MSFA Executive Committee Meets in Elkton

Elkton, MD—Aug. 25-26, 2012 — The Presidents gave a report of their activities and their travels. They have attended many events since Convention. President Denver has met with many of the partner agencies, and it’s been a busy, but productive time. He congratulated several award winners: in June, the MSFA Residential Sprinkler Committee was honored with the 2012 Community Safety Award by the Partnership for a Safer Maryland. State Fire Marshal Bill Barnard received the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition and NFPA Home Fire Sprinkler Initiative ‘Bringing Safety Home’ Award. Secretary Ron Siarnicki received the Everett E. Hudiberg Award for his outstanding contributions to the training of our nation’s firefighters. Congratulations are also extended to Chief Jim Seavey for his election to the VCOS Board of Directors.

A meeting was held with Dr. Bass. Among the discussions were the EMT course, the Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program and ambulance safety. Also discussed was the EMSOF situation and the need to address it during the upcoming legislative session.

President Denver noted a three year planning retreat was held in July. There were three areas of focus for the retreat. Those areas were Recruitment & Retention, Marketing and Communications. Thirty participants were invited which included Committee chairs and/or vice chairs from relevant committees; some Past Presidents; some Executive Committee members; some previous committee members and some younger members. He felt it was a good mix of experience and new ideas, but also included committee leadership so that there would be committee involvement and buy in. A lot of work was accomplished over the day and a half, and the participants are to be congratulated.

Continues on Page 4

Hollywood Rescue Purchases Ambulance

By Barbara Wible

Members of the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad are proud to announce they have placed an order for a 2013 Wheeled Coach Ambulance on a Freightliner chassis. The ambulance is expected to be delivered in Dec. 2012. The new ambulance will be designated Ambulance 799; it replaces the current 799, a 1988 Life Star Rescue box on a 2003 Ford E-450 cab and chassis. The squad was able to obtain a low interest loan through St. Mary’s County Government utilizing the Emergency Services Revolving Loan Fund. The Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad would like to thank County Commissioner Dan Morris for his assistance in securing the loan.

By Ron Watkins

On Saturday, September 15, the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association (MCVFRA) held their annual Miss Fire Prevention contest at the Public Service Training Academy in Rockville. Titles to be decided were MCVFRA Miss Fire Prevention, Junior Miss Fire Prevention, Little Miss Fire Prevention, and Little Fire Chief.

The event was emceed by Rob King, from the Germantown VFD. Judges were Megan Hiltz, Mary Beth Henkel, and Amanda German. The contestants for Miss Fire Prevention and Junior Miss Fire Prevention were asked in their on-stage appearance what they wanted to do to promote fire prevention in Montgomery County, as well as a “fishbowl” question about fire prevention items. The Little Miss and Little Chief contestants were asked what fire prevention meant to them.

The results of the contest were as follows: Miss Fire Prevention for 2012 – 2013 is Danni Crane, from the Kensington VFD. Runner-up Miss Fire Prevention is Jessie Mulins, also from Kensington.

The Junior Miss Fire Prevention is Emily Moyers from Germantown VFD, and Toni Pilpel from Rockville serving as the Runner-up Miss Fire Prevention. Little Miss Fire Prevention for 2012 – 2013 is Abbey Younkins from Germantown. The Little Fire Chief title was won by Bryan Pilpel from Rockville, with Dustin Wilkins from Cabin John Park being selected as the Assistant Little Chief.

Outgoing Miss Fire Prevention Solveigh Petersen (current MSFA Miss Fire Prevention 1st Runner-up) and Junior Miss Fire Prevention Cary McHenry gave their outgoing comments to the audience while the judges deliberated for the results.

MCVFRA Fire Prevention Ambassadors for 2012 – 2013:

Front row, l. to r. – Little Fire Chief Bryan Pilpel, Little Asst. Chief Dustin Wilkins, Little Miss Fire Prevention Abbey Younkins

Back row, l. to r. – Junior Miss Fire Prevention 1st Runner-up Toni Pilpel, Miss Fire Prevention Danni Crane, Junior Miss Fire Prevention Emily Moyers, Miss Fire Prevention 1st Runner-up Jessie Mullins
I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve as president of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association (MSFA) for the current term and I thank each of you for your support. I am fortunate to have assistance from a strong leadership team along with the exceptional knowledge and help of the past presidents as we leverage this combination of experience, qualifications, and commitments to focus on the opportunities and challenges while serving the citizens of the State in the second decades of the 21st century.

As our leadership team moves ahead with MSFA’s plans for 2012-13, I would also like to welcome you to this issue of the Association newsletter, The Volunteer Trumpet. Please take your time to explore and enjoy the return of the print edition and let me know if you have ideas for improving the serial.

As the MSFA and its officers and committees work to promote the interest of volunteer fire, rescue and EMS companies, we will concentrate on providing news, information and features that are current and relevant for the member organization. Our articles will cover a vast range of content affecting volunteers and the public from fire prevention and safety to training to information of an archival nature to current events.

Thanks again for supporting the organization and its leadership team. Please let us know how our newsletter can better serve the association and what we can do to improve the product.

John Denver
President,
Maryland State
Firemen’s Association

President Denver’s Message

Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Dept. Places Engine 22 In Service

The Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department is pleased to announce that it has placed in service a 2012 Seagrave Marauder II Pumper. The pumper features a 6 man-cab, a Cummins 500-HP motor, an Allison 4000 EVS transmission, a Hale 1750 gpm pump, a 10 KW Harrison Generator, and a 750 gallon tank. This united is designated as Engine 22.

MSFA Officers Cont.

Financial Secretary
Mitch Vocke
Jarrettsville VFC—Harford
PO Box 401
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
H 410-692-86914
C 410-808-1693
wmvocke@harfordpublicsafety.org

Chief Chaplain
Ferndale VFC—Anne Arundel
343 Cool Breeze Ct.
Pasadena, MD 21122
H 410-437-6756
C 443-623-0753
pray@msfa.org
Continued — MSFA Executive Committee Meeting

He thanked each participant but also the facilitators, Wayne Powell, Richard Smith and Ron Siarnicki.

One recommendation was to submit an application for a SAFER Grant this year. The closing date for the application was August 10th. On August 29th, the Executive Committee voted to submit a grant application. Thanks to the Grants Committee the retreat facilitators, and several others, the application was completed and submitted. Award notifications are expected by the end of Sept. (The request was for $3.9 million over four years).

Director Steve Edwards, MFRI, provided his FY-2012 report. There were a total of 34,327 students in programs across the state—that’s 829,690 training hours. Effective Sept. 1, 2012, MFRI students may access and request an unofficial student transcript at any time through the MFRI Student Zone, a feature of the MFRI website. In order to make a request for the unofficial transcript, students will need to provide their name, birth date and SSN to uniquely identify themselves to the system.

Director Edwards provided a copy of the Medical Clearance Policy for the Executive Committee. If any company needs a copy, they may contact Rod Bowser and he’ll send a copy.

Dr. Bass, MIEMSS, reported that the MD EMS Operations Fund (MEMSOF) has received support for the past 20 years, that it is funded by an annual $11.00 surcharge on vehicle registrations. MEMSOF provides support for critical components of our request that due to the schedule of dates outlined above, that if any Association member company planning on the submission of an amendment, to please do so by January 1, 2013. The proposed amendment must be submitted, in writing, to the MSFA Secretary on company letterhead.

The Ways & Means Committee handed out the $10,000 Raffle tickets to Executive Committee members. Company tickets will be available at the LAMSFA Fall Conference.

Elaine Huttenlock, Bessie Marshal Fund chairperson, reported that 40 cases were paid last year for a total of $40,200. To date, there have been eight cases paid and two were received at the Executive Committee meeting. The lottery tickets are being prepared for mailing. Please purchase tickets in support of this fund—a fund that supports firefighters that have been hurt or have an illness not sustained in the line of duty. Each department was mailed 10 raffle tickets within the state-that’s $50. Please return them to Elaine Huttenlock by October 20th.

The Convention & Conference Committee reports plans for the 2013 convention and conference have begun. The 2012 convention budget was distributed and it did make a profit after all expenses.

The Statistical Committee reminded everyone that the annual Statistical Reports are important! It cannot be stressed enough as to how important the numbers are—once they’re compiled—the data is very helpful to the Legislative Committee when they work in Annapolis for you! Requests have been made from Federal legislators to support their efforts in support of the AFG, etc. As this year comes to a close—please ensure your department’s stats are in!

The Volunteer Company Assistance Fund (VCAF) Board held an informal conference to discuss the VCAF Board’s decision to lower the interest rate from 2% to 1.5%, which received concurrence by the Executive Committee at their June 21st meeting in Ocean City. Lee Sachs, liaison between the DMIL, MSFA and the VCAF Board was unaware this decision had taken place. Therefore, he submitted his opinion to the Board. A poll taken resulted in rescinding the original agreement to lower the rate, due to issues incurred with the State several years ago when the rate was changed. After Lee gave a synopsis of his opinion, the Executive Committee voted to keep the interest rate at 2%. However, it was noted that there are a total of $15 million in available funds.
Continued—MSFA Executive Committee

All Executive Committee members were encouraged to promote the VCAF loan program as a viable funding source.

President Denver and PP Lee Sachs met with General Adkins from the Dept. of the Military in late July. During the meeting, PP Sachs described our concerns with the time it takes to process the loans. Gen. Adkins agreed to work with us to identify improvements. It was noted that in the last few weeks, PP Lewis received settlement papers on two loans.

The Training Committee met twice since the last Executive Committee meeting, the first in Montgomery County on April 29th and the second at MFRI Headquarters in College Park. The Committee continues struggling with the increase in training hours for EMT but will give it a chance and monitor student dropouts or concerns. It must be noted that MFRI stepped forward and has an on-line help section for the students in the MFRI Student Zone that can address the added Anatomy and Physiology sections. The Committee is working with MFRI in regards to the proposed increase in hours for Pump Classes. The training budget was discussed as well as partnered training seminars with the Safety, EMS and Recruitment & Retention committees. It is felt that we can utilize monies more wisely to support each other’s efforts. Some topics being discussed and planned are Safety Officer Training Class, and an Administrative Officer Training Seminar. A rep from the Maryland Fire Chiefs has offered possible additional funds and resources to help in these efforts.

The Maryland Weekend at Emmitsburg is March 9-10th, the same weekend as Winterfest. The Training Committee will support the Weekend with give-a-ways. There is continued concern for the last several years on the very few companies that participate in the Zembower Training Awards. Last year only four companies participated and this year there were only three -and this is after we revamped the training classes and hours to give more flexibility to the MSFA companies. There were mixed reviews regarding the hands-on training at the Convention, but this will be looked at before future conventions.

A Wildfire Class is being held at Flintstone VFD on October 15-19th. Contact Rick Lillard to participate or register. There will be a Water Shuttle Class at the Eastern Garrett VFRD on Saturday, October 20th starting at 8:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided at no cost.

The Transportation Committee is working on recertification for all tags this year. If your tags are old and unreadable, you can get replacements at no cost by contacting your area representatives.

The Awards Committee noted the Cadet Program had very few entries. Nominations are required; however, the Award is $500, which is a great incentive to participate and recognize the numerous groups across the state. Please make an effort to nominate a deserving group in the area.

PP Roger Powell, Wills for Heroes, said a better way to utilize the program would be to set up a Wills for Heroes Day at a set location and timeframe for the area fire/ rescue personnel to have their wills worked on. Information would be retrieved from the volunteer and the attorney would write the will according to a member’s wishes.

Safety Chairman John Fisher reported the Committee has set their meetings for the year which will be at MFRI Headquarters beginning at 10:00 a.m. Each committee member has been assigned a County to give a small presentation on the work of the Committee and to bring safety programs and training to each of member department. It is a goal to attend each County at least twice this year. The Committee continues working to compose a list of all Volunteer Safety Officers from each County and department. All members are asked to use the one-page accident and injury questionnaire that can be completed on the MSFA web site’s Safety section.

The MSFA’s Marketing Committee is implementing a new slogan “Here For You.” You’ll be hearing more. The Trumpet is returning in a printed version.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held at Flintstone October 27-28. It’s often asked where’s Western Maryland? I encourage everyone that can possibly attend, to please do so and watch the MSFA Officers, representatives and various committees at work Complete in-depth copies of all committee reports can be viewed at the MSFA website under the Document Library.
Double Celebration in Somerset

by Emmons Horner

Fairmount VFC (Somerset County Station #9), on September 22nd, was the site of the celebration of “burning the mortgage”, and the housing of a new Engine.

Begun as a sub-station of Princess Anne in the fall of 1998, they went on their own in March of ‘99. Due to its location in the far southwestern part of the County, there has always been a need for Fire and EMS Protection in this area.

They started out operating in a building located on the property of Doug Vann, their first Chief Officer. They started construction of their new building, a very nice facility in the Fall of ‘01, and moved in late 2002. It took 100 tandem truck loads of fill to bring the site up to a proper grade, and it is now the highest point in Fairmount.

Thanks to a lot of hard work and dedication, and the support of the Community and surrounding area, they have progressed very fast. They recognized several persons who had contributed to their success in establishing a fire dept., including those from Princess Anne VFC who had gotten them started.

Twice yearly, they serve a meal that is craved by everyone – “Fresh caught” Tangier Sound oysters, (single fried to perfection), roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, Corn pudding, and a host of other delights – all home made. This is worth driving some distance to enjoy – and with “all you care to eat”, may be too much for the diet conscious (but who cares – “eat up” ) Watch the MSFA Website for upcoming dates. They also have crab feasts during the Summer.

Their new truck is a 2012 E-One Tradition engine pumper, powered by a 380 Cummins diesel, with Allison transmission, Ameritor rears, a 1250 Hale Pump, 1000 gallon poly tank, and 6 man cab.

Shown “burning the mortgage”, are President Roger Olsen on the left, and on the right is Frank Lusk, who has served as both Chief and President.

Congratulations to all the Fairmount Volunteers on
Mount Airy First in MD to Support Bereavement Uniform Program

By Douglas Alexander

The Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company of Carroll County has become the first fire company in Maryland to contribute to The Bereavement Uniform Program. Administered by the Lighthouse Uniform Company of Seattle, Washington, this program repairs, cleans, refurbishes and uses dress uniforms that may be old, in need of minor repairs, outgrown, or no longer the style of choice, then provides them to families of deceased firefighters that wish to give them a “firefighters funeral” and bury them in a dress uniform. This is done at no cost to the family and the only charge is for freight which is billed to the affiliated fire company.

The members of the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company went through their closets and found old and outgrown uniforms for this program. On September 24, 2012, a total of 18 dress uniforms were sent to Lighthouse Uniform for the Bereavement Uniform Program. This contribution will help to insure that a deceased firefighter’s family will be able to dress their fallen firefighter in a dress uniform for their final attire. Many older members, and in some cases “founding fathers”, will now be able to have an appropriate dress uniform for burial that may have never had one.

MAVFC President Tom Walters in commenting on the program stated, “…this is a great opportunity to do something meaningful with our old uniforms and to take care of those that have taken care of us in the past.” Past Chief Dale Lowman said that “…this makes you feel good to know that we may be helping a fellow firefighter’s family in their time of grief.” Several of the contributing members expressed similar sentiments.

The Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company is hoping that other fire company members from across the State of Maryland will follow suit and send their no longer used dress uniform components in to the Bereavement Uniform Program.

The Bereavement Uniform Program may be accessed only from http://bereavement.lighthouseuniform.com for requesting or contributing uniforms. Lighthouse Uniform Company also administers the Fallen Firefighters Uniform Program which is a program that will provide at no cost, except for freight charges, a new dress uniform for a firefighter killed in the line of duty. These programs are available for all fire companies in the United States. For further information contact Lighthouse Uniform Company at 1-800-426-5225, or-steve@lighthouseuniform.com

Eastern Shore Volunteer Meet at Goodwill VFC

By Emmons Horner

The September meeting of the ESVFA was held at Goodwill VFC in Centreville, Queen Anne’s County, and featured the election of officers and Hall of Fame inductions.

Officers elected, with their respective Companies were: President: Butch Britton, Goodwill; 1st Vice Pres.: Tom Diem, Cordova; 2nd V.P., Heather Mills, Kennedyville; Secretary: Barbara Steiner, Church Creek; Treasurer: Bobbie Aaron, Hurlock; Ass’t. Secretary: Gene Aaron, Hurlock; and Ass’t. Treasurer, Donald Ford, Deal Island/Chance VFC.

Re-appointed as Chaplain was Donald Knauer, Madison, and Parliamentarian, Richard Smith, Oxford VFC.

In recognition of his more than 40 years as Treasurer, Donnie Howard of Marion Station VFC was awarded the position of Treasurer Emeritus.

The Association meets on the 3rd Sunday of September (Elections and Hall of Fame), November, February and May (Memorial Service). Lunch is served at 1PM with the meeting following at 2. Member Companies are urged to attend these meetings and Support the Association.

Meetings for the next year will be at Berlin VFC in November, Mt. Vernon in February, Rock Hall in May, and Centreville in September.

In recognition of more than 40 years of service, Donnie Howard of Marion Station FC awarded position of Treasurer Emeritus.
Hall of Fame Inductions: Eastern Shore VFA

Pictured from left are Donnie Howard, accepting for Jerry Windsor, Marion V F C; Earl David Webster, Deal Island/Chance; Barbara Steiner, Church Creek; Donald Ford, Accepting for Ernest Pope of Fruitland (Deceased); Robert H. Gibson, Jr., Queen Anne/Hillsbore, and 2011-12 Assoc. President Paul Osheske of Elliott Island VFC. Also recognized but unable to attend was Louis Hayes, of Ridgely V F C. These volunteers have a combined total of over 220 years of service. It is noteworthy that Mr. Gibson has 67 years of service. Congratulations to all of those recognized for service to their Communities.
Perryville Holds 89th Annual Banquet

By Eileen Edelin

The 89th Annual Company banquet was held on Saturday September 15, 2012. Catered by MacGregor’s Restaurant, the master of ceremonies was Steve Cox, MSFA Past President. The memorial service was led by HCFA Chaplin Frank Roth. Deep sympathy was expressed on the loss of members Lily Lokey, Ralph Van Pelt, Rosemary Culley, and John Reinhart.

Mrs. Gerry Perry was inducted into the Harford & Cecil Counties Ladies Auxiliary Hall of Fame. Harford & Cecil Counties Ladies Auxiliaries Hall of Fame. The presenter, Vicky Cunningham, remarked that this deserving lady has been a member of the auxiliary for 44 years. She has served the auxiliary as president, financial officer, and currently is the treasurer. As an employee of the Town of Perryville she retired after 30 years of service and the town council named a street in her honor.

Charles “Amey” Todd and Samuel R. Anderson, Sr. were inducted into the Harford Cecil Volunteer Firemen’s Association Hall of Fame.

The presenter, Eileen Edelin remarked that Amey was selected for this honor because of his distinguished 69-years of service to the Community Fire Company of Perryville. Joining the Community Fire Company of Perryville at the tender age of 14 as a Junior Firefighter, he focused on the mission of the Fire and EMS service and volunteered to do the hard work it demanded. “Always available to help, mentoring to the young members he taught them the value of volunteering and it was done with pride!”

The other inductee, Sam, has devoted 60 years of service to the Community Fire Co. In 1952 just after his 16th birthday he joined the company. “He has served faithfully and honorably as a volunteer in many distinguished capacities as a...”
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55 Sunnybrook Drive
Elkton, MD 21921

Representing the volunteer fire,
rescue and EMS personnel of
Maryland

News From Allegany—Garrett
County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

Photo on left
Miss Fire Prevention Contest enna Holshey 1st runner up, Sami Jo Knite Jr Miss, Miss Shelby Simmons 2012-2013 Girls left to right

Photo on right
The presidents of the Allegany/ Garrett Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association — President Donna Struntz and Clarence Broadwater president men