

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fire Marshal Robertson Passes	2
Medical Technician Answers Calls	3
Chip's Logbook	4
Chip's Logbook	4
President's Corner	5
Ferndale VFC's new engine	6
MIEMSS News Briefs	9
Delmarva Power	10
Sears Supports Bay District VFD	11
Water Witch EMS	11
MD's Largest Loss of Life Disaster	9
Allegany-Garrett	10
Sears Supports Bay District FD	11
Editor's Note	11
Betterton Blaze	11

Can Games Encourage Learning?

By Jim Jarboe, member Trumpet Committee & the Takoma Park VFD

Learning about fire safety education... can we learn while having fun?

I would think most people will say yes. As for me, I feel strongly that we can learn and have fun at the same time, as long as the game is appropriate for the audience.

I am sure many of you have at one time or another used games to teach a concept. I have personally used many game ideas over the years, in which I've incorporated questions about fire safety. When the right game is determined with accompanying prizes to give away, people become eager to participate.

Enthusiastic participation is what is desired. People don't even have to play the game in order to learn. You can learn as a bystander, as

part of the audience.

I would like to share some of the games that I have used from TV game shows. Some of the games have been modified. First, I had to make sure I could adapt fire safety education into the game.

The first game I tried was "Who Wants to be a Millionaire", followed by "Deal or No Deal", and "Minute to Win It." I can say with confidence that they all are hits, in that they attracted participants,, the participants played, they had fun, and they learned.

I have presented these games many times over the past years at the Montgomery County Fair and the City of Takoma Park Folk and Street Festivals. In order to play the games and win prizes, the participants would have to answer a fire safety question

before or during the game, and sometimes participate in a challenge.

Most of the prizes that I have used were purchased through the annual Maryland State Firemen's Association grant program on fire prevention, headed by Bruce Bouch of the Maryland State Fire Marshal Office.

Keep in mind, using games might work for some and not work for others; but, whatever you do to get the message out, fire safety is what it is all about. So, the next time you happen to look at the television, maybe you will come up with an idea for a game. For me, I am always looking for the next game idea. Good luck, and play on for fire safety education.

MSEA Public Fire & Life Safety Education Grant Program

By DSFM Bruce D. Bouch

February 5, 2014 — 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 continuing 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 and/or enhancement



of local public fire and life safety education efforts.

It is recognized that 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.

continued on page 8

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Continued page 3

Former MD State Fire Marshal Robertson Passes

James C. “Robbie” Robertson

*June 8, 1929 –
 November 8, 2013
 Chaplain, MSFA*

*By Wayne Powell, Executive Director
 National Fire Heritage Center*

The MSFA family, and indeed our State, recently lost a great friend, mentor, teacher and champion. On November 8, 2013, James C. “Robbie” Robertson, recently of Ranson, WV, died at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville. For nearly a half century, Robbie maintained strong ties to Maryland – every county, city, town and more.

Right up until the end of his 84 years, he remained passionate about the fire service community, the related fire protection disciplines, his country and his God. Having started his involvement in the fire service as a youngster in Asheville, NC, and following graduation from fire programs at Oklahoma State University and the University of California at Los Angeles he came to the University of Maryland Fire Service Extension (today’s MFRI) in the 1950’s and went on to become an Assistant State Fire Marshal and then the SFM for 18 years making him one of America’s longest serving SFM’s.

Across North America he was recognized for his keen sense of fairness and willingness to help anyone committed to public service and safety. In every state and in hundreds of



James C. “Robbie” Robertson

fire organizations, agencies, departments, bureaus and corporations he admired what we do and importantly being asked how we could do it better.

It seemed that in our ‘world of fire,’ all whom he met, worked with, taught, or engaged became a legendary memory and typically were embraced as members of his family. Few in American fire protection history have had the far-reaching impact that he did. He was revered here and certainly in Florida, where he also contributed significantly to the work of fire organizations, and elsewhere, too.

For decades, his text, “Introduction to Fire Prevention,” was and remains the standard for fire prevention teachings in college-level fire science / fire technology programs and similarly is often referenced in fire officer

continued on page 7

Medical technician still answering calls at 89

Even cancer can't slow Cobb Island volunteer

Reprinted with permission from Southern Maryland News

by Lindsay Renner. Staff writer

Bob Petrash refuses to slow down. At 89, Petrash, a New York native, is the oldest emergency services volunteer in the county, if not the state. Petrash moved to Charles County in the late 1980s, shortly before his retirement, and he joined the Cobb Island Volunteer Fire Department in 1988. Eventually, Petrash joined the Charles County Mobile Intensive Care Unit and began running calls with them.

"One of the requisites for being a cardiac rescue technician was you had to be a member with MICU," Petrash said. "I decided to go ahead and become one." Originally, Petrash said, he was interested in becoming a CRT because it would be "something to do." He had spent some time running with crews in New York and Montgomery County when he and his family lived in those areas, which is what he said originally sparked the interest. Petrash earned his CRT certification in the early 1990s, and continued to operate as one until 2007.

"They wanted to upgrade me to a paramedic, but my feeling was that ... I didn't want to go through the additional training," he said. "I wanted them to spend that money on a younger person. I decided to revert back to an EMT then." Petrash no longer runs with the MICU,

but still makes calls to Swan Point with the Cobb Island VFD.

"It keeps my mind active, and keeps me active physically," Petrash said of why he chooses to keep volunteering.

He said he is currently undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatment for cancer, but that it has not impacted his volunteering and he does not intend to stop until he absolutely has to.

"I'm going to do it as long as I can," he said.

Last week, Petrash was honored with an Outstanding Service Award for his dedication to volunteering from the MICU.

"I personally don't think I'm exceptional, but apparently some people think I am," Petrash said of the award. "I just do what I've been called upon to do. So far I've been fairly successful."



Bob Petrash of Swan Point; Staff photo by Tin Nguyen

The satisfaction Petrash derives from his work is fairly straightforward.

"I just like being able to take care of the patient's problems and bringing a viable patient over to the hospital," Petrash said. "I remember when I was a new CRT, one of the first calls I had was a man who had been shot in La Plata during the ugly winter months. I got on the

scene, and the individual was shot in the belly. We got him to the hospital and he survived, but it was scary as can be."

Petrash said he always found it challenging trying to predict what he and his fellow volunteers would find on arrival at a scene. "It might sound like the simplest call, but then you arrive and it's much more complex than anyone thought," he said. "You never know what you're getting into. It's hard to tell."

When handling patients, Petrash said he takes a simple approach. "I found that a little tender loving care goes a long way to putting them at ease," he said. "Merely holding someone's hand can go a long way to making them more receptive to the care that they need."

"He's a unique individual," said Margaret Wedding, a longtime friend of Petrash's who volunteered alongside him.

continued on page 8

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Chip's Firehouse Logbook: Past, Present and Future

The Times They Are A- Changin'

by Clarence "Chip" Jewell, III

I know there will be some individuals that will cringe after reading this article. And other members of the fire and rescue service of the Free State will nod in agreement and very supportive. As our great association has continued to evolve

into the 21st century, one thing has remained the same, the name Maryland State Firemen's Association.

My passion for the history and traditions of the fire and rescue service is well documented. I have personally written books and articles, present a living history, and have helped develop a fire and rescue museum.

When I joined the fire service, men's banquets were served by the women, and after dinner cigars were on the menu. A fog of El Producto's would cloud the speaker's rostrum. Meetings held in Western Maryland would adjourn to an evening "Smoker". But, change was on the horizon. I was very much in the forefront of controversy to eliminate the words "white male" from fire

company by-laws some 45 years ago.

I vividly recall the heated controversy with the first females to join the fire service, both volunteer and career, and the changing firehouse environment. Even the advent of females in the fire dispatch centers was somewhat of a challenge. With the rapid evolution of EMS, the fire service began to morph into the fire and rescue service. This more personal side of emergency services attracted even more females that were not necessarily interested in dragging hose and climbing ladders.

Today, the worker bees of the MSFA are comprised of many females, working on various committees and serving in officer positions.

Even my mother, a registered nurse, became an EMT and pulled a duty shift.

Judy White was the first female to run for the office of 2nd Vice-President of MSFA She became the first female member of the MSFA Executive Committee followed by Judy Lau from Prince George's County, a friend we lost much too soon. Today, the worker bees of the MSFA are comprised of many females, working on various committees and serving in officer positions. In 2013, the membership of the Maryland State Firemen's Association elected the first female to hold the office of president.

As President Jackie Olson has

served with distinction, I am sure her elevation to the highest office in MSFA has brought some undeserved snide comments. I can just imagine some chauvinistic legislators smirk behind the scene when President Olson presents testimony on behalf of the Maryland State FIREMEN'S Association. It must be at least somewhat uncomfortable for her to introduce herself as president of the Maryland State FIREMEN'S Association. But, the mere exchange of the word "Firemen's" to "Firefighter's" does not totally address the issue.

Nationally, at least 80% of the incident responses are related to EMS. I am confident Maryland more than mirrors that percentage. The Maryland Ambulance and Rescue Association faded into the sunset in the 1970's. Years ago the MSFA realized the need to include all facets of emergency services and opened the membership to include ambulance, rescue and EMS organizations. Our storied association is no longer, "Firemen" or "Firefighters". The MSFA is an organization comprised of organizations; fire companies, ambulance companies and rescue squads. The MSFA is truly the representative organization of



continued on page 10

"As our great association has continued to evolve into the 21st century, one thing has remained the same, the name Maryland State Firemen's Association.

"With the rapid evolution of EMS, the fire service began to morph into the fire and rescue service."

"Our historic name simply does not reflect our present day membership demographics."

The President's Corner

by Jacqueline Olson

It is hard to believe that it is February and time has gone by so quickly these past several months since the December's Executive Committee, I hope everyone had a nice Holiday Season and I wish you the best for 2014.

Since the new year, I have been busy traveling to meetings and attending banquets across the state and I want to thank everyone for their hospitality and invitations.

On the top of our agenda is the Maryland General Assembly legislative session and along with the Legislative committee we are tracking several bills that are interest to our organization and its members.

"We had a successful legislative reception on January 14, receiving over 100 legislators, their staff, MSFA Officers, Past President's and members along with partner agency representatives."

Thanks to Carene, Jane, Marian, Elaine and Teresa Ann who staff the office on a daily basis. If you would like to be added to

the Legislative Bulletin distribution list just send an email to msfaleg@msfa.org.

We had a successful legislative reception on January 14, receiving over 100 legislators, their staff, MSFA Officers, Past President's and members along with partner agency representatives.

The Convention and Conference Committee is hard at work preparing for the 2014 convention and will be visiting Ocean City to see the progress of the Convention Center and have lunch with Mayor



MSFA & MSFA LA Officers with Senator Roy Dyson at MSFA Legislative Reception

Meehan.

Here are some upcoming events to put on your calendar: March 8th – Team MSFA participates in the MSP Polar Bear Plunge that was rescheduled; March 22nd – Public Fire and Safety Educator Seminar; April 5th – MSFA Ladies Auxiliary Spring Conference; April 12th – MSFA Executive Committee



Richard Smith, Delegate Jolene Ivey, and President Olson

meeting @ Mechanicsville VFD (please note location change) and April 26 & 27th – Chief Officers Seminar.

Thank you for your continued support, a special thanks to each and every one of you for your assistance during my term as President, and I will continue to work towards the goals of this great organiza-

tion.

*Jackie Olson
President
Maryland State Firemen's*

Ferndale Volunteer Fire Company's New Engine

“The benefits of the VCAF program to volunteer companies in the State of Maryland cannot be outdone; it allowed us to make a purchase that otherwise may have been unreachable.”

On behalf of the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Company I just wanted to take a moment and Thank everyone that was involved in the process of us acquiring our 2% loan for our new Fire Engine.

The benefits of the VCAF program to volunteer companies in the State of Maryland cannot be outdone; it allowed us to make a purchase that otherwise may have been unreachable.

Without your time, effort, and support of our project, we wouldn't be where we are today, For all of that, thank you Joe Wojtowycz, President

I also want to thank everyone for assisting with this grant, as you all know this is my home company and it means a lot to us to have been approved for this loan, the assistance and support to make this happen was greatly appreciated. Thank you again and for taking the time to help the member companies of MSFA.

Jackie Olson, President



Ferndale Volunteer Fire Company's new unit, E343.



Former MD State Fire Marshal Robertson Passes

continued from page 2

promotional examinations. The latest edition is due out within days now and brings forward the latest insights, happenings and techniques on all aspects of fire prevention. At the Service, his co-author for the 8th edition, Former Montgomery County Fire Marshal Mike Love, spoke on how he enjoyed working with Robbie given his vast knowledge and attention to detail.

Former Delaware SFM Ben Roy explained how helpful Robbie was to DE and also the key roles he played with the International Fire Marshals Association and the NFPA. Dr. Harry Carter detailed Robbie's involvement with the Institution of Fire Engineers / USA Branch (IFE) and Chief William Killen represented by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Fire Heritage Center (NFHC); Robbie was Director Emeritus for the NFHC.

The United States Fire Administration's Mary Marchone and Ken Farmer detailed Robbie's involvement in getting USFA and its National Fire Academy established in Emmitsburg in addition to their own professional development, too. Others spoke about how Robbie helped them and also his key roles within the Fellowship of Christian Firefighters.

His work on so many levels took him from coast to coast and back again many times all the while observing and making both mental and written notes from which he affirmed and confirmed how groups dealt with service delivery expectations, wildly differing resources and approaches. It's intriguing today to see how prevention methodologies have gained ac-

ceptance in the hearts and minds of those in firefighting which was not the case just a few short years ago. His texts and constant promotion of prevention were significant in this evolution.

Whether as a volunteer or career firefighter, state fire service training instructor, state fire marshal, college professor, Commander in the United States Coast Guard Reserve, international representative of a prestigious fire safety association or on numerous committees and study groups his involvement made for great strides that are still evolving. He seemed to be able to recall everything and helped remind us of the need to be comprehensive and

In his passing, one thing that has surprised even those who knew him well is just how involved he was in so many different parts of fire protection.

related parts of fire protection. Be it on matters of public policy or advancing the cause of training and education he could be counted on for important reminders drawn from what he had seen firsthand and also done during his many travels and many multifaceted roles.

A well-attended Memorial Service was held at the Independent Hose Company in Frederick on November 20 which went nearly 3 hours long with those in the crowd reflecting on what he meant to them and our cause of fire safety. The effort was faithful to what he wanted - hymns and all. The Rev. Tim May officiated at the Service and was assisted by MSFA Chief Chaplain John Long and others. On hand was an organist, a fire department Piper, along

with many past and present members of the MD SFMO with other attendees coming from as far away as NJ, DE, VA, PA in addition to those from across MD.

Flowers came from as far away as the Gainesville, FL, Fire and Rescue Department plus the NFHC provided an arrangement, too. Featured prominently was a large portrait of Robbie while on display were a number of photos from as far back as 1949 along with all 7 editions of his text out on display. This was followed by a time of fellowship and good food served by the IHC Auxiliary. Memorial Service coordination was a joint effort Rev. May, the IFE, the NFHC and the IHC.

A long-time member of the College Park VFD, James Cole Robertson was always pleased with the leadership shown by the MSFA on fire safety initiatives and for being there when it mattered. Whether it was in Annapolis or various County seats of local government or with private sector fire protection advocates Robbie was there helping promote the cause. Robbie's friendship and influence will be missed but his important work lives on.

Donations in Robbie's memory may be made to the National Fire Heritage Center (by credit card - www.active.com/donate/RobbieRobertson / by mail - P.O. Drawer 76, Emmitsburg, MD 21727); the Pleasant View Church of the Brethren (by mail - 6213 Picnic Woods Road, Jefferson, MD 21755), or the Fellowship of Christian Firefighters - (www.fellowshipofchristianfirefighters.com).

Safety Education Grant Program

continued from page 1

Under the Public Fire and Life Safety Education Grant Program, MSFA member companies will 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 are to be made after monies are provided through the MSFA.



The amount of funding available for 2014 is \$67,000. The maximum funding support available to each member company's application request is:

\$500.00.

Only one application per company will be accepted. The application is located on the MSFA website.

Applications must be received via e-mail at fpgrants@msfa.org no later than midnight, April 11, 2014.

Grant awards will be announced

at the MSFA Convention in June 2014 and emails will be sent to email contact lists created from applications received. A 20% Match is required to facilitate the grant process. In order to take full advantage of the \$500.00, please show the amount being spent is a minimum of \$600.00.

Checks provided from the MSFA will be provided 'one time only' to the selected departments. If the check provided is misplaced and/or lost, a new check will not be re-issued. It is the sole responsibility of the department representatives to maintain control of funds provided.

Bob Petrash, Charles County Volunteer

continued from page 3

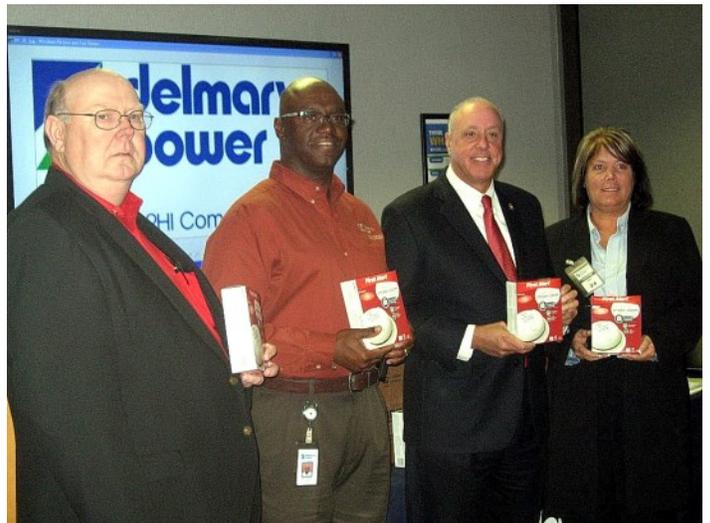
Wedding, who presented Petrash with the award last week, noted that he did not just volunteer with the different departments. Wedding said Petrash also volunteered for a time with Wayside Episcopal Church and found various other ways to stay active, including becoming a docent, a person who dresses up in costume and leads guided tours of historical areas. "Whatever he could do, he did," Wedding said. "He was so interested in Charles County that he learned its history. ... He just always wanted to do more, and he always tells people how he wants to do more."

Wedding said that Petrash's titles and accolades during his more active years of service were numerous, including serving as the MICU's acting chief and winning several regional awards.

"He did some of everything and he did a lot. He ran every week," Wedding said. "The thing that makes him so unique is that he's

done all these things, and he's just a wonderful man. He's just done so much, and a lot of what he's done, he's been older than 65." Wedding said she wants to see Petrash in the state's Emergency Services Hall of Fame, and that she also plans to write a letter to Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) asking that Petrash be recognized at the state level for all that he has done. "He's so deserving. I think his last hoorah, if you will, should be recognition from the state," Wedding said. "We have this man who wandered down here and decided to get involved. You don't find them any better or more dedicated than him. I'm proud and honored to be his friend."

Delmarva Smoke Alarms



L to R. Rick Blair, Pres. Of MD Fire Chief's Assoc., John Allen, Delmarva Power VP; MD State Fire Marshall, Brian S. Geraci, and MSFA Pres. Jacqueline Olsen. Photo: Horner

See main article on page 10

MIEMSS News Briefs

James W. Brown

Director, Educational Support Services

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS)

MSP and MIEMSS Convene Active Assailant Incident Workgroup

Recent incidents around the country have brought to light the need to ensure law enforcement, emergency medical services, and emergency management are collaborating to develop common plans for responding to an assailant causing or threatening harm with a firearm or explosive device. General guidelines for response must be consistent across the state to ensure effectiveness, especially if multiple jurisdictions respond. At the request of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, MIEMSS and the Maryland State Police (MSP) have convened an interdisciplinary work group to investigate current literature on these types of incidents and suggest general guidelines for response. The goal is to distribute preliminary recommendations on operational components to all local law enforcement agencies and EMS programs by the end of March with a final report, including training recommendations by June.

MD Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

MIEMSS has a representative on the Maryland Commission for Effective Community Inclusion of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This Commission is looking for input as to: what law enforce-

ment personnel and other first responders in Maryland need to know when working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; what Maryland should provide regarding training for first responders; and what kinds of community outreach activities should first responders conduct in order to raise awareness about effective first responder approaches for interacting with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information, please go to: <http://www.goccp.maryland.gov/iddc/index.php>

2014 "Meet the Protocols" Update

The "Meet the Protocols" training update for 2014 Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers is coming soon. The interactive format of this protocol update is user-friendly and gives you control over how you learn these important materials. It will be available on-line through the MIEMSS website or in DVD format for company drills. All Maryland EMS Providers must complete the 2014 Protocol Update matching their level of certification or licensure before July 1, 2014.

New (eMEDS®) Support Phone Number

MIEMSS has set up a new dedicated phone line for eMEDS® support. Please use - 410-706-3669 - to call for eMEDS support. This will simplify provider access for help with the eMEDS® system when needed. Provider questions may also be sent by email to eMEDS-Support@miemss.org.

Stars of Life and Right Care When It Counts Awards Nominations

Nominations for MIEMSS EMS Stars of Life Awards and EMSC Right Care When It Counts Awards are being accepted until April 1, 2014. Incidents and activities that occurred between January 1, 2013, and December 31, 2013, are eligible for submission. Nomination forms are available online at www.miemss.org under the "What's New" heading, then "Maryland EMS." Awardees are selected by a statewide committee of career, volunteer, and commercial EMS providers.

There are three ways to submit nomination forms:

Complete and print the PDF fillable application and fax it to MIEMSS Educational Support Services at 410-706-3485.

Complete the PDF fillable application and then click on the SUBMIT button while connected to the internet.

Complete the PDF fillable application. Save the document under a unique name and email it to awards@miemss.org.

EMS Care 2014 Statewide Conference Save the Date

This year's EMS Care 2014 Continuing Education Conference will take place at the Clarion Fontainebleau Resort Hotel in Ocean City, MD. There will be several options for preconference courses, including EMT Skills refresher, that will be held April 30–May 2, 2014. The full conference will take place May 3–4, 2014. Conference details and registration information will be available soon on www.miemss.org

Chip's Logbook

continued from page 2

Maryland's volunteer fire and rescue service. Our historic name simply does not reflect our present day membership demographics.

There have been unsuccessful attempts in the past to change our name. As our association has continued to expand, grow and diversify, we need to consider the metamorphous of the MSFA into the future. We now concentrate on a multiple of EMS issues during every session of the General Assembly. Much of our legislative efforts are targeted towards MIEMSS, SEMSAC, MSP

helicopters and other EMS related proposals.

And with 2014 as a statewide election year, we will need to educate probably over a third of newly elected legislators that the name Maryland State Firemen's Association really means over 370 volunteer fire, ambulance, rescue and EMS companies composed of 35,000 diversified members.

If we desire to truly represent the many facets of the emergency services, we need to consider how we are perceived outside the fire service community. If we are going to contin-

ue to promote our organization as representing all volunteer fire, ambulance and EMS services in the Free State, we need to consider the first impression, our name.

*As the present now
Will later be past
The order is
Rapidly fadin'
And the first one now
Will later be last
For the times they are a-changin'*

Bob Dylan - The Times They Are A-changin'

Annual Delmarva Power Smoke Alarm Donation Event

By Emmons Horner, Public Relations Committee

The Annual Donation Event was held at Delmarva Power Headquarters in Salisbury, on October 30, and was well attended by many in the Emergency Services from the State and Region.

* * * * *

The following is a Press Release by Delmarva Power.

SALISBURY, Md. – Delmarva Power's Emergency Services Partnership Program today donated residential smoke alarms to the Maryland State Fire Marshal's office for distribution throughout Maryland's Eastern Shore. The fire marshal's office received 1,000 smoke alarms which have a 10-year, long-life, sealed lithium battery.

"Our Emergency Services Partnership Program is committed to supporting the work of the men and women of volunteer and career fire service organizations," said John Allen, Delmarva Power Region Vice



The emergency services were well represented at Delmarva Power's Annual Smoke Alarm Donation Event, an activity we all look forward to each year. Photo: Emmons Horner. See additional photo on page 8

President. "These donated smoke alarms, when used properly, will help save the lives of the victims of fire and the people who come to their aid."

"Smoke alarms are a good first line of defense against possible injury and death from fire and smoke," said Brian S. Geraci, Maryland State Fire Marshal. "The Delmarva Power donation extends our reach into area communities to those people who need the most help,"

Additional organizations supporting

this effort include the following: Maryland State Firemen's Association, Fire and Burn Safety Coalition of Maryland, Maryland State Fire Prevention Commission and Maryland Fire Chief's Association.

Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse provided these alarms to Delmarva Power at a reduced cost to help support this safety effort. Since 2000, Delmarva Power has donated 18,750 regular smoke alarms, 1,042 special needs smoke alarms and 1,850 carbon monoxide alarms to fire safety officials in Maryland and Delaware.

Sears Hometown Supports Bay District VFD for Holiday Campaign

By: Shirley Copado
(Taken from *The County Times*)

Sears Hometown in the Wildewood Shopping Center, California, MD is partnering with the National Volunteer Fire Council to raise money for Bay District VFD as part of Sears Hometown and Outlet Stores, Inc.'s "Salute to Local Heroes" charity campaign. The objective of the campaign is to provide firehouses across the nation with critical funds to improve resources for training, equipment and financial support where the local heroes need it most.

From November 23, 2013 through December 31, 2013, Sears Hometown, Sears Home Appliance Showrooms, Sears Appliance & Hardware Stores and Sears Outlet customers and company employees will have the opportunity to

donate towards the National Volunteer Fire Council while making a purchase. All contributed funds will go directly to the local fire station for that store's community. In addition, \$2 from each Craftsman® Bottle Cap Wrench purchase will be directly donated to the chosen local department.

"Increasing budget cuts in fire departments nationwide are making it extremely difficult for firefighters to properly do their jobs, especially since seven (7) in ten (10) firefighters are volunteers," stated Heather Schafer, Executive Director of National Volunteer Fire Council. "Campaigns like 'Salute to Local Heroes' are critical for volunteer firehouses to have the necessary resources to perform their jobs safely and effectively while protecting their local com-

munities." The campaign focuses on supporting first responders with funds that will go towards purchasing and maintaining the following:

- Equipment: protective gear, rescue tools, medical apparatuses, trucks, thermal imaging devices, etc.
- Response certifications and training
- Medical treatment for injured responders
- Assistance and family support for injured responders
- Building maintenance and refurbishments

"We're excited to take part in a national campaign that will help us make a deeper connection within our community, while positively impacting it as a whole," said Andre Collins, owner of Sears Hometown of California, MD, who added that community involvement is a top operational priority for the store.

Editor's Note

Welcome to the February edition of the *Volunteer Trumpet*, the newsletter of the MSFA. In this issue, we welcome a new contributor, Nevin Steffy, of Kent County. Nevin provided the *Volunteer Trumpet* with an excellent photo of the recent Betterton fire. Thanks Nevin. And our regular columnist, Chip Jewell, has provided another opinion piece for readers to consider.

As our correspondents and photographers work on the April issue please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions for coverage, or content we should share.

We are pleased to hear from you as our goal is to print interesting and informative content for volunteer fire, rescue and EMS personnel of Maryland.

And we are always looking for additional contributors to provide coverage around Maryland. So be sure to send your company & MSFA material, including photos, to the editor at trumpet@msfa.org

Mike Dixon, Editor



AMBULANCE SERVICE--The Port Deposit area now has its own ambulance service provided by the vehicle shown above, belonging to the Water Witch Fire Company of the town. It is a 1957 Oldsmobile bought from the fire company at Oxford, Pa. Residents of the Port Deposit area may subscribe to ambulance service at a cost of \$3 per year. (Whig Photo by Clough)

This year the Water Witch Fire Company of Port Deposit marks a half-century of providing EMS to community. This Nov. 1964 photo from the Cecil Whig shows the company's first ambulance.



The Volunteer Trumpet

A publication of the Maryland State
Firemen's Association

www.msfa.org

55 Sunnybrook Drive

Elkton, MD 21921

**Representing the volunteer fire,
rescue and EMS personnel of
Maryland**



January, 9, 2014—Box 50-1, 207 No. Main St, Betterton — A midnight-hour fire destroyed an historic apartment building in Betterton. The two alarm blaze brought 45 firefighters and a total of 28 units from throughout Kent County and several adjoining counties to assist the Betterton Volunteer Fire Company

Photo Courtesy of Nevin Steffy

