



Sons of The American Legion



Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

www.mdsal.org

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Fall Issue - November 16, 2024

Commander's Corner

Greetings to the

Detachment of Maryland,

The 2024-2025 Legion Year is starting off with a healthy shot in the arm for our membership. Great work to 1st Vice Commander – Doctor Jason Miller and his medical staff and team for already producing a healthy prognosis for this new year. Keep it up as you all know membership is the pulse of this organization and if the pulse weakens so will the Detachment.

The commander project is off to a swinging start as well. Both of the chairmen, Sean Phelan (217) and Kaden Hall (40) have been sliding right into things as each are taking control of a portion of the project. I can say that progress is being made already and it is due to the great efforts of these two **SONS HAVING FUN GETTING IT DONE.**

While I have been traveling around so far and getting the opportunity to talk with more of the blue caps in a casual setting and at meetings I hear a lot of the same stories from everyone. The enthusiasm is there and each of the squadrons I have been to are showing it. The one thing that has been brought up is that not everyone is aware of all the events and fundraisers that are happening around the great state of Maryland. Yes people say they post on

Facebook, but not everyone uses Facebook. We all need to remember Facebook reaches a lot of people but if the target we are trying to hit, fellow Legion Family members and some public, do not use Facebook then it is a wasted effort. Email is a great way as well to get the word out at the same time. Send out your events by both Facebook and Email and I am pretty sure you will reach even more people and your events will grow even more.

Just recently I attended the NEC in Indianapolis and hearing all the good work that is being done is awesome. Detachment of Maryland is definitely a big part of this and I salute each of you for all you are doing. Keep doing what you have been doing on your fundraisers and making those donations to the Child Welfare Foundation, Veterans and Children Foundation, Special Olympics Maryland, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program, and all other worthwhile programs like Boys State, Girls State, The Youth Camp, and Veteran Education & Employment, to name a few that fall under the four pillars. We are all in this together and together we will all succeed.

Yours in Service,
Mike Obremski (60)
Detachment Commander

Adjutant's Corner

Fall D.E.C.: The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Obremski, on November 16, 2024 at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting is being hosted at Francis Scott Key Post 11, located at 1450 Taney Rd., Frederick, MD 21702.

All Commissions and Committees will meet at noon prior to the D.E.C.

At the conclusion of the D.E.C. Meeting, FSK Squadron #11 will be providing a light meal and refreshments in the main hall. After refreshments we will be moving to the lounge area for a Cash Bash Fundraiser that FSK is hosting in support of the Detachment Commander's Project. There will be karaoke at the conclusion of the Cash Bash in the lounge. The kitchen will be open through the evening. The Cash Bash tickets are \$10.00 per ticket and you can secure your ticket by contacting your Region Commander.

Yours In Service,
Bill Matoska
Detachment Adjutant

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Commander's Project

"Southern Maryland Youth Camp"

Building Memories:

The Commander's Playground Project

This year, the Commander's project is focused on enhancing the **Southern Maryland Youth Camp**, a vital resource for our children and youth programs. The camp has long been a gathering place for various groups, and we're proud to support its continued growth. We are thrilled to announce plans for a **playground**—a space where children can laugh, play, stay active, and build lasting memories.

The recent **Youth Detachment Campout** was an amazing weekend for all involved. A highlight was visualizing where the playground will be installed, making the project feel even more tangible and exciting. This project isn't just about building a playground—it's about creating a place where future generations can come together, have fun, and build lifelong friendships. Let's continue to make this dream a reality!

Right now, we need YOU! We're running a **SAL Youth 50/50 fundraiser**, with all proceeds going directly to the playground. Don't miss out—this is your chance to support an amazing cause and have a shot at winning! Get your tickets today and spread the word. Every ticket gets us closer to our goal, so let's sell out and make this fundraiser a huge success!

Additionally, we have **T-shirts** featuring the project's logo for \$25 each. Show your support for the playground in style! These shirts are a great way to raise awareness and represent the cause everywhere you go. If you want one, reach out to me

directly—I'd love to see as many people as possible wearing these with pride.

On the administrative side, we're making great progress. We've been working closely with Prince George DPIE to complete the necessary paperwork, and we're moving forward! With that in place, our focus now shifts to fundraising and events. If your squadron is planning an event, we are here to help—don't hesitate to reach out!

I also want to give a huge shout-out to all the squadrons stepping up for this project! We're already at **15% of our goal**, thanks to your hard work. A special thanks to **Squadron #70** and **#248** for running a football pool fundraiser to get us even closer! Together, we're proving that **when we come together as a team, we can achieve incredible things**.

Mark your calendars! Susquehanna Squadron 135 is supporting the project with a Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown event on March 1, 2025. Get ready for a great event that will help push us even further toward our goal.

Let's keep up the momentum and stay focused on reaching our goal! This playground will be a lasting legacy for the youth, and **we need everyone's continued support** to make it happen. I'm excited about what's ahead and I know, together, we can make this dream a reality.

Thank you all for your incredible support and commitment—**SONS HAVING FUN GETTING IT DONE!**

Yours in Service

Chairman

Detachment Commanders Project

Sean Phelan

Membership

At our last DEC meeting, I announced that this year's membership theme is "Unlocking our Membership Health Potential". Membership is the heartbeat of our organization. The health of our organization starts with our members! It is important that we all do our part to recruit, renew and retain our members. It's equally important that we engage all our members and get them involved in some way. The Region Commanders have been tasked with serving as your Region Membership Physicians and along with their medical teams, are responsible for the health of their Squadrons membership. Each Region Physician has been provided a Virtual Medical Bag containing various guides regarding everything membership, American Legion Programs, BeTheOne and more. The Region Physicians can use these resources not only to inform themselves, but to pass this information along to their Squadrons to help them become more successful.

As of this article, I am happy to report that the Detachment of Maryland has maintained a lead over last year and have already exceeded the first two target goals of the year. Let's all do our part to keep the momentum going! I would like to remind everyone, that although we may be exceeding our goals, 2024 Membership Cards will expire on December 31st. That being said, it is important that we all make a strong effort to renew all of our members for 2025 prior to that deadline so they are not left standing out in the cold.

We have created several challenges again this year. The highest Region 75 percent total reached by the December 27th Membership Report will be awarded \$250.00 to be put towards a donation of their choice. The Top Region at the end of the year using the points system provided to the Region Physicians will win a Sunset Cruise our of Rock

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Hall, MD or \$500.00 towards a program of their choice. Any Squadron reaching 75 percent goal by the December 27th Membership Report will be entered into a raffle to win a 55" smart screen TV.

I would like to remind all our Squadrons that when a member renews their dues, please be sure their membership is processed in a timely manner. All members now have an additional option to renew utilizing their last name, member ID and a credit card by visiting legion.org/sal-renew.

Should anyone have any questions or concerns regarding membership, please reach out to your Region Physician or myself.

Jason Miller (18)
Detachment of Maryland
Membership Chairman
1st Vice Commander

Americanism Report

Its fall and many activities, like Halloween parties, Veterans Day celebrations, and Thanksgiving Dinners, will be occurring at our posts in the coming weeks. It is an enjoyable time of the year.

We also have a major Presidential Election on November 5th. It is our civic duty to vote. When representing the Sons of The American Legion, we are not to advocate for any party or candidate. However, Sons can hold voter registration events, town hall events, volunteer to be poll watchers or transport voters to and from the poles.

When voting, consider where The American Legion stands on various issues. For example, The American Legion opposes illegal immigration and amnesty for those who enter our country illegally. The American Legion supports strong border security and legal immigration. Another important issue to The American Legion is U.S. Flag Protection. It is also important to consider the stand your candidate has toward veterans and their well-being.

Please look for a candidate that most closely aligns with these issues and issues that are important to you.

Another good reason for you to vote is when you call your state or federal representative and request, they support a bill that is important to The American Legion, the person who takes you call will ask for your name and address. They will then look you up to see how often you vote. If you never miss an election, your request will carry more weight than if you rarely vote.

Recently, hurricanes Hellene and Milton have caused massive destruction in several southern states. Millions of people have been devastated by these events. Many of these people are members of our American Legion Family. There have also been several Legion posts damaged or destroyed by these storms. The National Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to victims of natural disasters. Because of the massive destruction caused by these storms, great demand will be placed on the fund. Please consider donating to the fund to help members of our American Legion Family.

The National High School Oratorical competition will be held in March 2025. Contestants begin by competing at posts, continue to district and region competitions, followed by the state competition and finally to the national competition held at Hillsdale College in March. If you plan on holding a post-competition it should be held in early February to meet the timeline for the competition.

John Davies
Americanism Chairman /
2nd Vice Commander
calldontsend@hotmail.com
717-387-3638

National Emergency Fund

Part of our Preamble states, "Devotion to Mutual Helpfulness". This is our call for the National Emergency Fund. Established in 1989 in response to Hurricane Hugo. The Fund has granted over 10 million dollars to help legionaries, their families, and their Posts.

Recently the southern states have been battered with two hurricanes and the accompanying tornadoes. Many of our comrades have been affected and multiple Posts suffered damage.

Granting \$3,000 per individual and \$10,000 per Post, the NEF has been a lifeline to help our comrades these times of disaster.

This year, as your NEF Chairman, I am setting a goal of \$8,000 for the Detachment. Please contribute what you can. Thank you in advance. Send your contributions to...

Detachment Adjutant
William Matoska
3115 Orchard Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21234 (NEF in the Memo section)

For God and Country
Bill Stem PDC and NEF chairman

If you need assistance, please contact...

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

Greeting fellow Sons!

The 2024 administrative year was a huge success with activities and fund raisers and I'm confident the 2025 year will be even better. On behalf of the Detachment, I am asking everyone to please continue to support the Children and Youth programs.

This year's representatives for each program are listed on mdsal.org along with their contact info. Please reach out to them or me with any questions or suggestions, especially after our DEC meetings while they are fresh on your mind.

The Detachment Youth Camp Out was held on September 6th - 8th at the American Legion Youth Camp in Cheltenham, MD. The youth and families were welcomed on Friday evening with a Pizza Party, activities, Campfires and outdoor movies.

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Saturday was full of youth activities including Youth Shooting Sports competition with 16 participants. The Detachment Youth Group held a meeting with elections for officers for the 2025 membership year and after the meeting conducted a candy bingo for all the youth. The evening was full of more fun activities for all.

All the participants had a great time networking and just having fun.

I would like to thank The Detachment of MD, Dave Hullihen and his team for having another successful Youth Camp event. We ask everyone to continue to spread the word for next year's event. Information for the 2025 Youth Camp will be available early in 2025.

Please note the address for the American Legion Youth Camp is 9201 Surratts Rd, Cheltenham, MD.

We ask that everyone encourage the youth at your Squadron to attend upcoming DEC and Youth Leadership meetings to learn and grow into the future roles that we will need them to become.

At the next DEC meeting on November 16th at Francis Scott Key Post 11, in Frederick, MD, we will be collecting new unwrapped Toys and donations for "Toys for Tots."

Special Olympics:

A Bowling Event will be held December 8th in Crofton.

The Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge benefitting Special Olympics will take place on Friday January 31st at Sandy Point State Park. If you plan to Plunge, please register at support.somd.org under The American Legion Family team page.

Winter Olympics is set for February 23rd to 25th at Mt Wisp in McHenry, MD

The Deep Creek Dunk will take place on February 24th at Deep Creek Lake.

Please contact SAL Coordinator, Eddie Souder at 301-706-3960 for further info on Special Olympics.

I look forward to working with

everyone to continue supporting our Children and Youth.

For God and County

Sons Having Fun Getting it Done

Darryl English (218)

Children & Youth Commission

The Annual Detachment

Campout at The American Legion, Southern Maryland Youth Camp was another successful weekend of comradery and enjoying time with our Legion Family.

Quick Comments from our Chief Cook and Bottle washer!!

As kitchen chairmen for the camp out I need to take this time to thank all who helped to make the camping weekend a success. I believe everyone had a great time. The food for the weekend for all 3 days was very good. The only thing I wished for was more people, but everyone there had a good time. Many thanks go out to all who helped with the cleaning up at the end of the weekend. It always makes it so much easier when you have enough help cleaning up so thanks to all who stayed and helped. Don't want to name people because you always forget someone, but you know who you are. So, if allowed I would like to continue as kitchen chairman again next year. Looking forward to another great year.

Thank you

Kitchen Chairmen
PDC Dave Hullihen

Legislative Alert!

By the time this Pride is out, the election is over, and a new President and Congress will soon be seated. This is when it is time to encourage our representatives to vote for the bills The American Legion Supports.

Major Richard Star Act is still the primary focus as the primary act to get passed. Some veterans are

receiving less financial support due to getting funds from retirement and disability. Ask your Congressperson to vote in favor of the Major Richard Star Act and get those veterans the funds they need.

You can view some of the laws and bills in The American Legion selected set of legislative priorities for the 118th Congress. These can be found at <https://www.votervoice.net/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.votervoice.net/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 is engaged in putting our legislative agenda forward.

If you have questions or suggestions, you can email me at mdonnelly119@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Michael Donnelly

Legislative Chairman
Detachment of Maryland

VAVS Variety

November brings on the change of seasons and ushers in the start of the holidays. Veterans Day will soon be here and there are various remembrance ceremonies scheduled throughout the state. Please plan on taking part in your posts ceremony

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and honor your forbearer's service to the nation. Our year is just getting into full swing and Donations are low, I know they'll be coming in and as always, it's up to the Sons of The American Legion to help our veterans. Every time you turn on the news you hear about homeless veterans living on streets, veterans and their families being evicted from their homes and not getting proper care in the VA hospitals; so that's why we need to continue to work hard and support our veterans and the men and women serving are great country today. Let's reach out to our Squadrons and Regions for donations to help our veterans and their families.

Remember November 11th is Veterans Day and

I hope everyone takes time to stop by a veterans' facility and thank them for their service to our great country.

For God and Country!

Jim Alexander PDC
VAVS- Chairman

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

Charlotte Hall and other Veteran facilities need our help again this year. With the holidays, fast approaching our veterans' facilities will be looking for items on their wish list, so please contact a veteran's home to see what they need. Better yet just stop by and talk to a veteran and see if they need anything.

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.

Emotional support is also important especially with the holidays just around the corner.

Loneliness and feeling being forgotten is a silent killer of our veterans in Veterans homes, and this goes for the homeless veterans. Take time to stop by and say how are you doing .

For God and Country

Jim Alexander PDC
CHVH Representative

Heroes Haven, Inc.

Heroes Haven, Inc. October news.

Heroes Haven will host its yearly Deer Hunt for Veterans and 1st responders the week of 13 October.

This year we will host 4 guests, and the week will kick off with the welcoming dinner and introduction to their host families. Wednesday, 16 October a safety briefing will be held, issuing Muzzle Loaders and help with sighting in. That evening the Welcome Parade ends at the Dor-Wic Post 218.

The participants will hunt for the remainder of the week during the MD Muzzle Loading Deer Season.

We wish them good safe hunting for Whitetail or Sika Deer.

Heroes Haven has tremendous support from the Dor-Wic Post 218 Legion family and the Sharptown and surrounding Communities during this week and throughout the year.

Please keep checking our web page www.heroeshaven.org and on Facebook at Heroes Haven, Inc. for updates and upcoming events to help support us with this great cause.

Darryl English

Heroes Haven, Inc.
Executive Committee Member

Perry Point VA

Perrypoint VA Medical Center
Center for Development & Civic Engagement.

Perrypoint is open to all volunteers. Veterans Day, and the December holidays are right around the corner, and they are looking for special activities and distributions for our veterans to help them celebrate the holidays. As Veterans Day falls on a Monday this year, they will be celebrating the week before (4th-8th) as well as the week of (11th-15th). Please reach out to your specialist if you and/or your organization want to help.

Perry Point volunteers needed:

Sunday 9am Protestant Service escorts

Thursday coffee station (8am-noon)

Roving musicians for CLC unit

Patient visitors for CLC unit

Organizations or groups to sponsor a long-term care unit for "Wish" items for the December holidays (similar to an Angel Tree wish list)

Groups to conduct bingo/other activities on 23H

Perry Point item needs: full size body wash, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, k-cups (medium and dark roasts preferred)

Baltimore item needs: men's and women's sweat suits, men's and women's underwear, tee shirts, caps, body wash, shampoo

Vet Center volunteer needs:

Elkton and Baltimore Vet Centers are looking for weekday front desk help answering phones and greeting veterans

If you want to host a party, you can contact Brandi Sima at 410-642-1038.

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Follow VA Maryland on Facebook for VA Maryland volunteer updates!

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

PDC Tom Deal
Perry Point VA Rep.

Time and Place Committee

Our 52nd Annual Convention is in the works. Our convention business activities will remain at the Hilton Garden Inn-Baltimore White Marsh, which is in the same location as last year and is located at 5015 Campbell Blvd., White Marsh, MD 21236. The Business Sessions will again be in the Campbell Room on both Saturday and Sunday. Hospitality Suites will be in the back third of the Campbell Ball Room which will be sectioned off with a floating wall and the Nottingham Room areas. The annual picnic on Saturday will be at Overlea Perry Hall Post No. 130. As always, the goal is for us to come together from across the state and conduct our convention activities, while also catching up with old friends, making new ones and sharing in the overall comradery we have as members of the Sons of The American Legion.

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

Details for the overall convention will be provided at our upcoming DEC as well as our Detachment website www.mdsal.org after the meeting.

For God and Country,
Bill Hill
Chairman

Chaplin's Corner

The Lord's Prayer is a Christian prayer that appears in the New Testament of the Bible in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4. It is a model of prayer and is used in many Christian services, including the Eucharist and the Roman Catholic rosary.

The prayer is:
Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer encourages Christians to: Seek forgiveness, Seek God's help to avoid temptation, Ask for protection against Satan, and Cling to God's will.

Say this Prayer in your time of need.

There is power in Prayer.

If you need a Prayer, call me
443-413-9289

Praise and God.

Mike Anderson
Chaplain

Western Maryland Region

Happy Autumn and I hope you all had a wonderful summer and the start of fall. There are many great things happening here with the Sons of the American Legion in the West and throughout the state with the Detachment. If you are hosting an event, please reach out to me with details and a flyer so we can share it. I want to thank everyone who has already done great things.

This time of year, does come with some hardships. We have had two hurricanes devastate the southern states and several squadrons are collecting supplies and funds to send directly to the area or to organizations that can help. Please consider doing a drive of your own or assisting with an ongoing one. The National Emergency Fund is one good place to send funds. The Detachment has made it a goal to raise over \$8,000 dollars for the NEF this year. Those funds go to Posts and families displaced due to natural disasters. Consider raising funds this year for them.

While we have new commanders and many other positions filled, we still need some spots filled in the WMR. We need Detachment Executive Committee (DEC) men. They are state level positions that meet with squadrons near them and give reports about what is happening at state and national. This can be a great way to start working towards a state level position if you want to try for one. We are also in need of a Finance officer, Historian and a few committee chairs/members. If any of these positions sound interesting to you or you have other ways of helping, please reach out to me.

Our Detachment Commander, Mike Obremski, has a theme for the year is "Sons Having Fun Getting It Done". His Commander's project is the continued revitalization of the Southern Maryland Youth Camp with the upgrade of the playground area. If you are doing a fundraiser and are not sure what to send the proceeds to, consider sending it to the Commander's Project. Reach out to the Commander's Project Chairperson Sean Phelan for more information.

Our membership numbers for the

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start of the year are good but can always be better. The health of your squadron and post depends on new and returning members. Our October 15 goal was 25% and we were very close. I will be reaching out to squadrons and helping in clearing any hurdles in getting members paid and sent in. Make sure you are reaching out to members to remind them to renew at events and meetings. We have several squadrons close to four star status and I want all of them to make it.

We had our first regional meeting in Frostburg at Farraday Post 24. It was nice to see some new people and hear what is going on in their squadrons. I encourage you all to go to the next Regional and Detachment meeting as they are both in the West. Our next Regional Meeting is November 24th at 12 noon in Reisterstown Post 116. Our next Detachment meeting is a week earlier on November 16th at 1pm in Frederick, Francis Scott Key Post 11. I hope to see some of you there for both.

Michael Donnelly

Commander
Western Maryland Region
410-926-5584
mdonnelly119@gmail.com

Eastern Shore Region

Hello Comrades

I would first like to thank all the squadrons in our region for their support given me the opportunity to serve as your Regional Commander. With your help we will remain number one in membership. Our current goal is 40.945 % with 18 squadrons surpassing the October 16th target date

Keep up the good work. Our first Regional meeting was held at Post

194 on September 29th Commander Obremski was in attendance along with ESR Commander Doug Wiley both spoke on their goals for this year

Upcoming events:

November 16th DEC meeting @ Post 11 @ 1:00 Frederick Md

ESR meeting December 1st @ Post 218 Sharptown, MD.

Please make arrangements to have at least one member from your Squadron and Advisors to attend

Squadron 296 annually wildlife dinner will be held on Saturday February 15th, 2025 @ 2:00 you will have a great time at this event

Please keep Commander Charles Jenkins in your prayers in the loss of his wife

Continue to support our Veterans and their family's DEC Leon Miller is working on a project to create housing for homeless veterans more information to come

Thank you

ESR Commander
Freddie Taylor

Southern Maryland Region

Supporting our Veterans from the Bottom to the Top

As the holiday season approaches, there are important things that Squadrons can do to better support our Veterans and their families. Per recent events, disaster response and relief are urgently needed in hard hit areas. To help get supplies, money and resources to afflicted areas, the Department of Maryland has designated Post 7 in Annapolis and Post 194 in Rising Sun as collection sites for any material or monetary donations people might wish to make. For more information about Post donations, contact Mr. Buddy

Mastin at
BuddyMastin@Hotmail.Com

For Christmas donations, the Toys for Tots program is again collecting new, unwrapped toys and gifts for area children. For more information on this program, please contact Jerry Darnell at
SAL136JWD@Gmail.Com.

Also, the SMR sponsors the Charlotte Hall Veterans home Bingo event every 3rd Monday of the month. If you wish to donate to this good cause, contact Mr. David Tatman of Squadron 82 La Plata at Tatman_David@Comcast.Net or (301 752-8273).

Membership is truly the bloodline of the SAL. Without members filling the ranks of our squadrons there would be no SAL, there would be no Regions, no Detachments, and no National. Without a strong, viable and growing SAL in Maryland, the support resources afforded our veterans would be greatly curtailed and the voices focused on advocating for their well-being and against their plights would be muffled if not silenced.

The Southern Maryland Region understands this and rededicates itself to the goal of attracting new members to the SMR SAL ranks and in substantial numbers. The first steps on the path to success require us to be more effective in retaining and enabling the current membership cadre. Keeping them firmly in the SAL family and helping them to effectively "make the case" for SAL membership whenever meeting new potential SAL candidates is critical. These steps require all members to have at the ready a positive message about our SAL, one that relates the good things we do for our veterans and the benefits we bring to our communities, one that highlights our values and broadcasts our goals. Here, the SMR leadership is taking the lead by developing a "recruitment packet" containing "Why Join the SAL?" talking points along with copies of easy-to-use membership forms. These packets

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will be distributed to SMR members via their Commanders and Adjutants as soon as possible. Members will be encouraged to keep the packet handy and ready. Once complete, the path to membership success is focused on that "Bottom to the Top" approach where members who encounter candidates are empowered to present our case, answer questions, cultivate relationships and produce a signed membership form in a timely manner. The packet will contain SAL, Legionnaire and Auxiliary forms.

This year, SMR is asking all squadron Commanders or representatives to attend our quarterly meetings so they can engage with SMR leadership, relate their challenges, ideas and success and then report back to their squadron on plans and events happening in the Southern Maryland Region. Effective and timely communication between DEC, squadrons, Region and members is extremely important. This is certainly the "heartbeat" of the bloodline. With that said your DEC members will keep in contact with you. SMR is arranging for training sessions on how to fill out the Squadron Consolidated Reports (SCR) and Squadron Certification forms as they are extremely important to all of us. The SMR Adjutant, Tom Donohue, is working with Detachment and SMR leadership to make the tracking, completion and reporting of these items much easier.

Again, the SAL bloodline is membership and the SMR will be pushing hard to regain our #1 spot in the Detachment of Maryland.

Important dates we need you to keep in your calendar are:

- SMR:**
- SMR Fall Meeting –
- November 17th @ 1:00pm –
- Post 86 Rockville
- SMR Winter Meeting –
- February 16th @ 1:00pm –
- Post 226 Mayo/Edgewater

SMR Spring Meeting – April
27th @ 1:00pm–
Post 238 Hughesville

Thank you and a very Merry Christmas to you and yours, May God Bless America and all our Vets

Jerry W Darnell
SMR Commander

Northern Central Region

Greetings from the Northern Central Region. I am going to try and visit every squadron in the Region. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me by text, phone and/or email. I will get back to you with an answer.

I am looking forward to a good year, but in order to achieve this, we have to work together as a family. If you have been elected as DEC (Detachment Executive Committeeman) please make sure you visit your assigned squadrons and advise them on what's going on in the Region and in the Detachment.

We need to work on membership. We are in third place. We are ahead of last year. We achieved the 25% goal. As of October 11, 2024, we are at 26.723%. Our next goal is 35% by November 14th. With a little work we can reach the 35% goal. That's get the membership in. I would like to see us in first place, at the end of the year! We can do it with a little effort.

My project this year will be Southern Maryland Youth Camp. This supports Commander Obremski's project. Please give generously to this worthy cause. Also, if any squadron would like to have a fundraiser for this worthy cause, please contact me.

Our Fall DEC meeting is Saturday, November 16, 2024, at Francis Scott Key Post #11, 1450 Taney Avenue,

Frederick, MD, at 1 pm. The next Northern Central Region meeting is Sunday, December 1, 2024, at Post #285, 2324 McElderry Street, Baltimore, MD at 1 pm. Please plan to attend both these meetings, so you are informed on what is happening in the Detachment and NCR.

I would like to see Northern Central Region become the #1 Region in the state. If we work together as a team, we can achieve that goal!

Upcoming fundraiser to support the Region. NCR 2nd Annual Shrimp & Bull Roast. Saturday, December 14, 2024. For ticket information contact Dave Hullihen or Roscoe Holley. Additional information available on the Detachment website under events.

God Bless our Troops! God Bless The American Legion! God Bless America!

Larry A. Ford
Northern Central Region
Commander
LafLtd@comcast.net
443-413-4710

NEC Update!

I bring you greetings from our SAL National Commander Joseph Navarrete from New Mexico. He was elected in New Orleans, Louisiana on August 25th. His motto is Todo es posible con Dios y la familia. Everything is possible with God and family. He is counting on all of us to support him and the organization. BE THE ONE IS STILL THE FOCUS to help end Veteran Suicide. So, let's all help, if you are talking to someone who you think may hurt themselves, stay with them and dial 988 for hotline. You can Help just don't leave them until they get help. The American Legion does have training to help you to "Be The One" at: www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training. Commander Navarrete's Project is Veterans & Children Foundation. At

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the National Convention we elected Robert “Bob” Manzo from Squadron 183 as our National Vice Commander for the Eastern Region. Most of you know Bob and know he will lead us well this year. Membership is very important, and Maryland is doing our part, let’s keep the pressure on this year. The NEC Meeting was October 4-6 in Indianapolis, IN. Maryland has several members on commissions and committees, Tom Deal is National Executive Committeeman and is on Sub Committee on Resolutions, Mark Fayer is the Alternate National Executive Committeeman and is Vice Chairman for VA&R, Larry (Bear) Weinzirl is Consultant for Committee on National Appointments, Bill Hill Chairman for Internal Affairs and on National Honor Council, Bill Matoska Chairman for Committee on National Appointments and Governing Documents, Joe Lohman Chairman for Children & Youth, Jason Miller Membership and Mike Obremski Member Training and Development. Commander Navarrete’s Project is Veterans & Children Foundation. Over \$16,000 was donated this weekend from Squadrons and Detachments from across the country. Maryland does a fundraiser for Breast Cancer awareness each year during the NEC weekend and raised \$1500.00.

God Bless our Troops! God Bless America!

Tom Deal
National Executive Committeeman
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion

90 Continuous Years is Celebrated with 100th Birthday

Pictured sitting in the chair is Mr. Dan Tabler, Legionnaire and S.A.L. Member celebrating his 100th birthday and recognized for 90 years of continuous membership in the

Sons of The American Legion. Mr Tabler was born in 1924 and in 1935 at the age of 10 he became a Charter member of the Sons of The American Legion, Jeff Davis Squadron No. 18 located in Centreville, MD where he continued his membership for 90 years. To Dan’s right, Detachment

1st Vice Commander, Jason Miller, had the honor to present Dan his Continuous Membership Certificate, Engraved Honorary Membership card. and a 100th Birthday Celebration Resolution on behalf of American Legion National Commander James A. LeCoursiere.





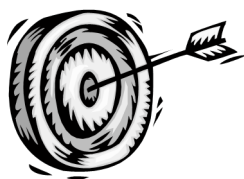
“Sons Having Fun Getting It Done”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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

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Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland



Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2024—2025

Fall D.E.C. Meeting

November 16, 2024 /Francis Scott Key Post 11 @ 1:00pm
Cash Bash Commander's Project Fund Raiser after DEC in Lounge Area

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 1, 2025 (Saturday)

Winter D.E.C. Meeting

February 2, 2025 @ 11:00am (Sunday)

Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown

March 1, 2025 / Perryville

National Vice Commander Homecoming & Eastern Region Gathering

March 28 & 29, 2025/Overlea Perry Hall Post 130
Housing @ Hilton Garden Inn-Baltimore White Marsh

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 26, 2025 /Blake-Blackston Post 77 @ 1:00pm (Saturday)

Celebration of Champions Gala

April 19, 2025/Water's Edge Events Center

52nd Annual Detachment Convention

June 20, 21, 22, 2025

Hilton Garden Inn-Baltimore White Marsh

2025 Membership Target Date:

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024	10%
OCTOBER 16, 2024	25%
NOVEMBER 14, 2024	35%
DECEMBER 11, 2024	45%
JANUARY 15, 2025	60%
FEBRUARY 12, 2025	75%
MARCH 12, 2025	80%
APRIL 19, 2025	90%
MAY 14, 2025	100%
**JULY 26, 2025	105%

Renewal Post Card Mailing Dates

Sept 28—Oct 4, 2024

Feb 22—28, 2025

Apr 26—May 2, 2025