

Maryland State Firemen's Association Scholarship Committee
Meeting Minutes

The Maryland State Firemen's Association Scholarship Committee meeting convened at the College Park Volunteer Fire Department Station on Thursday May 19, 2005 at 7:00 pm.

Members of the Committee in attendance were:

Ron Siarnicki – Chairman
Dale Fishack – Vice Chairman
Dwight Polk
Jim Deskins
Robert Ryan
Bill Olson
Robert Jacobs – President MSFA
Lee Sachs – First Vice President MSFA
Dr. Jim Milke
Pete Piringer
Margaret and Barbara Woltz
George Kennett
Jim Radcliff (STC-BOV)

Excused

Doug Simpkins
Matt Stevens
Brenda Fosler Johnson

Absent

JoAnne Hildebrand
Farron Taylor
Bobby Balta – 2nd Vice President MSFA

Chairman Siarnicki opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and provided a brief explanation of the agenda for the meeting. Committee members introduced themselves and welcomed each other to the meeting. President Robert Jacobs extended greetings to the committee and his appreciation for the work and their effort with the Scholarship Program. Vice President Sachs extended his greetings to the Committee and his hope that they will continue in the same fashion through his administration next year. The minutes from the last conference call were approved.

The Chair provided the following updates of Committee activity since the last meeting.

Tuition Remission Again this year the proposed legislation did not get approval in Annapolis. It was dropped by the Senate Committee. President Jacobs expressed his displeasure with this action and his hope that we can try again next year. Dwight Polk added that this is beginning to affect other students and other institutions across the state.

President Jacobs requested that the committee speak with Legislative Chair Danny Davis and work to develop a new strategy for next year. Dr. Milke suggested that the committee poll all of the state institutions and put together a contingent to address the Maryland Higher Education Commission on this topic. Vice President Sachs requested that the committee keep the group small at first so as not to overwhelm the issue. President Jacobs stated that it is unknown at this time how many students are now affected and the fiscal impact could be fairly substantial. Dwight Polk suggested bringing in the academic medial profession from the various schools involved to help leverage the issue. President Jacobs instructed the committee at this time to contact Danny Davis and put together a meeting with Delegate Moe to discuss all options.

Past Presidents Funds The chairman reported that we are now at seven past president scholarships and several potential new ones will be added next year. The committee needs to continue to work on finding funding opportunities for the program.

Current Fiscal Status The Chairman reported that the discrepancy for carryover of the fund for the committee has not been rectified and that his recommendation was to not include those monies in this year's payment cycle. To date the committee has raised \$35,400 and that is what should be distributed this scholarship cycle.

Motion by Jim Deskins to spend \$35,000 for scholarship awards this year and seconded by George Kennett. Motion Carried.

Vice President Sachs gave an update on the status of the MSFA Foundation. He reported that the tax exemption has been filed and that once the number is issue, fundraising can commence. He also advised that the scholarship committee functions will be rolled into the foundation structure. Chairman Siarnicki stated for the record that it is imperative that the Scholarship Committee have a seat on the Foundation Board.

At this time the committee began it deliberations on the various applications that have been submitted to the committee for consideration. Discussion continued and a final list of recommended awards was ascertained.

2005 MSFA Scholarship Awards

John Kaminski	2,500.00	Nextel/MSFA
Adam St. John	2,000.00	Nextel/MSFA
Megan Nyers	2,000.00	Nextel/MSFA
Donald Cather	2,000.00	STC/BOV
Caroline Pace	2,000.00	STC/BOV
Sarah Pysell	2,000.00	STC/BOV
Seth Pritchett	2,000.00	STC/BOV
Garret Snyder	2,000.00	STC/BOV
Ryan Travers	2,000.00	Mrs. Heimer
Joseph Kurry	2,000.00	Ladies Auxillary, MSFA
Howard Callahan	2,000.00	Conectiv/MSFA

Andrew Laird	2,000.00	Wood/MSFA
Kimberly Thomas	2,000.00	Thompson/MSFA
Keith Therres	2,000.00	Preston/MSFA
Brandon Krick	2,000.00	Burton/MSFA
Dereck Dods	1,500.00	King/MSFA
Matthew Spencer	1,500.00	Glaubitz/MSFA
Shane Mellin	1,500.00	Robison

Motion by Dr. Milke and seconded by Dale Fishack to make the above listed awards for the 2005 Scholarship cycle. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Dr. Milke, seconded by Dale Fishack to have the committee review the scholarship application forms and make revisions as needed to bring more information to the committee for their decision making process. Approve Unanimously.

Chairman Siarnicki thanked the entire committee for getting through the 2005 award process and asked if each of the committee members wished to stay on the committee for 2006. All members pledged to stay on the committee. The next gathering of the committee will be the awards presentation in Ocean City on Monday morning. The committee will also plan on meeting that day after lunch to begin the process for 2006.

Vice President Sachs commented to the committee that he will most likely add a few more people to the scholarship committee and that he has decide to appoint Dale Fishack as Chair of the Scholarship Committee. The current chairman will remain on the committee as vice chair. Vice President Sachs thanks everyone for all of their hard work on the committee.

President Jacobs provided his closing remarks by thanking his committee for all they did. He was very pleased with all that we accomplished this year and for what the committee has been able to door since its inception. The team has done very well.

Jim Deskins reported that Alisa Olsen wished to announce that the Olsen Family was committing to a \$1,000.00 scholarship in the name of Chairman Emeritus Bill Olsen for scholarships for the next two years. The committee was appreciative of this offer and praised Bill for all that he has done to keep this committee moving forward. These funds will be applied to the 2006 award cycle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted.

Ronald Jon Siarnicki
Scholarship Committee Chairman