



National - CWV Meeting - March 15, 2017 - God Bless All of Us

Department of Maryland - Catholic War Veterans of the USA, Inc.

Reverend Clergy, Cmdr. Crawford, Officers of the Board, Dept. Commanders and my fellow veterans of these great United States of America

Generally speaking, our CWV membership in Maryland is underway and flourishing. There is still an excitement of our annual children's poster and essay contests; details were distributed to our participating catholic schools. Our 5th Sunday mass program has held steady with a favorable participation from our local posts' membership. Our next fifth Sunday mass will be held on April 30th with Mass and a group tour of our Naval Academy - Annapolis MD. Looking ahead, many of our CWV members and their families will come together in our various 2017 planned events, namely Emmittsburg MD - Gettysberg PA - Washington DC to mention a few.

Efforts in our spreading our Americanism ideals, catholic action, spiritual bouquets are holding strong as our various post membership donate generous amounts of their time to solidify these areas. Rosaries, masses, and alike religious action are seen as activities throughout our membership.

Local veterans rehab centers are on our monthly welfare schedule for volunteering ... bingo, cookouts, mass, pizza parties, ice cream socials, Christmas give-a-ways are what we do for our beloved veterans. We will sponsor another spirited gently used clothing' drive for our McVet organization in late Sept.

We are planning a recruitment initiative in late April. Details are being formulated as I write. We are considering reigniting an interest in the National 'Green Lights for Veterans' – there will be some 350 green light bulbs given away this Veterans Day during our attendance at Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery – Veterans Day ceremony November 11th as well small US flags – a tradition started a few years ago.

We also support the Marine's Toys For Tots program by engaging some local barbershops having them collecting unused toys for the Marines' program. Also we have a similar program for one of our local pediatric units for those children in hospital during the Christmas holiday. This past year a donation was given to a boy-scout group to send five scouts to a nearby Maryland scouting camp for a week.

We are considering to undertake the Blue Mass theme – as a major project-2017 ... coordinating with our Police – Fire Departments – students – parish community members coming together to insure a successful effort on this project. Research is presently underway for this special event.

We continue to strive in gaining more membership for our organization. We have assembled a group of our members to brainstorm avenues of strategies to improve our organizational posture into the rest of this year and beyond.

May the face of our creator always shine upon you ...

Respectfully submitted ... Gil Barker MD State Commander – 02/21/17

Chartered By Congress 17 August 1984

Due to some conflicting schedules, I will not be in attendance at our National Meeting and it appears there may be no Maryland representation due to this conflict. Our apology for our absence.