



Sons of The American Legion



"The Pride"

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

www.mdsal.org

Volume 2022/2023: Issue 3
Spring Issue - April 15, 2023

Commander's Corner

I have been busy since the last publication of the "Pride", and I will take this opportunity to highlight some of the activities. The SAL National Commander Chris Carlton, Department Commander Ron Holcombe and Department President Carmin Brittain took the Plunge at our Mid-Winter Conference in Chesapeake Bay. We raised money for Special Olympics and I as Detachment Commander presented a check for \$15,000 from the Detachment of Maryland to help support their Bowling Tournament. My Detachment Officers and I had the opportunity to represent the Detachment of Maryland at the Washington Conference. We spent the day visiting memorials like the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Vietnam Memorial and World War II Memorial. I was honored to present a wreath on behalf of the Detachment at the WW II Memorial in honor of my father who served during that war.

I cannot thank enough the Post 135 American Legion Family for hosting the Draw Down for the Commander's Project at the Perryville Fire Department. Your event runs like a well-oiled machine. Thank you so much for the generous donations from the Post 135 American Legion

(\$5,000), Auxiliary (\$1,000) and the SAL (\$1,000). The money raised at the Draw Down was over \$14,000. That was amazing! Also, I want to thank the Perryville Fire Department for the use of their facilities and all of their help.

I want to recognize my First Vice Commander, Joe Lohman, for the outstanding job that he is doing in membership. I also want to thank Second Vice Commander, Mike Obremski, my Project Chairman, Bill Stem, and all my Committee Chairmen on the outstanding jobs that they are doing. Keep up the good work. I am proud of each and every one of you!

God Bless You, God Bless Our Troops and God Bless America!

Yours in Service,
Larry Ford
Commander

443-413-4710

"Developing Our Youth For the Future"

D.E.C. : The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Ford on April 15, 2023 at **11:00 A.M.**

The meeting is being hosted at Greenbelt Post 136, 6900 Greenbelt Rd, Greenbelt, 20770. The post phone number is 301-345-0136.

Commander's Project

"Southern Maryland Youth Camp"

In recent weeks the Legion Family has stepped up to provide fundraising events to support Commander's Ford's Project, The Southern Maryland Youth Camp.

Susquehanna Legion family #135, had a Drawdown on March 4, with All The proceeds going to the Project. As of this writing Overlea/Perry Hall Squadron #130, is holding a St. Patrick's Day event to raise monies for the Camp. Also scheduled the April 29th there are two events for the cause. Slate Ridge Squadron #182 is holding a Blue Grass event and Reisterstown Squadron/Auxiliary #116 is holding a Sock Hop. Anyone interested in attending any of these, contact the respective Squadron.

If you are interested in holding an event for the Commander's Project, please contact me or Commander Ford for any assistance we can give.

Those who have donations for the Camp, can bring them to the DEC meeting on April 15th at Greenbelt Post #136 at 11:00 AM.

All other contributions can be sent to....

Bill Matoska, SAL Adjutant

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

3115 Orchard Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21234
Attn: Commander's Project
(put this in the check memo section)
Thanks in advance for your
generosity
"Developing Our Youth For the
Future"
Bill Stem
PDC and Commander's Project
Chairman
Wstem847809@aol.com
410 598-9355

‘Firing up our membership potential in the community.’

The The Detachment membership report as of 03/10/23 indicates the detachment is at 92.39% and has reached the 90% target for April. We need just 1,195 renewals to make our overall goal for this administration year.

As your membership chair, I cannot ask for a better response than what our region officers, DEC men and squadrons have provided the first 9 months of this administration year. We have approximately 1953 more renewals than this time last year. We still have some work to do this year. The hardest part of membership is obtaining renewals for existing members. On average, most detachments lose approximately 10% of their existing members each year. I'm asking squadrons across the state of Maryland to help us achieve our membership renewal goal at 92%. We are currently sitting at 80% based on the latest metrics from National.

Many times a simple letter or phone call will get the member to renew. I understand this is more work for the

squadron, but a simple reminder may be all it takes for someone to renew.

Remember, the SAL Regional Membership challenge will be based on a point system instead of overall percentages. The region that has the most points by May 26th, 2023, will have a check presented to a local volunteer fire department in Maryland of their choice for \$1000. In addition, a bushel of crabs will be purchased for the officers and their DEC men of the winning region. As for the membership challenge, we have a 3-way tie for first place between NCD, ESR and SMR. WMR is eight points behind from being in first place.

Scoring (up to one hundred points can be awarded to each region)

Potential Points

Reach 100% membership goal by
Year End cutoff 52 points

There will be (3) membership calls
(4 points each call) 12 points

Target Date (4 points for achieving
each target) 36 points

Tie breaker – Highest membership
percentage as of May 26th

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

Americanism Report

Hello Detachment of Maryland

It is hard to believe that as I write this Pride Article we are coming down to the end of another successful year for Americanism. Flying Flags for Heroes is going strong so don't forget to get on the website and add your flags that you have placed. NEF is always in need of additional support and funds, so every little bit helps. Please keep those contributions coming in. Your support helped so much for all the victims from Hurricane Ian.

We all know and understand that Americanism encompass many things, but we must always remember Community Service is also a major Americanism activity. Throughout all our programs, we can positively influence young minds. Case in point, a short time ago I was asked by a friend to help show some kids how to properly fold a flag. Simply teaching a class how to fold a flag properly may be more meaningful than you realize. If we can affect just one child or adult positively, then we are successful. Whether it is a child or an adult, we must continue to march forward and promote Americanism throughout our communities.

Is your Post or Region holding a special event to promote Americanism? Do you have it listed on the Department or Detachment calendar? I am sure that the senior level officers would love to see these event and work on attending them if possible, so make sure you submit dates. If there is anything I can do to assist, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

I will end in saying that remember everything your Squadron / Region do in supporting all activities under Americanism needs to be shared and bragged about. Please fill out your consolidation reports showing all your efforts. These reports go a long way in promoting what the Sons of American Legion do for our community, state, and nation.

For God and Country

Respectfully

Michael Obremski- Americanism
Chairman

Detachment of Maryland

2nd Vice Commander

email: usnavyBB62@gmail.com

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

THE BOYS STATE UPDATE REPORT:

We have just under 2 months until the application cutoff date of 01 May 2023. As of 07 March 2023, the Boys State program had 64 applications and that was an increase of 9 over the last two weeks. We still need more boys to apply to come close to the 132 we had in March 2019, but the program is 14 ahead of 2022 applications. Detachment of Maryland now is the time to help this great program by recruiting one or more boy(s) from your local area high school. Also, the parochial or private schools and do not forget about the boys that are home schooled. The application for Maryland Boys State is on the Department's web page, www.mdlegion.org.

Now is the time for the squadron to ask their Post, what can we do to assist in sending a boy(s) to this great program. If your squadron sponsors a boy(s) here are some ideas. Have a fundraiser, a 50/50 raffle, or put out a jar in the Post's lounge with the Post's permission. Also, don't forget you can go out in your community and solicit funds from businesses or alumni of this program to get sponsors for Boys State.

How many squadrons know who their Post's Chairperson for Boys State is. That person is usually very knowledgeable about the Boys State program and you may find out that person is on the Boys State staff. Also, they are the liaison between the post, schools, and the Boys State Committee.

If the Post Boys State Chairperson would like more contact information, please send a request to boysstate@mdlegion.org.

Remember if you give your Post a donation to sponsor a boy to this great program, please bring a copy of that check to the next Detachment Executive Committee meeting, so your squadron gets credit and don't forget to report the amount on your squadron consolidated report. Remember to earmark your check MD Boys State.

The objective is for each Post in the state with the help of their squadron should be to send one boy to this program. If your post or squadron cannot afford the donation do not quit there have the boy fill out his application. The committee will find a post or squadron or somebody to sponsor him. If you need information concerning Boys State, please contact to boysstate@mdlegion.org.

If there are any questions, please reach out to me at 410-330-3003 or Russell Meyers Jr, at 410-752-1405, chairman of the Boys State Committee for the Department.

Dennis Renehan
Boys State Committee Chair
Fort City CIC
dawgtrucker@yahoo.com
410-330-3003

National Emergency Fund:

Our country has been experiencing vast numbers of disasters. Ranging from the down south to the totally unusual snow and rainfall out west.

In all these cases I'm sure there are Legion Family members and Posts that have been affected. The NEF is there to provide grant monies to those in need and your contributions can make a big difference.

If any of you have donations try to bring them to the Spring DEC Meeting in Greenbelt Post #136 on April 15th at 11:00AM.

If you can't make the meeting 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/NEF Chairman

If you need assistance, please contact...

WWW.LEGION.ORG/EMERGENCY/APPLY

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

It's hard to believe we are down to the last few months of this administrative year! Thank you everyone who has helped support our children & youth programs! We still have three more months, so keep the momentum going. As a reminder, the month of April is Children & Youth Month, so be sure to hold some activities and share what we do to support our youth with your communities.

Members of the Detachment spent three days volunteering at the Special Olympics of Maryland Winter Games at The Wisp Resort. A wonderful time was had by all! All of the athletes were very grateful for our support. Volunteers are always needed for these events, so please consider it in the future!

We will be holding Junior Shooting Sports at the American Legion, Southern Maryland Youth Camp on April 8th and May 20th, beginning at 1:00pm. This event is open to both our SAL Youth and Auxiliary Juniors.

Now is the time to consider supporting the 2023 Douglas Henley Memorial Laps of Love which will be held at the Detachment Convention in Hunt Valley. This very special event supports Special Olympics, Casey

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Cares & CWF. Let's make this the best year yet!

Should you have any questions about any of our programs, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our program chairmen.

Jason Miller

Children & Youth Chairman

SAL246Beterton@gmail.com

410-490-2550

DOUGLAS HENLEY MEMORIAL

LAPS OF LOVE

The 2023 Doug Henley Memorial Laps of Love that 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.

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

George Grossnickle Memorial Scholarship

It's time again to begin the search for this year's recipient(s) of the GGM Scholarship. We only had two applicants last year, and this year we are looking to exceed that by numerous applicants.

Below is a general outline, with additional information available on our Detachment website.

In accordance with its Americanism Program, the Detachment of Maryland Sons of The American, has established four \$2,000.00 Memorial Scholarship Grants to assist youth in furthering their education beyond high school.

The scholarships shall be offered to young men and women who are:

A citizen of the United States of America who appreciates the value of education and is willing to work hard to achieve success; and

A graduating senior or a high school graduate, by the prescribed application submittal date, who plans to attend an accredited college, university or trade school on a full-time basis; or

A previous scholarship winner attending college full-time may re-apply (There is no implied guarantee of renewal)

These scholarships will be awarded with preference given to a recipient in the following order:

A Detachment of Maryland, Sons of The American Legion member in good standing.

A descendant of a deceased or living Department of Maryland, American Legion Legionnaire.

The son or daughter of a Military person on active duty or of an honorably discharged, separated, or retired U.S. Military veteran.

A student from the state of Maryland environs.

Information is currently available at our website and applications for the 2023 awards are available at the website. WWW.MDSAL.ORG

All candidates must submit a formal George Grossnickle Memorial

Scholarship application with the necessary information and attachments **post-marked on or before May 1, 2023** to:

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Detachment of Maryland
Sons of The American Legion
19040 Festival Drive, Boyds, MD 20841

Scholarship Committee:

Bill Hill - Co-Chair

Jim Alexander - Co-Chair

Bill Matoska - Member

Legislative Alert!

The Washington Conference was the last week of February. The Sons of The American Legion had the Wreath Laying Ceremony around DC as in past years. This year the wreath laying was on February 26, 2023. National Commander Chris Carlton did lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, at World War II Memorial and at Vietnam War memorial. There were 30 Detachments laying 35 wreaths this year. A record attendance of 150 Sons and American Legion Family members attended and participated. Detachment Commander Larry Ford placed a Wreath at WWII this year with 16 members from Maryland. It was an awesome day paying tribute at the memorials.

The American Legion Legislative Priorities are a set of priorities that the American Legion selects to push congress to pass legislation supporting our Veterans. The Pact Act passing last year was an enormous event. We still need to stay on our legislators to provide oversite and funding to ensure VA has the resources needed to implement that Legislation. I am asking you to continue to support Pact Act Implementation and Oversight. I am also asking again for

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

everyone to contact your senators and congressmen to support The American Legion priorities.

If you haven't done so, please sign up for **VoterVOICE**,
www.votervoice.net/americanlegion/home

Do it TODAY! Do not delay, its easy, and 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.

Tom Deal
 Legislative Chairman
 Detachment of Maryland
 Sons of The American Legion

VAVS Variety

With spring just around the corner, and the weather getting better hopefully we are able to get out and do some volunteering at the VA Centers. As they are opening up more and more, they are going to be in need of more volunteers. I know everyone is not able to volunteer with their busy schedule. But if you are able to have some time to volunteer, please do so! Help by checking with your Post Chaplain, so that no one is left out that may be in need of some help.

Also, check with your Region Chaplain to see if anyone in your Region requires any help. If you are thinking of helping out at any of the VA Centers contact our VA representatives; Tom Deal for Perry Point, Bob Fillip for Loch Raven, Jim Alexander for Charlotte Hall, Bob Manzo, and Drain Plummer-El for VA Clinics, or myself, and we will get you in contact with the people at the Centers or Clinics, so you are able to volunteer.

Volunteer help needed, such as, Red Coat Ambassadors, afternoon

escorts, VTN drivers and office support. Items that can be donated such as books, magazines, Word Search Puzzles, razors and personal hygiene items (both men & women).

Veteran Suicide is still one of our greatest concerns. So, again, I am asking all of you to get a Buddy List together, go visit, if you are not able to physically go visit make a phone call and just talk. It will make a difference.

Respectfully,
 Leon Adkins, Squadron #218
 Chairman, VAVS
 410-713-9523

Chaplin's Corner

Being appointed as Detachment Chaplain at our Winter DEC, please allow me to give you some background on myself. I'm a 46-year member of the organization, served numerous offices in the Squadron, the Old Southern Maryland & North Central Districts, and I'm currently serving as Squadron Commander of Pasadena Squadron #277, as well as the Northern Central Region Adjutant, and been a Detachment Executive Committeeman for 37 years.

To assist in properly preparing for our Squadron Everlasting ceremony conducted during our annual Detachment Convention, please be sure to submit deceased members into Headquarters as early as possible.

If you know of member who is sick, injured or under medical care, please reach out to me so I may send them a Get-well card from the Detachment. My contact information is below.

We pray that P.D.C. Jack Czyryca, will be making a speedy recovery following his auto accident down in Florida in late February. Jack didn't suffer any body damage to himself; just shook up.

Mark Sprucebank
 Detachment Chaplain
 443-591-9677 (Cell)
 Spruce619@aol.com

Time and Place Committee

50th Annual Convention

Summer of 2023

The guest have been invited, the planning is done, and now we're just two months away from celebrating our 50th Annual Convention.

As mentioned there will be a banquet during the weekend on Saturday evening. At this time there is a limited amount of tickets, which will be still available by contacting me at the phone number, or email listed. The price for the banquet will be \$50., per person and on a first come first serve basis.

The event will from 5:30pm to 9:00pm and will include a light reception, dinner, and program.

The Regions are again hosting a picnic open to all in the courtyard area of the hotel, starting at noon on Saturday. We will also hold the horseshoe and kornhole tournament, as well as the Douglas Henley Memorial Laps of Love event in this area during this time.

We will provide a different event this year, in place of the Wii Bowling Tournament, as the hall space will be utilized for the banquet.

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.

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.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Therefore, you have been advised if you are reading this article.

Each squadron should be gathering their information around 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 legibly printed with name & squadron, the delegate registration must be submitted by May 26, 2023. ***(someone other than you needs to be able to read, what you***

wrote)

Convention delegate fees paid for all required delegates

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.

Conditions to receive Membership Cards:

Convention delegate fees paid for all required delegates.

Squadron Certification form of the corresponding new administrative year completed.

Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) for the current administrative year completed.

The distribution of each set of membership cards, 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.

PNVC Bill Hill & PNC Joe Gladden
~ Co-Chair
Cell: 301-928-1411
Email: Info@MDSAL.org

Eastern Shore Region

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the winter weather.

We still have to do our Buddy Checks on our Veterans and their families.

The end of the fiscal year is fast approaching. I'm very proud of the accomplishments that the Eastern Shore Region has performed. I would also like to let you know how

happy I was to see the number of Eastern Shore Squadrons that attended the Winter seminar in Ocean City in February. It was very informative.

We have done well with getting in our dues, however we still have a few months to get the remaining outstanding dues collected. I have full confidence that this will happen.

Squadrons in the Eastern Shore Region are starting up with more and more events.

So, please get your free advertising by sending your dates and information to Adjutant Michael Brison so that he can send it out to all of the Regions. The Regional email address is: info@esrmdsal.org

Upcoming events:
Benedict A. Andrew Squadron 296 will be hosting a Bull Roast on Saturday April 22, 2023. All you can eat buffet and dessert from 3:00 – 6:00 P.M. followed by the Johnny Seaton & Bad Behavior Band from 6:00 – 10:00 P.M. Tickets are \$40.00 per person.

The Eastern Shore Region will be holding a fundraiser to support JR Hall's Journey to National Commander on Saturday April 29, 2023 from 5:00 – 9:00 P.M. at Red Acres Farm 25367 Lambs Meadow Road, Worton, Maryland 21678 Tickets are \$50.00 and admits two. Dinner BBQ, Music, Cash Bar, Auction, 50/50, other games of chance. Come out and join us for food and fun. Questions or to purchase tickets please contact Jason Miller 410-490-2550.

Squadron 70 is having their annual Golf Tournament on May 20, 2023 at Hog Neck Golf Course in Easton, Maryland. The cost is \$80.00 per golfer. If you want to go back to Post 70 for food the cost will be \$20.00 more. For more information please contact Dan Adams at 410-463-1318.

"When we all join in, we rise together"

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

“Developing our Youth for the Future”

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

Northern Central Region

It has been a pleasure serving as your Regional Commander this past year I am extremely proud of this region. We are still in the running for membership. Let's continue to harvest that membership and keep growing.

Please continue to support the Commanders project it is a very worthwhile project. Remember it is a C&Y program and they are our future. Speaking of which the NCR is doing a bus trip to Charlestown Casino for the Commanders Project on April 22nd leaving at 9:30 am from Cromwell light rail in Glen Burnie and stopping in Harford Road Park and ride should arrive approx. 12 pm. The trip is \$50.00 per person includes adult and children's beverages up and back games on board and a light snack plus \$20.00 back for you. Please see Dave Hullihen or Mark Sprucebank for tickets both numbers are in the bluebook.

We also have the NCR homecoming reception for our leaders coming up April 29th at Harford Post 39 starting at 4 pm tickets are \$35.00 each please call Post 39 for tickets.

The Mid-Winter Detachment DEC meeting was a great success and made lots of money for CY&A programs.

Our Next NCR meeting is April 16th at Harford post 39 at 1 pm. Also, at

this meeting nominations for officers will take place, if you are interested in becoming an officer or a DEC please be there and have someone nominate you. Elections will be at the following meeting, that meeting will take place at Pasadena post 277 at 1 pm. this will be our final meeting of the 2022/ 2023 hope to see most of you there.

For God and Country

Dave Hullihen
NCR Commander

Southern Maryland Region

Greetings,

I hope this finds everyone in good health and spirit. Our annual Bull and Shrimp feast was a big success once again. Thanks to Jerry Darnell for his hard work on spearheading this event. Also, thanks to Post and Squadron 259 for the use of the hall, setting up the hall, selling tickets and for your overall support. SAL Commander Dave Desmarais and Adjutant Dave Hutchison were extremely helpful in pulling this off. The list on volunteers is too long to mention everyone, but rest assured we greatly appreciate of the those who pitched in and helped.

I thank want to thank all of you for all your hard work and dedication with this event.

On to membership. We have been in and out of first place all year, and this year we have really persevered, and the new memberships and renewals are starting to be reflected in our numbers. We still need to get those last renewals in to finish this year in first place.

Detachment 1st Vice Detachment Commander Joe Lohman has raised a \$1,000.00 as the prize for finishing in first place. The money must be

donated to a volunteer Fire Department in the state of Maryland. With Joe hailing from the Great Southern Maryland Region, I really want us to show are support to him by keeping this donation within the Region.

Please mark your calendar to attend the new Region meeting.

Our last Region meeting is on:

April 23rd 1:00 PM

Squadron 217 9218 Baltimore Ave
College Park MD

Serving those who served,

Tommy Bryant

SMR Commander

Western Maryland Region

We are approaching the end of the fiscal year and it's time to start gathering information for squadron Consolidated Reports. A complete and thorough Consolidated Report is important for both your Squadron and the Detachment. The Detachment uses the report to determine what awards your squadron will receive at the convention. These awards are moral building for your members. The awards show your community what you do with the money you raise and are useful in future fund-raising efforts. If you made donations that weren't run through the detachment, be sure to include copies of cancelled checks with your report to verify your donations.

Consolidated reports, Squadron Certification Forms and convention delegate fees are due May 26th. You must send in convention delegate fees even if you don't attend the convention. Membership cards will not be distributed to your squadron until you pay your fees and file your certification. A Squadron Data Report is not necessary unless you have changed what you charge for

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

dues.

The 50th annual convention of the Detachment of Maryland will be held June 23-25. The convention is a great place to meet other Sons from Western Maryland. The Detachment will hold a banquet on Saturday Night. Tickets for the banquet are \$50 per person. If you are interested in attending the banquet, please contact me.

The last meeting for WMR was held in Sykesville on February 19th. At that meeting, nominations for WMR Commander and Vice commander were accepted. I was nominated for Commander and Michael Donnelly was nominated for Vice-Commander. Both of us accepted. Our next meeting will be held at Kump's Dam in Emmitsburg on May 21st at 11am. Additional nominations will be accepted at this meeting. After the nominations, election of officers will be held.

At the February meeting, we entertained resolutions to divide the Western Region into two districts and to raise the annual assessments for squadrons from 15 cents per to 25 cents per member. It was decided that we table the resolution to divide the Region in two. We determined the wording of the resolution to increase the assessment had to be revised. The resolution to raise the assessment will be voted upon at the May meeting.

In an effort to expand the participation of our youth, the Detachment of Maryland has begun a youth leadership group. The youth have elected their own officers and will hold their own meetings and events. At the present time, no youth from Western Maryland are members of this group. Please consider attending Squadron meetings, Region meetings and Detachment meetings and taking your sons and grandsons with you. The average age of members in the SAL is about 51 and increasing. If we don't encourage our youth to participate, the SAL will die with us. We can't allow this to happen, the

SAL does too much for our veterans and community.

Yours in Service to Veterans and the Community,

John Davies

Commander WMR SAL

calldontsend@hotmail.com

717-387-3638

NEC Update!

Greetings,

Hopefully by the time you are reading this winter is behind us and spring is blooming. Spring is a time of renewal, so let's keep working on those members who have yet to renew.

Recently, I attended the National Commanders wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery and the WWII Memorial in Washington. Special thanks to legislative Chairman and ANEC Deal for your hard work in making sure this is a quality event. I also attended the National Commanders banquet held at Laurel Post 60. Commander Triola gave a very good speech and informed the attendees of concerns related to Quality-of-Life issues facing several military installations and announced the formation of a National Committee dedicated to working in conjunction with the DOD to support improvements on bases affected by this issue. He also spoke on the Be The One campaign highlighting the need for all to take up the call and help those in need. My next official act will be representing the detachment at the NEC Meeting being held May 6-7 in Indianapolis.

Every squadron should be in process of preparing your Consolidated Squadron Reports. Please make sure you are taking the time to fill in these vital reports, they are key in keeping the issues important to us at the

forefront. Detachment also uses these for end of year judging, so take the time to submit your CSR. The CSR is also on MyLegion and can be submitted electronically. You should print a copy of the CSR for your records and submit one to Detachment.

As of the March 10 Membership report we are currently ranked 9th in the nation with 90.38% renewed, exceeding the March 15th 80% Target. The next target date is April 19th 90%, but hopefully we will be close to the May 17th 100% goal. Congratulations and keep working on these renewals and recruiting new members.

Yours in Service

Bob Manzo

NEC

"Be the One"

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

(Continued on page 9)



Above: Commander Ford, National Commander Carlton and Team Maryland placing wreath at the WWII Maryland Memorial in Washington D.C. during the Washington Conference.

Bottom: Youth Vice Commander, RJ Williams, presenting donation generated by the Detachment Youth Group to Special Olympics Maryland at the Virtual Plunge.



“Developing Our Youth For the Future”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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

Follow us on Facebook:

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Maryland



2023 Membership Target Date:

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022	10%
OCTOBER 19, 2022	25%
NOVEMBER 9, 2022	35%
DECEMBER 14, 2022	45%
JANUARY 19, 2023	60%
FEBRUARY 15, 2023	75%
MARCH 15, 2023	80%
APRIL 19, 2023	90%
MAY 17, 2023	100%
**JULY 26, 2023	105%

** Delegate Strength Target Date

Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2022—2023

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

Department of Maryland Annual Convention

July 10-14, 2023
Ocean City, Maryland

American Legion National Convention

August 25-31, 2023
Charlotte, North Carolina