



Sons of The American Legion



“The Pride”

Detachment of Maryland

Editor: Bill Matoska
Co-Editor: Bill Hill

www.mdsal.org

Volume 2023/2024: Issue 2
Fall Issue - November 18, 2023

Commander's Corner

It's hard to believe we completed the first three months of this administrative year for the Detachment of Maryland. This is my favorite time of the year as the crisp fall mornings are upon us and is considered the busiest time of the year for our bluecaps as they work on their squadron fundraisers and events.

I want to wish all our veterans a Happy Veterans Day on Saturday November 11, 2023. As Sons it is our mission to support our veterans. I ask our bluecaps to watch over our elder veterans in their neighborhood. If needed, assist them with raking leaves or shoveling their driveway during a snowstorm. It's a simple task that will help our local heroes.

As some of you are aware, we started a Detachment Caravan travel team to visit squadrons throughout the state of Maryland. The team consists of the Detachment Commander and Vice Commanders along with anyone else who would like to travel with the group.

In July, the caravan team along with SAL ESR Commander Jason Miller visited 3 squadrons in the Eastern Shore Region (Jeff Davis Post 18 in Centerville, Cecil Post 15 in Elkton and Susquehanna Post 135 in Perryville).

In September, the caravan team along with SAL WMR Commander John Davies made it a weekend trip and visited 7 squadrons (Dixon-Troxell Post 211 in Funkstown, Clopper-Michael Post 10 in Boonsboro, Joseph C. Herbert Post 222 in Clear Spring,

Fort Cumberland Post 13 in Cumberland, Grantsville Post 214 in Grantsville, Farrady Post 24 in Frostburg and Webster B. Harrison Post 26 in Hancock).

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 and we will be happy to setup a trip.

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

I also want to thank everyone who supported and attended the Detachment Campout on the weekend of September 30th, 2023. It was such a great event where Legion Family members throughout the state of Maryland came out and enjoyed themselves during this annual family tradition.

Until next time, take time to be with your family in the upcoming holidays and remember to watch out for our elder veterans and the cold weather begins to set in our area.

For donations to the Commander's Project make checks payable to the "Detachment of Maryland" and

On the memo line earmark 'SAL SMYC CDR Project.'

Checks may be mailed to:

Detachment of Maryland
3115 Orchard Ave
Baltimore, MD 21234

-OR- presented at the next Detachment DEC meeting, which is scheduled for Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 1:00pm Gold Star American Legion Post 191 in Mt. Airy, MD.

Donations of \$500 or more will receive three of my challenge coins for their support.

Once again, I want to thank everyone for your support and entrusting me as your Detachment Commander. I ask the incoming officers for the 2024 administration year to have fun and enjoy your year in office; to remember our overall mission and support the four pillars of The American Legion under community, state, and nation. But more important, as your journey begins, continue to strive, and work together to make this the best Detachment in the country.

Joe Lohman
Detachment Commander

“Sons Building a Stronger Community”

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Adjutant's Corner

Fall D.E.C.: The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Lohman, on November 18, 2023 at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting is being hosted at Gold Star Post 191, located at 801 Prospect Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Detachment 51st Annual Convention Relocates:

For those that are unaware, the scheduled host of the Detachment's 51st Annual Convention, the Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley closed their doors on October 31st. Both the Detachment and the hotel staff was just made aware of this sudden and unfortunate occurrence this past September. After a quick scrambling and investigation of several venue options, the new host of the 51st Annual Detachment of Maryland Convention is the Hilton Garden Inn Baltimore White Marsh located at 5015 Campbell Blvd., White Marsh, MD 21236. The business session will convene on June 22, 2024 at 8:00 AM in the Campbell Ballroom located on the first floor. Registration packages will be available on Friday, June 21, 2024, beginning at 5:00 PM. The Cloak Room will be the location for the Convention Package and Membership card distribution throughout the weekend which is located on the first floor adjacent to the Ballrooms. Housing has been secured at both the Hilton Garden and the Hampton Inns. The Hampton Hotel is next to the Hilton Inn and shares the same parking lot. Rooms are available for \$139.00 plus 15.5% tax per night (King-Double). Rooms are available on

request by calling 800-774-1500. All Squadron and Individuals are responsible for making their own reservations directly with the hotel. Use Group Code "Sons of The American Legion" when making reservations. Check-In time is 3:00 PM and Check-out time is Noon. The cutoff date to guarantee a reservation is May 22, 2024. The Hilton Garden Inn will serve as host to the Convention Business Sessions, Registration, Youth Member Meeting, Junior Member Activities, Wii Bowling Tournament, and Hospitality Rooms. The venue host for the Convention Activities including Corn Hole, Horse Shoes, Junior Member Bounce Houses, Gaming Truck, Laps of Love, and the Detachment Cook-out will be Overlea Perry Hall American Legion Post No. 130. All events are scheduled to be outside on the post grounds and if Mother Nature intervenes the events will move inside to the Post Hall. The Overlea Perry Hall American Legion is located at 8666 Silver Lake Drive, Perry Hall, MD 21128. The Convention and Ad Sales Packages will be posted on the Detachment web site and hard copies will be available at the mid-winter DEC Meeting in Ocean City, MD on February 4, 2024. The Annual Golf Tournament is to be determined and will be announced once the contract is secured. *Please note* that the traditional Superstars for younger members is transitioning to a Gaming Truck Competition in an effort to better engage the interests of our youth in attendance. In lieu of trophies, Amazon gift cards will be awarded to the top place finishers of all the Convention extra-curricular activities. Bounce Houses will still be on location to entertain our younger members while their parents and older siblings are engaged in their events.

National Commander Announces Homecoming:

Our own, National Commander, Donald "JR" Hall, has announced his Homecoming date and venue returning to his home state of Maryland on April 12 & 13, 2024. The Event Hotel is the Westin Baltimore Washington Airport BWI Hotel located at 1110 Old Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum, MD 21090. A special rate has been secured at the Westin for \$163.85 per night (includes 13% tax). Overnight parking is \$8.00 per night. To make reservations call 888-236-2427, use group code "ALH" to book your room. The Homecoming Team have put together a number of activities and festivities for everyone's pleasure beginning on Friday, April 12, 2024, with a dinner hosted at JR's post home at Glen Burnie 40 starting at 6:00 PM. The cost will be \$40 and includes a Crab Cake and Chicken Dinner, cash bar and transportation to and from the event back to the Homecoming Hotel which leaves the hotel at 5:45 PM with the final run to return to the hotel at 11:00 PM. Saturday Morning, April 13, 2024, will be the start of a trip to our Nation's Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. The cost will be \$60 and will include your transportation, tour, and lunch at the Naval Academy Officers Club. The bus leaves the Event Hotel at 9:00 AM for the Academy and will arrive back to the hotel by 3:00 PM. The final event will be the Homecoming Banquet Dinner and Program on Saturday evening at the Westin Hotel starting with a Meet and Greet Cocktail Hour from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM followed by the Banquet Dinner. The cost of the dinner is \$60.00 which features a Maryland theme

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and will be served buffet style. The dinner includes Maryland Crab Soup, Miniature Crab Cakes, Old Bay Roasted Shrimp over Rice, Grilled BBQ Chicken, Flat Iron Steak, Pan Seared Mahi, along with vegetables, salad and dessert. For reservations to any of these events contact Homecoming Chairman Joe Lohman, Campaign Chairman Joe Gladden, Adjutant Bill Matoska, or Event Co-Ordinator Tom Deal. A complete Homecoming Package and contact information will be hosted on the Detachment of Maryland web site.

Yours In Service,

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

Commander's Project

"Southern Maryland Youth Camp"

The Commanders project this year is the continued support of the Southern Maryland Youth Camp where there are many children and youth programs that go all year long, a place where many groups have their different functions with no charge for the use of the grounds. Last year we were able to buy a Gator (tractor) which is used to do many things on the grounds, as well as putting in heating and air conditioning in 2 cabins which they did not have.

The building and grounds are very old and need constant maintenance. This year we also want to build a large pavilion for outdoor use. We are looking for donations to help with this worthy cause. We also would like to know of any squadrons who are doing fund raising so that either Commander Joe or I can attend and or help. Our goal this year is to raise 60 to 80 thousand dollars if possible. I do know that on November 4th Reisterstown Squadron 116 is having and Bull and Shrimp Roast which we will be

attending so come on out and please help by purchasing a ticket. Reach out to PDC Bill Stem about tickets. If you can please go back to your Squadrons and put in some funds for this project. We also have 3 super bowl pools floating around. #1. Josie Lohman, from 60, #2. Dave Hullihen from 277 and #3. Jerry Darnell from 136.

They are \$50.00 per block Pays \$ 500.00 per quarter NO OVERTIME 4 QUARTERS ONLY

PLUS \$50.00 per touch TOP / BOTTOM / LEFT AND RIGHT of square. Oh, and we won't get mad at anyone if they donate some of your winnings. Thank you all for your support.

Thank you, yours in service.

Chairman
Detachment Commanders Project
PDC Dave Hullihen

Membership

Great work Detachment of Maryland. You have all jumped onboard the train and been renewing your membership and have been working hard to help keep things on track. However some further assistance from everyone is needed. Unfortunately there are still squadrons out there that have not sent in any membership renewals and at this time of year all squadrons should have reported at a minimum all of their current officers. We don't wish to derail anything, but rather stay on track, as we are slightly ahead of where we need to be as a Detachment. Remember it takes all of us "Passengers" to renew our membership and jump aboard that train to success. I know that all of you are looking to keep moving forward as quick as possible. Keep an eye out as I post membership updates to Facebook on the Detachment website, each individual Region website and send an email as well to the Region Commanders and 1st Vice Commander to help share all the outstanding work that you are doing for membership.

I ask that everyone look at their membership card and if it does not

show 2024 please go ahead and renew now instead of later. Remember there is strength in numbers. BE THE ONE to help improve our strength.

I also wish to remind everyone that if you have not created an account on mylegion.org please do so. It only takes 3 mins to do so and then you can have access to your own membership record, renew directly online and then be able to print your own card once renewed, read various articles about what is happening within the Legion Family, get additional training assistance and see some videos that are also posted. There is a wealth of information on that website. Knowledge is wealth, wisdom is treasure, understanding is riches, and ignorance is poverty.

September to be at 10%. This is easily obtainable. I look forward to seeing you September 16th at our Summer DEC meeting at Laurel Post 60.

For God and Country,

Mike Obremski, 1st Vice Comdr./
Membership Chairman
email: usnavyBB62@gmail.com

Americanism Report

I would like to thank those Squadrons who have supported our Americanism programs thus far. It's hard to believe we have already passed the first quarter of the administrative year.

The Detachment recently held the Annual Camp Out at the Southern Maryland Youth Camp with approximately 70 adults and youth in attendance. The youth members completed the third and final round of Junior Shooting Sports. A good time was had by all, and this activity was a great introduction to the program and gun safety. Stay tuned for next year's dates.

A Flag Retirement ceremony was also conducted during the camp out with two of our youth members participating. As you may know, our Youth Commander Gabe Dorsey and our youth members are leading the way with our Flag Replacement Program this year. I am asking our Squadrons to consider a small

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donation to assist with the purchase of flags to support this program. Should you have any questions regarding the Flag Replacement Program, please reach out to Gabe or myself.

Beginning November 1st, the online application for Boys State will be live. I am asking that we all step up efforts this year with supporting the Boys State Program via donations, sponsoring a student, helping to get the word out to the local schools and by volunteering. More information and advertising tools can be found at www.mdlegion.org/boysstate. Please contact Chairman Dennis Renehan with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

I ask that our American Legion Family continue to support Flying Flags for Heroes. I know we all place flags throughout the year; however, I do not believe we are all reporting those numbers and locations. Please take a moment to enter that information at www.flyingflagsforheroes.com.

American Legion Day will be held on Saturday, April 27th. ALL Posts are asked to open their doors and provide a fun filled and educational day to the community. American Legion Day is a time to show your communities what the American Legion is about, the programs we support and the impact we are making. It's never too early to start planning. This should be a family event geared toward all ages.

It is my hope that we will all step up efforts to learn more about our American Legion Programs both here in Maryland and Nationally. A wealth of information can be found on our Detachment website at www.mdsal.org. Remember, it is the responsibility of all our leadership from the Detachment down to be sure that information is being passed down to our blue cap members. The more we know, the bigger impact we can make.

Thank you all for your support and making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Yours in Service,

Jason Miller
410-490-2550

jasoncmillerm@gmail.com
2nd Vice Commander

Boys State Update Report:

On September 16th the Maryland Boys State Committee and Staff meetings were held at Kent Island Post 278. Committee meeting started promptly at 10 am and the staff meeting followed. After the meetings, the crab feast was held, and food and fun was had by all that attended.

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

For the first time in a very long time the program had zero no shows and had 2 boys show up that the program was not expecting. Along with that we had zero dropouts from the program. Also, the program had 5 boys and one Legionnaire from Europe participate in the program.

City Mentors are boys that have attended and graduated from the Maryland Boys State program. They help the boys adjust to the rigors of this demanding program. The program is in need of those that have graduated from high school in 2021 and 2022. If you know of a boy that your Post or Squadron sponsored, ask them if they would like to be a Boys State City Mentor. Contact the Director of Maryland Boys State/Department Adjutant Russell Myers if you have any questions.

Need to increase participants of Maryland Boys State. One hundred boys attended the program this year, but the program would like more participants. Have you thought about the boys who are home schooled? Contact your local or county school board to find out who they are. Also engage the schools, JROTC, Scouts, etc., to get the word out about this great program.

The program will not raise the tuition cost for 2024. The cost of Maryland Boys

State will be \$425.00 dollars. If your Post or Squadron can raise half or ¾ of the tuition cost, contact a Post or Squadron near you and ask them if they would like to share the cost of the boy(s).

The dates for the 2024 Maryland Boys State program are 16th to the 22nd of June 2024. The program once again will be held at McDaniel College in Westminster Maryland.

The next meeting will be in late January 2024. Location and time TBD.

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

National Emergency Fund

2023 has been a very active storm season and it's not yet over. There have been 19 total storms so far this year, 6 named hurricanes (3 Cat 3+), and unfortunately 15 deaths. Add the wildfires here, Hawaii, and Canada makes this an unprecedented year. Currently 17 large wildfires have burned 292,700 acres over 8 States. October is important to pay attention to weather conditions that can affect the flammability of vegetation.

The NEF is here to help our American Legion Family after disaster strikes but is also here to help after non-major disasters such as windstorms and flooding. So, I am asking for your assistance helping NEF with your support and donations. We are again asking for \$1.00 per members, but all donations are greatly appreciated.

Remember, NEF is a Detachment of Maryland Project and should be included with your Consolidated Report.

Yours in Service,
Joe Weik
Chairman

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Flag Replacement

Flag Replacement: Your opportunity to Make a Difference

Dear Members,

Flag replacement is a crucial way we honor our nation and its heroes.

Here's how you can join in, no matter your role:

Why Flag Replacement Matters:

Our flags symbolize freedom and sacrifice. They need replacing when they wear out to show our respect.

Your Role:

Squadron Commanders: Your leadership is pivotal in fostering enthusiasm for flag replacement within your Squadrons. Encourage your members to actively participate in the process and create a culture of reverence for our national symbols.

Adjutants: You play a vital role in keeping our membership informed and engaged. Share information about upcoming flag replacement initiatives, and ensure that members have access to the resources and tools they need to continue.

S.A.L. Advisors: As mentors to our S.A.L. members, you have a unique opportunity to instill the values of patriotism and service. Encourage S.A.L. members to actively participate in flag replacement efforts, instilling a sense of duty and pride.

How to help:

Squadron Level: Organize flag replacement events with your Squadron. Coordinate with local communities, schools, and businesses to identify flag replacement needs and opportunities.

Region Level: Collaborate with

neighboring Squadrons to pool resources and share best practices. Region-wide flag replacement efforts can have a more significant impact.

Detachment Level: Lead by example and set the standard for flag replacement initiatives. Share success and stories and encourage Squadrons and Districts to follow suit.

Excite and Engage:

Share the emotional importance of flag replacement. It's not just a task; it's a way to show our gratitude.

Together, we can honor our veterans and our nation together through this meaningful work.

Thank you for your dedication, and let's move forward with renewed vigor in our flag replacement efforts.

Gabriel Dorsey

Flag Replacement Chairman

Detachment Youth Commander

Squadron 130

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

Child Welfare Foundation Mark Sprucebank

The CWF was developed as a repository of funds from individuals and Squadrons who wish to contribute to the betterment of children in this country.

Your donations have produced fun activity letters for kids with Cancer and found life-saving flights for pediatric patients to fairway medical facilities for treatment. Children with juvenile diabetes, Down syndrome, Multiple sclerosis, and retinal degeneration have also benefited from your kindness. Based on this information, We have established a goal of \$.25 per member, making the Detachment goal of \$4,000.00; however no donation is too small or too large.

Special Olympics – Eddie Souder
Now is the time to register and collect donations for the Annual Polar Bear Plunge to be held on Friday February 2, 2024 at Sandy Point State. Our goal for the 2024 plunge is \$15,000, however as

a legion family last year we were the top unit in the Military Class. Eddie would love to see if we can repeat this achievement for 2 consecutive years. Now is the time to get your teams register for the Plunge!!!

Toys for Tots – Drain El-Plummer
Mark Sprucebank is actively working on securing the Marines for the Fall Meeting at Gold Star Post for the collection of toys, so now is the time to start promoting this program back in your Squadron. The local offices do not open up until October 1st, so we will get the word out to each region.

Since we haven't heard back from folks at Marines – Toys for Tots, please check Facebook page for any updates.

Casey Cares – Mark Fayer, PDC
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 donating. 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 accept donations of pajamas of any size.

Kudos to Overlea – Perry Hall for hosting the children for a Bingo Party back in September. There was roughly 150 Children and Parents enjoying playing Bingo and winning many prizes that they were allowed to win, as well as some Burgers and Dogs and other Buffet items.

Yours in Service,

Mark Sprucebank

Children and Youth Committee
Chairman

443-591-9677

Special Olympics— Maryland

The Detachments commitment to Special Olympics Maryland is to be the Presenting Sponsor of the Annual Bowling Championship with a donation of \$15,000. That works out to be about \$1 per member so make sure your Squadron does its part.

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That's what the Detachment and Squadrons have promised, individually we can do so much more.

Make the time to attend a sporting event and see where our efforts go. Make some lasting friendships with some amazing people.

And Take The Plunge!! If 1/10th of our membership registered to plunge and raised the minimum goal, we would be responsible for over \$150k in donations to SOMD, and it wouldn't cost us a dime!!

See Ya Soon

Eddie Souder ~ Chairman

eddie.souder@verizon.net

301-706-3960

DOUGLAS HENLEY MEMORIAL

LAPS OF LOVE

Hello To All,

The 2024 Doug Henley Memorial Laps of Love that will take place during our next convention at Delta Hotel in Hunt Valley on June 22nd during the detachment cookout and youth all-star games. I look forward to seeing all our past, current and hopefully some new participants at the event.

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

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

Sincerely,

Bobby Miller II

443-986-3493

bdigital262@yahoo.com

Legislative Alert!

We have more information about the Washington Conference this upcoming February 25th. The bus trip to Arlington National Cemetery and the Vietnam and WW2 Memorials will start at 9 am at the Washington Hilton Hotel in DC and will end with a return to the hotel at 4pm. I have a complete itinerary of the event for those interested. I encourage all who can make the trip to do so. Our own SAL National Commander JR Hall will be laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. If you have never seen it, take my word, it is a moving experience.

Please contact me as soon as you can if you want to attend. There is a tram that takes visitors to the tomb, and we need a proper headcount to get tickets for it. It also allows us to have a correct number of lunches that will be provided for everyone. We have a deadline of the end of the year to have a list of all attending so please see if you can go.

It is during this time of Congressional upheaval that we keep our eyes on what is important. Our veterans and their families need the services and funds allocated to them by Congress. I encourage everyone to contact their Congressional Representatives and Senators to work on keeping not only our veterans and their families secure but also our men and women serving at home and overseas safe as well with the passage of appropriate funding bills.

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.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 VoterVoice at www.votervoice.net/americanlegion/home. VoterVoice 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

Greetings fellow Sons.

As we prepare for Fall and the Holiday seasons with our family and friends let's keep our Veteran's in mind. We all can make a difference by conducting Buddy Checks in person or by phone. Just a few minutes of your time can brighten up and lift the spirits of a Veteran. Encourage your Post and Squadron to send them a card for the Holidays to let them know you care. For some, your card may be the only one they receive.

We can all, "Be the One"

The "Wish List's" for Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Perry Point Veterans Center, Loch Raven VA and Baltimore VA will be available on the Detachment Website at www.mdsal.org in the near

Future.

I am issuing a challenge to all 4 Region Commanders and their Squadrons.

Have at least 75% of their Squadrons donate \$50 worth of items from the Wish List's to each of the 4, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Perry Point, Loch Raven VA &

Baltimore VA and I will personally donate \$25 to the Commanders Project for each Region.

I look forward to making this donation as I have the upmost confidence that all 4 Regions will achieve this goal.

The Deadline must be met by December 15th.

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For God and Country!

Darryl English

VAVR- Chairman

DECman

Commander: Squadron 218

410-430-2019

Englishsta14@msn.com

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

Gentlemen,

Donations play an integral role in ensuring residents enjoying 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. The holidays are quickly approaching which can be sad times for anyone

but picture being alone without family to show they care. We, The Sons of The American Legion, must Be the One to visit our veterans more often and reassure them that WE do care!

Of course, there is always something we can do. On page 11 of this issue is a list of items that our Veterans need at Charlotte Hall. Monetary donations or purchasing items from this list is always appreciated by our veterans and the staff that care for our veterans.

For God and Country,

Jim Alexander

PDC Detachment of Maryland

Jimalex831@verizon.net

CHVH Representative

Loch Raven

Are you looking for something to do in your spare time? Consider volunteering at one of the VA centers near you. There are always opportunities available. To be eligible potential volunteers must commit to 100 hours of service. Additionally individual must fill out a volunteer application, a health screening and background check.

Contact the VA at 410-605-7000 and ask to be contacted to your nearest VA facilities' Voluntary specialist.

Bob Filippi

410-668-0464

Perry Point VA

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: deodorant, full size body wash/shampoo combo bottles, shaving cream, simple crafts, laundry detergent (pods preferred).

Also they need volunteers for; Escorts for 9:00am Protestant Sunday Service, Wellness instructors (Tai Chi, Pilates, Zumba, Kick Boxing, Barre, Chair Aerobics, HIIT, etc.), Activity Volunteers (Recreation Therapy) Veteran flu clinic volunteer (s):

Looking for someone (or multiple people for different shifts) from 9am - 12noon and 1pm-3pm every Tuesday and Thursday in October. Duties will be assist directing Veterans upon arrival for flu vaccinations, providing directions, such as where to sit and wait for vaccine administrators. 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 Perry Point VA Center.

Perry Point does have a museum for visitors to tour with all the history of Perry Point. It is open Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Flu Vaccines will be available every Thursday beginning October 5, 2023, through November 16, 2023, In Theatre at Perry Point Location. Times are 8:30AM-12:30PM and 1:00PM-3:00PM

PDC Tom Deal

Perry Point VA Rep.

Chaplin's Corner

As we prepare for the upcoming holiday season, don't forget to continue with your buddy Check as a reminder to get those members to

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renewal their dues.

As of this writing, we have no sick or deceased members to mention in our Detachment.

I wish our Legion family, a joyous holiday season.

Mark Sprucebank
Detachment Chaplain
443-591-9677

Time and Place Committee

Hunt Valley Marriott is CLOSED for good. We've had some fantastic conventions and events there over the years, and we're going to miss that location. Good bye Hunt Valley!

So, with the news of the closure we immediately began searching for a new location and we've found a hotel near the White Marsh area, with other events being hosted at Overlea-Perry Hall Post 130.

Details will be provided at our upcoming Fall DEC. We will also post all information for the hotel and events on our website 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 summer has come and gone, the days are getting cooler and we are quickly approaching the holiday season.

I would like to start off by congratulating the Eastern Shore Region Squadrons on a job well done on membership. The Region started off in first place for the 2024 membership year and at the time of this article, we have maintained that lead. Now is not the time to slow down, but to work extra hard to reach out to those members who have not yet renewed. We all should be making it a priority to reach out to each and every member to make sure they feel they are part of the family, and get them involved. Everyone has something they to offer. Our members are the backbone of our organization and without them, we can not continue to do all the great things we are doing.

Our first Region Meeting of the administrative year was held on September 24th at Caroline, Post 29. Thank you to the 12 squadrons who attended. Thank you to the Caroline Post 29 family for hosting us and providing a delicious meal. I strongly urge all Squadrons to send a member to represent your Squadron at all meetings. The next meeting of the Region will be held on Sunday, December 3rd, 1:00pm at Talbot Post 70.

The cooler weather, early evenings and holidays are often a difficult time for many. I urge everyone to do buddy checks on your American Legion Family, neighbors and friends. **Be The One** to make a difference in someone's life. In times of cold and poor weather conditions, reach out and check on the elderly and disabled. Help to provide some light to those who may be in a dark place.

I urge all of our Squadron leadership to take the time to familiarize yourself with all of our American Legion Programs both here in Maryland and across our organization and pass that information along to our blue cap members. Information can be found on our Detachment website at www.mdsal.org, Department website, www.mdlegion.org and of course the National website at www.legion.org. Attending our Region and Detachment meetings is the best source of information.

I thank you all for your continued service and dedication to our organization, Veterans and communities.

Yours in Service,

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

Northern Central Region

I bring greetings from the NCR Commander as we move through this coming year. We're doing pretty good with membership, but I know we can do much better. I ask my DEC guys to get out there and check to see if any squadrons need your help. See if there is any way that you can help.

I am happy to say we had the Detachment leadership at our last meeting including Commander Joe all of his Vice Commanders were also in attendance. Thank you all for showing. I pretty much put it out there if you have anything going on within your squadron to please let me know so I can include it into the pride.

We are sitting at almost 32% in membership which is close to where we need to be. I know we can surpass the 35% by December, so keep up the good work. Once again, we need to get behind the Commanders project this year if you are not sure what that is it is the Southern Maryland Youth Camp so, please if you can make as much as a donation as possible. If no one can make the next DEC meeting keep in mind My project is the same as the Detachment Commanders, so get me or Mark Sprucebank a check and we will see that it gets in the right hands.

Our next NCR meeting is to be held on Sunday 11-19-2023 at Sq. 276 Howard L Turner at 1 pm. Hope to see you there. Guys if there is any way that the Region can help out with anything you may need, please let your Commander or adjutant know. We just had a successful Commanders / adjutant class 2 weeks ago with 12 members and 8 squadrons in attendance.

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Thanks go out to Sq 17 for the use of their hall. We will be doing a membership training class in the near future time and place TBD. Thank you all again for your support and let's get on membership.

Thank you!

Yours in service,
NCR Commander
Dave Hullihen

Southern Maryland Region

Greetings from the Southern Maryland Region (SMR). I hope everyone is enjoying the changes in weather and the beauty this time of year brings to this wonderful State we live in.

At this time, as this was written, we are currently sitting in 2nd place but are still fired up and looking to be number 1 again. The 1st Vice Jerry Darnell is on top of his game and ready to assist all squadrons in the Region. Our 2nd Vice Buddy Mastin and true Veteran to the SMR chairs is doing his best to keep fundraising in line with the Commanders project having our events kick off and execute flawlessly. Our Adjutant Tom Donohue has been a life saver with keeping materials in check along with keeping our social media post fresh. I would like say welcome to the SMR Family Marcus Wallace our Historian which comes out Sq 175 Severna Park and a big thank you to Gary Shupe our Chaplin and Joe Weik our Parliamentarian. Without any of these gentlemen plus others not mentioned SMR just would not happen because it takes a village of great volunteers to do what we do every year.

I would also like to thank the past SMR Cmdr Tommy Bryant for doing an excellent job last year.

Our Summer meeting was a success out at Sq 227 Brandwine and there very kind folks there. We had a great turnout from a good amount of SMR and there was support by American Legion Officers also that

attended (Shout out to PDC Pat McCoy) and we planned our ways to increase membership and host events.

Events:

Shrimp and Bull Roast @ Sq 226
April Date TBD

SMR Fall Meeting @ Sq 275 Glen Arden 1pm

SMR Winter Meeting @ Sq 196 Suitland 1pm

SMR Spring Meeting @ Sq 274 Lusby 1pm

I got to say our social media number are 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 page.

Thank you,
Mike Anderson
SMR CMDR

Western Maryland Region

As of this writing, the Western Maryland Region is in last place with only 18.312% membership renewals, far below the Detachment goal of 25% for this time in the year. This is not unusual for the Region as we usually come on strong in December. Several Squadrons have almost reached the 25% goal and several have surpassed the goal. If you hold a special event or offer an incentive for early renewal, please let me know what your secret is so I may share it with the other Squadrons. This year, Detachment First Vice-Commander Mike Obremski has offered a prize of

four tickets to the Detachment Draw-Down in February for the first Region to reach 75% renewals by December 29th. Each ticket is valued at \$50 and admits 2 people to the drawing and dinner. If the Western Region wins the tickets, I will give 2 tickets to each of the top 2 Squadrons with the highest percent renewal in the Region.

As we enter the Holiday season, most Squadrons will be holding special events to celebrate. Some will hold Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, or Christmas celebrations. These events will be attended by members we may not see at other times of the year. This is a good time to approach them and try to interest them in becoming more involved in Squadron activities. The Western Maryland Region and most Squadrons need more members participating. Just by asking, and making their experience fun, you may find one of those "bar members" that becomes a valuable asset to the Squadron and Region.

As I have mentioned before, in addition to new members participating, our organization needs to get "younger". Our average age is over 50. If you have any sons or grandsons, please sign them up and get them involved.

Our next Region meeting will be held in Boonsboro at Post 10, the home of the largest Squadron in the Detachment, on December 16th at noon. I know this is close to Christmas and there is a great deal going on at that time of year. I promise to keep the meeting to one hour or less so that you can get on with your shopping! It would be great if each Squadron is able to send a representative.

On November 11th, please remember to thank our veterans.

If your Squadron has an event or meeting you would like me to attend, please contact me and I will try to make it happen.

Yours In Service to Veterans and the Community,

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John Davies

Commander
Western Maryland Region
calldontsend@hotmail.com
717-387-3638

NEC Update!

I bring you greetings from Sons of the American Legion National Commander Donald L. "JR" Hall, Jr.. Commander Hall hopes everyone had a very informative Fall NEC Meeting and also had a good time. We are looking forward to a wonderful year.

We had special guests that addressed the Sons of The American Legion on Sunday (10/8/2023). The American Legion, National Commander, Daniel J Seehafer (WI) and The American Legion Auxiliary, National President, Lisa Williamson (AK) and The American Legion, Child Welfare Foundation President, Robert Morrill (NY).

They all gave powerful messages. Commander Seehafer talked about "BE THE ONE" and taking care of our comrades. President Williamson talked about being a Legion family and taking care of each other. President Morrill talked about the generous donations SAL has given and how well we have supported Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) over the years.

Why would someone want to join the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?

Different people have different reasons for belonging to organizations. For many, membership in the Sons has allowed them to become involved in American Legion programs alongside their fathers. Others belong out of respect for their parents' and grandparents' service to our country in the military. Many younger members get involved and learn valuable leadership skills involving organization, public speaking, and negotiating, budgeting and fundraising skills. Membership

in our organization also provides individuals with opportunities to forge lifelong friendships with people who share a common bond.

I am honored to be your National Executive Committee, (NEC). We are going to have a great year, under the direction of our SAL National Commander "JR" Hall.

Your in Service
Larry A. Ford
National Executive Committeeman (NEC)
Email: LafLtd@comcast.net
Cell: 443-413-4710

Public Relations Advisory

We want to brag about you!

If you are hosting an event, and would like it advertised on our Detachment website, send your jpeg or other digital information to the email address listed below.

Or if you've had a successful one which you just want to brag about, please send an outline to the same email. 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 items to:

Email: info@mdsal.org

For God & Country,

Bill Hill

Public Media & Communications

Detachment Convention

Pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Detachment of Maryland, Article 5, Section 2; you are hereby notified of the Annual Convention of the Detachment of Maryland, to be held June 21, 22, & 23, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn & Hampton Inn, White Marsh, MD. A convention agreement has been secured with the Hilton & Hampton Hotels in White Marsh, MD. Rooms will be available for \$139.00 plus 15.5% tax per night. Rooms are available on request. The Hilton & Hampton Inns address is 5015 Campbell Blvd., White Marsh, MD 21236. Their phone number is 800-774-1500. Check-in time is 3:00 PM and Check-out time is noon. The cutoff date to guarantee a room is May 22, 2024. Payment by check must be received at the hotel by no later than May 22, 2024. The only acceptable form of payment will be cash or credit card after May 22, 2024. Use Group Code "Sons of The American Legion" when making reservations. Delegate, Alternate, and Guest reservation fees are \$35.00 per person. All individuals must be registered as a delegate, alternate, or guest to participate in any events and wearing an identification badge to gain admittance to the convention session and activities. All registrations must be received by May 10, 2024 in order to be guaranteed a Convention Package. Each Squadron shall be entitled to delegate strength based on their membership at the end of business on May 24, 2024. All Squadrons must register with payment all or their eligible delegates in accordance with the membership cutoff date. All Regional Commanders, Past Detachment Commanders, and elected Detachment Officers must register and will be considered as a Delegate-At-Large.

Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home

2023 HOLIDAY WISH LIST

..... ❄️

If you have a question regarding donation, please contact
 Sade' Herbert: Monday - Friday between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 and at 301-884-8171 ext 5143 or email
sade.herbert@pruitthealth.com

ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW TO BE ACCEPTED

..... ❄️

- Dove or Sensitive Skin Body Wash / Sensitive Skin Lotion
- Solid Air Fresheners (Renuzit, no aerosol)
- Sensitive Skin Laundry Detergent / Tide Pods Extra Strength ❄️
- Electric Razors / Handheld Mirrors / Tabletop Mirrors / Shower Caddys
- Throw Blankets (quilts or crocheted items are not needed at this time)
- Large Face Watches (analog & large stretch bands preferred)
- Shoes (Men and Women, wide widths, all sizes)
- Behind the Door Shoe Organizers
- Reachers / Grabbers / Back Scratchers / Long Shoe Horns
- Room Fans / Clip-on Battery Powered Fans
- Branch of Service Hats / Bucket Hats / Fedoras / Newsboy Hats
- Men's Pants / Flannel Shirts / Long Sleeve Dress Shirts / Cardigans
- Ladies Pants / Sweaters / Cardigans
- Suits and Dresses – For the Winter Ball
- Reading Lights / Reading Glasses / Side Table Stationery
- “My Life in a Book”
- Stuffed Animals
- Photo Frames / Photo Albums
- Radios / CD Players / MP3 players
- Portable Chargers / Phone Charger Cables / USB Ports
- Crochet Beginners Kits / Round Weaving Looms
- Weighted Shoulder Wrap (No Heated Blankets or Massagers)
- Big Holiday Gift Bags and Tissue Paper
- Gift Cards to Restaurants, Netflix, Hulu, Disney+, and YouTube
- Or Donate Visa, Walmart, or Amazon gift cards and let us do the shopping for you!

Thank You For Your Support



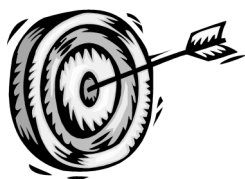
“Sons Building A Stronger Community”

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



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

Detachment of Maryland Meeting Schedule 2023—2024

Past Detachment Commander’s Crab Feed

November 4, 2023 / Overlea Perry Hall Post 130

Fall D.E.C. Meeting

November 18, 2023 / Gold Star Post 191 @ 1pm

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

National Commander’s Homecoming

April 12 & 13, 2024 / Westin Hotel, Linthicum, MD

51st Annual Detachment Convention

June 21st to 23rd, 2024

Hilton Garden Inn Baltimore White Marsh

5015 Campbell Blvd.

White Marsh, MD 21236