National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Held Oct. 4-6

by Ron Watkins, MSFA PIO Committee

On October 6, house sirens throughout the country sounded at Noon to commemorate the lives of the 73 fire and EMS personnel who died in the line of duty in 2012, as well as 8 other previously not recognized firefighters from years before. The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Foundation hosted the 32nd annual memorial, in spite of problems with the government shut-down that curtailed the use of the National Fire Academy for the services and threatened the possibility that survivors would not be able to visit the memorial site on the campus.

56 of the 81 families were brought to the Gettysburg area by the Foundation, which covers their expenses to attend the Memorial. Over 250 members of the first time survivors came to participate. In addition, more than 300 survivors from previous years came to help with the activities and lend sympathetic support to those in attendance for the first time. With the NFA campus closed for use, other arrangements were made for the various activities held during the weekend. Hotels in the Gettysburg area were the locations housing the families. Vehicles from MFRI and the MD fire Chiefs Assn. picked up families arriving at the local airports (Dulles, Reagan, and BWI) and brought them to the hotels, where they were met by MFCA representatives in the lobbies. They were given information about what events were scheduled, when and where they would be held.

The Wyndham Hotel hosted the Friday night dinner for survivors. The Foundation was able to schedule the candle-light service, with lighting of luminere bags for each fallen member, at the Bascilica of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, next door to the NFA. Through efforts of Foundation Director Ron Siarnicki and the intervention of Congressman Steny Hoyer, arrangements were made for the families to be bussed to the Memorial for a short visit immediately after the candle-light services. During this visit, the annual Presidential wreath-laying was performed. The formal ceremonies, where each name is read, and each family is presented with a US flag and rose, were held in the Mount Saint Mary’s College PNC Center at the Knott Arena.

The Presidents of the MSFA presented each family with a lithograph copy of the Memorial, as has been the practice for many years. The Fallen Firefighters Memorial was a project that was close to the heart of Past President A. Marvin Gibbons. His efforts were instrumental with the Memorial being placed at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, and the chapel on the grounds of the Academy is named for him.

Continued on page 6
Montgomery County VFRA selects Fire Prevention Ambassadors

by Ron Watkins

On Saturday, September 14, the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association selected their Fire Prevention Ambassadors for 2013 – 2014 in a ceremony and competition held at the Public Service Training Academy in Rockville.

The titles of Miss Fire Prevention and Junior Miss Fire Prevention were uncontested. Miss Emily Moyers, 15, representing the Germantown VFD, assumed the title of Miss Fire Prevention. The Junior Miss Fire Prevention title was awarded to Grace Aceto, representing the Sandy Spring VFD. Competing for the title of Little Fire Chief were Colton Wilkins, 8, and Dustin Wilkins, 6, representing the Cabin John Park VFD.

All of the contestants, for all categories, had two questions to respond to, to give them some experience in the Miss Fire Prevention contest. In the contest for the Little Fire Chief, Dustin nosed out his brother for the title. Dustin assumed the title of Little Deputy Chief.

The emcee for the contest was Courtney McHenry, Chairperson of the MCVFRA Fire Prevention Committee. Contest judges were Bridgett Weishaar, Chairperson of the Carroll County Fire Prevention Committee, and John Connell, Captain, Kensington VFD. Guests included MSFA 2nd VP Johnie Roth, Senior Vice President of the LAMSFA Ann Price-Davis, and LAMCVFRA President Joan Kramer.

Miss Danni Crane, last year’s Miss Fire Prevention and the current MSFA Miss Fire Prevention, gave her exit speech and had presents for the outgoing Little Fire Chief, Little Miss and Junior Miss Fire Prevention. She received a bouquet from her Mom and Dad as a reminder of her past year’s service.

Cecil County Selects New Fire Prevention Ambassadors For 2013-14

The Community Fire Company of Perryville hosted the Cecil County Firemen’s Association Fire Prevention Ambassadors contest at their main station on Saturday, October 12. The event was largely attended, with many former fire prevention ambassadors in the crowd along with competitor’s families. The titles at stake were Little Miss Fire Prevention, Little Fire Chief, Junior Miss Fire Prevention, Junior Fire Chief, and Miss Fire Prevention.

Stacey Holden, Harford-Cecil VFRA Miss Fire Prevention, served as the Emcee, and the judges were Elyssa Cool, past MSFA Miss Fire Prevention and Chief Sam Perry, of the Oxford VFC in Talbot County. Each contestant, except for the Miss Fire Prevention title participants, were given two questions at the podium – the first being “What does fire prevention mean to me?” and the

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So You Want to be Company or Department Treasurer?

Submitted by President Olson

The Treasurer’s role is considered the most important function on the Board, after that of the Chair. The success of an organization depends on whether or not the organization is able to develop and adhere to a budget. Financial accountability is also of the utmost importance to a non-profit organization. If your community or your funders lose faith in your ability to control and account for finances, they lose faith in the whole organization.

What you need to know:

What is a Treasurer? A treasurer is an officer who is in charge of receiving and dispersing funds. He or she manages and reports on the organization’s finances.

Responsibilities of a Treasurer - Although duties can vary slightly depending on the size of a particular board the following duties are fairly consistent:

* Carries out the responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors
* Assists in the preparation of the budget
* Monitors the budget
* Ensures the Board’s financial policies are being followed
* Reports to the Board of Directors and general membership on finances
* Prepares any required financial reporting forms.
* Maintains all bank accounts
* Oversees all financial transactions
* His or her signature should appear on all checks of the organization with the second signature
* Chairs the finance committee if one exists

Preparing a budget - A budget is a plan that identifies how much money an organization requires to operate during the upcoming year; includes sources of revenue and anticipated expenses; submitted to the Board for approval at the beginning of the fiscal year by the treasurer and throughout the year the treasurer tracks year-to-date income and revenues, reports variances and alerts the Board of potential problems.

Completing Necessary Paperwork - ensure the bank has the names and signatures of members who are authorized to deposit and withdraw funds from an organization’s bank account and file financial statements for legal and security purposes (i.e. tax authorities, funding bodies etc...)

Here is a list of things you need to do as soon as possible: Check details of all bank accounts and all signatories; Swap signatories right away. Get the forms from the band and take them to the annual meeting; Check details of credit card(s) or spending authorization and ensure the return of outstanding cheque books or cards; Organize for a detailed briefing from the outgoing treasurer detailing any spending commitments or incoming not included in budget papers; Prepare a timeline of upcoming payments and dates when the bills (i.e. insurance, rent etc...) are due and Once you have done your first budget statement, see if you can check with the outgoing treasurer that nothing is missing.

MSFA Officers Cont.

Financial Secretary
Mitch Vocke
Jarrettsville VFC—Harford
PO Box 401
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
H 410-69286914
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

Montgomery County Fire & Rescue is well represented at the Maryland Fire & Rescue Service Memorial Foundation Gala. MSFA PP Carl Edelin and MSFA 2nd V.P. Johnie Roth with MSFA Miss Fire Prevention Danielle Crane. Photo: Eileen Edelin
How Firefighters Respond

by Clarence “Chip” Jewell, III

It was an incident with an enormous response. Firefighters far beyond the region were required to assist. The incident was very fluid for days, requiring many revisions to the Incident Action Plan. The incident commander and many of the responders had faced similar incidents in the past, sometimes implementing some contingency plans when faced with unexpected changes in the environment.

But, this was different. This incident posed new challenges. Local fire companies were stretched to the limit, providing resources far and above the normal response. Interoperability extended throughout the metropolitan region. But, the dedication, commitment and perseverance of the firefighters at the incident prevailed. The incident was handled in the true spirit of the fire service. Hard work and ingenuity were the keys to a successful conclusion.

The incident occurs annually in Emmitsburg, MD. This year, the members of the nation’s fire service that organize the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend were faced a monumental task. The campus of the National Emergency Training Center was closed down due to the federal shut down. The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial and the offices of the National Firefighters Memorial Foundation were behind locked gates.

Years ago, Chief Charlie Dickenson, former chief of the Pittsburgh Fire Department, organized the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend into a formal incident command structure. This foresight proved invaluable for the implementation of the 2013 Memorial Weekend. Displaced from the National Fire Academy, the entire staff and offices of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Foundation, the command structure of the Memorial Weekend and all attending personnel had to be moved.

The closure of the federal government meant the entire campus of the National Emergency Training Center was closed. Iron gates shut and locked.

The incident commander, Chief John McGrath, looked around the room at an early staff meeting and stated, “… firefighters bring order to chaos.” The closing of the National Fire Academy and lock down of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial was the epitome of a chaotic situation. Hundreds of friends, family and fellow firefighters of our nation’s fallen heroes targeted to descend on the Town of Emmitsburg would be prohibited entrance to the very heart and soul of America’s fire service. But, Chief McGrath knew, when times were darkest, the tradition of the fire service shines the brightest. The Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Company provided office space for the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Foundation and the Vigilant Hose Company of Emmitsburg offered to feed hundreds of volunteer participants and workers. Howard County Fire and Rescue Services offered to house those individuals scheduled to move into NFA dorms.

Even the Daughters of Charity moved into action exactly 150 years after they helped those in need from the Battle of Gettysburg. These “angels of mercy” again offered to assist, this time by providing office space for the entire command staff of the National Fallen Firefighters Weekend.

Those outside the fraternity of the fire service can never understand how we simply “do what firemen do.” Those not in the fire service cannot comprehend how a command staff made up of members from many different states can work together collectively to meet unforeseen challenges. It is difficult for the casual observer to understand why...

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President’s Corner

by Jacqueline Olson

Your Presidents have been busy with many activities and meetings and some of the highlights are pictured throughout this report. Since our August’s Executive Committee meeting, the President and the two Vice Presidents have held meetings with some of our key state agency partners to include MFRI, MIEMSS, UMMC/STC, MSP Aviation and the Department of the Military and are coordinating dates with the rest of our partners in November.

Your officers were also invited to attend several conventions of our neighboring States which included Cumberland Valley, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

We have a great relationship with our partners and with our neighboring states and it is great to work together and share programs and discuss issues that affect the volunteer fire, rescue and EMS services.

The second MSFA Executive Committee meeting of the year will be held December 7 and 8 at the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Company in Anne Arundel County, as always, we invite you to visit with us at our meeting, hope to see you there.

Your MSFA Officers will continue to work each day on your behalf and if we can be of assistance to you or your department or association, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

We wish you to extend to you best wishes for a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday, enjoy the time with your family and friends and be thankful for your blessings.

See you around Maryland — President Jackie Olson, First Vice President David Keller and Second Vice President Johnie Roth

Additional photo page 6
Over the years, the Foundation has grown and made it possible for families to attend these services to honor their family members that have given their life as fire and rescue providers.

Volunteer Trumpet

Continued from page 1

The MSFA handled the Memorial weekend for several years, and presented the idea of forming a Foundation to Senator Paul Sarbanes, in order to allow finding from private donations to be accepted for maintenance of the Memorial. Over the years, the Foundation has grown and made it possible for families to attend these services to honor their family members that have given their life as fire and rescue providers.

FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

Congratulations to the MD State Police and the Aviation Command on Trooper 3, a new Agusta Westland AW139 going in to service. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Sept. 3, 2013. Left to right: Second Vice President Johnie Roth, First Vice President David Keller, Colonel Marcus L. Brown, President Jackie Olson and Delegate James Malone.

Returning survivors prepare gift bags for incoming first-time families. Photo Credit: Watkins
second a fire prevention knowledge question selected at random from a bowl. Poise, appearance, and the ability to speak are areas the judges look at, as well as their knowledge. The Senior Miss Fire Prevention candidates are asked what they would do to spread the fire prevention message if selected, plus they also have a knowledge question. This follows the same format as the MD State Firemen’s Association contest at the June convention, as the winner here tonight will represent Cecil County in Ocean City.

Vying for the various titles were – Little Miss Fire Prevention – Ashlyn Plato, from Cecilton VFC, Addyson Marquess from the Singerly FD, Victoria Reil, from North East VFC, and Brooklyn Logan, from Perryville.

Little Fire Chief, George Logan IV was the sole competitor.
Junior Miss Fire Prevention – Mary Dixon, from Cecilton, and Madeline Moore, from Rising Sun

Junior Fire Chief – Alexander Jay Davis, Singerly FD, and Dakota McClennan
Miss Fire Prevention – Sarah Bowles from Singerly FD, and Michaela Patrick, from Perryville.
While the judges deliberated, the winners from last year gave their final farewell speeches, and the current MSFA Miss Fire Prevention, Danni Crane, spoke briefly on the fire prevention programs.

When the judges returned, the following title selections were announced:
Little Miss Fire Prevention – Victoria Reil, 1st Runner-up – Brooklyn Logan
Little Chief – George Logan IV
Junior Miss Fire Prevention – Madeline Moore, 1st Runner-up – Mary Dixon
Junior Fire Chief – Alexander Jay Davis, Junior Deputy Chief, Dakota McClennen
Miss Fire Prevention – Sarah Bowles, 1st Runner-up – Michaela Patrick

The Fire Prevention Committee would like to thank all who participated in the contests and everyone that gave of their time to help make this program a success. After the contest, a DJ dance was held and refreshments were available.
Does Your Department Have Laryngitis?

By Ronald Watkins, Chairman, MSFA Public Relations Committee

Laryngitis. When we have it, no one can hear our voice. Our best efforts are weak and scratchy. Our messages to others are frequently not heard or misinterpreted, as we can’t be heard well. When we have it, we go to the doctor to get a “cure” so that it goes away and we have our voice again.

Way too often, our fire and rescue departments develop a form of laryngitis. Our message becomes weak, or even absent, and our needs are not heard by those who need to hear them. When this happens, our public does not hear about fire prevention, about our fund raisers, our equipment needs, etc. The politicians that control our local and State monies do not hear our needs, and so assume we have enough, maybe even too much, and often cut our funds. New recruits are harder to come by, as they cannot hear our recruiting messages. Is there a cure? Can we find a “doctor” to help us?

Often, the “cure” is found in our own organization, and the “doctor” is not needed – self-medication will get our voice back. It involves remembering that our message needs to be LOUD and CLEAR every chance we get. There are things we can do as a department to get our word out.

First, we must remember that people do not always know what we are doing – even if we have done them every year. Any fund-raiser, dinner, dance, etc.; must be publicized, and in plenty of time for your public to plan to attend. People have many more diversions and things that take their time up now than they did years ago, and we must make sure that our activities are presented to them so that we can get on their schedule. Signs along heavily traveled roads, at our station, in local businesses should be up at least two weeks before any function. If there is a local newspaper, try to get an article about the activity in to draw interest. Invite a reporter and/or photographer to attend. The Internet, along with the “social” networks such as Twitter and Facebook, help get the word out to a wide area. Don’t forget to check with other local organizations so that your activities are not in conflict with their functions. This just draws off possible attendees from both groups. Is there any department that has too many members? The social media is a great way to recruit those young members of our communities, by showing them what we have to offer.

Speaking of the Internet, having a department Web site is a very good way to have a placed to showcase your department and highlight any events coming up. This can be an easy way to provide fire prevention information, show off new equipment, identify new members, and congratulate persons that have completed new training classes. The public can use this for frequently asked questions, and when there are community issues, the fire department’s opinion can be publicly displayed.

While we are at it, newly promoted members, new equipment, information about recent and upcoming training events should be submitted to local papers and your Web site. Remember – every time an article about the department runs, a picture should accompany it, and that picture should have the company name prominently displayed. Apparatus backgrounds, company banner, or department uniform shirts with logo catch the attention of your constituents, and raise the level of your “voice”.

Are you getting the message out to those who need to hear it, or has laryngitis taken over your department? When you take these steps to “speak up” and give your department a prominent place in the community, your laryngitis will go away and your messages will be heard loud and clear. If you have any questions about how to do these things, contact the Public Relations Committee of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association, through the MFSA’s Web site – www.msfa.org.

Editor’s Note

Welcome to the Oct. edition of the Volunteer Trumpet, the newsletter of the MSFA. This edition is packed with material to keep you informed about things happening in the member companies and the association. You will find lots of reports on activities and practical, informative articles submitted by President Olson and MSFA PIO Watkins.

As committee members work on the next issue please let us know if you have any ideas for strengthening the product, suggestions for coverage, or content we should publish. We are pleased to hear from you as our goal is to publish interesting and informative content for volunteer fire, rescue and EMS personnel of Maryland. And be sure to send your company & MSFA material, including photos, to the editor at trumpet@msfa.org

Mike Dixon, Editor
News Briefs

DR. BASS TO RETIRE FROM MIEMS —
By James W. Brown, MIEMS

Dr. Robert R. Bass, MIEMSS Executive Director, has announced he will retire from his position at the end of this calendar year. He has led MIEMSS and the Statewide EMS System and worked on many issues over the past 20 years. He would like to thank Maryland’s emergency services providers for the opportunity to have served and for their sup-

DOVER SPEEDWAY FIRE PREVENTION EVENT
by DSFM Bruce Bouch

The Office of the State Fire Marshal, Maryland State Firemen’s Association, Delaware State Fire Marshal, Delaware State Fire School, Dover Fire Department, National Fire Protection Association, and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition combined efforts to promote fire prevention and residential fire sprinkler awareness at the 3-day Dover International Speedway NASCAR event on September 27, 28, 29, 2013.

This was the first time to perform this in such a large venue with this group of professionals. We spoke with roughly 2,000 race fans at our display tent, located in the fan zone, which involved interactive fire safety for children and adults, smoke alarm awareness and instruction, as well as myth and facts on residential fire sprinklers that included a side by side burn demonstration on Saturday the 28th to promote the value of residential fire sprinklers.

The event was very well received by all members of the public and fire professionals involved with the event. Plans are already being put together for next September.

2014 EMS & Prevention Education Conferences

More Information is found on the MIEMSS web page

♦ Winterfest EMS Conference Tilghman Island - January 23rd - 26th, 2014 - Tilghman Island
♦ S.T.A.B.L.E. Course - January 29th 2014 - MIEMSS John M. Murphy Building, Baltimore, MD.
♦ Public Fire & Life Safety Educator Seminar - March 22, 2013 - MFRI College Park, MD.
♦ Miltenberger Trauma & EMS Conference - April 4 – 5, 2014 - Wisp Ski Resort – Preconferences –April 4, 2014
♦ EMS Care 2014 - May 1 – 4, 2014 - Clarion Hotel in Ocean City, MD Preconferences – May 1-2, 2014
The inaction of Capitol Hill cannot overcome the actions of our nation’s fire service. The federal shutdown did not shutdown the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. We are grateful for the political pressure and involvement that assured the families would have the opportunity to visit the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. We are thankful for every individual involved in the weekend that, in any way, made sure all the events of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend were available to the families.

Chief Ron Siarnicki and Chief John McGrath demonstrated the exceptional leadership needed to command a complex incident. The NFFF staff and hundreds of National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend volunteers worked exhausting hours to execute every directive from the command structure. The weekend was truly a symphony of determination where the many parts came together as one. It was the worst of times, but the best of times. And for those outside our fire service family, it was simply how firefighters respond.

The meeting was held at the Cordova FD in Talbot Co. and featured the election of officers and the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. From L are MSFA 1st VP, David Keller III, administering the oath of office to Secretary Barbara Steiner of Church Creek VFC: Treasurer Bobbie Aaron of Hurlock; 2nd VP, George Mister, Deal Island/Chance; 1st VP George McCracken, Trappe, President Heather Miller, Chesapeake City,, and Asst. Treasurer Donald Ford, Deal Island/Chance. Not pictured Asst. Sec., Gene Aaron of Hurlock. Richard Smith of Easton was appointed parliamentarian and Tom Blades of Federalsburg as Chaplain.

photos by Emmons Horner

Eastern Shore Association News
By Emmons Horner
Eastern Shore Assoc. Hall of Fame Inductees for 2013. The inductees from left: Donna Fretterd of Denton & Joseph Holland, Federalsburg. Also pictured are the families of deceased members accepting awards for Troy A. Pearson, Cordova and Bruce Webster of Deal Island/Chance VFC. E. Eugene Butler of Easton was recognized, but not in attendance. Immediate Association PP, Butch Britton of Centreville was installed, but unable to attend due to illness. The total service for the inductees was over 220 yrs., surely a fact that is commendable among volunteers. We Congratulate all of them.
On Sunday, September 30th, MSFA President Jackie Olson, First Vice President David Keller, Second Vice President Johnie Roth, MSFA Ladies Auxiliary President Carol Hayden, Senior Vice Ann Price Davis and Junior Vice president Darby Bryd were quests of the national Fallen Firefighters Foundation at the 6th Annual Firefighter Appreciation Event at Dover International Speedway.

Congratulations to President Olson and the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Company who had the honors this year in serving as one of the fire department escorts for family survivors during the pre-race activities.

The MSFA extends our sincere thanks to the NFFF and Executive Director Ron Siarnicki for inviting us to participate in this event.

Photo Below — The presidents at the MSFA/LAMSFA attending the Fallen Firefighter Foundation Gala. L to R — Darby Byrd, LAMSFA, JR. VP; Johnie Roth, MSFA 2nd VP; Carol Hayden LAMSFA President; Jackie Olson, MSFA President and David Keller, III MSFA 1st VP. Photo: Eileen Edelin

Ferndale Volunteer Fire Company (above) and President Olson (below) serve as escorts.
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55 Sunnybrook Drive
Elkton, MD 21921

Representing the volunteer fire,
rescue and EMS personnel of
Maryland

Denton Volunteer Fire Co. E-302 working a scene as a Maryland State Police Helicopter lifts off. Photo Credit: Denton VFC