Commander’s Message
Philip R. Dorsey, Commander. Department of Maryland

Greetings: I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe. As part of our Legion Family, I pray for each of you and your health during these difficult times.

While we are following Governor Hogan’s emergency declaration and orders, prohibiting any gatherings in excess of 10 people and physical distancing as recommended, this is not the time to be socially disconnected. Many of our members, and perhaps even you, feel anxiety or sadness from being separated from seeing friends, visiting your Post, or getting to see your loved ones. There is something we can do about it. Take a few minutes and call a Buddy by reaching out to another veteran. Those few minutes can make a world of difference, checking to see how they are doing or if they are possibly needing a little help, and could make another veteran get through this Covid-19 pandemic and realize we are all in this together. This pandemic is not only affecting you but our entire Legion family.

We have had to cancel many of our programs and needless to say, this will affect our youth, veterans, and our communities. This has caused hardship on our entire Legion family with the many programs, events, and services we provide.

We are down, but not out. Hopefully, we will be back with all of our programs and events The American Legion has conducted and carried out during our past 100 years. By the time you read this, Memorial Day will likely have passed. Hope our Posts had an opportunity to place Flags on our veterans’ graves in remembrance of their sacrifice and commitment they made for our Country so as they are never to be forgotten.

Our Post elections are coming up and there seems to be some confusion within Posts. Our Department Adjutant sent to all Posts an article on procedures for your 2020 Post elections. We held an on-line Conference meeting with our District and County Commanders along with our Department Officers so that all officers understand the procedures for Post nominations and elections for the 2020 election cycle. If you still have any questions regarding the elections, please get in touch with your County Commander. If he is not available, contact your District Commander for assistance.

Our Department will, if possible, hold a Department Executive Committee meeting August 16 – time and place to be announced. Also, we will hold our 102nd Department Convention on Saturday, September 19, 2020; 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; War Memorial Building; First DEC meeting following for essential items of business only.

Before closing, we are a proud and strong Veterans Organization and with our Legion Family working together, we will survive this pandemic and recover stronger than ever. Please be careful. Stay healthy by staying home and taking the proper precautions until our restrictions are lifted. Let’s pray we recover soon, get our Posts open and functioning so that we may serve our Veterans and Community.

Thank you for your support. God bless America and our Troops.

Philip R. Dorsey
Department Commander

National Commander

Coronavirus Updates

Throughout the COVID-19 emergency, we have seen the amazing commitment American Legion posts have toward their communities. There are many outstanding programs and activities conducted and sponsored by posts that go unnoticed. That is why I am a bit disappointed that only 27 percent of American Legion posts have submitted their Consolidated Post Reports. Humility is fine but posts should still spread the word about their activities so they can attract the attention of Congress, the media and veterans searching for an organization worth joining.

There is still time to submit your CPR. The deadline is July 1. You can download the form here or fill out and submit at www.mylegion.org.

It is heartbreaking to see the horrific damage that COVID-19 has inflicted upon members of our Greatest Generation. Even before the coronavirus existed, The American Legion officially called for the Department of Veterans Affairs to open its doors to surviving U.S. World War II veterans. Delegates at our 2017 National Convention unanimously passed Resolution No. 3: WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Eligibility.

Bipartisan legislation introduced by Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., and Sen. Kevin Cramer, R.-N.D., would accomplish the mandate of our resolution. No means test should be required for these elderly veterans. In fact, they already passed the most important “means test” of all on V.E. Day and V.J. Day. Their service “means the world would be saved.” There is a new breed of veteran now and The American Legion welcomes them with open arms.

Bill Oxford
National Commander
Reflections of an Adjutant

By Russell W. Myers, Jr.

My article this quarter usually focuses on the Department and National Conventions scheduled for this summer. However, the 102nd Department Convention in Ocean City was cancelled, and rescheduled for September 19, 2020, currently scheduled for the War Memorial Building. The cutoff for delegate strength for the convention will be on July 1st, so all membership must be entered by June 30th to qualify.

The delegate registration packets will be sent out to the Post Adjutants shortly after the cutoff, and the delegate fees will be set at $5.00 due to reduced convention expenses. The registration must be returned by August 29th to avoid an additional $5.00 late fee being charged per delegate. With nearly two months to return the registration it is hoped that we will not have any Post be charged late fees this year.

It is planned that the convention will only address critical or required items of business for sake of time, but the delegates are not restricted from taking up any item, unless restricted by their own rules.

We are also planning for alternative means to hold the Convention via remote sites connected together with a main site to minimize the size at each gathering. The plans include methods of roll call voting at remote sites, and appointment of site captains to lead the various aspects at these locations. This is definitely a different year, and we will all grow with the challenges put in our paths. There will be caucuses in the Districts, and elections at the Department Convention as required by our Department Constitution.

Post elections must be completed at least 20 days before the opening of the Department Convention. This year that means they must be completed by August 30th.

The National Convention for this year has been cancelled, and the next National Convention will take place in Phoenix, AZ in August 2021.

The Department Executive Committee meeting in August may have to be conducted using alternative methods as well, and could serve as a test of the remote site concept for the Department Convention.

Unfortunately most, if not all, our American Legion programs have been cancelled for the spring and summer, and the fall will add challenges to the execution of these programs. Please abide by acceptable protocols, and conduct service and programs as best as possible.

These changes are obviously in response to the SARS-CoV2 impacts on our communities. These impacts are real and have made serious cutbacks at Posts necessary as revenue streams are reduced or eliminated, and gatherings are severely limited for the near future. Our Posts have been working hard to remain relevant and provide community service even in these difficult times with limited resources. Planning at the Posts is underway for the future, and reopening in a phased, and safe, manner. Many of the other articles addressed this topic, so I will echo their words to highlight the importance of the impacts to our Posts and members. Stay safe and forever keep our mission of service as the driving force of our organization.

In closing, I pass along well wishes from myself, and my children, for a happy to our Posts and members. Stay safe and forever keep our mission of service as the driving streams are reduced or eliminated, and gatherings are severely limited for the near future.

Now, let’s all get credit for what we are doing – and have done – by completing the Consolidated Post Report for the past year. Recognize your members and posts by completing the Convention Award nominations. Read up on the material Russell has sent out on the Reorg, Post Elections, and all you need to be doing to get ready. Get ready for your elections. As the Department Convention has been postponed to September 19, Post Elections should be completed by August 30. The Certificate of Elections should then be completed right away.

As you read this, your county may have given you the OK to open your Post Home on a limited basis, following the established guidelines. Be sure that you understand and follow those guidelines. This is all new territory. In some cases, we may just have to “make it up as we go along.”

Now, I would like to take this opportunity and thank everyone for their efforts this year. All of us feel blessed to work with a great group of Legionnaires. As we move forward, the plan is for the current cadre of Department Officers to remain in place for another year. The National Officers to include National Commander Bill Oxford of North Carolina will continue for another year until our Phoenix Convention in August 2021. We will have an election at our September Convention but the announced slate of Department Officers will all be the incumbents.

Now, lets finish the current Legion Year strong as we press on to 2021!!

Will Trotter
Department 1st Vice Commander

1st Vice Commander

By Will Trotter

Since Mid-March, we have managed to increase our membership by just less than 2%. TWO Percent! [1.649% to be exact!] Of course, we have reached that time of year when we usually are dealing with the stragglers (Why didn’t they pay their dues last August?), add to that the health situation, quarantine, lock-downs, cancelled activities and the malaise that goes with it. This is unprecedented. And, I don’t have a magic answer. I would gently encourage those posts that are very close to 95%; or even those ever so close to 100%, to reach out in the name of honor, pride, esteem and self-respect. Evaluate why they have not paid their dues yet. The Mission requires Members. We have been given the extra time, let’s hope that helps. Our 100% target date is now June 17. It had been the 13th of May which became the 95% goal date. You could pay for those that might be hurting. Many posts already pay for those that are up in years. Congratulations to those posts having already made 95% and even 100%. AND, greater than 100% for quite a few more (29, as of this writing. See the weekly report)! Several others are on the brink and may now be there. Our problem are the posts who are not there, many stuck in the low 90’s or even the 80’s.

Now’s the time to get members involved in the things that you can do. Many are utilizing the time to do Post Home maintenance chores, repairs and painting. Posts and Districts have held on-line meetings utilizing “Zoom,” or similar platforms. Members can do shopping or errands for those that cannot. Don’t forget Community Service. As an example, here in Damascus, we shall continue our annual presentation of School Awards and we are assisting our closed schools in novel ways to do it. Continue to do “Buddy Checks” and call again if it has been several weeks. Share your activities and ideas. Post 47 in Havre de Grace has received National recognition for its food pantry. Other Posts have been assisting their local food banks with distribution and storage.

Let’s all get credit for what we are doing – and have done – by completing the Consolidated Post Report for the past year. Recognize your members and posts by completing the Convention Award nominations. Read up on the material Russell has sent out on the Reorg, Post Elections, and all you need to be doing to get ready. Get ready for your elections. As the Department Convention has been postponed to September 19, Post Elections should be completed by August 30. The Certificate of Elections should then be completed right away.

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Will Trotter
Department 1st Vice Commander

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THE FREE STATE WARRIOR

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You are eligible to belong to The American Legion if you served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States during these periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918, December 7, 1941 to the cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. Congress.
Greetings: In the past few weeks, there has been a significant disruption in our lives that has everyone staying home, wearing face masks, rubber gloves, washing hands, staying 6 feet away from each other and not being sure about how long this Global Pandemic Virus COVID-19 will continue to affect people and take lives.

I’m praying that by the time you receive this issue of the Free State Warrior, the medical scientists will have developed a vaccine or come to a formal resolution to control the COVID-19 Virus so that we can return to our normal lives.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the essential workers: First Responders, Health Care Workers, Law Enforcement, Fire Department, National Guard, and Members of The American Legion helping families with food and assistance to survive through these critical, uncertain times.

Now that most of us are working from home until Governor Hogan lifts the restrictions, it’s been difficult for the Post Commanders, their Officers and Committees to meet and conduct Post business as a group. I’m hopeful that the Post Adjutants are continuing to visit the Post to pick up the mail and communicating with the membership with updates and making Buddy Check calls.

End of The Year Post Reports Packets has been mailed out to all the Posts. If your Post hasn’t received the Packet, contact Department Headquarters (410-752-1405). Remember our goal this year is 100% returns of the Consolidated Post Reports and Narrative Forms NO LATER THAN MAY 31, 2020. Once the Post Adjutant has received the Packet, start filling out the Consolidated Post Report and Narrative Forms.

• Post Adjutant has forgotten to fill out the Consolidated Post Report and Narrative Forms.
• Post Adjutant feels like the end of the year Post Reports aren’t mandatory to fill out and submit to the Department Headquarters in a timely submission matter.
• Post Adjutant hasn’t taken advantage of the National Online process of completing the Consolidated Post Report.
• Post Adjutant isn’t communicating electronically.
• Post Adjutant has accepted the position with no training.

POST, AREA/COUNTY, DISTRICT ELECTIONS and DELEGATES REGISTRATION:

Election Certification and Delegates Registration Forms are due twenty (20) days prior to Department Convention, September 19, 2020.

I want take this opportunity to thank the Posts,Areas/Counties, Districts for your support throughout the year. I have enjoyed my journey attending Meetings, Events and Community Programs across this Great State of Maryland that has served veterans and their families in need. I’m looking forward to working with the Department Officers and the Posts in the year 2020-21. I know that we can have a better year with the membership Retention, Recruitment and Revolutionize with a little more dedication and hard work and effort of working together as a team. It makes it easier to accomplish our agenda throughout the year. Remember to recognize: Armed Forces Day, National Poppy Day, Memorial Day, D-Day, Flag Day, U.S Army 244th Birthday, Father’s Day and U.S Coast Guard 229th Birthday. Remember, if everyone were to recruit one new member, it would extend the life of this great organization known all over the world as The American Legion.

God Bless You and Stay Safe throughout these critical and uncertain times.

Ronald L. Holcombe
Department 2nd Vice Commander

I want to thank everyone for their hospitality during my past visits. While we’re living in unprecedented times, I’ve been making “Buddy Checks”. I’ve been impressed with what all the posts are doing during this down time. Most are doing maintenance work to spruce up their buildings & clean, making Buddy Checks on their members, some are giving away free meals & some are hosting food pantries. So many are continuing to serve our fellow veterans in many ways & I thank you for that.

While I’ve been unable to physically visit posts, I have been attending teleconferences with Internal Affairs, Constitution & Bylaws committee, Department Officer’s meetings & of course making Buddy Checks to each District Commander, 1st Vice Commander, DEC members, County Commanders & Posts Commanders for the entire SESD & NESD as well as others. Many of the older members were happy to have someone to talk with & were just glad to know someone cared enough to call & check on them. I’ve even picked up a few ideas I plan to use for recruiting & retaining membership. Teleconferencing is new to me but it’s been very useful to keep us all connected. I’m even learning how to hold a zoom meeting.

While many events have been cancelled, if you have an event you want to have entered on the Department Calendar, please email them to me at: ruthhiggins01@comcast.net so I can get it on the Department Calendar. I thank you for your patience while so many dates & events have changed.

I appreciate all the support you’ve shown me as Department 3rd Vice Commander this past year. I’ll be running for Department 3rd Vice Commander again this year, so I would appreciate your continued support.

As always, please remember to “Preserve” our memories, “Protect” our benefits & “Promote” The American Legion, its programs & youth.

Ruth A. Higgins
Department 3rd Vice Commander

Let me start out by saying I hope 2020 gets over quickly. This has been a very unusual year so far. Our National Commander sends greetings to each of you and he is continuing to work on the issues that are a concern to our great organization.

Our organization and our Posts have been shut down but we continue to do the work that we are meant to do. We continue to support our Veterans, our Children in any way we can, by preparing food for our shut-ins, making masks and delivering them to VA Hospitals and our Veterans’ homes. This is who we are.

The American Legion Family is staying strong and staying in touch with each other as we should. We continue to stay strong and continue to believe in our mission.

I hope that the information that our Department Adjutant has been sending has been helpful on how to handle your Post Elections and so forth. Please don’t forget to get your Consolidated reports in; this information is very important. The last report I received from National, Maryland was only at 13%.

Remember to stay strong, remember who we are and what we do. We are family. God bless each of you and above all God bless America and The American Legion.

Yours in Legion Service,

Patricia McCoy
National Executive Committeewoman

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Yours in Legion Service,

Patricia McCoy
National Executive Committeewoman

BIBLE FOUND IN WEST OCEAN CITY

On May 13th a 7” X 9” Bible Box with a Bible in it was found outside of Dunkin Donuts in West Ocean City. Inside the box is a label stating the Bible was present by American Legion Post #183 of Parkville, Maryland. This program has been discontinued for many years and they do not know who it was presented to.

If the person who lost this Bible and Bible Box will contact WL “Sarge” Garlitz at 443-735-1942 or email firstsgt166@msn.com to make arrangements for it to be returned.
CALL FOR THE 102ND ANNUAL CONVENTION

The One-Hundred-Second Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Maryland, Inc., is hereby called, and in conformity with the action of the Department Executive Committee, will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, Saturday September 19, 2020.

PURPOSE
The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, hearing and considering resolutions, and for the transaction of such other business as may be deemed necessary to come before the Convention.

REPRESENTATION
The Department Convention shall be comprised of representatives from each Post who shall be members in good standing of the Post by which they are elected, and all Past Department Commanders while in good standing in their respective Posts. Each Post having 15 members in good standing shall be entitled to two Delegates. Each Post having 26 members in good standing shall be entitled to three Delegates and to an additional Delegate for each additional fifty members after the first twenty-six. Each Post shall be entitled to an Alternate for each Delegate. Membership strength of the Post, for determining Delegate strength, shall be computed as of paid-up membership in Department Headquarters at the close of business on June 30th. All District Commanders, all Department and all National Officers listed in ARTICLE VI, Section 1 of the Department Constitution in the year in which they serve (excluding the Department Adjutant if serving as an employee of the Department), and all Past Department Commanders, shall be Delegates-at-large to Department Convention, with right to vote thereat, to be exercised by them with their respective Posts. Every Post shall file the name and number of the Delegates and Alternates to the Department Convention at least twenty days prior to the convening of the Convention, (no later than August 29, 2020 this year), and at the same time pay the registration fee of $5.00* for each and every Delegate, in the case of an Alternate taking the place of a Delegate such Alternate shall be required to pay the registration fee of $5.00* which shall be done when the substitution takes place or sooner; unless and until such registration fees of the Delegates have been paid, the Delegation is disqualified to act for any purpose, and no individual Delegate will be allowed to vote, provided, however, that the mere non-payment of registration shall not deprive a Delegate otherwise duly qualified, of the right to vote in any District Caucus, on any matter (including election of officers) which thereafter is subject to ratification by the Department Convention. Post Commanders are urgently requested to have at least one member of their Delegation on the Convention floor at all times. *Cost of 2020 Delegates will be $10.00 on or after August 30, 2020 this fee shall be considered by the DEC Meeting on August 16, 2020.

VOTING
ARTICLE V, Section 3 (a) On all matters of business except the election of Department Officers, members of the Department Executive Committee and Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention, and except amendments to this Constitution or the By-Laws, voting shall be by voice, and the decision of the chair thereon shall be final unless a vote by roll call be demanded; and upon demand of any person having proper voice such other manner of voting shall be employed.

(b) The election of all Department Officers, and National Officers, shall be by roll call except where, in the case of individual offices, the necessity of a roll call is dispensed with by unanimous consent.

(c) The election of members of the Department Executive Committee and Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be in accordance with such rule as adopted by the Caucus in and for the District from which such members, delegates and alternates are elected, but in no case shall any such rule prevent the nomination of any member from the floor of such Caucus by any person having proper voice thereat. Voting at Caucuses shall conform to the provisions of Subsection (d) hereof.

(d) In all voting, the vote of each Post shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which such Post may be entitled. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate who may be absent shall be cast by the delegate’s alternate and the vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the present delegates from the member’s post. An alternate whose delegate is present may nevertheless move into the place of an absent alternate whose delegate also is absent, and there by acquire the right to vote provided he/she is the senior alternate present at the time. Alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates, but may only vote as herein set forth; provided the alternate’s registration fee is paid. At the conclusion of all roll call voting, for each individual election required to be conducted by the Department Convention, the Department Officer conducting such elections shall ask if any Post desires to amend or change its vote; or ask does any Post, which has not cast its vote during the roll call vote, now wish to cast its vote. No Post shall be allowed to pass more than one time. After the Department Officer conducting the election has made the aforesaid announcement and taken due note of all change in voting and has recorded the vote of any Post which originally passed, then the conducting officer shall announce that the voting is closed and direct that the tally be taken, and the results announced.

(e) All Past Department Commanders, while in good standing in their respective Posts, shall be delegates for life to all Department Conventions with voice and vote, to be exercised by them with their respective Posts and to all District Caucuses at which any election provided for in this Constitution shall be held, and at which their respective Posts may be entitled to vote. The failure of such Post to properly register its delegation shall not deprive such Past Department Commander of their right to vote, provided the Past Department Commander is properly registered as a delegate.

(f) All Department Officers as set forth in Article VI of this Constitution and National Officers of this Department shall be Delegates-at-large to Department Conventions, with the right to vote thereat, in the year in which they serve, to be exercised by them with their respective Posts; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall give to any of such persons the right to more than one vote.

ELECTION
The following Officers are to be elected. A majority of the authorized vote of the Convention shall elect: (Per ARTICLE V, Department Convention

Section 4) (a) The Department Convention shall elect a Department Commander, a Department First Vice-Commander, a Department Second-Vice Commander, a Department Third Vice-Commander, a Department Treasurer, and a Department Judge Advocate, and a Department Treasurers, for the term of one year. A National Executive Committee and an Alternate National Executive Committeeman and such other officers as may be authorized by the Department Convention for such terms appointed by the Department Convention.

Section 4 (b) The Officers listed in Section 4 (a) to be elected by the Department Convention shall be nominated and elected for office in the following order and sequence and for the term of office described in Section 4 (a):

1. An Alternate National Executive Committeeman – 1 Year.
2. A National Executive Committeeman – 1 Year.
3. A Department Treasurer – 1 Year.
4. A Department Judge Advocate - 1 Year.
5. A Department Third Vice-Commander – 1 Year.
6. A Department Second Vice-Commander – 1 Year.
7. A Department First Vice-Commander – 1 Year.
8. A Department Commander – 1 Year

DISTRICT CAUCUSES
(ARTICLE V, Sections 7-8-9-10)
A caucus shall be held by each District during, or not more than twenty days prior to, the convening of each Department Convention, at which caucus the election of the District Commander, District Vice Commanders, County/Area Commanders, such Department Executive Committee members, and Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention of The American Legion to which such District may be entitled by this Constitution shall be held. It shall be the responsibility of the District Commander in and for each District to see that at least fifteen days prior notice of any District Caucus convened for the above purposes shall be given by mail to the Commander of each Post in the District, and no such Caucus shall be deemed legally convened in the absence of such notice; provided, however, that any District may caucus at any Department Convention upon notice to the Rostrum, and all the purposes of this section may thereafter be fulfilled just as though prior written notice had been given. The action of such District Caucus as to the election of any of the officials named in this section shall not be final until ratified by the Department Convention.
Section 8. A quorum shall exist at a Department Convention or at a District Caucus when one third of the Posts in the Department or District, as the case may be, are represented by duly elected Delegates or Alternates.

Note: As the National Convention for 2020 was cancelled, the selection of delegates to the National Convention is unnecessary this year.

Section 9. Each District in Caucus not more than twenty days prior to the convening of the Department Convention shall elect one delegate and one alternate delegate to the National Convention, this delegate and alternate delegate is to represent the first thousand members of their respective District; there shall also be elected a delegate and alternate delegate for each succeeding thousand members. The five Department Delegates shall consist of the Department Commander, the Department Commander for the immediate prior year, the Department Adjutant, the Alternate National Executive Committeeman and the Department First Vice-Commander who hold office at the convening of the next succeeding National Convention. The alternates for these delegates shall be appointed by the Department Commander. Any additional delegates and alternate delegates are to be elected by the District with the highest percentage of their previous year’s membership as of the day that determines the Department Convention membership strength for the District.

Section 10. Each District in Caucus must more than twenty days prior to the convening of the Department Convention shall elect one representative to the Department Executive Committee for each unit of 500 members or major fraction thereof in said District. The membership strength of said District for this purpose shall be computed as paid up membership in the Department Headquarters at the close of business on the 35th day prior to the convening of the Department Convention or as of July 1st, in each year, which ever date shall first occur. In the event any District shall have less than its first and only unit of 500 members, it shall nevertheless be entitled to elect one representative to the Department Executive Committee. In the event that there are an equal number or more members representing the District, than there are counties or areas within that District, then there must be at least one representative from each County or Area elected to the Department Executive Committee, if the County or Area requests such representative.

The District shall submit the names of all elected as above for ratification to the Department Convention such ratification constituting election. At such Caucus each Post shall be entitled to the same number of votes as for the Department Convention. No District Caucus for the purpose of such election shall be convened sooner than August 30, 2020.

MEETINGS
The opening Session will begin at 9:00am, Saturday September 19, 2020. The business sessions of The American Legion, Department of Maryland, will be held in the Convention Hall (The War Memorial Building, Great Hall, Second Floor) and will start promptly at 9:00 AM.

Business sessions of The American Legion Auxiliary will be held Sunday September 20, 2020 at the Convention Hall (The War Memorial Building, Great Hall, Second Floor, Baltimore, MD).

A quorum shall exist at the Department Convention when one-third of the Posts in the Department are represented by a duly elected Delegate or Alternate.

CREDENTIALS CERTIFICATES
For Credentials Certificates for Delegates and Alternates. A check made out to The American Legion, Department of Maryland, at $5.00* per Delegate, and MUST accompany the Credentials Certificate. All Constitutional Delegates (ART. VI) and Past Department Commanders must also pay the $5.00* Delegate Fee or they can not vote. It is extremely important that the certificates be forwarded to Department Headquarters to arrive not later than August 29, 2020 to avoid late fees. County Commanders should personally check each Post under their supervision to see that the above is complied with. All Post Adjutants are charged with the responsibility of returning the Credentials Certificates to us at the earliest possible moment. *$10.00 on or after August 20, 2020. (this fee shall be considered by the DEC Meeting on August 16, 2020).

AMENDMENTS
Amendments to the Department Constitution and By Laws must be submitted in typewritten form to Department Headquarters by August 7, 2020 in time for the Department Adjutant to forward copies to each Post in the Department at least 30 days prior to the convening of the Convention. These amendments require a two-thirds majority of votes of the representation at the Convention. However, the Constitution may be amended without notice by unanimous vote at any Department Convention. (ARTICLE XIII, Section 1).

RESOLUTIONS
Resolutions shall be submitted typewritten, in triplicate, to the Resolutions Committee at the Convention, or prior to August 7, 2020 to Department Headquarters. By order of the Department Executive Committee, each resolution MUST have supporting documents and authority attached to each copy. Resolutions submitted to Department Headquarters prior to August 7, 2020 will receive preferred attention. Those submitted after that date will be considered only if the Convention Resolution Committee considers them to be of paramount importance to the Legion.

SPECIAL NOTICE
The thirty-fourth Annual Department Convention, 1952, unanimously resolved no one should be allowed on the main portion of the Convention floor on election day except Officers, Delegates, Alternates and working press. (Ref: Resolution #13)

POST OFFICERS
ARTICLE VIII, Sec. 6 of the Department Constitution states, “All Post Officers for the ensuing year shall be elected at least twenty days prior to the opening of the Department Convention and they shall assume their duties as such within twenty days after the closing date of the Department Convention.” YOU MAY HOLD YOUR INSTALLATION PARTY ANY TIME YOU WISH; YOUR POST OFFICERS MUST TAKE OFFICE DURING THE TIME ABOVE STATED. THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED THAT EACH POST FILE A COPY OF MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS FOR EACH POST COMMANDER AND ADJUTANT WITH DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS. THE DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE RETURNED BUT RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT FILES.

REPORTS
1. You are urged to promptly file your Certificate of Elections of Post Officers which MUST be signed by both the Post Commander and Adjutant. The Certificate on the bottom of this form means exactly what it says. You MUST EXAMINE the service record of each of your Post Officers to certify their eligibility.
2. Consolidated Post Report Form should be filed promptly.
3. All other Report Forms. If you have lost or misplaced any of these report forms, send an e-mail or call Department Headquarters and ask for a duplicate.

REGISTRATION
Registration by Post Adjutants or designated representatives shall be allowed at the Department Headquarters from September 14-18, 2020 from 9am-3pm daily. The final Registration Desk shall be in the Department Headquarters Offices on Saturday September 19, 2020 from 7am-10am to allow for same day registrations and pickups. The first credentials report shall be read at 10am on September 19, 2020 to allow for voting on matters to begin promptly after the establishment of a quorum.

A POST COMMANDER OR ADJUTANT MAY PICK UP THEIR POST DELEGATION REGISTRATION PACKET. ANY OTHER DELEGATE PICKING UP THE POST DELEGATION PACKET MUST PRESENT A WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE POST COMMANDER OR ADJUTANT LISTING THEM AS THE AUTHORIZED DELEGATE TO SIGN FOR THE PACKET. ALL DELEGATES MUST BE PAID.

ARTICLE IX, Section 2 of the Department Constitution provides that the amount of annual Department dues shall be determined by the Department Convention. Consequently, we hereby notify you that dues will be set and voted upon as usual by the Department Convention.

SPECIAL NOTE ON SARS-cov2: The planning for the Department Convention may require additional safety precautions to ensure a safe environment for our delegates. The Department Convention Corporation shall continue to monitor the situation and plan for the counter-measures required. More communications on the required safety measures shall be communicated in the future.

Russell W. Myers Jr.
Department Adjutant

Philip R. Dorsey
Department Commander
BE A HERO AND WIN BIG.
Your American Legion, Department of Maryland
2020 Patriotism & Purpose Sweepstakes Tickets will arrive soon.

10 chances to win.
One chance to make a difference.

This summer, The American Legion will be front and center as part of our national recovery. Celebrating America and the principles of The American Legion has never been more important as it is now, as we reconnect with those Veterans, families and communities that desperately need us.

That’s why the Patriotism & Purpose Sweepstakes that you are about to receive is so important. It’s a great way to show your support for the Department of Maryland as we assist those at greatest risk in our Legion Family and inspire the communities we live in across Maryland.

The requests for help from those across Maryland have never been louder. Your support through the Patriotism & Purpose Sweepstakes will help us identify at-risk Veterans and get them the help they need, re-start our programs that inspire youth across the state, and recover from the losses suffered during the pandemic.

… And who knows? Maybe you will be the lucky winner of our grand prize of $5,000 or one of our other 10 prizes!

Need Help? We are here for you.
We know some of our members have been hit hard by the Coronavirus. If you can’t participate in the Patriotism & Purpose Sweepstakes, we understand. Because all Sweepstakes proceeds stay here in our state, they are meant to support those in our Legion family who most need our help.
If you need help, email us and let us know so we can help.
Sometimes Sweepstakes tickets get lost in the mail or accidentally discarded. If you want to participate, but didn’t receive your tickets by July 2nd, please let us know.
We will try to get it fixed and get a new packet to you.
We know Sweepstakes aren’t for everyone. If you still want to support the Department initiatives to identify and serve at-risk Veterans and families, help Posts get up and running again, and ensure our patriotic youth programs will deliver the principles of The American Legion to our communities, you can still help.

Together, we honor our Veterans and our Legion Family.
The American Legion, Department of Maryland continues to be the beacon of hope for all who depend on us. Your gift to the Patriotism & Purpose Sweepstakes truly changes lives.

Thank you for supporting the programs that reduce Veteran suicides and substance abuse, expand services that heal our Veterans and their families, and inspire young Americans to love and honor our flag and country.
LIT Veterans Financial Preparedness Report 2019

Veterans share 6 top insights for financial preparedness

1,507 U.S. military veterans recently offered their best advice for active-duty servicemembers and veteran families regarding personal financial decisions. The survey was conducted for the newly released Veterans Financial Preparedness Report 2019, prepared by the Legionnaire Insurance Trust for the departments of The American Legion in celebration of the Legion’s 100th anniversary.

A mantra of saving
The overwhelmingly most common advice veterans shared was, “Save, save, save!” The importance of saving to financial health and preparedness can’t be underscored enough, but what does this mean in the context of veterans’ daily lives? Many veterans gave insights in their top advice.

Start saving from Day One, paying yourself first.
Veterans who start saving early are more likely to be in a strong financial position, according to the Veterans Financial Preparedness Report 2019. In fact, the report found that 60% of veterans who say they are ahead in their financial plans for retirement started saving immediately after high school or within the first 2 years of joining the military.

In their advice, these veterans comment that it’s not always easy to save, but it is well worth it in the long run:
“Start when it’s still uncomfortable—you won’t regret it later.”
“If you wait, chances are you’ll wait too long.”
“Even $10 [could] be worth hundreds by the time you retire because of compounding.”
“You will always feel you are not making enough. Do not let that keep you from saving.”
“Pay yourself first.”
“Focus on saving as much as possible with each check—almost like it’s a car payment or a requirement.”

Save as much as possible.
The more you can save, especially early on, the better financially prepared you will be. That can mean making sacrifices to ensure you’re saving enough.
“Beginning today, start putting money aside for your retirement years, and have it reviewed at least once per year. As your monthly paycheck goes up, so should your contributions to your own retirement.”
“Save until it hurts. Be soldier-minded in regards to how you save—be minimalists like a soldier. Then afterward, you’ve achieved a seemingly impossible number.”
“Start your Thrift Saving Plan (TSP) immediately, and put the maximum amount you can.”
“If you have a 401k, match what the company vests.”

Don’t spend money on things you don’t need.
Veterans emphasize the importance of discipline in spending. Prioritizing your true needs and savings over things you would like to have is a key part of that.
“Evaluate need versus want when buying expensive items.”
“Save every penny you can. Material things are not important. Expensive cars, clothes and other things are not important. Saving for your future is important!”
“Don’t get into debt. There’s a big difference between want and need. The mistakes you make financially will follow you for decades.”

Live within your means, avoiding debt.
In addition to having enough money for retirement, veterans’ top financial concerns included more immediate financial needs, such as meeting financial obligations each month and paying off debt, according to the Legionnaire Insurance Trust report.

Veterans offered a number of recommendations for tackling these concerns, including:
“Follow the rule that unless it’s an emergency, if you can’t pay cash, then you can’t buy it.”
“Set a budget and communicate with your spouse. Talk about money—don’t ignore it.”
“If you don’t have a way to pay for something, don’t buy it (discipline).”
“No matter how much money you make, still make it a point to make that amount stretch as much as you can paycheck to paycheck.”

Start planning for retirement early.
Looking ahead and working from a concrete financial plan unique to your circumstances and goals is another key piece of advice from veterans.

“Don’t wait to start planning for the future. The earlier you start saving and thinking ahead, the better prepared you’ll be.”
“Write down your financial goals: short-term, medium-term and long-term.”
“Stick to your plans and goals.”
“Talk to other members and advisors about retirement early.”

Educate yourself.
A key component to successfully planning and saving that many veterans highlighted is making sure to build your knowledge of personal financial issues. The report found a strong tie between financial preparedness and knowledge: 91% of veterans who are ahead of schedule for retirement consider themselves knowledgeable about personal finances, while 75% of veterans who are behind say they are not knowledgeable.

“Use any and every opportunity and resource you can access or utilize.”
“Do your homework, and research every decision you make so you know exactly what you’re getting into.”
“Listen to and learn from every military pension presentation. So much value is given that I learned from them and continue to use what I learned.”
“Take advantage of classes that will prepare you financially for your time in the service and for when you are discharged. Learn about organizations that can help current and former military persons.”

Discover more insights from veterans
The Veterans Financial Preparedness Report 2019 additional advice from the 1,507 veteran respondents as well as insights from a Certified Financial Planner™ with 16 years of military service, including three deployments. The report includes key findings about veterans’ financial situations and shares 5 attributes of veterans who are financially prepared.

The free report is available to all veterans and their supporters at www.TheLIT.com.

New Product Announcement from Your Legionnaire Insurance Trust

The LIT is pleased to announce the availability of new insurance products designed to help serve the needs of Department members. They are accessible on www.theLIT.com.

We now are able to offer:

HEALTH INSURANCE - This product is available for members under age 65 that need health coverage. The site offers a variety of medical plans to meet your individual or family needs. The site is able to qualify you if you are eligible for subsidies under the Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. Obamacare).

DENTAL INSURANCE – The offerings include a full range of dental plans that are available to individuals and families. We invite you to shop for the plan that best fits your needs

SHORT TERM HEALTH INSURANCE – This is the type of medical insurance needed by people such as those between jobs who have no medical coverage. The coverage period and premiums are adjustable to meet your requirements.

TRAVEL MEDICAL INSURANCE – There are numerous plans available for when you are discharged. Learn about organizations that can help current and former military persons.

Below is just a sample of the insurance carriers that are offered.

[Image of insurance carriers]

Please let your members know through your newsletter or by email.

Thank you!
GREETINGS FROM THE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Greetings Comrades, On behalf of the entire Southern Maryland District Leadership Team, we pray that you and your family members are safe during this difficult period. Veterans around the world are fighting a different type of battle as we deal with the COVID 19 Virus. Our wish is that you continue to protect yourself and stay out of harm’s way. Your safety is paramount.

Since the last time you’ve heard from me, our efforts to improve our district remains unchanged. We are committed to our members, and their families. As part of this effort, our membership numbers continue to rise. However, we are not out of the woods yet! I ask you to join me in the continuous push to retain our members every year. The camaraderie we’ve built over the years is unmatched, and the American Legion continues to be YOUR voice on the highest stage. Although you may not have attended a physical meeting with other members, I urge you to pick up the phone and spend just a few moments with a Comrade. I challenge you to call up at least one Comrade and check on his or her well-being. We are stronger together than we are a part.

I have asked each member of our leadership team to tighten up the boots straps for the next battle on the horizon. We count on every Post to accomplish the mission, support our members, and serve our communities. On to victory, nothing else matters.

Haywood Moss
District Commander,
Southern Maryland District

Greetings from the awesome Mountain District. We’re so glad to see other districts fighting for better membership, and while we’re disheartened to be #2 at present, the competition has helped ALL of Maryland work harder to get, and to keep, our membership as strong as possible. WE have not resigned to be #2 at the end of the race, so watch out! I don’t need to repeat all of the challenges and difficulties of Covid-19, but I am glad to see that the MTD has remained lowest in cases, and I’m not aware of any deaths of our local members due to the virus. I hope this is the case, and continues. But everyone, keep up the fight!!! As a nurse, I remind you that you must be vigilant and determined, with distancing, hand washing, masks and expect the enemy you cannot see. We need you all, and I pray for your continued safety. MTD posts participated in a district meeting, and have planned another for June. Our calendar for the new department year is being revised. We, from the district, have altered our Memorial Day services, but continue honoring with flags and the services we provide, CPR’s and award packets have been submitted. Posts have been open for carry out meals, and been well-received. Repairs and updates that have been needed, as well as good cleaning, have been done. Buddy checks have been done and have been well received. Elections are being planned, and will be done as required. MTD raffle for the month of JUNE still has a few tickets available; if anyone has a desire, please contact me or any officer from the district. We’ll miss you all in Ocean City in July, but we will see you at Convention in September. Stay safe!!

Charee Reckner
Mountain District Commander

Greetings from Allegany and Garrett Counties

Serving Allegany and Garrett Counties

Are Your Friends and Family . . .

A Member of Our Family?

When asking an eligible person to join The American Legion, Auxiliary, or SAL, remember to extend the offer to include their eligible friends and family members.

Haywood Moss
District Commander,
Southern Maryland District
Hello Legionnaires, I hope everyone is doing their best in these trying times. I want to Thank everyone that is doing what they can at their Post while we move forward through this epidemic that we are dealing with, everyone deserves a pat on the back for a job well done.

As of now we are still in first place for membership which goes to show that we are still pushing forward with it. I want to Thank all the Post that are at 100% for a job well done but don’t stop now keep pushing forward and bring in both old and new members alike, also touch base if you will to a Post that may not be there yet and see if you can help in anyway.

I also want to Thank all for their prayers and concerns for my wife as she recovers from this virus that is going around, she is doing better and now going through rehab to help her regain her strength and to walk again which she is slowly making progress on. I am hoping to see her soon as it’s been over 40 days since I last saw her. I also want to send out my prayers to all that are going through this and to the ones that are dealing with the loss of loved ones.

For all the Commanders out there I trust you are keeping your Post up on what is going on and the updated plans that the DEPARTMENT is putting out such as our when our next meeting, elections, convention change and so forth, we are still moving forward through all of this. The NESD is still planning on meeting in June though the caucus will now be moved to August; I hope to see everyone there as there are a few things that need to be discussed.

Again Thank You for all you have done and continuing doing. Till we meet again which I hope is soon, God Bless, Be Safe and most of all, Wash your Hands.....

Emidio “Buzz” Taylor  
North Eastern Shore District Commander

Greetings Baltimore District, I hope you and your family are safe and doing well. As the ongoing coronavirus pandemic continues to unfold, we are facing uncertainty with going out putting our health in jeopardy and the wellbeing of our families. I know this is a stressful time for some of us and we are also concerned with food, our jobs, medical conditions and our financial future. I know however, that some of you have experienced the loss of a family member or a friend and for that I am deeply sorry. I ask everyone to remain mindful of those who have lost a loved one, lost a job or suffered some other tragedy over the course of the Pandemic.

As of May 15, 2020, the Maryland Governor moves into stage one of recovery with flexible community-based approach that empowers individual jurisdictions to make decisions regarding the timing of re-openings. Governor Hogan states, “While lifting the statewide Stay at Home order and gradually moving into Stage One is a positive step forward, each and every one of us has an obligation to exercise responsibility for ourselves, for our families, our co-workers, and for fellow Marylanders so that as a community, together, we can begin to safely get back to work and get back to our daily lives.” Lifting the statewide stay at home order. At the same time the Baltimore Mayor stated, “he will keep the Baltimore city local stay at home order in affect.”

Post Elections Certification, Delegates Registration and the District Election should be done no later than August 29, 2020 (Twenty Days) prior to the Department Convention September 18-20, 2020. Delegate Registration Fee, $15 per Authorize Delegate, although there may be adjustments to the Delegate Fee.

Remember all Consolidated Post Reports are due if you have not already turned them in. Post adjutants should had received a packet in the mail or you can go online Mdlegion.org and download the packet. Please reach out to the Department 2nd vice commander Ronald Holcombe for questions or assistance on consolidate report.

Baltimore District did not have their annual Memorial Day service, but will pay our respects to our comrades, the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice, by taking a moment of silence. With all that’s going on let us not forget to pause and reflect on the important things in life like honoring the fallen, the ones who gave their lives for our freedom.

Family is our most important asset and our first priority is the protection of people we love. Each of us has a personal responsibility to help mitigate the spread of the virus by following recommended preventive measures such as maintaining social distancing; frequent hand washing; cleaning commonly touched surfaces; not touching your face; and staying home.

* Special thanks to all involved in making the Baltimore District Banquet a success. I also want to say thank you to each member for their continuous membership and support to your post and the district.

“Lean forward in the Foxhole and expect the unexpected”

Your commander,

Austin L. Ball Sr.  
Baltimore District Commander
We’re “Radio Active” at Post 275
by Mike Phillips, N3TAL Amateur Radio Team April 7, 2020

The American Legion offers its Legionnaires support for a number of activities. One of the more interesting and challenging of these is Amateur Radio (or “Ham” radio, as it is commonly called). Headquartered in Indianapolis, The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (“TALARC”) provides support to hams in the Legion community. Post 275 in Glenarden, Maryland is actively involved with TALARC and operates under call sign N3TAL.

Ham operators are licensed by the FCC to operate on specific radio frequencies. These enthusiasts use their skills, equipment, education and experience to contact other hams in the area or around the world. At this time of limited social contact, radio contact can provide new and safe opportunities for communicating with others. In fact, there has been a recent increase in interest in Amateur Radio, no doubt brought about by the current pandemic.

Here at Post 275, our team recently participated in an Amateur Radio Special Event on March 14th. The event commemorated the Legion’s 101st Anniversary. We supported another station in South Dakota and logged amateur radio operators who contacted us from stations in the United States and Canada. These special events occur at various times during the year to celebrate or commemorate such things as Veterans Day. They can also be held in remembrance of a location, such as a monument. We plan to sponsor our own special event to commemorate the ‘Peace Cross’ in Bladensburg this summer.

Our team is made up of comrades who have a wide range of experience. Our more experienced operators are often referred to as “Elmers” and provide knowledge and guidance to newer hams. Ham Radio is a unique hobby which incorporates elements of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as just plain fun. Many of us enjoy meeting and talking to people outside of our neighborhood without having to leave the comfort of our dens.

If you are interested in finding out more about TALARC or amateur radio in general, please send us a message at N3TAL@Outlook.com. You might also wish to check out these websites to visit:

TALARC - https://www.legion.org/hamradio
ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) - http://www.arrl.org

Who knows, perhaps you may decide to become “RADIO ACTIVE” too!

For God and country,

Mike Phillips, KB3ZCO
N3TAL Amateur Radio Team

Operation Narragansett stepped up to perform its fourth and last scheduled delivery bringing meals from Pazani Italian Restaurant in Elkridge. This brings the total number of meals delivered by members of the Post to 490 for the staff at Howard County General Hospital. Here a full car load of meals is just delivered by Carol and Randy Bohn. (5/27/2020)
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. “Then the righteous will answer him, Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? “The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:35-40

Fellow Comrades, friends and families, I want to say Happy Memorial Day to all our brave men and women who have served courageously and went on to Post Everlasting. Let us all continue to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country. The true superheroes don’t wear masks and capes; they wear fatigues, combat gear, and dress uniforms. We can never thank you enough for your heroic service to our country. We will never forget everything you have done to keep our country safe and free for us and for future generations. Thank you, and God bless America.

Like many of us, this pandemic has gotten us all anxious and with a feeling of hopelessness. Life at times will leave us with the thought of how do we cope with things outside our control. I want to share this story to help us realize that adversity happens but how we respond matters. Enjoy!!

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn’t know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed. Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The potato went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

‘Which are you,’ he asked his daughter. ‘When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?’

In closing, Happy Mothers’ Day to all our awesome Mothers and thanks to all those who are on the front lines (Medical staff, truck drivers, first responders, manufacturing, restaurants, grocery stores etc.). Please continue to practice social distancing, proper hand washing and when you go out, please wear face covering. In addition, remember to reach out and do buddy checks on our elderly, widowers and our Post members. Also to staff who are out of work right now. Do what you can to help others through this pandemic. Happy Fathers’ Day as well.

“There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don’t care who gets the credit.” – Ronald Reagan

Curtis Lee Jones
(240)383-6920
Department of Maryland Chaplain

Stallings Williams Post 206 in Chesapeake Beach donates $10,000. To Calvert Hospice Program.

This is Stanley Cochrane Post 16, Crisfield doing some maintenance projects around the Post. In the front taking the picture is Post 16 Commander Derryl Walterman, Back left: Phil Riggen, Back right: John Littleton.
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<td>Patrick J Allison</td>
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<td>Elmer C Clouser</td>
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<td>Frederick E Spence</td>
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<td>Carroll Post 31, Westminster</td>
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**MEMORIAL BOOK INSCRIPTIONS**


In Memory of Christina Lay, by Cummings-Behlke Unit #226.


In Memory of PDC Gordon B. Brown, by ALA Past Department President Asst.

In Memory of Past Department Commander Gordon B. Browning Department HQs.
### Treasurers Report

**From Gary Gifford**

May we help you? The best part about being a Department Officer is the opportunity to be of service to Posts that have encountered some rough spots. This year of the coronavirus pandemic has been more than a rough spot for The American Legion and its many Posts. As we begin to emerge from the mandated closures of our Post Homes, there will be much work to be done before normalcy begins to return. More stressful times are ahead!

Most Posts have experienced periods of stress which takes many forms. Sometimes it’s one of those pesky business daps that take all the fun out of managing the Post’s operations. Other times, it’s the infrastructure that needs attention, like a leaky roof. Stress comes also with coping with all of the personalities in an active Post, or, on the other hand, from the lack of personalities in Posts where the activity is left to a mere handful of devoted veterans. The point is, when you get involved, really involved with The American Legion; you will encounter stress in one form or another, sooner or later.

The Department of Maryland cares deeply about the welfare of all Legionnaires, but less deeply about how effective your post home management is. The operation of an American Legion Post is within the purview of its members, not the Department or the District. But when a poor performing Post threatens the welfare of its membership, and/or the reputation of The American Legion, then the Department does become concerned and will take appropriate steps to resolve the problem.

Of course, we at Department probably will blissfully unaware of your problems until someone advises us. And there is lots of information that comes from folks who are angry at a Post’s administration for one reason or another. While we listen to and catalog those complaints, we will not respond to Post management issues until we are asked, by letter from the Post’s management, to come into the Post Home to help with a problem with which they are wrestling.

Too often, Post administrations wait too long to seek help. Financial health is not so different from personal health. You must respond promptly to the symptoms of declining health. A cancer left too long becomes less treatable. The remedy always is more effective and less painful when applied early.

So, confront Post Home problems promptly. If you need help, write that letter to the Department before your circumstance deteriorates to the point of desperation. Just understand that the Department does not maintain a large cash reserve from which grants to struggling Posts can be made. Still, we may be able to bring to the table advice and suggestions that may help you better manage your situation, and your stress.

**Scouting, Maryland**

In a normal year, I would be writing about Troops and Packs that were getting ready for summer camp or some High Adventure program. This is not a normal year though and we have to adapt.

Scouting has become virtual. The Troop, Pack and Crew meetings are held on computers with assignments to complete tasks that fulfill the requirements for the scouts’ next rank at home in isolation from the rest of the body. We adapt to a campout held in the backyard. The Patrol gathering on Zoom to plan the menu and activities for the day, while your 5K hike is around your neighborhood or on a treadmill, as in one case. You are, after all, on your honor to do your best.

The program goes on, knots are taught by video and cooking methods are demonstrated. Despite the lack of a convention to show off our Eagle Scout of the Year, the Department still has an exemplary young man to laud for his accomplishments.

The 2020 Eagle Scout of the Year for the Department of Maryland is Ryan Fulmer of Walkersville, Maryland. He belongs to Troop 1011, chartered to Glen W. Eyler Post # 282 in Woodsboro, Maryland. Ryan’s Eagle project was to build and distribute boxes to locales around the area to collect Flags for proper disposal. His application will be forwarded to National, where he will compete against candidates from the other states.

We look forward to the time that the Scouting program can resume the full extent of its tenets and teach the out-of-doors skills.

**The Maryland Gold Star Delayed Until Later This Summer**

While our cause is still in need, we have decided to delay the 2020 Maryland Gold Star Legacy Run until later this summer. We are hoping that our Posts will start to open soon, so that we can get our Run rescheduled. Until the doors are open, we will delay picking a new date.

As you know, our Legion Family has truly gotten behind the cause of providing scholarships to the children of our Fallen Soldiers and our 50% or greater Disabled Veterans. Last year, with your support, the MD Gold Star Legacy Run donated in the name of the Department of Maryland, $55,000.00 to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund.

This year, we had a goal of $60,000.00, but with these trying times we are all living in, we will be happy with any funds we can raise for this cause. We will also be riding to bring awareness to the Legacy Scholarship Fund and to ride for The American Legion Family. If you want to participate in the Run, whether to ride, to sponsor or to donate, please reach out to me for more information at joe_gladden123@aol.com.

As you start to reopen and meeting again, I hope that you will consider this cause. No donation is too small. Please know that the American Legion Riders are here for you. Riders ride. That’s just what we do!

United In Service,

Joe Gladden
Past National Commander SAL
Towson American Legion Riders

**Department Chairman**

Scouting Committee

Jack McLaughlin

**SESD Continued from page 9**

delayed. Needless to say, these well honored programs and recognition gatherings for recognition for a job well done, has not slowed down the Legion family. The Veteran Women Outreach program began collecting health and wellness bags for women in shelters or who were homeless, from Western Maryland to the Ocean, but COVID 19 redirected the health and wellness bags on the Eastern Shore to be handed out to shelters for the homeless and placed in housing veterans from Kent to Somerset County, this small bag of supplies allowed the veteran to keep their much needed funds in their pockets to purchase food and sanitation supplies during this shelter in place situation. Much thanks go out to the Post 16 Lenny Ward, who travels a lot, Gordon Murray Post 67, Dave and Barbara Wharton of Post 64, and Post 87 membership collection.

Now, as we began to focus on the end-of-year projects; elections, caucus, and handing out well earned recognition, we had to refocus how to conduct business, with electronic voting, virtual meetings, job clubs, and hiring events for our veterans. Wicomico Post 64 and DEC member Barbara Wharton continued to press forward in getting names of those participating in the ROTC program for their well-deserved ribbons and awards — thanks Barbara for a job well done. Thanks also go out to Vice Commander Sullivan for spearheading the membership process that currently has the District in third place with 142 members required for 100 percent.

Buddy checks that are being conducted has provided a positive impact on membership and in showing how we care for one-another at all times. It is important to continue to send out cards, make phone calls, or when safe again, visit with them, get your junior SAL and Unit juniors involved by making cards and flower arrangements that they can keep in front of them, showing we care and thinking about them. Memorial Day is coming and some Posts within the District may not be able to put out flags due to a lack of funding and programs may be canceled or scaled back because of social distancing, but in our heart we pay respect to all those that have given all in support of and for the service of our country. This year alone, the Legion family has lost a great deal of members that we were unable to properly pay our respect to, but it does not mean we do not carry them in our heart and in a special memory.

Finally, I am once again thankful to all the members of the South Eastern Shore District leadership team and the Post Legion Families. We as a District have come together in doing whatever it takes to show our mutual helpfulness for God and County. Please complete your Consolidated Post Reports (due by May 31, 2020) either online or by the paper form, Certificates of Elections—both State and National, and your narrative reports which are due by June 1, 2020 to receive the recognition you are deserving of for all you do within your communities, for the State of Maryland and for the United States of America. Thanks Sarge for you continuous mentoring and I look forward to fully supporting Comrade Anthony Sullivan as the next SESD Commander and the State Commander and his officers in whatever capacity needed.

Still Serving,

Sharon Egerson
SESD Commander

**American Legion Riders**

**Towson American Legion Riders**

**Past National Commander SAL**

**Towson American Legion Riders**
The National High School Oratorical Contest 2020 Cancelled!

Department of Maryland Contest Another Success!

Anita Trotter, Department Chairperson

Our Department of Maryland High School Oratorical Contest was held for the second time at Stevenson University on Sunday, March 3. We had speakers from four of our seven districts. Jenée Aneke, a senior at Marriotts Ridge High School came in first earning her a Department Scholarship Award of $3000. She was sponsored by the Northern Central District. Second Place and a scholarship award of $2000 went to David Kneebone, a senior at Urbana High School, sponsored by the Western Maryland District. Third Place finishers were Sri Sreenivasan, a sophomore at Clarksburg High School (Southern Maryland District) and Jada Paschall, a senior at Baltimore Poly (Baltimore City). Third Place contestants received $10,000 to National for The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation, and we are in position to start the purchase and installation of the awning and patio at Charlotte Hall.

We are waiting on a go-ahead from the Home to start the project. And finally, I am confident we will be able to support the Catch-A-Lift Fund. I cannot state enough how appreciative and proud I am of the squadrons and districts that have made donations to the project; we are still accepting donations. In the coming year, we will be selecting a new project to support, so be on the lookout for information. I would like to thank Robert Hill for the outstanding job he did in difficult circumstances as my Project Chairman.

We have rescheduled our convention for Saturday, September 26th and by now you have received your Convention packets. This will take place at the Southern Maryland Youth Camp in Cheltenham, MD. This is the weekend of our annual Camp Out and we have many activities planned. Don’t forget that your Squadron Consolidated Reports are still required to be submitted. We use these reports for awards and to show the good works and volunteer hours that our squadrons perform. In the packets, each squadron received 10 project raffle tickets. This raffle will be drawn at the convention, so please help the project with a purchase of tickets.

I finish this article with my sincerest wishes for all to come out of this pandemic, and we will, healthy and ready to get back to work for our Veterans and Children and Youth.

God bless you all.
Yours in Service,
Bob Manzo
Detachment Commander

Department Sgt-at-Arms
By Steven Blank

I would like to say I enjoyed traveling around the state of Maryland to the D.E.C. meetings, and other functions of Dept. of Md. I have met quite a few Legionnaires over the year; it has been very enjoyable to speak and say hi! to the men and women of the great Department of Maryland, the individuals that take time out of their daily schedule, to attend the County, District and Department meetings and functions of The American Legion. The amount of volunteerism that is put in throughout the year, that is what makes The American Legion great, from the Legionnaires that do so.

Just remember this all starts at your post level, being an active member of the Legion, SAL and Auxiliary, helping one another. The last part of this Legion year has been trying, to say the least, missing the functions of the last part of the Legion year, please stay safe.

For god and country,

Ste  Dept. Sergeant at Arms
**Baseball**

Welcome to the non 2020 season. It was with my deepest regret that our Maryland 2020 season was canceled. After the National organization canceled all of their Regional tournaments, The World Series and the use of their name, we are back to a somewhat normal routine, we will post our meeting dates and location. Until we meet again in the fall, please be safe. We wish to express regrets to the family of past chairman of baseball Bob Ray upon his passing.

Mike Riston, Chairman

**Baseball Equipment:**

Many years ago Dewey Lowman Post #109 sponsored a Baseball Team. But though the years have passed and the coach retired. As in the case of many American Legion Posts in the state, no one stepped up to the plate and took over the team. So with that being said, we have some baseball equipment that we would like to donate to one or more of the Posts that does have a team. We have bases, balls, uniforms, gloves, tee shirts, etc. If any of you coaches out there are interested in obtaining any of our equipment, please let me know. We can arrange for you to come to the Post and look over this equipment. I can be reached at (410) 418-5597 or yncdd84@gmail.com.

Thanks for your interest.

Wild Bill Ganz

**Special Olympics of Maryland**

Since the 5th D.E.C. meeting has been cancelled, this is the report that I would have given at that meeting. I know you would rather see my smiling face at the podium delivering this epistle, but as the man once said, “It is, what it is.” This has truly been a trying time for all of us, our families and our country. Many of the scheduled Special Olympics events have been cancelled and hopefully will be rescheduled as time permits. These Special Athletes train so hard during the year to compete in these events and then poof, everything stops. I can’t begin to feel the frustration they are going through.

The Deep Creek Dunk was held the day before the Winter Games started. And once again, Charee Reckner (208) volunteered at the check-in station and also collected donations for the Special Athletes of Garrett County.

The Winter Games were held in February at Whitetail Ski Resort in Mercersburg, PA. Luckily, we had some snow to ski and snowshoe on. The weather was very mild and sunny. These athletes couldn’t wait to get out on the slopes and show their stuff. This year, I was a timer on the Downhill Slalom Course. Rick Fuss (96) was a designated downhill timer and coach. One by one, they went down the course and as the day moved on, they got better and better.

The Opening Ceremonies were held on Sunday night. In my 56 years of skiing, this indeed was the highlight of my career. I, along with my good buddy Eddie Souder (SONS-Post #60) and many of our Law Enforcement friends, were asked to ski the Parade of Lights. All the lights were turned out, except for our torches as we skied down the main slope with the American, State and Olympic Flags and the Olympic Torch. As we skied through the throng of cheering and screaming people at the bottom, I felt a little moisture in my eyes and thought, “This Is What It’s All About.”

Detachment 1st Vice, Mark Fayer had the honor of assisting one of the athletes in the lighting of the Olympic Cauldron to “Let the Games Begin.”

I also attended the Law Enforcement Torch Run kick-off breakfast in Clarksville, MD with my good friend Master Trooper Dave Greenwood. There were representatives from every county in the state in attendance. These Torch Runs are held throughout the year all over the state. The donations received from the T-Shirt sales help to defray the costs of training these Special Athletes.

So, there you have it my fellow Legionnaires. Hopefully, we have reached the plateau and will be getting back to some semblance of normality in the not too distant future.

Wild Bill Ganz, Chairman

Special Olympics Committee

(Spec.OlymComm. FSW Summer 2020)
Greetings Legionnaires, Our office is wrapping the busiest months of the year; we are proud to report another successful period of hearings for our Veterans with both the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA) and the Baltimore Regional Office. The support from the judges and the staff at the regional office has been outstanding, they are all about granting the maximum benefits allowed under the Code of Federal Regulations.

Updates for the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

Discontinuation of RAMP - VBA accepted initial opt-in forms postmarked through February 15, 2019; initial RAMP opt-in forms are no longer accepted. Veterans who submitted an initial opt-in form postmarked by February 15, 2019 that was improperly completed were given an additional 60 days to provide a properly-completed form. Veterans who have opted in to RAMP and received a RAMP decision are already in the modernized system. If a Veteran received a RAMP decision and wants to pursue a new lane, these are the options:
• Within one year of the most recent RAMP decision notice, file:
  • VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim
  • VA Form 20-0996, Decision Review Request: Higher-Level Review
  • VA Form 10182, Decision Review Request: Board Appeal (Notice of Disagreement)
  
Available options after one year:
• To reopen a claim of service connection, file VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim with new and material evidence
• To request an increased rating, file VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation
• To file a new claim that has not previously been filed (or is not substantially similar to a previously-filed claim), file VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation
• Updates for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

VA MISSION Act of 2018
Dr. Richard Stone serves as the Executive in Charge, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), with the authority to perform the functions and duties of the Under Secretary for Health. As the Executive in Charge, Dr. Stone directs a health care system with an annual budget of approximately $68 billion. Dr. Stone’s vision is to transform VHA into an Integrated High Reliability Organization using 10 Lanes of Effort. The VA MISSION Act is one of the ten lanes that will enable Dr. Stone’s vision to become a unifying factor for all employees and all initiatives. The MISSION Act addresses in-network and non-VA health care issues, Veterans’ homes, access to walk-in VA care, prescription drug procedures, and more.

The VA MISSION Act of 2018 empowers employees and strengthens VA’s care nationwide. It improves ways to hire staff and keep staff onboard; creates “Anywhere to Anywhere” telehealth linking Veterans with their care teams across state lines; allows VA to lead with cutting-edge technology; and enhances VA as a leader for U.S. health care.

The Community Care Decision Support Tool (DST) will make it easier for staff to determine patient eligibility for community care and help VA providers to decide in real-time whether to refer a Veteran to VA care or community care.

The VA MISSION Act of 2018 empowers Veterans and enhances care options. The VA will continue to be a trusted, caring partner; meet you where you are, with the right care at the right place and the right time; provide telehealth in your home, in a VA facility, or in the community; and focus on providing an excellent experience for you and the important people in your life.

Please send any questions to serviceofficer@mdlegion.org. Our office number is (410) 230-4420….Thank you.

Adrian G. Gamboa
Department Service Officer

Reminder: To continue to receive the Warrior Please make sure your dues are paid by the end of the year.

The right design by E.J. Behar was awarded first prize in competition for a Fourth of July cover open to members of the Society of Illustrators for Disabled Veterans and appeared on the June 30, 1922 edition. Happy Flag Day and Independence Day

The American Legion
Department of Maryland, Inc.
The War Memorial
101 N. Gay Street, Rm. E
Baltimore, MD 21202

If you haven’t given since the last Warrior, it is time to schedule an appointment. Please give if you are able.

THANK YOU!