

THE VOLUNTEER TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION OF THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2012

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5



2012 Legislative Session Ends

By: Dave Lewis, President MSFA



Each year, the Maryland General Assembly convenes for a 90 day legislative session to set the state budget for the coming fiscal year and consider bills of legislation that establish the laws for the State of Maryland. During the 90 days of the 2012 legislative session, the Maryland Senate introduced 1101 bills and the House of Delegates introduced 1479 bills. In a quaint little building conveniently nestled at 17 State Circle directly across from the State House, the MSFA Legislative Committee reviews each and every one of these bills to assess any effect on the operation of our member volunteer fire, rescue, and EMS companies. By the end of the session the committee was tracking 51 of these bills and the MSFA was actively supporting 11 of them.

The session ended on April 9, 2012 at midnight without the General Assembly completing approval of the Fiscal Year 2013 budget. While this is likely to be resolved in an upcoming special session, it leaves many funding issues hanging while the budget issues are settled. Despite this dark cloud looming of the legislative session, the Maryland State Firemen's Association enjoyed a very successful year with the following actions completed:

House Bill 366 / Senate Bill 602 – This legislation placed a prohibition on local jurisdictions from amending the Maryland Building Performance Standard that would remove the requirements for automatic residential sprinkler systems. The MSFA considered this legislation to be our highest priority and received considerable support from both the House and Senate for its passage. We especially want to thank Delegate James Malone and Senator Roy Dyson for sponsoring the corresponding legislation. By end of the session, HB-366 passed the House with a vote of 93-43 and the Senate with a vote of 34-10, while SB-602 passed the Senate with a vote of 35-10 and the House with a vote of 99-39.

House Bill 875 / Senate Bill 421 – This legislation controls the sale of specific chemical compounds that may be sold together as a package and when mixed together create an explosive mixture. Under the provisions of the law, these packaged items must now be sold and controlled as explosives requiring a permit to sell, purchase or possess them. This legislative item was a priority for the Maryland State Fire Marshal and the MSFA supported the adoption of these bills.

Senate Bill 365 – This legislation will transition the current Charles W. Riley Tuition Reimbursement program into a scholarship program, available to all career and volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue personnel. The intent of this action is to make the program easier to administrate and more accessible.

Senate Bill 431 / House Bill 1085 – The legislation expands the definition of “on duty” for fire police personnel to include duties they may perform in support of law enforcement agencies. This change is necessary to cover fire police personnel under workers compensation regulations.

(Cont'd on Pg. 3)

MSFA Officers
2011-2012

President

David W. Lewis
Odenton VFC – Anne
Arundel
533 Oakton Rd.
Odenton, MD 21113
Home: 410-674-3940
Cell: 240-882-3718
dlewis@msfa.org

First Vice President

John Denver
Singerly Steam – Cecil
458 Bow St.
Elkton, MD 21921
Home: 410-698-5356
Cell: 443-945-3316
jdenver@msfa.org

Second Vice President

Jackie Olson
Ferndale VFC – Anne
Arundel
424 Greenland Beach Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21226
Home: 410-255-7745
Cell: 443-871-0409
Fdoiso45@aaccounty.org

Secretary

Joseph A. Cooper
Bay District VFD – St.
Mary's
22873 Dement La.
California, MD 20619
Home: 301-863-5363
Cell: 240-925-9583
bdvfd@verizon.net

Treasurer

Ron Siarnicki
United Communities –
Queen Anne's
216 Queen Anne Club Dr.
Stevensville, MD 21666
Home: 443-249-0455
Cell: 301-467-5780
rsiarnicki@aol.com

Financial Secretary

George A. "Fred Cross",
Jr.
Chestnut Ridge—
Baltimore
PO Box 4764
Lutherville, MD 21094
Home: 410-252-3721
Cell: 410-984-5366
msfa500@aol.com

Chief Chaplain

Rev. John F. Long Jr.
Ferndale VFC – Anne
Arundel
343 Coolbreeze Ct.
Pasadena, MD 21122
Home: 410-437-6756
Cell: 443-623-0753
jflongjr@yahoo.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Volunteer Trumpet! Before long, we'll be gathered in Ocean City for another Conference and Convention. I certainly want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the support that you have given me this past year. It has been a great year so far and I am proud that together, we have gotten quite a bit accomplished.

The next meeting of the MSFA Executive Committee will be held on April 21, 2012 at the Midland Fire Company in Allegany County. This will be a rare one day Executive Committee as I believe that the business at hand can be accomplished in a single day. I look forward to returning to the mountains for this meeting. When I began planning our Executive Committee meetings for this year, I wanted to preserve a bit of tradition: go to the ocean in the fall and the mountains in the spring. I hope that many of you will join us for this meeting and as always, invite each of you to visit with us and learn about the activities of your state association.

Just earlier this week, the Maryland General Assembly legislative session concluded its business. Of course, I am sure that you have heard about the conclusion of the session without finalizing the business of setting the FY-2013 budget. Hopefully, after some cooling off period, the Governor and leaders of the legislature will get back together and agree to a special session to finalize the budget. Otherwise, a doomsday scenario kicks in and the cuts to a number of important state-funded programs will go

into effect.

Despite the black cloud that looms over the legislative session, the emergency services had a very successful year. At the top of the MSFA agenda was to advance our ongoing goals for automatic residential sprinkler systems across the state. This started as a vision of Past President Lee Sachs seven years ago with the establishment of the MSFA Residential Sprinkler Committee and I am proud that we were able to take his vision to the next level with legislative action this year. With the support of Delegate James Malone and Senator Roy Dyson, we were able to present legislation to make the requirements for sprinklers mandatory within the Maryland Building Performance Standard with no option for counties or local jurisdictions to remove them. This legislative action did not come without a battle. We had some strong opposition from a few counties who argued about the cost of sprinkler systems and about state vs. local government controls. Fortunately, the fire service banded together and thanks to your phone calls, personal contacts, and emails, we received sufficient support to get our legislation passed through both the House and Senate. One final step is to get the signature of the Governor and we anticipate that he will sign the bill in early May. Several other bills of interest were supported by the Maryland emergency services and passed by the General Assem-

bly. See the article in this newsletter that highlights our accomplishments. And thanks to each and every one of you who helped make this legislative session a success.

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 lived up to your expectations. In the few short months that remain, I am hopeful that we can continue our progress together in support of the goals of this association. I also ask that any of you that want to see our association move forward, offer your help to Vice President John Denver as he is building his committee structure for the coming year. Forms to indicate your interest in the many committees of the MSFA are available on our web site. Please be a team player and not a sideline spectator. Your association can only move forward with everyone's assistance.

David W. Lewis, President
Maryland State Firemen's
Association



2012 Legislative Session Ends (Cont'd)

House Bill 1101 – This legislation expands the list of cancers that may qualify under the presumption clauses for a work related illness under the workers compensation program. This legislation was initiated by the Professional Firefighters of Maryland and supported by the MSFA.

House Bill 1423 / Senate Bill 1087 – This legislation would have altered the distribution of Senator Amoss (508) funding and require that counties distribute a minimum of 51% of the funds directly to the volunteer fire companies in their county. This legislation was initiated in response to several counties withholding funds from the volunteer fire companies in direct conflict with the intent of the Senator Amoss (508) grant program. Although MSFA supported this legislation, both HB1423 and SB1087 were held up in the House Government Operations Committee and did not reach the House floor for a vote.

In addition to the above legislative actions, the MSFA continues to track the budget actions which are now dependent upon a special legislative session. While the budget is not yet final, the funding allocated for MSFA operations and to the MSFA Trustees for the Disability and Death Benefit Fund appears to remain intact through the proposed budget. The Volunteer Company Assistance Fund will also continue to receive funding support from the moving violations supplemental fine program. The Senator Amoss (508) fund remains fully funded and depending the outcome of the final budget allocation, is proposed to receive a \$2m increase if the provisions of the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) are adopted.

The MSFA Legislative Committee works very hard during the legislative session on behalf of the volunteer fire, rescue, and EMS services. A special thanks go to Chairman Danny Davis, Vice-Chairman Richard Yinger, MSFA-LA representative Rose Davis, and the ladies from the MSFA-LA who staff the office during the legislative session. Danny and Richard have decided after more than 10 years of staffing the office that it is time for a break and have asked to not be reappointed next year. These will be tough shoes to fill and we are asking our membership for help. Any member who is interested in helping staff the MSFA legislative office next year is encouraged to contact First Vice President John Denver and make your interest known.





Upcoming Events:

April 21:

Executive Committee Meeting
Midland VFD

April 22 :

Safety Committee
Midland VFD
1pm-3pm

April 29:

SMVFA Parade
Cobb Island VFD
1pm-4pm

May 5:

Courage to Work Safe and Live Healthy
Howard County PSTA
8am-4pm

May 6:

MSFA Rural Water Supply Drill
Jarrettsville VFD
8am-1pm

May 11:

After Hours Bingo
Ferndale VFD
5:30pm-12am

May 12:

MD Fire Rescue Services Poker Run
Old Glory Harley Davidson
Laurel, MD
10am

May 19:

Cash Bash
Goodwill VFC
12pm-6pm

May 20:

Big Country Breakfast
Mt. Airy
7:30am-11am

May 20:

Breakfast Buffet
Goodwill VFC
7:30am-11am

For more information visit www.msfa.org for a full calendar.

Sandy Spring VFD Places Two ATVs In Service

Photo and Story by Johnie Roth, Sandy Spring VFD

The Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department in Montgomery County, Maryland has placed in service two new ATV Units. ATV 740A is a 2010 Kawasaki Mule, 4 wheel drive vehicle that has been fitted to carry a full ambulance stretcher with an entire compliment of EMS supplies. This unit will be utilized for areas in woods, horseshows, and even the jogging trails along the Inter-County Connector that goes from Route 95 to Route 270 to retrieve patients where a regular ambulance or medic unit is not small enough to maneuver. ATV 740B is a 2011 Kawasaki Mule, 4 wheel drive vehicle that has been fitted with a 115 gallon water tank with self priming agriculture pump powered by a 5 hp Honda motor. The unit also has a 3000 lb front mounted winch. This unit will be utilized with Sandy Spring VFD's brush truck, but will be able to get into areas that a larger brush unit may not be able to access.





Considering New Apparatus? VCAF Has Money to Lend

By: Dave Lewis, President MSFA

Each year, many companies across the state consider the purchase of new apparatus or major renovations to their station facilities. One of the first questions that is asked is "Where can we get the money?" The Volunteer Company Assistance Fund (VCAF) may be just the answer that you are looking for.

The Volunteer Company Assistance Fund (VCAF) was established to provide grants and loans to volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance companies for the purchase, replacement, or improvement of firefighting and rescue equipment or facilities. The fund has gone through several transitions, formerly known as the Emergency Assistance Trust Fund (EATF) and has assisted many departments throughout the state in addressing their financing needs for major purchases of apparatus and equipment.

Apparatus loans are available for up to 75% of the purchase cost of new apparatus. Term limits between 5 and 15 years are available depending on the type of apparatus. Currently, the VCAF loan fund has over \$8 million available for loan at the current rate of 2%. Some grant opportunities are available within the VCAF program; however, these are limited and approved on a case by case basis.

The MSFA Volunteer Company Assistance Fund board consists of twelve regional representatives assigned to each area of the state. Each member of the VCAF Board is well versed in the requirements for application and is prepared to assist any member company who is considering applying for a loan.

The key to success in applying for VCAF funding is providing a complete application package and loan closing package. Because this is a state funding program, application procedures are a bit more cumbersome than a traditional bank loan. But considering the savings in interest over the term of the loan, the gain should certainly be considered worth the pain. Your VCAF regional representative will work with you to make this process go as smoothly as possible.



Member companies who are considering the purchase of new apparatus should consider the use of VCAF to reduce your interest liability. Please contact your regional representative for additional information and application requirements.

GET YOUR 411 from these IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA)
www.msfa.org

MSFA Foundation
msfafoundation.org

Maryland Fire Rescue Memorial Foundation
mdfirerescuehero.org

Maryland Fire Chiefs Association
www.mdchiefs.org

Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute (MFRI)
www.mfri.org

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS)
www.miemss.org

University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center
www.umm.edu/shocktrauma

Maryland State Police Aviation Command
mspaviation.org

Maryland State Fire Marshal
www.firemarshal.state.md.us

Maryland Emergency Management Agency
www.mema.state.md.us

Department of Natural Resources/Forestry
www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests



Water Witch VFC Ladies Inducted into Hall of Fame

By: Eileen Edelin, North East Correspondent

Harford Cecil Firemen's Association Ladies Auxiliary Hall of Fame inducted four outstanding members of the Water Witch Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary with over 198 years of service. Assisted by their Ladies Auxiliary President, Stephanie Gibson, in the presentation each lady received a silk red rose and their Hall of

Fame pin. In addition to their roses and pins, Eileen Edelin presented them with a Maryland Senate Proclamation and a Maryland House Resolution.

Marie Bannon

In 1963 at 30 yrs. of age, this lady joined the Water Witch Ladies Auxiliary. She remained active volunteering for next 48 yrs. serving in this community in many capacities.

She is an exceptional leader performing many duties and highly respected. Whenever a meal was to be prepared, she was always the person with the most know how. She not only cooked the meal, she planned it, placed the purchase order for food, and served it. She was the head cook at the carnivals, picnics and the Christmas parties.

At times she even did the 10-17's single handedly. Serving as the 10-17 chairperson for over 15 yrs. dedicated to making sure



Marie Bannon accepts her rose and pin for the Harford Cecil Ladies Hall of Fame.

the firefighters were provided food and beverages after responding to an alarm, cooking for many breakfasts, election lunches and annual events hosted in the town of Port Deposit.

Carlene Poist

Since 1960 this lady has devoted her life to the volunteer service & given so much to the Ladies Auxiliary. She served



Carlene Poist accepts her rose and pin for the Harford Cecil Ladies Hall of Fame.

as an officer in the Water Witch Ladies Auxiliary, a true leader. She served as the auxiliary president for 7 yrs. beginning in 1983 thru 1990, she

didn't serve in 1987. Under her leadership as president she organized the Ladies Auxiliary 50th Golden Anniversary celebration starting with their April banquet, giving recognition to officers and life members who dedicated their time to help the fire co. prosper. She also was elected and served as their Treasurer for many years, ensuring

the books were audited properly & always accounting for every penny spent.

As a dedicated volunteer she showed tremendous initiative. Throughout the years, she served on many committees to include the Basket bingo which was a big fundraiser event. She chaired the Knives Committee for many years and was an avid supporter of the Miss Cecil County Fire Prevention Contest and attended the annual contest in the county.

She sold 50-50 raffles tickets, served hundreds of dinners and was always serving a meal at the 10-17's. She was very skilled in crafts and sewing. She was active in the Banquet's decorating committee for many years, always ensuring that

they had nice party favors, she'd purchase the materials and all the table decorations. A talented lady with beautiful sewing skills, she handmade the drapes for House #1.



Water Witch Ladies (Cont'd)

Maggie Jackson

Since 1967 this lady has always been there to help with any function! She keeps very busy working our fundraisers, basket bingos and baking for the many fundraisers held throughout the year. Selling 50-50 raffle tickets and serving dinners. No matter what event is scheduled she is always here working them. She serves as the Chairperson of the Knives Committee for several years!

This is her 45th year as an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary. She continued in her service to the auxiliary and received many certificates acknowledging her accomplishments in her volunteer work. This special lady was honored with the President's award in 2001.

She presently holds the Ladies Auxiliary office of "Color Bearer", leading the membership in the pledge of allegiance. She represents the membership at the regular Harford Cecil Firemen's Association meetings too.

Involved in her community she is a member in other organizations outside the Ladies Auxiliary.

She serves on the Port Heritage Corp., Friends of St. Teresa, American Legion Post 135, the "Relay for Life Team" and



Maggie Jackson accepts her rose and pin from the Harford Cecil Ladies Hall of Fame.

Helen Teresa Bittner

She joined the Water Witch Ladies Auxiliary in 1960 and has held the offices of Color Bearer and Chaplain.

She held the position of "Knives Chairperson" for over 20 years. She organized the sales of knives



JoAnne Bierly accepts the rose and pin from the Harford Cecil Ladies Hall of Fame on behalf of Helen Teresa Bittner, her aunt.

and was instrumental in raising hundreds of dollars to support the Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary with their many en-

deavors.

In 2008 she was presented with the prestigious "Merit of Honor" Award from the Diocese of Wilmington. She is a member of Good Shepherd Parish. She is a Board member Emeritus of the Port Deposit Heritage Corp. and the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW Post 8185, the "Relay for Life Team" and "Bethany's Buddies" and she was nominated for "Most Beautiful Volunteer in Cecil Co."

As a 52 year life member of Water Witch Ladies Auxiliary, she was always very active. This special lady volunteered to work the many fundraisers held by her fire company; the annual carnivals, serving dinners, baking delicious goodies for the many fundraisers held throughout the year, working the breakfasts and selling 50-50 raffle tickets.

Amazingly she rarely missed an auxiliary meeting in all her years of service. Although she is unable to attend meetings due to residing in

an assisted living home, she still continues to donate to the auxiliary and keeps in close contact with her many friends.

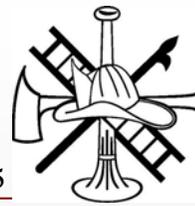


Bethesda—Chevy Chase Rescue Puts New Squad In Service

Story and Photos by: Johnie Roth

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad in Montgomery County, Maryland has taken delivery of a 2011 Spartan/PL Custom Heavy Rescue Squad. The unit has state-of-the-art technology and will respond on house fires, automobile accidents, and any incident where the use of heavy extrication tools and search and rescue equipment is needed. Rescue Squad 741's chassis is a 2011 Spartan Gladiator tandem rear axle with LFD cab and 20" raised roof. It is powered by a Cummins ISXX 15 Liter, 550 HP motor and Allison 4000 EVS transmission. A 12,000 lb front winch, 20,000 lb. Hydraulic rear-mounted winch, with side receivers for a 5,000 lb. electric winch will provide flexibility when designing a cable rescue system. The rescue body features ten exterior body compartments with an extensive tool and equipment inventory. The hydraulic rescue tool system utilizes the Amkus "Ultimate" pump system with pre-connected reel deployment to both sides of the rescue body. The unit was purchased from donations from its community that it serves. The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad receives no direct federal, state, or tax funds in support of its operations.





**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 fire fighters. 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.





Fire Prevention Committee Honors Chairman Bobby

By: David Lewis, MSFA President

On March 18, 2012, the MSFA Fire Prevention Committee held its final meeting of the 2011-12 year at Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 of Chesapeake City. The committee took time at the end of its scheduled agenda to recognize its Chairman Robert E. “Bobby” Collins for his faithful and dedicated service to the committee since 1986.

Robert E. “Bobby” Collins was first appointed to the MSFA Fire Prevention Committee in 1986 by President Clarence Carpenter. Bobby has served continuously on the committee since that initial appointment and has served as the Chairman since 1997 when appointed to that position by President Danny Carpenter. Earlier this year, Bobby had expressed his desire to step down as Chairman at the conclusion of the current year.

MSFA President David Lewis and LAMSFA President Teresa Crisman presented Bobby with a certification of recognition on behalf of the members of the Fire Prevention Committee at the conclusion of the March meeting. The Fire Prevention Committee is thankful to Bobby for his leadership on life safety and fire

prevention initiatives for over twenty-five years. We are sure that this will be one tough pair of shoes to be filled when the new committee appointments are made this coming June. Thank you Bobby !!!



Presidents Dave Lewis and Teresa Ann Crisman present Fire Prevention and Life Safety Chairman Bobby Collins for 15 years of dedicated service as Chairman.

Congratulations to Past President Danny Davis—New Grandfather



Congratulations to Past President Danny Davis and Rose Davis on becoming first time grandparents. Joseph “Jack” Daniel Flaherty was born on March 22, 2012. Danny and Rose look forward to the end of the 2012 legislative session so that they can spend time spoiling their new grandchild.



Harford Cecil Firemen's Association 13th Annual Memorial Service

Story and Photo by Eileen Edelin

The Harford Cecil Firemen's Association 13th annual Memorial Service was hosted by the William M. Singerly Fire Engine and Hook & Ladder Company #1 of Cecil County on March 31, 2012. This service was a beautiful tribute to all the deceased members of the Fire, EMS and Ladies Auxiliary for the year 2011. Family members of the deceased traveled from all areas of the United States to attend. Representatives of all the Fire, EMS and Auxiliary were present in their Class A uniforms from both Harford and Cecil Counties.

Three hundred and twenty individuals gathered together to memorialize forty one deceased members. M.C. Mr. Daniel "Skip" Mahan welcomed everyone. A delicious dinner was enjoyed by all. At the start of the Memorial Service, the Bag piper led the processional along with Rev. John Solomon and Eileen Edelin. The Rose Carriers followed, walking to their designated seating area.



A handmade wood cross sits on the altar behind the Trumpet where the roses are put in memory of loved ones

The Harford County Fire & EMS Association Honor Guard and the Chesapeake City Fire Company Honor Guard presented the Colors, Pledge of Allegiance and Posting of the Colors. Rev. Solomon gave the invocation. The Memorial Address was presented by HCFA President Joseph Price. President Price and Past President Amos performed the "lighting of candles" as the vocalist sang "Precious Lord Take my Hand". This candle lighting ceremony is symbolic of both counties united in their volunteer service.

Under the leadership of Commander Ben Kurtz the "Honor Guard Watch" was posted and Commander Ben Kurtz proceeded with the unveiling of the Maltese Cross that was draped in black satin. The "Ceremony of Roses" followed as the vocalist sang "Be Not Afraid". Each family representative was escorted by the Honor Guard in their walk to the Firemen's Trumpet, placing one long stem silk rose in the trumpet in memory of their loved one. Mr. Gene Worthington presented a beautiful slide show program with the photos of all our deceased members and the companies in which they held membership. Mr. Hoby Howell rang the bell after each named was announced. Mr. Walter Kerr presented each family representative with a Memorial Marker and Mrs. Anna Jonske presented a keepsake red silk rose. After the Ceremony of Roses, the "Honor Guard Watch" was relieved, followed by the Bag-piper playing Amazing Grace. Eileen Edelin gave a reading for the song by a group named Plainsfolk, their version of "The Firemen's Prayer" was played. Taps, then the benediction followed by the Honor Guard Retiring the Colors.



Mr. Gene Worthington and Mr. Walter Kerr in their Class A uniforms for the Memorial Service.

A sincere thanks to Singerly Fire Co. members and their Ladies Auxiliary for being gracious hosts. A special thanks to Sue Hornbarger of Perryville Fire Company, she is the author of the Memorial poem "Heaven is Now My Home". A big thanks to all the committee members.

The Memorial Service can be viewed at <http://hcn.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=b07077d657103f2c38313d76223567f4>



Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps Installs New Officers

Photos and Story By: Eileen Edelin

The Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps Annual Awards Banquet and Installation of Officers was held on March 17, 2012 at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace. Luanne Schweers was inducted into the Harford-Cecil Firemen's Association "Hall of Fame"



Harford Cecil Members are pictured with new inductee Luanne Schweers. L to R Lou Jonske, Anna Jonske, Robyn Hahn, Luanne Schweers, Buddy Schweers, Eileen Edelin, Ben Kurtz, and John Denver



Inductee Luanne Schweers pictured with her husband Buddy Schweers.

Singerly Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary Installs New Officers

Photos and Story By: Eileen Edelin

The Singerly Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary installation of officers was held on March 27, 2012. The Installing officer was LAMSFA Past President Nora Ryan. The new officers are as follows: President, Nancy Caldwell; Vice President, Virginia Cullum; Recording Secretary, Eileen Edelin; Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Clugston; Membership Secretary, Wanda Marquess; Treasurer, Betty Evans; Assistant Treasurer, Violet Mullins; and Chaplin, Janice Rothwell.



Singerly Ladies 2012 Officers L to R— Janice Rothwell, Wanda Marquess, Betty Evans, Violet Mullins, Nancy Clugston, Eileen Edelin, Virginia Cullum, and Nancy Caldwell.



*The Maryland Fire-Rescue Services
Memorial Foundation*

Cordially invites you to join us for the

Annual Memorial Service

*Remembering those who have given their
Lives in the line-of-duty*

Sunday, June 3, 2012

2:00 P.M.

101 Calvert Street

Annapolis Maryland 21401



Recruitment and Retention Committee Seminar

By: Joe Chornock



The Recruitment & Retention Committee members, Bill Wagner, Julie Casey and Chairman Joe Chornock present George Zeeks, the Instructor with a MSFA Goodie Bag after a wonderful Leadership Seminar on March 24, 2012. The seminar was attended by 40 fire department leaders and was held at MFRI.



The MSFA Trustees Are Available to Assist You!

By: Trustee Doug Alexander

The MSFA Trustees are five persons elected from the member companies of the MSFA, who are there to administer the Line of Duty injury benefits to member company personnel that are injured, or line of duty death benefits to the surviving family of member company personnel that die in the line of duty. The members of the Trustees are elected for a five year term, thus one Trustee is elected each year at the annual convention. The funds for the Trustee Benefits come from the State of Maryland budget each year and are earmarked for the specific purpose of assisting fire service personnel injured in the line of duty, or assisting the families of personnel killed in the line of duty. The definition of "line of duty" injury or death is defined in the MSFA Constitution and By-laws and each application for assistance must adhere to this definition.

The MSFA Trustees meet at each Executive Committee meeting and review any applications that have been submitted for benefits. Often, the applications are reviewed and approved through e-mail contact by the Trustees so benefits can be issued quickly rather than waiting for the Executive Committee meeting. The forms are checked for complete and accurate information. The content is checked for applicability and qualification. Benefits for line of duty injuries can be short term or long term. Death benefits are not only for surviving spouses, but children as well. There is also a benefit for the education of surviving children. All of these types of applications must be considered and approved for each case.

Currently, Steve Hales from Ocean City is the Chairman of the MSFA Trustees. The Vice Chairman is Dan Carpenter from Potomac Heights, Gene Worthington from Level is the Secretary/Treasurer, and Terry Thompson from Savage and Doug Alexander from Mount Airy fill out the Board of Trustees. The forms for application for benefits are carried on the MSFA website in the Document Library under Board of Trustees. The Trustees are available to assist a member company to apply for benefits at any time. If anyone should have a question on whether someone is eligible for benefits from the Trustees, or needs assistance with an application, please contact one of the Trustees for assistance.



MSFA Volunteer Leadership Summit

By: Dave Lewis, MSFA President

On February 28, 2012, MSFA President David Lewis hosted a Volunteer Leadership Summit at the Odenton Volunteer Fire Company. The purpose of the summit was to bring together the leadership of the volunteer fire, rescue, and EMS organizations from across the state to openly discuss the challenges and issues that are creating a negative impact on the progress of the volunteer emergency services. There were 85 participants in the summit, coming from as far as Garrett and Worcester Counties and everywhere in between.

Steve Carter, Academic Director of Emergency Management, Fire Service Administration, and Homeland Security at University of Maryland University College, served as the facilitator for the summit. The summit began with an introduction by President Lewis on the goals and objectives for the summit. An open discussion was then facilitated by Steve Carter to develop a list of issues and concerns that individual departments were experiencing in their respective areas. Once everyone was given an opportunity to list their local concerns, the list was organized into five common theme areas of focus:



1. Survival of the volunteer services system – included the issues most effecting the future of the volunteer emergency services created by external influences (i.e. funding allocations, political influences, the right to volunteer, command/control issues, the right to volunteer, and gaining a seat at the decision making table)
 2. Building an image/culture for the volunteer emergency services – included issues created by internal conflict (i.e. generation issues, EMS vs. Fire, recruitment challenges)
 3. Marketing – developing a marketing plan to demonstrate the value of the volunteer services system and its cost savings to the public
 4. Resources – issues effecting the appropriate balance of resources to sustain a viable volunteer system (i.e. financial, recruitment and retention, diversity)
- Training – acquiring the appropriate balance of training between what we need to know to do the job and reducing the overload from mandated training requirement artificially produced to limit volunteer participation

President Lewis also conducted a *windshield survey* of the state by allowing each county to address challenges in their local area to the growth of the volunteer system. This survey provided an eye-opening revelation that many of the same issues are experienced in multiple areas. It was agreed that the time has come that we need to unite together and speak as one united voice to identify strategies to overcome these challenges.



As a follow-up activity, President Lewis asked for volunteers to serve on a Volunteer Leadership task force to address the challenges identified above and develop strategic initiatives to be implemented in response to the challenges. Justin Towles, Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company, agreed to lead the task force and a cross section of the state representatives agreed to work on this activity. A follow-up summit meeting will be scheduled in late April after the task force has had the opportunity to address each of the challenges and develop strategic initiatives for each

County Association Meetings
(Dates and Locations Subject to Change)

April

- 1 Allegany-Garrett – Oldtown
- 2 Carroll – County office building
- 2 Dorchester – Secretary
- 5 St. Mary's EMS – PSB
- 9 Charles EMS – Bel Alton
- 9 Calvert – Solomons
- 11 Prince George's – Baden
- 11 Somerset – Lower Somerset Amb.
- 11 Talbot – Oxford
- 11 Worcester – Stockton
- 13 Anne Arundel – Earleigh Hgts.
- 13 Kent-Queen Anne's – QA Hillsboro
- 15 Maryland Fire Chiefs - Funkstown
- 16 Cecil – North East
- 17 Wicomico – Delmar
- 19 Baltimore – Owings Mills
- 19 Montgomery – Upper Montgomery
- 19 St. Mary's Fire – PSB
- 19 Washington – South Hagerstown
- 25 Harford – Norrisville
- 28-29 Southern Maryland VFA Convention –
Cobb Island

May

- 3 St. Mary's A&R – PSB
- 4 Anne Arundel – West Annapolis
- 6 Allegany-Garrett – Friendsville
- 9 Prince George's – Ritchie
- 9 Somerset – Ewell, Smith Island
- 9 Worcester – Newark
- 9 Caroline – Greensboro
- 11 Harford-Cecil – Aberdeen
- 11 Kent-Queen Anne's – Rock Hall
- 14 Calvert – Prince Frederick Rescue
- 14 Charles Fire – Potomac Heights
- 15 Wicomico – Salisbury #16
- 16 Howard – West Friendship
- 17 St. Mary's Fire – PSB
- 17 Baltimore – Pikesville
- 17 Montgomery – Wheaton Rescue
- 17 Frederick – Graceham
- 17 Washington – Mt. Aetna
- 19 Carroll – (Convention)
- 20 Eastern Shore - Preston
- 21 Cecil – North East
- 23 Harford – Aberdeen
- 30 Garrett -

8th Annual

Night To Celebrate

A gala event to honor our fallen Firefighters and Rescue Personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Saturday, September 29, 2012
6pm - 10pm

Dinner and Dancing
Silent Auction

Minker Banquet Hall
920 Principio Furnace Road
Perryville, MD 21903

We have reserved a block of rooms at the:

Ramada Inn
61 Heather Lane
Perryville, MD 21903
410-679-2997 or 410-671-6459 fax
(cut-off date: Aug 29, 2012)

\$100 per Couple
Ticket Sales & Sponsor Information
301-290-1590(Joyce) or 301-855-9336(Betty)

If you have anything you would like to submit for publication please do so to the editor at Amber Leizear, Editor
Volunteer Trumpet
trumpet@msfa.org