to your squadrons and ask for a donation for the Commanders project.

Thank you, yours in service.

Chairman  
Detachment Commanders Project  
PDC Dave HULLIHEN

## **Membership**

Hello Detachment of Maryland,

We have just finished another fun filled year together and as we enter our New Year, I see nothing but an even brighter future ahead. We ended the year 2023 very strong with a membership of 11,844 putting us at 72.202% of goal 1,979 ahead of where we were last year. People have climbed aboard the train and are now riding the rails in style.

Outstanding work to all the Squadrons for getting the membership in. I did put a challenge out there that the Region with the highest 75 percentage by the 29 December 2023 membership report would receive four tickets to the Mid-Winter Drawdown being held February in Ocean City. Well, I am happy to say that the winning Region was Eastern Shore Region at 77.398%. Congratulations on a job well done (Bravo Zulu).

Of course this is not taking away all the hard work and effort by the other three regions: Northern Central 76.365%, Southern Maryland 73.269%, and Western Maryland 66.374% (the largest region in Maryland). Absolutely fantastic as there really was a race happening. Give yourself a big pat on the back you surely deserve it.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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A reminder though that May 24<sup>th</sup> is the deadline date for 100% membership and since all the Regions and Squadrons have been burning up the tracks and breaking all timetables to stay ahead of what National has set as target dates, I have hope that you will beat 100% before May 24<sup>th</sup>. The Journey may have been rough to start out but if you all keep up what has been done another new membership record is ahead.

We started this administrative year 2023-2024 at 16,404 members strong and I believe that the Detachment of Maryland has the ability to reach 17,000 members by May 24<sup>th</sup> 2024. Out of 102 squadrons total in the Detachment of Maryland that just means you will only need to bring in 6 new members for each Squadron to hit it. The more members we have the more of a voice we also have in Congress to help support our Veterans and all the other programs that The Sons of The American Legion proudly supports. Don't forget that you can follow all the travels on the rail on Facebook under The Detachment of Maryland site or under each individual Region Facebook site. I also send an email out to the Region Commanders, Adjutants, First Vice and DEC committeemen just in case anyone is not on Facebook so it can be shared directly by your region to you. The weekly membership status report also comes out each week and is posted on the Detachment website if you ever wish to see where your squadron is currently sitting at for membership strength.

Please don't slow down anything that you are doing by getting those new members or getting renewed because as of January 1, 2024 your membership is considered delinquent, and you could be considered as not in good standing. No one ever wishes to be delinquent or considered not in good standing. You all have worked hard to gain the reputation of being a member of The Sons of The American Legion. Don't let your membership fall by the wayside. Please look to pay your dues now as I am sure it is not that much.

I would also like to take a quick moment and remind all Squadrons to not forget that if you have an updated SDR (Squadron Data Report) reflecting new dues amounts to please get them sent in now. We wish to make sure all Squadrons have the correct amount reflected by National, so all records are up to date. If you have no change in dues, then you do not need to send an SDR.

Stay on track and ahead of schedule as I am sure you will do, and we will have a record setting year again. Thank you to everyone for all you do, and I hope to see you at Midwinter Conference in February or in my travels around the state.

For God and Country,  
Mike Obremski

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander / Membership  
Chairman  
email: usnavyBB62@gmail.com

## **Americanism Report**

I would like to thank all of our Squadrons who have supported one or more of our Americanism Programs thus far. We are halfway through the year and I ask all of our Squadrons to review our programs and pick one or two to support if you're able to do so.

It's that time of the year where things are ramping up for our Maryland Boys State Program to be held at McDaniel College on June 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Squadrons are urged to work with their Posts to advertise this program and sponsor a student. More information and the online application portal can be found at [www.mdlegion.org/boysstate](http://www.mdlegion.org/boysstate). Volunteer staff is always needed and this includes SAL members. Please reach out to Chairman Renehan if you are interested or have any additional questions about this program.

American Legion Family Day will be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. All Squadrons should be working with their American Legion Family to open the doors of your Post to the community. This day is reserved to show everyone what the American Legion Family does for our Veterans, youth and communities. Fun

activities should be available for all ages. Be sure to include information about membership, our National and Detachment programs, local organizations and more. Make sure to advertise this event and be sure to take pictures to document this special day!

Please continue to honor our Veterans by placing flags at local cemeteries, especially those smaller locations that may be forgotten. This is a great activity to involve our youth and communities. Always remember to place the flag, step back and thank that Veteran for their service. Please enter your flag placement location and counts at [www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com),

Become a Four Pillar Squadron! Squadrons have been asked to participate in National Commander Donald "JR" Hall's Four Pillar Challenge. Two of those challenges fall under the Americanism Commission which include a donation \$1.00 per member to the Child Welfare Foundation and \$1.00 per member to the Maryland Boys State Program. More information about this challenge can be found on the Detachment website at [www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org).

Did you know Maryland has 63 registered teams for American Legion Baseball? I urge everyone to find a local team and show your support. Team locations and contacts can be found at [www.mdlegion.org/baseball.htm](http://www.mdlegion.org/baseball.htm)

Again, thank you for helping to make our Americanism Programs a success!

Yours in Service,  
Jason Miller  
410-490-2550

SAL246Betterton@gmail.com  
2nd Vice Commander

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

Greetings and happy new year to all the members in the Detachment of Maryland. No word on where and when the January 2024 Boys State

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

Committee and Staff meetings as of this article being sent in. The Maryland Boys State information package should be in the high schools by now. Also, don't forget about the boys that are home schooled. Contact your district school board or county school board. The boy(s) can find the application on the Department of Maryland's website, [www.mdlegion.org](http://www.mdlegion.org), under Programs, Boys State. Also, there is a portal for Maryland Girls State program, also. The portal has been open since early November. Remember the cost of a boy is \$425.00 per boy to attend the 2024 Maryland Boys State Program at McDaniel College in Westminster MD. Begins on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> of June, yes that is Father's Day, and will end on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of June after the graduation ceremony and lowering of the flag. Now is the time for each squadron to help their Post in sponsoring a boy (s) to this great program. The squadrons know how to raise money, so help your post. Also, don't forget you can go out in your community and solicit donations from businesses or alumni of this program to get sponsors for Boys State. These last two are seldom used, so ask them you might be surprised. How many squadrons know who their Post's Chairperson for the Maryland Boys State program is. That Legionnaire is very knowledgeable about the program, and you may find out that the Legionnaire is also on the Boys State staff. Also, they are the liaison between the post, schools, and the Boys State Committee. The objective is for each Post in the state with the help of their squadron to send one or more boys to this program. If your post or squadron cannot afford the donation, do not quit there have the boy(s) apply

online and complete the application. The committee will find a post or squadron or a donor to sponsor him. Also, talk to a Post or a Squadron nearby to share the cost. If you do this, both Posts or Squadrons will receive the credit and acknowledgement. If you need information concerning Maryland Boys State, please contact me or Russell Myers at Department Headquarters. Don't forget about sponsoring a girl or girls to Maryland Girls State. Contact your post's Auxiliary unit for info on this excellent program.

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

### **National Emergency Fund**

"The American Legion Family Members helping Legion Family Members" is a statement of what the National Emergency Fund is all about. Unfortunately, disasters seem to keep coming... we had 20 named storms in 2023 which ranks 4<sup>th</sup> since 1950. Of those storms, 7 were CAT 3 or higher. We also had Wildfires and floods. Major flooding in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut which destroyed homes, businesses, roads, and bridges. Grants are available for individual members and American Legion Posts after a declared Natural Disaster to help offset out of pocket expenses. Documentation and receipts required. Note, the Grant is not Insurance and can't be used for rebuilds and repairs. Grant Applications can be obtained by contacting your Department Headquarters, <http://www.mdlegion.org>.

Again, we are asking for \$1.00 per member which could raise over \$16,000.00 to help our American

Legion Family Members in need. Happy New Year and I look forward to working with you in 2024.

Yours in Service,  
Joe Weik  
Chairman

### **Flag Replacement**

Pride Spotlight: Unveiling Success in Flag Replacement.

In this Pride edition, we shine a spotlight on the remarkable strides we've made in flag replacement. It's a collective effort, and your role is crucial in this narrative of progress.

Our Squadrons, Regions, and Detachments are actively involved in ensuring the smooth transition and upkeep of our flags. This article celebrates the commitment of Squadron Commanders, Adjutants, and S.A.L. Advisors who play pivotal roles in these efforts.

Your engagement is not just a task; it's a reflection of the pride we take in our organization. By keeping our flags vibrant and meaningful, we're preserving the essence of what unites us. So, dive into this Pride article and discover how your contributions, both big and small, contribute to the success of our flag replacement initiatives. It's a story of unity, commitment, and the pride we share as a community.

Gabriel Dorsey  
Flag Replacement Chairman  
Detachment Youth Commander  
Squadron 130

### **CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER**

The American Legion's Child Welfare Committee became a commission, and in 1970, its name was changed to the National Commission on Children & Youth. In 2014, it returned to committee status.

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

This committee has three objectives:

- To strengthen the family unit in an increasingly more complex society
  - To support organizations and agencies that provide services for children and youth
  - To provide communities with well-rounded programs that meet the physical, educational, emotional and spiritual needs of young people
- While The American Legion has always had a special interest in helping the families of military personnel and veterans, it works on behalf of all the nation's children. Through a broad set of programs, the Legion touches millions of young lives, believing they are America's greatest natural resource.

### **Toys For Tots – Mark Sprucebank**

We had a extremely successful Toys for Tots Drive in the Fall. At the November Meeting, we collected 252 toys with a value over \$750.00.

### **Casey Cares – Mark Fayer, P.D.C.**

Casey Cares is about serving critically ill children and their families. They offer many different programs to families to help keep their spirits up. You can help keep these programs going by your donations. Casey Cares will take cash, Restaurant gift cards, movie gift cards, movie gift cards. Tickets to sporting events if you are unable to use them. They will also gladly except donations of pajamas of any size.

Yours in Service,  
Mark Sprucebank  
Children and Youth Committee  
Chairman

443-591-9677

### **Special Olympics— Maryland**

“We look forward to a fall filled with great competition showcasing the skills, determination, and hard work of our athletes!” Individuals, Families, and Posts are invited to

join us at any of the events listed below as a spectator or volunteer: It's never a bad time to talk about **THE PLUNGE**. the web site is up, and the American Legion Family Team has already started collecting pledges. Join the team and get your friends and associates to sponsor you. Sure, you could dig in your pocket and pay the \$\$, but isn't it more fun to dig around in your friends' pockets? Winter games is going to get here before we're ready so start planning to attend at WISP resort, February 25-27, 2024. On-snow training at Whitetail Resort, January 6 and February 10. See Ya Soon

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

### **DOUGLAS HENLEY MEMORIAL**

#### **LAPS OF LOVE**

The 2024 Doug Henley Memorial Laps of Love that will take place during our next convention at Hilton Garden Inn Hotel in White Marsh in June during the detachment cookout and youth all-stars 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](mailto:bdigital262@yahoo.com)

### **Legislative Alert!**

Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year to all. 2024 has arrived and with it brings new challenges and new joys. I hope everyone has a great season.

Everyone should have reserved their spot for the Washington Conference on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. This is an awe-inspiring visit to several monuments and locations around DC that honor our veterans. We hope to have pictures as soon as we are done to show you what a great time it was to encourage you to come next year.

The Washington Conference is not only a trip to memorials. It is a time when The American Legion speaks to Congress about the importance of the bills we all support. The American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer and others will have an agenda of meetings around DC the week after February 25<sup>th</sup>. On March 13<sup>th</sup>, the national commander will give his testimony to Congress. The American Legion Legislative Agenda can be found at <https://www.legion.org/legislative/agenda>.

The American Legion Legislative Priorities are a set of priorities that the American Legion selects to encourage Congress to pass legislation supporting our Veterans and their families. The American Legion has selected the set of legislative priorities for the 118th Congress. These can be found at <https://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/Bills> and offers detailed descriptions of each bill. These bills cover a range of support from benefits and employment opportunities for veterans to issues on national security.

Please sign-up alerts for Voter Voice at [www.votervoicenet.com/americanlegion/home](http://www.votervoicenet.com/americanlegion/home). Voter Voice allows you to not only review bills, but also receive alerts on issues and find your local officials as well as report any meeting with Congressional officials or their staff on behalf of the Sons of the American Legion. We encourage everyone to contact their Representatives and Senators to let them know you support these bills. I have received letters from SAL members who have reached out to their representatives and sent those along. I am most appreciative to those members for showing the SAL

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

is engaged in putting our legislative agenda forward.

If you have questions or suggestions, you can email me at [mdonnelly119@gmail.com](mailto:mdonnelly119@gmail.com). Thank you.

Thank you.  
Michael Donnelly  
Legislative Chairman  
Detachment of Maryland

## VAVS Variety

Greetings fellow Sons.

As Winter surrounds us with shorter days and longer nights let us continue to check on our veterans and Legion Family members. Phone calls, visits and even getting them out for a visit to the Post will mean a lot to them. A little of your time can brighten up and lift the spirits of a Veteran.

We must do our part to show them they are not forgotten and that we are truly grateful for their service to this Great Nation.

We can all, "Be the One"

The ESR-SAL made a delivery of Snacks, Clothing, Toiletries, and personalized Christmas Cards to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on Sunday, 17 December, 2023. The bulk of the donations were made by Post 218 Legion Family, Post 246 Legion Family and donations received at the ESR-SAL meeting on 3 December, 2023. The items were greatly appreciated.

I encourage the Detachment to continue to collect items from the wish lists for Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Perry Point Veterans Center, Loch Raven VA and Baltimore VA. The wish lists can be found on their respective websites and through the DEC representatives.

For God and Country!

Darryl English

VAVR- Chairman  
DECman  
Commander: Squadron 218  
410-430-2019

[Englishsta14@msn.com](mailto:Englishsta14@msn.com)

## Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

Gentlemen,

A big shout out to Darryl and Kelly English for delivering a truck load of donations from the wish list items to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on Sunday, 17, December. A huge thanks to the Eastern Shore Community and American Legion Post for all their support. The veterans of Charlotte Hall and staff greatly appreciated it.

*Donations play an integral role in ensuring residents enjoy the comforts of life inside and outside of the home. Medical services, final hour arrangements, and personal care items such as toiletries and clothing are some of the ways donations received support residents.*

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home continue to need our support and assistance. The Southern Maryland Region has a bingo night, I'm sure the commander would appreciate more volunteers and/or a monetary donation so he can make the prizes more exciting. Work with your Squadrons to plan a visit. Many of our veterans don't have family or friends to come and visit them, help reassure them that they are not forgotten.

Plan a visit, do an ice cream social, or even a cookout. Or just stop by and listen to their stories. Your hearts will be warmed I guarantee it. Time has no monetary value but is worth more to our veterans than any of us can imagine.

Emotional support is also important. Loneliness and feeling being forgotten is a silent killer of our veterans in Veterans homes, and this goes for the homeless veterans.

For God and Country,

Jim Alexander  
PDC Detachment of Maryland  
[Jimalex831@verizon.net](mailto:Jimalex831@verizon.net)  
CHVH Representative

## Loch Raven

80 wall calendars, note pads and pens were given to Loch Raven CLC in December. These items were collected from Parkville Post 183 Legion Family and others. A similar number will be given to Baltimore MC at a later date. A group from Parkville Post 183 went to Loch Raven on December 21 to pack and distribute the VA Holiday Gift bags to the Veterans. There were two dual members in this group. On November 12 yours truly was honored along with 5 others with an Executive Citation from Baltimore County Executive John F. Olszewski, Jr. for Outstanding Leadership and Service to Baltimore County Veterans.

Bob Filippi  
410-668-0464

## Perry Point VA

I want to first thank everyone for all the visits, events, items, and donations in December for all our Veterans. They loved everything and it brightened their day every day in December. Now that the holidays are over, please don't forget them until next December. They need some visits throughout the year also. Plan a visit from your post in the next month or so and you will be thankful for each smile you deliver to our Veterans.

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 open and bringing more volunteers back to help our veterans. If you would like to hold an event at Perry Point, contact Brandi Sima, Voluntary Service Specialist for the Center for Development & Civic Engagement at 410-642-2411, x25409 direct. Perry Point VA needs list includes: full size body wash/shampoo combo bottles, deodorant, shaving cream, simple crafts, laundry detergent (pods preferred). Volunteers are needed

(Continued on page 7)

*(Continued from page 6)*

for escorts for 9:00 a.m. Protestant Sunday Service, licensed wellness instructors (tai chi, Pilates, Zumba, kick boxing, barre, chair aerobics, HIIT, etc), Recreation Therapy. If you can provide these items or help, contact Brandi at the number above. If you would like to make a Donation you may bring a check to the DEC Meeting made out to Detachment of Maryland and note Perrypoint VA Center. Perrypoint has a museum for visitors to tour with all the history of Perrypoint. 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.

PDC Tom Deal  
Perry Point VA Rep.

## **Heroes Haven, Inc.**

Greetings,

Our annual "Hunt Week" was held 16 Oct to 22 Oct. with several veterans and 1<sup>st</sup> Responders. They harvested a total of 11 Deer, and a good time was had by all. New friendships were created, and old ones re-energized.

We would like to say "Thank You" to all who support us in our mission with these "Injured Heroes".

We will be holding fundraiser events throughout the year.

A Frog Leg and Single Fried Oyster dinner on 30 March 2024 at the American Legion Dor-Wic Post 218.

The Annual Golf Tournament will be held on 27 April 2024 at the Great Hope G.C. in Westover, MD

The Annual Crab Feast will be held on 15 June 2024 at the Mardela Vol. Fire Dept.

Please visit our website at <https://Heroeshaven.org/events> or facebook page at Heroes Haven, Inc. for more info and we greatly appreciate your support.

## **Chaplin's Corner**

Glad to hear everyone had a good holiday and Vacation during the past

few Months, including the group that went to Hawaii.

As of this writing, I'm aware of one Deceased one member from Severn Squadron 175, otherwise everyone else is in good health.

Since we're meeting in early February, may all Plungers survive the ice Cold waters of the Bay, and enjoy the relaxation of the heated pool in Ocean City

Mark Sprucebank  
Detachment Chaplain  
443-591-9677

## **Time and Place Committee**

It's a little less than six (6) months away!!!

As we move to a new location, we want to ensure you that we're working to make this another successful convention.

We're working hard to ensure a fantastic weekend of events are enjoyed by all.

Each notification within the "Time and Place Committee", which outlines the location, date, and times for the convention, are considered "Official Announcements" to all eligible members in good standing within the Detachment of Maryland. Therefore, you have been advised if you are reading this article.

Now with that said, let the planning begin. Each squadron should begin to look at their accomplishments to-date, so they may capture them on their "Consolidated Report Form", along with determining who is attending as a delegate from their squadron.

NOTE: All squadrons must register and **pay the Detachment for their eligible delegate strength** to the Convention, in accordance with the membership cutoff, also May 26th.

Delegate Allowance: Article V – Legislative Body

Section 3. -- In the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Maryland Convention, each Squadron in good standing with at least ten (10) active members shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one additional delegate for each additional twenty-five (25) members.

Reminder, that a "Delegate at Large from your Squadron is only a member who is either a; Detachment Officer, Region Commander, Region Vice Commander, or a Past Detachment Commander.

Each squadron is required to pay for their "full delegate fees" in order to receive their "delegate credentials, as well as "new" membership cards. Additional conditions are outlined below for each as well. "No Exceptions" to the conditions outlined below.

Conditions to receive convention delegate credentials:

Convention delegate registration form completed and submitted. Printed with name & squadron, the delegate registration must be submitted by May 26, 2023. Convention delegate fees paid for all. The distribution of each squadrons delegate badges and convention books must be signed for by an appropriate representative of the squadron. The signatory must clearly print and sign their name as to insure we're able to verify the recipient if any questions occur.

On behalf of the 50th Convention Committee, we look forward to seeing you at the convention and if there are any questions, please let us know.

Details will be provided at our upcoming Winter DEC. We will also post all information for the hotel and

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

events on our website

[www.mdsal.org](http://www.mdsal.org) after the meeting. Plus, the details for everything will be outlined in the convention packages being distributed at the Winter DEC.

For God and Country,  
Bill Hill  
Chairman

## Eastern Shore Region

It's hard to believe we are already into 2024 and we are more than halfway through the administrative year! It's nice to see our Squadron's and American Legion Family doing so many great things on the Eastern Shore. Remember to share your events with us so we can post them to our social media accounts and website. This is free advertising, so please take advantage of it!

Membership is the lifeline of our organization, and I could not be prouder of our Region Squadrons for the outstanding job you are doing! MyLegion.org has been a learning curve for many, however those who are utilizing it are finding how much quicker and easier it is to process membership, print renewal letters and run reports. There has been confusion for some on how the membership year runs. In simple terms, the new membership year begins July 1st, and the previous membership year expires December 31st. That gives members six months to renew. All Squadrons should get in the habit of starting the renewal process right around the time membership cards are received at Detachment Convention. Do not wait to start the renewal process.

Each year, Susquehanna Squadron 135 holds a Detachment Commander's Draw Down supporting the Detachment Commander's Project. This year's event will be held on Saturday, March 2nd from 3-7pm. \$50.00 admits two and includes dinner, draft beer and limited open bar. This event is always a great time and raises money for a great cause. You

do not have to be present to win. Your support is greatly appreciated. Please contact me for tickets.

If your Squadron is not doing so already, it's time to start gathering information including donations and volunteer hours for the Consolidated Squadron Report. This year the Region will again be utilizing our DEC'men to deliver packets and work with their assigned Squadrons to properly complete annual forms and delegate fees. Your DEC'men will review and collect those forms and fees to submit to the Region Adjutant who will compile the information and submit to the Detachment. If you must handwrite these forms, please be sure to write legibly. Last year by convention, all Region Squadrons had submitted their required forms and fees. I have no doubt we can do that again.

Each week, I send an email out to all Region Commander's, Adjutants and Advisors with the updated membership reports and information pertinent to the Squadrons. If you're not receiving these emails or if you would like to be added to the email list. Please let me know.

Our next Region Meeting will be held Sunday, March 10th, 1:00pm and Dorchester Post 91. All Squadrons are urged to attend. We will also be utilizing this time to answer any questions about the annual forms.

Each and every member has something to offer. We have all been given an opportunity to serve our Veterans and communities due to our loved one's service and sacrifices. Let's continue to honor those Veterans who made us eligible. As we continue to move forward each year, members are needed to serve as Chairmen, DEC'men and Regional Officers. If you're interested in helping us to carry our organization into the future and would like to know more about these positions, please reach out to me.

I thank you all for your support and dedication to this wonderful organization which does so much for our Veterans, youth, and communities. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any

questions or concerns.

Yours in Service,

Jason C. Miller  
SAL ESR Commander  
410-490-2550  
SAL246Betterton@gmail.com  
www.esrmdsal.org

## Northern Central Region

It is with great pleasure to inform all my DEC guys that we are doing very well with membership so far this year. As of this writing we are currently sitting in 2nd place 72.3% only 2 % points behind ESR, but we are way ahead of where we need to be and ahead of last year. Please continue to do whatever it is you have been doing. I believe if we keep this up, we can finish in 1st place by the end of the year.

The NCR is doing something different this year, instead of a bus trip we are holding a bull and oyster roast in March, please look for flyers on the website or contact Mark Sprucebank for tickets. Sales are going very well so far. The roast is Saturday March 9th, 2024, from 1 pm until 5 pm at the UAW hall 1010 Oldham Street right off 95. Tickets are \$55.00 per person and catering is by Superior Catering. We are hoping every squadron will purchase a table of 8. With your help this can be a very big fundraiser for the Region. Let's sell this out!

The next NCR meeting will be February 11th @ 1 pm at Harford 39 we know that it is super bowl Sunday, but meeting starts at 1 pm and you should be home by 3pm plenty of time to get home before it starts. This was the only Sunday available in Feb when we set this up. We try to have meetings close to the DEC meeting so things will still be fresh in your minds. Hope to see you all there. Again, sorry about the date.

Thank you!

Yours in service,  
NCR Commander  
Dave Hullihen

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Continued from page 8)*

## Southern Maryland Region

Greetings from the Southern Maryland Region

I hope and pray everyone had a great holiday season celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. The year has been a great show of support from Volunteers all around the Region. I would like to say thank you to Squadron 60 Laurel for their excellent support in hosting of the drawdown event with special mentions to Trish Newborn, Jerry Darnell, Butch Kreamer, Tommy Bryant and many others that make this event spectacular ever year. Cmdr Joe Lohman pumped up the Region with traveling by Caravan to various locations with other Region members having great conversations. Thank you to all the Squadrons that are in compliance with 80% and those that are at goal for membership 45% or greater. Great Job, Glen Arden, for hosting the Fall SMR meeting the hospitality was awesome by Cmdr William Green and the Squadron 275 Members. Everyone don't forget to do buddy checks this time of year. Veteran Suicide is real in our Legion families and 988 is the hotline number to dial if you need it.

In all I am very proud of the Southern Maryland Region Members (Family) . The end of the fiscal year is approaching, and we are still SMR STRONG in membership goal and turning a corning to be #1 as we have been in previous years.

Events:

SMR Winter Meeting Feb 11<sup>th</sup> @ Sq 196 Suitland 1pm

SMR Spring Meeting April 14<sup>th</sup> @ Sq 274 Lusby 1pm

*SMR Social Media 2023 recap:*

*YTD 15,648 page viewed*

*YTD 218 Comments with 213 being Members*

*YTD 1296 Reactions with 1276 being Members*

We are using Facebook and it's working and growing so thank you all that you do.

You may say Facebook is for kids well numbers say otherwise there are more replying and answering to Facebook then emails.

We have in Southern Maryland membership from ages 55-64 with 72% being male and 28% being female. Our group is growing!!

Only from ages 18-54 is 10% and mostly male but slowly but surely this is changing also.

The Top area that posting is Laurel MD. They're getting the word out for the events they have at their Squadron.

The Top post viewed was by Jay Elliott who had over 1000 views on one post WOW!!! Great job!!

I got to say our social media number is increasing due to us adding content and thank you to all that post your events on the SMR Facebook page.



or

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/218491158196451/>

to view and like our Facebook page.

Thank you,  
Mike Anderson  
SMR CMDR

## Western Maryland Region

I hope all of you had a joyous holiday season. At this time of year, after all of the festivities have ended, many people become depressed. Please keep an eye out for veterans or other members of the community who may be in need of counseling and "Be the One" to assist them in finding help.

Also, many people have other needs at this time of year. For example, many people have problems paying their heat or electric bills. Keep and

eye out for those in need.

Recently, I have been made aware of the National Office sending renewal notices to members with the wrong renewal rate. In the past, I have told you that your squadron did not need to fill out a Squadron Data Report (SDR) unless your squadron has changed its dues or other information. Because the National Office has incorrect information for some squadrons, I recommend all squadrons complete a new SDR for the 2025 membership year. The form can be found on mdsal.org under the "Resources -Publications and Forms" tab. The form should be filled out and submitted to Detachment Adjutant, Bill Matoska, at [matoskaw@yahoo.com](mailto:matoskaw@yahoo.com) by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Adjutant Matoska will then forward your form to National and the Department of Maryland Headquarters for processing.

As usual, members of the Western Maryland Region have been slow to renew their memberships. As of this writing, 67.347% of our members have renewed. It is a common belief throughout the region that the membership year follows the calendar year. The SAL membership year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, any member who has not renewed is considered delinquent by the National office and is therefore not eligible for any benefits until they renew. Please encourage your members to renew. Now is a good time to be thinking about your annual Consolidated Squadron Report. The report is due to the Detachment by May 27<sup>th</sup>. If you keep a running list of donations your report will be easier to complete. Your annual Squadron Certification Report is also due by May 27<sup>th</sup>. It is necessary to fill the report completely, no report with the word "Same" as an entry will be accepted.

Finally, if you have an event, you would like me to attend, or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me.

Yours In Service to Veterans and the Community,

John Davies  
WMR SAL Commander  
717-387-3638



“Sons Building A Stronger Community”

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 2023—2024**

**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**

February 3, 2024 (Saturday)

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

February 4, 2024 @ 11am

**Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown**

March 2, 2024 / Perryville

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

April 7, 2024 / Overlea-Perry Hall Post 130 @ 1pm

**51st Annual Detachment Convention**

June 21st to 23rd, 2024

HILTON GARDEN INN BALTIMORE/WHITE MARSH

5015 CAMPBELL BOULEVARD , BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21236

**2024 Membership Target Date:**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 10%**

**OCTOBER 18, 2023 25%**

**NOVEMBER 15, 2023 35%**

**DECEMBER 13, 2023 45%**

**JANUARY 18, 2024 60%**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2024 75%**

**MARCH 13, 2024 80%**

**APRIL 10, 2024 90%**

**MAY 15, 2024 100%**

**\*\*JULY 24, 2024 105%**

**\*\* Delegate Strength Target Date**