The Maryland State Firemen’s Association is saddened to announce the death of Past President Raymond L. Adkins Sr. (1965-66). Raymond was born August 27, 1930, in Berlin, Md. to the late Lawrence and Mae Smack Adkins. Raymond died Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011, at Coastal Hospice at the Lake surrounded by his loving family. Full fire department honors were presented on January 2, 2012 at funeral services provided by Burbage Funeral Home of Berlin, followed by graveside services at the Evergreen Cemetery in Berlin.

Raymond worked at the Berlin Post Office for more than 30 years. He was a life member of the Berlin Fire Department. He served as President of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association in 1965-66, and was inducted into the Maryland State Firemen’s Association Hall of Fame on June 20, 1995.

The Maryland State Firemen’s Association mourns the loss of Past President Raymond Adkins and extends our deepest sympathies to his family and to the members of the Berlin Volunteer Fire Company.

The Maryland State Firemen’s Association is saddened to announce the death of Past President Charles “Jenks” Mattingly III on January 16, 2012. Funeral services were held on January 20 at the St. John’s Catholic Church with final internment at the St. John Francis Regis Cemetery in Hollywood, MD.

Jenks proudly served the fire service for over 50 years, including terms as President and Chief of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department, Past President of the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen’s Association (1995), and Past President of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association (2001-2002).

Jenks will always be remembered as a kind and gentle person to everyone that he met. He always wore a big smile and we looked forward to meeting up with him at every occasion. Jenks’ passing will leave a void in our hearts and in every one who ever met him. He was a big man with a big heart and will truly be missed by all. May he rest in peace.
**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

This issue of the Volunteer Trumpet begins on a sad note, with the loss of two members of the MSFA family. Mr. Raymond Adkins, Past President 1965-66, and Mr. Charles “Jenks” Mattingly, Past President, 2001-02, were truly great men and served this association with honor and pride. Our hearts go out to their families as they will truly be missed by all who knew them.

On a brighter note, we were blessed with the arrival of two new additions to the MSFA family with the birth of Caroline Leizear to Trumpet Editor Amber Leizear, and the birth of Brody Reppe to Assistant Secretary Kristi Reppe. Congratulations to both Amber and Kristi on their new family additions.

This issue is being published in advance of the MSFA Executive Committee on February 18-19, 2012 at the Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company. There is some very important business to be discussed at this Executive Committee meeting and we invite each of you to visit with us and learn about the activities of your state association.

At the top of the MSFA agenda right now is the ongoing Maryland General Assembly legislative session. Our Legislative Committee is tracking more than 25 bills of interest to the MSFA and its members. If you are not on the weekly email distribution list, please drop a note to msfaleg@msfa.org and request to be added. There is important information distributed with each weekly bulletin. Thanks to Danny Davis and Richard Yinger for their hard efforts on behalf of the MSFA in monitoring legislative actions. And, thanks to Rose Davis and the other ladies from the MSFA Ladies Auxiliary who staff the office on a daily basis. We also had a successful legislative reception on January 31, receiving 143 legislators, their staffs, MSFA members, and partner agency representatives. A special thanks to Sharon Worthington for her continued support to our annual reception with the preparation of a fine assortment of food items.

The MSFA Convention and Conference Committee is hard at work preparing for the upcoming convention. We had an opportunity to visit with the Convention Center staff and Mayor Rick Meehan on January 19 and see the progress on the Convention Center expansion project first hand and to discuss the impacts to our convention layout. Be sure to check out the article is this edition of the Volunteer Trumpet for additional in-formation on the convention.

In closing, I would like to extend a special thanks to each and every one of you for your support over the past year. With your assistance, my term as President has been a truly memorable experience. I also hope that I have live up to your expectations. In the few months that remain, I am hopeful that we can continue our progress together in support of the goals of this association.

David W. Lewis, President, Maryland State Firemen’s Association
Fire Prevention Ambassadors Donate Blankets

Photo and Story By: Dave Lewis, President MSFA

On Saturday, December 17, several MSFA Fire Prevention Ambassadors and friends gathered at the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department to make blankets to be delivered to sick and injured children at Children's National Medical Center in Washington DC. The project was initiated by Dani Crane, former Miss Montgomery County Fire Prevention and former Miss Maryland Fire Chiefs Association. More than 30 blankets were completed and added to the 38 made and donated by the Ladies Auxiliary from the Bowling Green Volunteer Fire Department (thanks to MSFA LA Color Bearer Donna Struntz).

On Tuesday, December 20, the blankets were delivered to Children's National Medical Center by Dani Crane, Solveig Petersen (current Miss Montgomery County VFRA Fire Prevention), MSFA President David Lewis, and MSFA LA President Teresa Crisman.

Thanks to Dani Crane for initiating this project and thanks to the many who donated time and money to make this project possible. Our gift is sure to make Christmas better for some very needy children.
Western Maryland Junior MSFA Miss Fire Prevention Selected!

Photo and Story by Ron Watkins, MSFA Public Information Committee

The contest to select a new Junior Miss Fire Prevention for the Western Maryland Region for 2012 – 2013 was held on Sunday, February 12 at the Flintstone VFD in Allegany County. Five young ladies between the ages of eleven and fifteen competed for the title before a crowd of almost 100 people. The five contestants were Morgan Blank, representing the Clarysville Fire Department in Allegany County; Sami Jo Kight, representing the Potomac Fire Company of Westernport, Allegany County; Tara Holshey, representing the Good Will Fire Department in Allegany County; Jazlyn Logue, representing the Bedford Road Fire Department, Allegany County; and Cassidy Overstreet, representing the Eastern Garrett County Volunteer Fire Department, Garrett County. The contestants attended a workshop to go over the rules and expectations that a Miss Fire Prevention ambassador would have to meet, and each was given a project to present at the contest. Each girl had a private interview with the contest judges prior to her on-stage presentation.

Judges for the contest were MSFA-LA Past President Rose Pandofini, from Carroll County; Jane Huffman, MSFALA Fire Prevention Committee member from Anne Arundel County; John Spiker, MSFA Fire Prevention Committee member from Anne Arundel County; and Ron Watkins, MSFA Public Information Committee Chairman from Montgomery County. The contestant selected for the title of Jr. Miss Fire Prevention for the Western Md. Region was Miss Tara Holshey. She was presented with her crown by Courtney Meyers and Shelby Simmons. Donna Struntz presented her with her sash. With her parents by her side, she took the Oath of Office administered by MSFA Executive Committee member Ron Bowser. A special vote of thanks was given to the Flintstone Volunteer Fire Department members and the Ladies Auxiliary for hosting the event.

For more information visit www.msfa.org for a full calendar.
Life Member from Gamber Passes

Calvin Brothers, of Finksburg, died Wednesday, December 28, 2011, after an extended illness. He was a life active member of the Gamber and Community Fire Company, where he had been extremely active over 46 years (1965 – 2011) of membership in the company. He was Fire Chief in 1973, 1974, and 1976. He was President a total of 11 years in 5 different decades – 1969, 1970, 1979, 1980, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2003 through 2006. He also served as 1st Vice President for 4 years, 2nd Vice President for 3 years and as a member of the Board of Directors for 4 years. Additionally, Calvin served on many different fire company committees both as chairman and as a member. He served many years with the county association in numerous capacities and he was elected to the Carroll County Volunteer Fireman's Hall of Fame. The Officers and Members of the Gamber & Community Fire Company offer our deepest sympathy to the family in this time of sorrow.

New Committee Highlight: Cancer Support Network

By: Beth Stone, Chairman, Cancer Support Network Committee

A few years ago, while attending the Fire Expo in Baltimore, President Lewis stopped by the Firefighter Cancer Network booth, which is based in California. President Lewis was very impressed with their mission and decided this was something that could benefit the members of MSFA. Last summer President Lewis approached me about his vision and asked if I would be interested in chairing this new committee of the MSFA. Being a cancer survivor, I thought it would be fulfilling to start this committee and facilitate assistance for the EMS, Fire and Rescue personnel of the member companies of the MSFA. Hence, the MSFA Cancer Support Network Committee was born. The committee consists of those currently dealing with cancer, cancer survivors and caregivers. Support is offered to those fighting this disease by matching them with someone who has dealt with the particular type of cancer they are experiencing and by providing a “Resource Kit” with includes items the committee feels the recipient would find useful such as calendar/appointment books, journals, pamphlets, crossword puzzle books, pens, snacks, and informational/resource pamphlets. The committee members can also offer support to caregivers by matching them with other caregivers. Sometimes all it takes is to talk to someone who has experienced similar circumstances, be it family member, friend or committee member. We are currently in the process of developing a Matching Database. If you are interested in being in the database contact us so that we can further discuss the process and answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you know of someone in your or another department who would benefit from the services that can be provided by the MSFA Cancer Support Network Committee.

All interactions of the committee are kept in the strictest confidence. If you wish to contact the Cancer Support Network committee please contact Beth Stone at 443-829-2759 or bstone@msfa.org

Calvin Brothers will surely be missed by all the members of Gamber and Community Fire Company.
In order to support the fire and life safety educational efforts of local fire companies, the MSFA in partnership with the Office of the State Fire Marshal is establishing the Public Fire and Life Safety Education Grant Program. This program is designed to provide assistance to MSFA member companies by providing funding assistance in the form of fire prevention publications and supplies for the development, continuation or enhancement of local public fire and life safety education efforts. It is recognized, effective public and life safety programs are one of the best ways to protect citizens and firefighters from injury and death caused by fire or other traumatic incidents.

Under the Public Fire and Life Safety Education Grant Program, MSFA member companies would be able to receive this funding support for the purchase of printed materials and other approved educational resource materials. Funding support will be awarded on a competitive basis. Purchases made prior to being awarded funding will not be considered as part of the grant process. Purchases of products will be made after monies are provided through the MSFA in June.

The amount of funding available for 2012 is $50,500. The maximum funding support available to each member company’s application request is: $500.00. Only one application per company will be accepted. Applications must be received via e-mail no later than midnight, April 13, 2012. Grant awards will be announced at the MSFA Convention in June 2012 and emails will be sent to email contact lists from applications received.

The Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Spring Seminar will be held on March 31, 2012 at MFRI in College Park. A segment of the program has been scheduled to address the steps necessary to apply for this grant program. Capacity for attendees is the first 100 to sign-up. Go to www.mfri.org and click on ‘Seminars’ to be a part of this important educational activity.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Grants may be requested for fire and life safety prevention education for MSFA member companies.

**TIMELINE**

Applications must be received via e-mail at fpgrants@msfa.org no later than midnight, April 13, 2012.

**GRANT REQUIREMENTS**

A 20% Match is required to facilitate the grant process. (Example: $500 grant requires $100 match from the fire company.) **To take full advantage of the $500.00, please show the amount being spent is a minimum of $600.00.**

An evaluation letter explaining how the grant supported your program is required to complete the process. Please submit the evaluation letter within ninety (90) days of receiving items for your program.

1. The goal is to assist companies with allocation of funds necessary for a successful fire and life safety program.
2. Grant applications will be read, reviewed and voted on by the Public Fire and Life Safety Education Support Program Committee.
3. Only $50,500 is available and it is anticipated to be depleted quickly. Submit applications early for consideration.
4. Checks from MSFA will be written directly to the vendor(s) and member companies will submit their check for the difference with the MSFA check when placing the order. Items will then be delivered to the companies placing the order.
Public Fire and Life Safety Grants Cont’d

Instructions: Submit the completed attached application along with any additional information to be considered for the grant process to fpgrants@msfa.org by midnight April 13, 2012.

A. Principal Contact: (Title and name, email address, phone contact and mailing address).
B. Organization:
C. Amount Requested:
D. What is the total yearly budget for fire and life safety in your organization:

Budget: Submit vendor quotes for all materials including shipping and handling.

You Say You're A Good Driver?
By Jim Jarboe, Member Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee ~ Takoma Park VFD

All drivers in the fire service have made mistakes while driving, whether you are leaving the station, responding to an emergency, routine driving, at the scene of an incident, or returning back to the station. When you look these over and you noticed some that you might have done, and depending how many or which ones they are, it may be time for you to take a refresher class on driving, or maybe it's time for you to give up driving altogether. It should be noted, that some of the statements may not pertain to your type of apparatus, or department driving policies and procedures. When you finish looking them over, I hope you're still feel that you should be a driver! Good luck! We do need good drivers:

* Didn't wait until everyone had their turn out gear on, seated and belted before moving your vehicle.
* Didn't put your seat belt on.
* Forgot to turn on the emergency lights.
* Didn't carry your driver's license.
* Didn't turn on the siren.
* Did not slow down when approaching an intersection, with a red light, green light or no light.
* Lost equipment while responding to an emergency.
* Backed up without someone watching you.
* Left your turn-out gear at the station.
* Drove while eating, drinking or smoking.
* Got lost while responding to an emergency from another location.
* Took the wrong position at a building fire.
* Drove when emotionally upset.
* Drove when taking prescription drugs which might affect your driving.
* Drove on an emergency with a bad attitude.
* Slid past an intersection due to excessive speed.
* Came close to having an accident due to your unsafe driving.
* Drank an alcoholic beverage prior to reporting to work.
* Stayed up all night prior to reporting to work.
* Had a minor vehicle accident and didn't report it.
* Went through “red light” non emergency.
* Went through “stop sign” non emergency.
* Caused a mechanical problem (O.O.S.) of your vehicle.
* Lost control of your vehicle and ran off the road.
* Ran over an object while backing up or going forward.
* Forgot to put unit in park or set the emergency brake before getting out.
* Talking on your cell phone while driving.
* Texting while driving.
* Took pictures at the scene of an accident, while being the driver.
* And finally, when you respond to an emergency call, do you drive according to the road conditions or what you hear on the radio in reference to the emergency.
Eldorodo-Brookview Dedicates New Engine and Receives Governor’s Citation

Story and Photos by: Emmons Horner

On November 19th the Eldorado-Brookview Fire Dept. dedicated their new engine, at an open house event enjoyed by all. The new truck is a 2011 Pierce Saber, powered by a 450 Cummins Engine with an Allison transmission. It has an 8 man cab, and carries 1800 gallons of water with a 30 gallon "Husky3" foam system, utilizing a 1250 GPM Waterous pump. It is equipped with a 5kw Honda Generator and 200 foot cord reel. It also has Hurst extrication equipment, cutters, spreaders, ram and portable pump.

The truck will meet State recommendations for Engine Company and Rescue standards, running as a "rescue engine". It replaces a 1992 Pierce Javelin. Our congratulations to the Company on the addition of this fine piece of equipment to better serve the area.

*Please note the pictures were previously published (December 2011) but the story was not. Also, photo and story credit was not given in the previous edition.*

Leonardtown Volunteers Receive Medals of Valor

By: Shirley Copado, Southern Maryland Regional Correspondent

On January 7, 2012 volunteer firefighters from the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department were awarded medals of valor for their actions in the rescue of 2 Baden Volunteer firefighters during a wildfire on February 19, 2011 in Eagle Harbor (Baden/Aquasco). Water Supply Officer Chris Smith and F/F Sam Wernecke were operating the departments utility truck at the scene of the fire when the crew from Baden VFD requested assistance when their vehicle broke down and the fire took an unexpected turn due to a change in wind direction. Chief Wendy Baden of the Baden Volunteer Fire Department commended the firefighters for their actions and claimed them as their Heroes.
Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, University of Maryland, and Maryland Emergency Services Life Safety Task Force Presents:  
Courage to Work Safe and Live Healthy

Date: Saturday, May 5, 2012  
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Breakfast & Lunch Provided)  
Location: Howard County Public Safety Training Center  
2200 Scott Wheeler Drive  
Marriottsville, Maryland 21104  

Presentation: The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, in partnership with the Maryland Emergency Services Life Safety Task Force, is pleased to offer this training opportunity to acquire information about life style changes, to allow responders to work safely and live healthier. This seminar supports the NFFF Life Safety Initiative #6 by promoting wellness and fitness standards to reduce line of duty injuries and deaths. This is a family oriented training opportunity. It is recognized that diet and fitness programs cannot be successfully implemented without family support. Therefore, we are encouraging emergency responders to bring their spouse/partner to this training event. Separate health and wellness training activities for children will also be available, so we encourage you to bring them too!

Keynote Address: “Diet Myths Debunked” presented by Anna-Lisa Finger, MS, RD, Johns Hopkins Weight Management Center. This talk will cover common diet myths. Most people have not heard these, and following a myth can set you back in your efforts to achieve wellness and a healthy body weight. Come and learn how to diet smart!

Breakout Sessions:  
(1) “Wellness and Fitness in the Fire Service – Past, Present, and Future”, presented by Lt. Charles "Bill" Bussing, Wellness and Fitness Coordinator, Risk Management Office, Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department. The presentation will discuss how the fire service is making wellness/fitness a priority. It will explain “Wellness” to help better understand how comprehensive the subject matter is to firefighters. There will be discussion on resiliency and how to achieve it, as well as what the future holds in terms of exercise and fitness regimens that are functional to the fire service.  
(2) “Fighting Chance: Your Support Network”, presented by Trey Kelso, Regional Director of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network

Vendor Support: This training program is supported by the vendors who have generously contributed funds to provide a continental breakfast and lunch for program participants. Please stop by the vendor display area to see some of the latest responder safety products to help reduce firefighter injuries and deaths.

Registration: Advanced registration is requested via the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute home page, www.mfri.org/seminars. Please register all adult participants via this web site. For families bringing their children, we request that you contact Ms. Teresa Crisman, 240-882-6772, to register their participation. Registration is open to all interested persons but space is limited.
MSFA Recruitment and Retention Survey

On behalf the MSFA Recruitment and Retention Committee, we ask for your assistance by completing and submitting the attached Survey. The outcome will be used to assist emergency services departments statewide. It is our collective quest to strengthen our volunteer ranks with new members while also expanding means to encourage those with years of dedicated service to remain a part of our force and here is a great way to help in doing so.

While almost no one likes to be asked to fill out “yet another form” you will want to know that this one has significant ramifications for all of us as well as those we serve. Completed surveys must be received no later than April 15, 2012. Please take the 10 minutes estimated to complete and return valuable information about your organization.

You’ll be joining with others all across the Old Line State in our attempt to remain strong and vibrant well into the future. Whether you’re located in one of our State’s smallest of communities, an urbanized county or anywhere else in between, this effort needs your support.

The individual questions with an asterisk “*” must be addressed in order to submit the survey electronically. All Committee Members are available to help explain the importance of our collecting, analyzing and then posting aggregate information which is being used for a variety of program development and presentation uses. For those without Internet access, the Committee will accept a hand written, mailed in response.

I will serve as your primary contact for questions. Your department is also welcome of offer further insights on your successes and/or challenges regarding recruitment / retention as well as any unique thoughts that you feel may help others across the State.

Supporting MSFA in this effort is the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services systems (MIEMSS) and the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) and their help is much appreciated. And, we greatly appreciate your help, too! Again, the deadline for receipt of all responses is April 15, 2012.

Please go to the link below to take the MSFA Recruitment & Retention Survey.
http://www.surveymonkey.com/MSFA-RR-Survey

MSFA Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Committee Presents:
Building Leadership for Organizational Success

If a Department has good Leadership – the members will follow.
Learn how to build a Culture where your people will follow you in good times, but especially when the going gets tough. Learn how to keep your people involved and part of the ‘Family’. Learn how to discipline without damaging your people or yourself. This class has proven to be able to help Leaders grow their Organization, change their Culture, and create an Atmosphere of Excellence.

George Zeeks will show you how to build a better culture within your Department, with change results by changing behavior and understanding human behavior styles. This interactive class will leave you with the understanding of how to lead your members, to build your base in your Department.

Hosted by: Odenton Volunteer Fire Company, 1425 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD 21113; Saturday, March 24, 2012; 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. Seating is limited so enroll today at http://www.mfri.org/cgi-bin/seminars.cgi
MSP Polar Bear Plunge—Team MSFA

Story and Photo by Ron Watkins

On January 28, The Maryland Polar Bear Plunge, sponsored by the Maryland State police to benefit the Special Olympics, was held at the Sandy Point State Park in Anne Arundel County on the Chesapeake Bay. Over 12,000 people were registered to “plunge” into the Bay, raising money through pledges to support the many athletes that participate in the Special Olympics games every year. This is the largest “Plunge” held nation-wide, and raises the most money.

This year, the water temperature was around 40 degrees and the air temperature around 46 degrees with mild winds as the plungers gathered to listen to music, eat, play games, and at the scheduled time, rush into the water. Conditions were better than last year, and MUCH better than the year before, when the second wave had to be cancelled due to dangerously cold temps. At the Saturday activity, there was a family plunge at 10:00 AM, and Baby plunge in wading pools at 11:00 AM, and two waves of plungers to go into the water at 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM. All manner of dress could be spotted, from teams in special costumes, to individuals dressed as their favorite Superhero, to those whose swimsuit was barely there!

Several MSFA members were there to participate. Training Committee Chairman Johnie Roth, along with his wife and son, were part of the mass of 1:00 plungers. A team of our fire prevention ambassadors competed in the costume contest as well. Led by Captain MSFA (also known as Deputy Fire Marshal Bruce Bouch), the team consisted of Danni Crane, past Montgomery County Miss Fire Prevention, current MSFA Miss Fire Prevention Jennifer Barciz, Smoke Alarm Sally(also known as Miss Fire Prevention 1st Runner-up Megan Hiltz), and Sparky the Fire Dog. They were able to give a good fire prevention message from the stage during the costume contest. Unfortunately, they were beaten out for the best costumed team by a purple clad group of Ravens fans, but they still made a great showing. Megan was the only one of our FP ambassadors to brave the waters, as all the others had colds!

The massive surge into the Bay is an amazing sight. The whole event was well handled by the MSP and the MD DNR personnel. Several of the fire departments from around the State also assisted with providing vehicles and personnel on hand to render aid to anyone having difficulty. With parking provided at Kent Island High School and the Naval Academy stadium, the large number of people was handled very well. Certainly, we salute those who sacrificed their Saturday and their comfort to help raise funds for this worthy cause.
The Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company, one of the busiest fire and emergency medical services stations in Baltimore County, has dedicated a new state-of-the-art advanced life support $200,000 ambulance (“medic unit”) to provide pre-hospital emergency care to the citizens of, visitors to, and workers in, the Pikesville community. The new unit, known as Medic 325, was officially placed in service on November 14, 2011 but formally dedicated in a ceremony preceding the company’s 115th annual banquet on February 4. The unit, a 2011 Ford F450 4WD / Lifeline, was built at the Lifeline plant in Sumner, Iowa and was sold by dealer Diamond State Ambulance Inc. in Newark, Delaware. It replaces a 2003 Ford E450 Super Duty/Lifeline which served the company for more than 115,000 miles and nearly eight years. Medic 325 annually is one of the busiest medic units (career or volunteer) in Baltimore County, responding on nearly 1,900 calls for medical assistance during 2011 in Pikesville and surrounding communities. PVFC volunteers annually participated in more than 10,000 hours of emergency medical training in order to provide the community with the best pre-hospital care available. Medic 325 was staffed at the Advanced Life Support level more than any volunteer fire ambulance in Baltimore County in 2011. In addition to financial support from individual community members and businesses, two area philanthropic organizations – the Save-A-Heart Foundation, Inc. and Covenant Guild – have since the 1970s generously given financial support to EMS initiatives at PVFC. Covenant Guild has again pledged $50,000 over five years for the new unit, and Howard Snyder, president of the Save-A-Heart Foundation, Inc. in Baltimore, surprised PVFC members during the dedication ceremony with a check for $50,000 toward the new ambulance. “We’ve had a long-standing relationship with Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company that has grown stronger through the years and we are pleased to help support this much-needed new ambulance to provide emergency medical services,” Snyder said. “As the number of calls for emergency assistance continues to grow, so too does our need to keep pace with the specialized fleet of fire and medical vehicles,” said Andrea Lavine, PVFC’s 1st EMS Lieutenant. “This new medic unit will allow us to provide the finest in state-of-the-art emergency medical care when and where it’s needed most. We are extremely appreciative of all who have donated to support this purchase.”

Volunteer fire companies in Baltimore County are responsible for purchasing their own apparatus; a low-interest loan is available from the Baltimore County Volunteer Firemen’s Association from a revolving fund seeded by Baltimore County, but must be repaid by the volunteer company. At one time, the PVFC medic unit routinely responded on as many as 2,500 calls per year until Medic 2, a Baltimore County Fire Department ambulance, was put in service in October 1996. This was one of the last BCoFD career (non-volunteer) fire stations to be assigned a medic unit. However, PVFC’s Medic 325 remains consistently busy, often running to emergencies as far away as Catonsville and Cockeysville when closer units are unavailable due to call volume.
Convention Preview and Renovations to Ocean City Convention Center

By: Dave Lewis, President MSFA

The Maryland State Firemen’s Association will be holding its 120th Annual Conference and Convention from June 16-22, 2012, in Ocean City, MD. Plans are already underway to make the convention a successful event again this year. A preliminary information packet has been mailed to each member company and is available on the MSFA web page (www.msfa.org).

Member companies should be aware of some changes to the Conference and Convention that will be occurring this year. First, the Ocean City Convention Center is in process of a major expansion project that will require some changes to the meeting room layouts. The previous stage area has been removed and replaced by a temporary wall and a temporary stage. When the construction is complete later this year, the temporary wall will be removed, expanding the size of the main ballroom used by MSFA for the convention in 2013. We have included a couple of photos to show some of the work in progress.

Plans are also underway for a change in the parade route to begin at approximately 16th Street and ending at approximately 32nd Street. These changes are necessary to minimize traffic congestion problems in the downtown area. Please stay tuned for additional information as planning efforts are completed. Please take the time to review the preliminary convention packet as there are changes and added benefits being provided to all attendees and member organizations. Your prompt attention to these matters is vital to a successful annual event. Here are some important reminders:

Annual Dues - Annual dues invoices have been sent to every member company and must be paid by April 1, 2012.

Credentials Form - Each member organization is entitled to five (5) delegates and five (5) alternates who may represent your department at the business sessions. This form should be returned even if you do not intend to send delegates to the convention and conference. You may also go online at www.msfa.org and complete this form.

Preliminary Program Agenda - A draft program schedule is included in the convention packet. The final program will be released this spring. Please note location and event changes resulting from convention center construction.

Joint Memorial Service Form - This form must be completed for each deceased member of your department and/or auxiliary who has passed away in 2011. Memorial Service Forms must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2012 for inclusion in the Memorial Service and Commemorative Book.

Awards – Please take the time to review the Awards information in the packet and submit members of your department for the MSFA awards.

Hotel/Motel Information – Several hotels/motels in Ocean City have offered special rates to members attending the MSFA convention. Please support these businesses and be sure to mention MSFA when making your reservations.

This year is sure to be a successful convention with everyone’s support and cooperation. We hope to see many of you down at the ocean !!!
New Committee Spotlight—Wills For Heroes

By: Roger Powell, Chairman, Wills For Heroes

The mission of the Maryland State Firemen's Association is to serve, promote, advocate and represent the interest of the volunteer fire, rescue and emergency medical services of Maryland. Consistent with the responsibility as defined by this statement, President Lewis has inaugurated a new benefit program for our member volunteers of member companies—the wills for heroes program. The wills for heroes program envisions a new benefit; the ability of a qualified member of a member volunteer company to have a will prepared for him/her by the attorneys of the MSFA without charge. The members of the wills for heroes committee and the Executive Committee have been attending county association meetings across the state to hand out wills for heroes packages to provide the information necessary for those who are interested to have a will prepared for them. Additionally, the package is accessible on the MSFA website - www.msfa.org

We urge each and all of you to take a look at this new program and to avail yourselves of the opportunity of having a will prepared for you without charge.

If you are interested in the Wills For Heroes program; please contact Chairman Roger Powell for more information at rpowell@msfa.org and visit the MSFA Website www.msfa.org

MSFA Welcomes Two New Additions to the Family

The MSFA would like to congratulate Kristi Reppe and husband Dan and Amber Leizear and husband Rick on the birth of their children. Kristi gave birth to a baby boy Brody James Reppe, on February 3rd. He weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces and was 20 and 3/4 inches long. Amber gave birth to a baby girl Caroline Paige Leizear on January 26th. She weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 20 inches long. Congratulations to both Kristi and Amber on their new bundles of joy!

Brody James Reppe, born on February 3rd, 2012 to proud parents Kristi and Dan Reppe. Kristi is one of the MSFA’s Assistant Secretaries.

Caroline Paige Leizear, born January 26th, 2012 to proud parents Amber and Rick Leizear. Amber is the Editor of the Volunteer Trumpet.
Smoke Alarm Press Conference in Cumberland

By: Deputy State Fire Marshal Bruce Bouch

On Wednesday, February 1, 2012, local media representatives attended a press conference in response to multiple fatal fires in Allegany County from December 2010 through January this year involving multiple fire related deaths in dwellings without working smoke alarms. The event was held at the Cumberland Public Safety Building with speakers; Deputy Chief State Fire Marshal Jason Mowbray, Cumberland Mayor Brian Grim and Cumberland Fire Chief Donald Dunn.

On December 03, 2010, two college students became trapped in their second floor apartment and succumbed to a fire on Main Street in Frostburg. Both students were found in the hallway of their apartment near the cell phone they used to call 911. On November 2, 2011 a husband and wife were trapped in their second floor bedroom of a Midland duplex and were unable to escape. Firefighters rescued the wife who later died from her injuries at the hospital, and the husband was found deceased near his bed. On December 11, 2011, at an Estelle Street home in Cumberland; a mother, daughter, and a family friend became trapped in the first floor living room where they were sleeping and were overtaken by heat and smoke. Most recently, January 20, 2012, two young sisters became trapped in their second floor bedrooms on Harrison Street in Cumberland and were unable to escape. Firefighters rescued one of the sisters who was later pronounced dead at the hospital and the other sisters body was located in a bedroom. None of these nine victims had the benefit of a working smoke alarm!

Cumberland Fire Chief Donald Dunn stated, “We can’t overemphasize the importance of working smoke detectors, the fire department provided 135 smoke detectors to city residents last year. When the supply was depleted, the State Fire Marshal’s Office stepped up to supply more detectors. Additionally, in 2011, the Cumberland Fire Department responded to 39 structure fires, 16 of those fires had no working smoke detectors and 5 of the 16 were missing batteries. All of the fire-related casualties over this period were in residences that did not have working smoke detectors. There were no casualties in homes with working detectors during this time period. Tragedies like these recent fires remind us how vulnerable we are. We must make people aware of the basic fire safety guidelines and stress the importance of having working smoke detectors. Smoke detectors do save lives.” The Cumberland Fire Department has a smoke alarm installation program in place involving door to door assistance with installing free smoke alarms for those in need. This program was bolstered by Ken McKenzie, President of the Local Firefighters Union #1715, with a presentation of 60 battery operated smoke alarms at the event. The Cumberland Fire Department was also presented with a $500 grant for the purchase of 30 ten year lithium battery smoke alarms through Safe Kids Maryland, in response to the recent fire deaths involving a seven and four year old on January 20th.

Mayor Brian Grim delivered remarks on the value of fire and life safety issues. “Smoke detectors save lives. We have actually had five fatalities in the city of Cumberland in a short period of time and nine across Allegany County and in each of those cases, working smoke detectors were not present. They are being provided free if you call the Cumberland Fire Department, local volunteer fire department or the State Fire Marshal’s Office. If you don’t have smoke alarms, if you are unable to install them or you simply can’t afford them, call the fire department. We would much rather spend five minutes installing a smoke detector in your home, than coming to your home to save your life.”

Deputy Chief State Fire Marshal Jason Mowbray stated, “The Office of the State Fire Marshal has partnered with the Allegany County Health Department, and the Department of Social Services to identify homes which their staff visits that may not have working smoke alarms. These two agencies have an opportunity to visit clients and homes and discuss the need for smoke alarms. Within the past week these agencies have already identified two homes which had no smoke alarms and arrangements have already been made to have them installed. We are also continuing to coordinate smoke alarm installations with the local career and volunteer fire service of the county, as well as, promote fire prevention efforts with the Allegany and Garrett Firemen’s Association.” The Allegany County Commissioners have committed to provide 60 smoke alarms to the Office of the State Fire Marshal to disburse to Allegany County Volunteer Fire Departments requesting them for the communities they serve.

As a direct result of the news conference, the Warrior Run Generating Station owned by AES Corporation has pledged a $10,000 cash donation for the purchase of: Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide Detectors and other necessary fire prevention items for use throughout Allegany County. Additionally, the Town of Lonaconing in Allegany County has made available 100 smoke alarms for the Goodwill Volunteer Fire Department to provide in their community.
Winter Heating Safety from the Fire Marshal

By Bruce D. Bouch, Deputy State Fire Marshal

As the temperatures remain cold outside, we depend on multiple types of heating sources to stay warm inside our homes. State Fire Marshal William E. Barnard provides Marylanders life and home saving heating safety tips.

"Elements of home heating continue to be a significant factor in home fires in Maryland," according to the Fire Marshal. "Following these guidelines, we can work together to reduce the number of residential fires."

- Ensure chimneys are cleaned annually or more frequently if used as the primary heating equipment.
- Use properly sized fireplace screens or enclosures. Never use a flammable liquid to start a fire.
- When disposing of cooled ashes, do not use paper or plastic containers to remove them, instead use a metal container. Ashes will insulate hot embers long after the fire is considered out.
- Make sure fuel burning stoves are installed according to local fire codes and manufacturer’s instructions.
- Have your furnace inspected and serviced annually.
- Check portable electric heaters for frayed/damaged wires and ensure they are clean and placed on a flat level surface. Use only “listed” by an approved testing laboratory equipment and follow manufacturer’s instructions.
- Do not use extension cords with portable space heaters. The extension cord can overheat and cause a fire.
- If you use kerosene fuel fired heaters, use only “K-1” kerosene fuel. Never fill the unit inside, remove it to the exterior after it has cooled before refueling.
- Open a window enough to provide proper ventilation.
- Keep combustibles (furniture, curtains, clothing, paper goods, etc.), at least three feet from all heat sources.
- Fuel burning appliances can produce the deadly, tasteless and odorless gas known as carbon monoxide. Install and maintain CO2 alarms inside your home to provide an early warning of carbon monoxide.
- Always turn off portable heating equipment when leaving the room for extended periods. Portable heaters should never be operated unattended.

Along with these heating tips, check to make sure your smoke alarms are in good working order. “Routine maintenance and safe operation of heating equipment, combined with properly installed and operating smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, are a life-saving combination for all Marylanders,” stated Barnard.