



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
Winter Issue - February 5, 2023

Commander's Corner

It is hard to believe that half of my year is already over and what a great time I am having serving the Detachment of Maryland. I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Holiday Season and are off to a safe and Happy New Year!

Our Mid-Winter Conference, Friday-Sunday, 2/3-5/23 is just around the corner, and I hope to see all of you in Ocean City. Our SAL National Commander, Christopher Carlton, Department Commander of Maryland, Ron Holcombe, Department President, Carmin Brittain, and myself will be taking a cool dip on Friday for Special Olympics. Please support us in this cause. You can donate online. Also, make our National and Department guests feel welcome. The Detachment of Maryland will have a hospitality Friday and Saturday evening. On Saturday morning there will be training for the Adults and the newly formed Juniors and there will be a Draw Down Saturday afternoon. Our DEC meeting will be on Sunday morning. All events and meetings are being held at the Grand Hotel.

My Commander's Project: "Southern Maryland Youth Camp"
Donations are coming in and I say Thank You! There will be several fundraisers. On Saturday, March 18, 2023 there will be a St. Patrick's Day Party from 2-6 pm, at Post #130 (Overlea-Perry Hall). The tickets are \$35 each. At Slate Ridge Post #182, the SAL is having a Bluegrass

Festival, on Saturday, April 29, 2023. "Foggy Hollow" is the Bluegrass Band. The cover charge is \$10 and \$12 at the door. Food and Drinks available for purchase. Please come out and support these fundraisers for "Southern Maryland Youth Camp".

Have a great January. Looking forward to seeing you in February, down at the ocean.

Yours in Service,

Larry Ford
Commander

443-413-4710

“Developing Our Youth For the Future”

Adjutant's Corner

D.E.C. : The next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will be called to order by Commander Ford on February 5, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. National Sons of The American Legion Commander, Chris Carlton, will be visiting the Detachment on this weekend beginning with the Polar Bear Plunge on Friday at Sandy Point State Park. Commander Chris will be plunging with The American Legion Team during the Military Plunge Session Friday morning.

The D.E.C. meeting is being hosted at The Grand Hotel, 2100 Baltimore

Ave, Ocean City, MD 21842.

This Detachment Executive Committee Meeting will include Mid-Term Squadron Officers Training at The Grand Hotel on February 4, 2023 and the PDC Ray Edwards, Jr. Memorial Children & Youth Fundraiser where both will be hosted in the ballroom on the fourth floor. Training will commence at 10:00 AM and the Ray Edwards Memorial Drawdown begins at 4:00 PM.

CSR & SDR Reporting Changes:

Squadrons filing the CSR Form (Consolidated Squadron Report Form) for the last administrative year will be completed online by each squadron utilizing their *mysal* account. There will be a CSR Form link for your squadron once you log onto your *mysal* account from which you will submit your form directly with National. Remember to save the form and send a copy to me at matoskaw@yahoo.com or mail a hard copy when sending in your convention registration and squadron certification form. A copy of your CSR is needed for judging Detachment Awards that are distributed at the Annual Detachment Convention in June. The reporting year for the current CSR form is from June 1, 2022

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through May 31, 2023.

Filling out and submitting a SDR Form (Squadron Data Report Form) is no longer a yearly mandate unless your squadron has implemented a dues structure change during the past year. If your squadron has made a change in the amount of dues charged to each member, then a SDR Form is needed at National Headquarters no later than May 1st for the squadron information to be processed and updated in time for members to renew their membership online. If the form is received after May 1st then the pre-existing dues structure will remain unchanged online until next year. For everyone's convenience, a printable pdf form of both the CSR and SDR Forms are available on our Detachment website under the Resources tab-and click on Publications & Forms and on this page scroll down to National Forms and when once opened you will find the links to the printable pdfs. You will need to utilize this resource if you are filing a Regional Report for submission to National for judging purposes both at the Detachment and National Conventions. Any questions or concerns regarding this information should be brought forth at the Training Session in Ocean City in an effort to get the answers out to those in attendance that can in turn take this information back to their respective squadrons and regions.

Yours In Service,

Bill Matoska

Detachment Adjutant

matoskaw@yahoo.com

443-710-9664

Commander's Project

"Southern Maryland Youth Camp"

Commander Ford's Project, The Southern Maryland Youth Camp, is off to a good start. As of the Fall DEC meeting, we have raised over \$10,000 towards our goal of \$80,000.

We are counting on the Legion Family to come together for this worthy endeavor. If your Squadron, Unit, or Post would like to have a fundraiser please contact me or Commander Ford do it can be promoted and a representative can attend.

All contributions can be sent to....

Bill Matoska, SAL Adjutant

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 Detachment membership report as of 12/22/22, indicates the detachment is at 65.87% and has reached the 60% target for January. We need just 1,433 renewals to make February's goal of 75% by 02/15/23.

As your membership chair, I cannot ask for a better response than what our region officers, DEC men and

squadrons have provided the first 6 months of this administration year. We have approximately 2200 more renewals than this time last year. We have several squadrons who have not turned in any membership this year. Our DECmen and Region membership chair's need to work with these squadrons to assist them with any problems or questions they may have to ensure the membership is turned into the Department of Maryland.

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 NCR, 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

	50 points
There will be (3) membership calls	12 points
(4 points each call)	36 points
Target Date (4 points for achieving each target)	

Tie breaker – Highest membership percentage as of May 26th

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

Americanism Report

We have entered another New Year and I wish to say HAPPY NEW YEAR to all. 2022 was a good year with everyone stepping up and doing what they can for all the programs for Americanism and then some. I ask that each squadron take the time

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and see how they can continue on in doing what you are doing and don't stop. I see from social media a lot of the activities; community events and fundraisers being done. Of course, not everyone looks at social media all the time so please drop me an email of your events and what you are doing as I can help get information out there for you. We are all a team and work together as one.

As a reminder please don't forget about Flying Flags for Heroes and updating the Flying Flags for Heroes website. The goal set by National is 1.5 million flags to be placed and on the last National Americanism call I was on it was asked to help push this along. We all know that the holiday season is filled with spending time with family and friends and not always wanting to update reports. However, if you can take the few moments to go to <https://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com> and update what you can I know we will represent Maryland well towards the final goal.

Hope to see you at the Mid-Winter Conference in February after I jump in the Bay for the Maryland Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics as it will be my 12th year doing so.

For God and Country

Mike Obremski

Americanism Chairman

Detachment of Maryland 2nd Vice Commander

Email : usnavyBB62@gmail.com

THE BOYS STATE UPDATE REPORT:

Greetings to all the members in the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Maryland. No word on where and when the January 2023 Boys State Committee and Staff meetings as of this article being sent

in. The Maryland Boys State information package should be in the high schools now or after the first of the year. Also, don't forget about the boys that are home schooled. Remember the cost of a boy(s) is \$425.00 per boy to attend the 2023 Maryland Boys State Program in 2023 at McDaniel College in Westminster MD. Begins on the 18th of June, yes that is Father's Day, and will end on Saturday, 24th of June after the Graduation ceremony.

Now is the time for squadrons to ask their Post, what can our squadron do to assist in sending a boy(s) to this great program. If the squadron wants to sponsor 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. These last two are seldom used so ask them you might be surprised.

Remember if you give your Post a donation to sponsor a boy(s) to this great program, please bring a copy of that check to the next Detachment meeting so your squadron gets credit and don't forget to report the amount and number of boy(s) on your squadron consolidated report. If your squadron would like to give a donation at the next detachment meeting, you may do so. Remember to earmark your check MD Boys State.

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

Committee.

The objective is for each Post in the state with the help of their squadron to send one boy to this program. If your post or squadron cannot afford the donation, do not quit there have the boy(s) apply online. The boy(s) can find the application on the Department of Maryland's website, www.mdlegion.org. The committee will find a post or squadron or somebody to sponsor him. Also, talk to a Post or a Squadron nearby to share the cost. If you do this, both Posts or Squadron's will receive the credit and acknowledgement. If you need information concerning Maryland Boys State, please contact me.

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

National Emergency Fund:

I would like to thank all who have contributed to NEF so far this year. As of our last DEC meeting, we have exceeded our halfway point of \$4000. We need to continue this fine effort so that we can make our \$8000 goal.

The NEF has been busy helping our comrades in Florida recover from the hurricanes. With the recent devastating winter storms ravaging the northeast the NEF Foundation will be there to assist those that have been affected.

Your continued contributions will be vital in helping those that are in need.

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

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donation to the NEF.

For God and Country

Bill Stem PDC/NEF Chairman

If you need assistance, please contact...

WWW.LEGION.ORG/
EMERGENCY/APPLY

CHILDREN & YOUTH CORNER

It is hard to believe we are already at the halfway point of the 2022-2023 Administrative Year! Time flies when you're having fun! Thank you to everyone who has contributed in some way to our Children & Youth Programs!

I was thrilled to see so many of our Squadrons who worked extremely hard to collect new unwrapped toys for the Toys For Tots program and various other local drives. Because of your efforts, many less fortunate children did not go without and woke up with smiles. It's never too early to start planning for the 2023 holiday season!

The Special Olympics of Maryland Bowling Tournament, sponsored by our Detachment has come and gone. Thank you to those who attended and represented our organization with pride! I know it was an experience you will not forget.

We are all gearing up to take The Plunge on Friday, February 3rd, whether it be into the bay at Sandy Point State Park or the virtual plunge on Friday evening at the hotel in OCMD during the Mid-Winter Conference. I hope everyone supports this cause, whether it be by taking the plunge, sponsoring a plunger, or making a donation. Also, our junior members are working hard to raise funds for the plunge and will be participating in the virtual plunge. Let's be sure to cheer them on!

The Special Olympics of Maryland Winter Games are coming up and are being held at Wisp Resort,

February 26th-28th. Close to 200 SOMD athletes from across Maryland will demonstrate their athletic abilities. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Special Olympics Chairman Eddie Souder.

Be sure to make plans to support our Annual Douglas Henley Memorial Laps of Love which will be held at our 50th Convention in Hunt Valley on Saturday, June 24th. More information on how to support this event will be forthcoming.

Over the remaining 6 months, I hope to see all of our members and Squadron supporting these important Children & Youth programs! I am confident, that together we can finish the year off with a bang!

We are SAL Strong!

Jason Miller

Children & Youth Chairman

SAL246Betterton@gmail.com

410-490-2550

Casey Cares Newsletter

On December 17th, 2022, Squadron #40 held a pancake's breakfast with Santa event. This event included approximately 20 members of the Casey Cares family. Besides the pancakes, each child was able to visit with Santa and were given a gift to. What a joy it was to see the joy in their eyes and smiles of all these families.

Events like that are just one way the Sons of The American Legion supports this great foundation. If you are looking to give some year-end donations, Casey Cares is always looking for them. You can give things other than cash, like gift cards, pajamas, tickets to events you may not be able to attend. One of the upcoming events for Casey Cares is the Annual Gala which is on March 25th, 2023.

Recently the Detachment lost a long

time Casey Cares Representative, Mr. Robert (Bob) Keys. Please consider giving a donation in his name.

Mark Fayer Sr.

Chairman – Casey Cares

Toys For Tots

Thank you to the Squadrons and Legion Families members that donated to this year's Toys for Tots program. No greater joy or expression can be seen then for a child to wake up on Christmas morning receiving a gift.

Remember it's not too early to start thinking and preparing for next year's Toys for Tots program.

Special Olympics— Maryland

By the time you read this, The Plunge will be History, but asking for donations to your Plunge Page is still a great idea!!

Winter Games is around the corner on February 26, 27, and 28 with some BIG changes this year. We're going back to WISP ski resort at Deep Creek Lake.

With time trials Sunday and competition Monday and Tuesday there are plenty of volunteer opportunities. Oh, and The Deep Creek Dunk is on Saturday, February 25th.

Please get with me ASAP if you're going so we can iron out details.

Indoor Bocce State Tournament
February 15, 2023

Basketball State Tournament March
25, 2023

Eddie Souder—Chairman
eddie.souder@verizon.net

301-706-3960

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*(Continued from page 4)***DOUGLAS HENLEY MEMORIAL****LAPS OF LOVE**

Hello To All, and Happy 2023!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. As we start this new year I hope everyone is getting excited for 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.

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

Junior Youth Initiative

As many of you are aware, at our Fall DEC meeting held in Reisterstown we held a meeting with some of our junior members to ask them how they would like to play an active role in our organization. The goal is to implement programs and activities **with** our youth rather than **for** our youth. In addition, we spoke about our junior members holding their own meetings and electing their own officers, again giving them the freedom to make their own decisions and build on their leadership skills

under the guidance of the Detachment. Before adjourning, the junior members elected their very first slate of officers.

Congratulations to the Detachment of Maryland's very first junior officers!

Junior Commander:

Gabriel Dorsey (183)

Junior Vice Commander:

Renardo "RJ" Williams (183)

Junior Adjutant:

Kaden Hall (40)

Junior Chaplain:

Ja'Reek Parker (285)

Junior Sgt. At Arms:

Jermaine Parker (285)

Junior Asst. Sgt. At Arms:

Mitchell "MJ" Matoska (183)

The next Detachment gathering of our Junior Youth will be at the Mid-Winter Conference in OCMD. In the meantime, they are undertaking their first activity, the Special Olympics of Maryland Polar Plunge. Juniors have been provided with sponsor forms and will be collecting donations. The juniors will be taking the virtual plunge in OCMD and will be presenting a donation check to the Special Olympics of Maryland. Let's all show them support!

Our youth are the future of our organization! I am asking all of our members, squadrons and regions to support this initiative. If you have junior members in your squadrons, get them involved within your Squadron and bring them to the Detachment junior meetings and activities. This is also a great recruiting tool for our Posts. Potential Legionnaires with sons or grandsons may be more inclined to join The American Legion if they are aware they can get involved with their children and participate as a family.

Together we are, "Developing Our Youth For The Future"!

Jason Miller

Children & Youth Chairman

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

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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!

VoterVOICE is the most important thing you can do to help our veterans. If you sign up for alerts when an important bill is coming for a vote you will be notified by e-mail and can simply email a form letter to your Senators or Congressmen and ask them for support for that bill. It is easy and very needed. The VoterVOICE web page is www.votervoicenet.com americanlegion/home Do it TODAY!

Do not delay, its easy, once you get to the site you can see what The American Legion is asking us to talk

to our representatives about. VERY important for each of us to get involved and support our veterans. This is one simple request. As always if you need help, feel free to call or email me.

The American Legion VoterVOICE QR Code is below.

Scan this code with your smartphone and sign up for VoterVOICE

Help our Veterans

Sign up Today

Share this page with others!

Tom Deal

Legislative Chairman
Detachment of Maryland

VAVS Variety

The 2022 Holiday Season being behind us, it's time to get down to work in support of our veterans as we begin a new year. We, the blue cap squadron members should be actively composing our list of veterans in need which we should be checking up on, if no more than just to bring some light to their day. Buddy Checks Work! To be sure your list is complete, check with your Post and/or Region Chaplain making sure you have excluded no one.

If your Squadron is preparing an event in support of local veterans, please notify me so I will be able to muster support for said event. Do not forget to include events at Perry Hall, Charlotte Hall Veterans Home or your local VA Clinics

Respectfully,
Leon Adkins, Squadron #218
Chairman, VAVS
410-713-9523
ledadki@gmail.com

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

"the only Veterans Home in the state"

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

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

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

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

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

For God and Country,

Dave Tatman

CHVH Representative

tatman_david@comcast.net

301-645-1537

Perry Point VA Medical Center

Perry Point VA campus provides primary care and specialty health services, including mental health care, audiology and speech, dental services, care for Veterans with post-

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traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), vocational rehabilitation, and more. Perry Point VA is bringing more volunteers back to help our veterans. This is great, getting back to some kind of normal to help our veterans and see them smile.

The Holidays were pretty good for our Veterans. Volunteers were allowed to help pack the gift bags for each veteran and deliver most of them to the veteran. Every inpatient veteran received a gift bag full of goodies for Christmas. For some of them, that's all they get. If you didn't get to make a donation to the Holiday account for Christmas, the next event will be Salute to Veterans during Valentines Week (February 12-18). 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.

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.

Tom Deal
Perry Point VA Rep.
tom.deal@verizon.net

VA Clinics

Greetings,
Continuing with services provided at different VA Clinics throughout Maryland.

Eastern Baltimore County VA Clinic

5235 King Avenue
Franklin Square Professional Center,
Suite 200
Rosedale MD 21237

443-730-2020
Hours: M-F 8AM to 4:30PM

Services provided:

- Mental Health
- Military Sexual Trauma Care
- Primary Care
- Prosthetics and Rehabilitation
- Social Work
- Woman Veteran Care

Glen Burnie VA Clinic

808 Landmark Drive Suite 128
Glen Burnie MD 21061
410-590-4140
Hours: M-F 8AM to 4:30PM

Services provided:

- Audiology and Speech
- Diabetic Care
- Laboratory and Pathology
- Mental Health
- Military Sexual Trauma Care
- Nutrition, food, and dietary care
- Optometry
- Podiatry
- Primary Care
- Prosthetics and Rehabilitation
- Pulmonary Medicine
- Social Work
- Woman Veteran Care

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

Phone and video appointment options may be available

Yours in Service,
Bob Manzo
VA Clinics Representative

Chaplin's Corner

Please keep those recovering at home in our prayers.

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

Time and Place Committee

**50th Annual Convention
Summer of 2023**

It's a little less than six (6) months away!!! Time is ticking away as we come closer to this milestone for the Detachment. Amazing that we've been coming together from across the state of Maryland to show our comradeship for going on 50 years.

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 available through the Region Commanders and through Co-Chairman (PNVC) Bill Hill after the Winter DEC meeting. 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.

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Each notification within the “Time and Place Committee”, which outlines the location, date, and times for the convention, are considered “Official Announcements” to all eligible members in good standing within the Detachment of Maryland.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conditions to receive convention delegate credentials:

Convention delegate registration form completed and submitted;

Printed with name & squadron, the delegate registration must be submitted by May 26, 2023. Convention delegate fees paid for all required delegates

The distribution of each squadron’s 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.

Co-Chairmen

PNC Joe Gladden
joeglad123@aol.com
&
PNVC Bill Hill
hill1062@msn.com

Eastern Shore Region

I hope this letter finds all well and that everyone had a Great Holiday season.

The weather is getting colder, and we need to be very active in checking in on our Veterans to see if they need assistance in any way on issues such as medical and benefits needs. Please notify their Post Service Officer.

I applaud ALL in the Eastern Shore Region in their fund-raising events. They allow us to fulfill our commitments in supporting The American Legion programs.

Again, I would like to see more attendance from the Eastern Shore Region Squadrons at our regular and D.E.C. meetings. All Squadron Commanders and Adjutants should be at these meetings. If neither can attend, please contact an ESR officer and let them know the name of another Squadron officer who will be taking their place. These meeting are for you!!! Get involved and informed.

I am very proud to see the usage from the Eastern Shore Region Squadrons of Jason Miller’s websites. The Regional email address: info@esrmdsal.org . The Webpage is: www.esrmdsal.org . The Facebook page is: @esrmdsal.

We need to step up our efforts in getting in members’ dues. Thanks to all Squadrons that have reached their 2023 membership goals. Now, let’s get to 100%.

I would like to see great attendance of the ESR Squadrons at the Winter Mid-Term DEC at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City. On Saturday February 4, 2023 at 10:00 A.M., there will be at training for Squadron officers. The Winter D.E.C. will be held on Sunday February 5, 2023 starting at 11:00 A.M.

A right-hand salute goes out to Squadron 77 and ALA 77 for their efforts in supplying Christmas boxes of food and canned goods to Veterans and widows of Veterans. Donations were from the Squadron, Auxiliary, some local grocery stores and a local poultry plant.

Upcoming events:

Benedict A. Andrew Squadron 296 will be holding their annual Wildlife Dinner on Saturday February 18 from 2-6 P.M. Entertainment will be provided by the Wye River Band. The cost is \$35.00 per person.

The Eastern Shore Region will be doing a fundraiser for the National Support Fund to help with expenses for our next National Commander from Maryland, Donald “JR” Hall, on Saturday April 29, 2023 at Red Acres Farm in Worton, Maryland from 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. One \$50.00 ticket admits two. Dinner BBQ, Music, Cash Bar, Auction, 50/50, other games of chance. Hotel Accommodations are available.

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Tickets for both of these events will be available at the Mid – Winter DEC in Ocean City.

“When we all join in, we rise together”

“Developing our Youth for the Future”

Buster Blackiston

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

Northern Central Region

I am very proud that as of this writing the NCR is still in 1st place in membership. We are currently sitting at 67.461%. With Squadron 2 sitting at 187.879% and zero goose eggs. Great job by all. Please continue to get dues in and before you know it, we will be at 100% in the state.

I have noticed some of you have not turned in any for a while so reach out to your members to see if we can do anything to help.

At our last NCR meeting held at Squadron 34 we had a seminar for Adjutants and Commanders and had at least 12 people show for these classes. Looked like everyone that was there were new to these classes, so I thank you all who showed up. I hope it was very informative for you all. The next two NCR meetings will be as follows Feb. 12th 2023 at Towson 22 at 1 pm and April 16th 2023 at Harford 39 also at 1 pm.

Please don't forget the next DEC meeting is in Ocean City at the Grand Hotel, that is an all-weekend event starting with the Special Olympics Polar Bear plunge on Friday at 8pm. There is a training

seminar on Saturday at 10 am with the drawdown also on Saturday at 3 pm and the meeting on Sunday at 11 am. Hope to see everyone there. On a sad note, for Squadron everlasting they have now gained another member. Past Northern Central District Commander Bob Keys has passed on to Squadron Everlasting on Friday December 16, 2022. Bob has been an SAL member for over 40 years RIP my friend you will be sorely missed.

For God and Country

Dave HULLIHEN
NCR Commander

Southern Maryland Region

Greetings to all,

I hope everyone had a safe and joyous Christmas and New Year's.

We are in the thick of things with the membership contest. As of this writing we are in 3rd, but only .937 % separates us from first place. I want to commend all the Squadrons on their membership drives so far. All except one are above where they were this time last year. We still have five under the current 45% goal. The next goal is Jan 19th for 60%.

Let's keep them coming in. For those who attended the Draw Down it was again a great success. I want to thank Post 60 for being the host and all of our volunteers, with out you this wouldn't have been possible.

My apologies for missing the last article, I had one worked up but got so busy I forgot to send it in,

Key meeting dates ahead.

DEC Winter Conference February 3-5 in Ocean City

February 19th 1:00 PM

Post 217 College Park MD

Serving those who served,

Tommy Bryant

SMR Commander.

Western Maryland Region

I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season.

The Western Maryland Region of the Sons of the American Legion held our regional meeting on December 17th at Morris Frock Post #42 in Hagerstown. Attendance slightly improved with about half the squadrons represented. Hopefully, participation will continue to improve as WMR SAL is the largest region in the Detachment. The meeting featured Detachment First Vice-Commander Joe Lohman as our special guest. Thanks to all who attended.

The meeting was productive with two motions for new resolutions being proposed. Both proposals were approved unanimously.

The first proposal was to raise the annual squadron assessment from 15 cents per member to 25 cents per member for fiscal year 2023-2024.

The second proposal was to realign the Western Region into two districts the same as the Legion has divided its Western Region. Each district will be assigned a Vice-Commander with the WMR SAL Commander overseeing the region. This will help divide the workload and hopefully improve participation and communications between the region and squadrons.

The next WMR SAL meeting will be held in Sykesville at Post #223 on February 19th at 1pm. Both resolutions will be voted upon at this meeting and all squadrons in “Good Standing” are eligible to vote. To be in “Good Standing” a squadron is required to have paid their annual assessment prior to the vote. Assessments should be mailed to

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Reisterstown Post #116 as described in your assessment letter. The proposed resolutions are very important, and all squadrons are encouraged to send representatives.

The WMR SAL is conducting a cash raffle. The raffle will be held on February 4th at the winter DEC meeting in Ocean City. Ticket sales are going well. The raffle is an important fundraiser for the region. Its success will ensure the region is able to meet its financial obligations. All squadrons should have received tickets to sell for the raffle. As instructed in the letter accompanying the tickets, all checks are to be made payable to SAL 239 with WMR SAL Cash Raffle in the memo line. Please return all tickets, sold or unsold to me by January 21st. Any squadron wishing to sell more tickets than they were sent may contact me.

It's time for everyone to consider taking a more active role in the region. Region elections will be held at our meeting at Kump's Dam in Emmitsburg on May 21st. Terms for Commander and Vice-Commander will expire at that time. If anyone interested in holding one of these positions or other position in the region, please let me know.

Yours in Service to Veterans and the Community,

John Davies

Commander WMR SAL

calldontsend@hotmail.com

717-387-3638

NEC Update!

Greetings,

I hope everyone enjoyed a happy holiday and wish you all a great 2023. As NEC I have participated in several conference calls both with the Eastern Region and Legislative Commission.

For several years, there has been a requirement to submit Squadron

Data Report, SDR, to National. This was put in place for, among other reasons, to allow online renewal of SAL memberships. Starting January 1, members can renew their membership online. This can be done either through the members MyLegion account, or through a special weblink for renewals. The importance of the SDR, was for squadrons to list their membership dues so that the renewal system has that information. If you fail to submit an SDR with current dues, the renewing member will be billed \$15 (the Detachment and National portion) for their renewal. If your dues are for example \$40, you will be required to recover the \$25 dues shortage. At this time Regular, Junior, Dual and New members will have to be renewed by the squadron either manually or through the online renewal process on MyLegion. Please submit your SDR to National and copy Detachment. The SDR form is available on the Sons Website.

Also it is getting close to the time of year for submitting 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.

I look forward to welcoming our National Commander Chris Carlton to Maryland when he visits us at our Mid-Winter Conference Weekend in Ocean City, February 3-5, 2023. Let's show Chris that famous Maryland hospitality and ensure a memorable weekend for our National Commander.

As of the December 28th Membership report we are currently ranked 14th in the nation with 66.95% renewed towards the

January 19th 60% Target.

Congratulations and keep working on these renewals and recruiting new members.

Yours in Service

Bob Manzo

NEC

"Be the One"

JR's Journey- The Home Stretch To Charlotte

In less than 8 months, we will all be heading to Charlotte, NC for the 51st National Convention of the Sons of The American and the election of our very own JR Hall as the next National Commander from Maryland. JR has been traveling around the Nation to various states and has several more trips planned before becoming National Commander. In addition, we have the Spring National Meetings in Indianapolis, IN that we will be hosting a major meet and greet for the Legion Family from across this country. We need your help to make all this happen.

We currently have a couple of official campaign fundraisers going on. At our Detachment Convention in June 2022, we started the Gun Raffle. JR has designed a beautiful Big Henry "Big Boy 45" Rifle. It's been engraved with military branches and other American symbols. Tickets for this the gun are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. If you need tickets for the gun, or you are having a gun bash and you want us to bring the gun, please contact Tom Deal at tom.deal@verizon.net or 443-206-0402. The drawing for this will take place at our Mid-Winter Conference in Ocean City on Sunday February 5, 2023.

Another way you can help is by donating directly to the Campaign. We have been blessed by a number of donations already from around the state and from all branches of the American Legion Family. These donations should be made payable to

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

The Barn Party

The Eastern Shore Region will be holding a Barn Party Fundraiser for JR on Saturday April 29, 2023 from 5 -9 PM. It will take place at Red Acres Farms located at 25367 Lambs Meadow Road Worton, MD 21678. The cost is \$50.00 for two, which includes dinner, music, and a cash bar. Contact Jason Miller for tickets or information at 410-490-2550 or info@esrmdsal.org. Local hotels have been reserved.

Let's show JR that we care and support him. Over the next 7 plus months, I call on you to "Step Up To The Challenge" and make JR's Journey a success.

United In Service

Joe Gladden

National Campaign Chairman

Past National Commander 2013-14

Joeglad123@aol.com

Commander's Challenge

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

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

And to those who do not know they are:

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

The challenge is fairly simple, *Americanism, Children & Youth and the VA&R portions of the Four Pillars requires a monetary donation of \$1 per member based on your respective squadron's previous year's*

membership at the designated cut-off date for each pillar made payable to the Detachment of Maryland There will be a requirement of at least a \$50 minimum donation with a \$250 maximum donation toward each pillar depending on your squadron membership, i.e., if your squadron has 60 members you will make a donation totaling \$180-\$ 60 for each pillar.

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

Plain and Simple:

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

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

For each Squadron, Region, or others meeting the Commanders Challenge they will be honored by receiving 2 gratis tickets to the 50th Anniversary Gala. After completing the challenge in year two, an additional 2 gratis tickets to the 50th Anniversary Gala be rewarded and then after year three and for completing the challenge for three consecutive years an additional four (4) tickets for the 50th Anniversary Gala will be awarded

resulting in the potential reward for meeting the Commander's Challenge of 8 tickets for the 50th Anniversary Gala. When you have met the requirements of the Challenge for all four pillars you will need to verify completion with Chairman, Karl Kibler. Do not wait until the end of the year to validate, when you have completed the challenge send in the information and you be notified you have met the challenge.

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

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

Yours in Service

Karl Kibler

Email: homer51@comcast.net

410-829-9317

Public Relations Advisory

We want to brag about you!

If you are hosting an event, or have had a successful one which you just want to brag about, please send an outline. It may be about either what's taking place or what has taken place. Provide some details around what the event may be supporting, such as a Draw Down to raise funds for a scholarship program, or a Dance to support the Detachment Commanders Project and an event, which may be purely held in your community to support a local program such as a food bank, or children's clothing drive. We'll do our best to publish them on the Detachment website in advance of the event and we'll help get the word out to the Detachment and Legion Family. Please send all articles to:

Bill Hill (PDC)

Email: Hill1062@MSN.COM



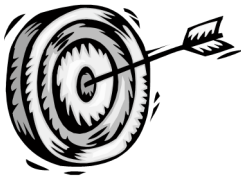
“Developing Our Youth For the Future”

3115 Orchard Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234

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

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

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 4, 2023 (Saturday)

Winter D.E.C. Meeting

February 5, 2023 @ 11am

Detachment Commander's Project Drawdown

March 4, 2023 / Perryville

Spring D.E.C. Meeting

April 15, 2023 / Greenbelt Post 136 @ 11am

50th Annual Detachment Convention

June 23rd to 25th, 2023

Delta Hotels-Marriott

Hunt Valley, MD 21031