National Fallen Firefighter Memorial 2014

by Ron Watkins, MSFA Public Relations Committee Chairman

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial weekend was held over the weekend of October 11 and 12, 2014 at the National Fire Academy location in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Family members of the 98 fire and rescue personnel who died in the line of duty in 2013 and the nine members who had not been previously recognized were in attendance; guests of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Foundation to attend the services, and receive an US flag, a rose, and a special commemorative badge honoring their family member and/or co-worker.

Two large groups were among the honorees this year – the nineteen members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots who died in a wildfire in the Yarnell Valley region of Arizona and the ten firefighters killed in a fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas.

It was estimated that over 650 family members, co-workers, and family members returning from previous years, were at the Memorial celebration. Sunday’s Memorial activities were attended by over 5,000 people, including firefighters from throughout the country, Honor Guard contingents, and massed pipe and drum units.

The keynote speaker was Rep. Steny Hoyer, and President Obama recorded a video that was played on the large screens set up at the site of the Monument. Aerial units from several local departments displayed the American flag over the entrance to the NFC and behind the Monument. The Memorial celebration is open to the public.

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Princess Anne VFD Celebrates a Century of Service to Somerset County

By Emmons Horner

Princess Anne was the scene on, Oct. 11th, of an historic celebration, and was very nice, and well attended. In attendance, with resolutions of recognition were State and Local Officials, and the MSFA. Princess Anne covers the entire Northern portion of the County, with the Lower Somerset Ambulance Co. covering the extreme Southern portion, and they sometimes run mutual EMS assistance with them, logging over 2000 calls annually. Several Companies provide EMS response to their own Communities, but depend on Princess Anne for the Paramedics, and transport to Peninsula Regional Medical Center, in Salisbury. The Firefighters also work mutual aid with the other Companies, keeping them quite busy.

It was pointed out, that in addition to their own volume of service, during the past 30 years, they have been instrumental in the chartering of Departments in Mt. Vernon and Fairmount.

Congratulations to all the Princess Anne personnel on a job well done.
The President’s Corner

by David Keller, III

I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve the Association and its members companies during this term as president, and I thank each of you for your continued support.

Since the convention I have been busy traveling around the state, attending county association meetings, a MSP ribbon cutting, two funerals, and a president’s council session with the Cumberland Valley VFA.

I have also participated in interviews at MIEMSS and the West Virginia State Firefighters Convention.

We were at the Nation Fallen Fighters Weekend Oct. 10 – 12 and the MSFA handed out 107 lithographs of the memorial to the families. Saturday we attended the candlelight service and Sunday we participated in the memorial service.

On Oct 15 we went to Cumberland for dedication of the new MSP helicopter, Trooper 5. I also had the privilege of installing the officers of the Libson VFC.

Shortly after the Convention we were pleased to announce that the MSFA and MFCA received a Safer Grant and we held a press conference with Senator Mikulski on July 3. MCFA President Thompson and I have been communicating and we are setting up meetings to advance the initiative. The MSFA representatives are PP Phil Hurlock, Tim Ganley, and PP Dave Lewis.

The MD fire service family lost several members and it is with sorrow that we heard of their passing. I attended the funeral for John Means who was a past Executive Committee Chair and a Trustee of the Association. PP Hurlock and I attended the funeral service for Dr. Bass’ father in Charlottesville, VA.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Association during my term, and I will continue to travel to your meetings to keep the lines of communications open for the betterment of the Maryland Fire Service.
The Fallen Firefighters Memorial was established and built in 1981. This was done at the urging of several fire service leaders who felt there should be a place to honor those who had suffered line of duty deaths. One of these leaders was MSFA Past President A. Marvin Gibbons, whose lobbying efforts resulted in the Memorial being located in Maryland. For all the work he did for the Memorial, the chapel at the NFC is named the A. Marvin Gibbons Chapel, in his honor.

In the early 1990s, the group of the MSFA members that were the prime movers for the Memorial were concerned that upkeep on the Memorial and any changes or additions had to be appropriated by Congress, as the Memorial was on Government property. Private donations could not be accepted to help with upkeep. The Committee found that if the Memorial was a Foundation, private donations could be accepted, and Representative Steny Hoyer and Senator Barbara Mikulski were approached to see if this could be done through the legislature.

The non-profit Foundation was established by Congress in 1992, and besides the Memorial Weekend, held in early October annually, they work year-round to support survivors of LOD deaths, help fire departments deal with the loss of a member by providing technical assistance and personal support, and work to support efforts to prevent line of duty deaths.

The activities start on Thursday, as families begin to arrive at the hotels. Thursday morning, a bus trip is provided to Arlington Cemetery, where a wreath-laying ceremony is conducted at the Unknown Soldier Tomb. Maryland Fire Chiefs Association members, along with MSFA and MFRI personnel, provide transportation from the airports and train stations for the incoming families. The MFCA staffs a “welcome desk” at each of the hotels being used by the families to greet them, help them with their luggage, and give them information about the planned events.

On Thursday night, there is a chapel vigil and a Walk of Honor to the Monument from the Chapel, as well as a dinner for returning survivors. Friday and Saturday during the day, survivor families attend sessions that help them with the grief process, make them aware of programs and such available to them, etc. Returning survivors pack gift bags for each family and participate in rehearsals for the activities Saturday evening and Sunday. Saturday evening, a candlelight service is held, using luminary bags made by the children of the honorees.

Sunday morning, the families are taken by bus to the Memorial site, where the Memorial Celebration takes place at 10:00 hours. This is held rain or shine, although some years required it to be moved to the Mount Saint Mary’s campus, at the PNC Sports Arena, in the event of severe weather. This year, the weather was perfect for the event – sunny and cool, with a slight breeze.

While in attendance of the Memorial, if a family needs to go get something, just wants to leave the scene for a while, or would like to do some sight-seeing, they only have to ask, and this service is provided for them. As the hotels where they were quartered are in the Gettysburg area, many take the opportunity to see some of the battlefield around Gettysburg.

The work continues until the last family has been taken to their transportation home. As Ron Siarnicki, Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation will tell you, that’s when the planning for next year begins. Our hats are off to the over 1,000 volunteers that do the work behind the scenes so the survivors have no problems while they are here.
MIEMSS News Briefs

By James W. Brown, MA., EMT
Director of Educational Support Services, MIEMSS

Kevin G. Seaman, MD., FACEP, appointed MIEMSS Executive Director

Maryland’s State EMS Board announced the appointment of Dr. Kevin G. Seaman as Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) following 19 years of service as Medical Director of the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services.

Dr. Seaman will assume the Executive Director position on December 1, 2014. Dr. Seaman takes over the department as only the second person to fill the position of Executive Director since its establishment.

He succeeds Dr. Robert R. Bass, who retired from MIEMSS after nearly 20 years as Executive Director. Dr. Seaman received his undergraduate and Medical Doctor degrees from Georgetown University.

He completed an internship in family practice at the Naval Hospital in Bremerton, Washington, and his residency in emergency medicine at the Naval Hospital in San Diego, California. Since coming to Maryland, Dr. Seaman has been involved in numerous aspects of EMS, including medical direction, education, quality improvement, and research.

Move Over for Emergency Vehicles and Tow Trucks: It’s the Law

The Maryland State Police are urging motorists to remember that as of October 1, 2014, moving over for tow trucks became law. Tow trucks are now included in the safety barrier of the “move over” law. The law is intended to provide an extra barrier of safety for police, fire and emergency rescue personnel, and now tow truck drivers. Motorists are required, when approaching from the rear an emergency vehicle or a tow truck with its lights activated, to change into an available lane not next to the emergency vehicle or tow truck, when safe to do so. If there is no lane available, the motorists must slow down to a reasonable and prudent speed as they pass the emergency scene.

The move over law is a primary offense with a fine of $110 and one point. If the violation contributes to a traffic collision, the fine will be $150 and three points. If the violation contributes to crash resulting in death or serious injury, the fine is $750 and three points.

2015 EMS and Prevention Educational Conferences

Please go to: www.miemss.org for details

Winterfest 2015: January 22–25, 2015, Tilghman Island, Md.


Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Seminar: March 28, 2015, MFRI, College Park, Md.


EMS Care 2015: April 30–May 3, 2015, Clarion Resort Fountainebleau Hotel, Ocean City, Md.

MSFA Annual Convention: June 20–26, 2015, Ocean City, Md.
Fire Trucks and Trains

by Clarence “Chip” Jewell, III

It is said the only difference between men (women) and boys (girls) are the price of the toys. For many of us in the fire and rescue service, our toys are big red (and white, green, blue, yellow, orange, lime or…….) fire engines. And yes, I must also yield to the more modern connotation that would include ambulances. But the rather amazing correlation to this limerick is that also many of these same individuals that love fire trucks also love trains. Other than the Tim the Tool Man Taylor need for power and speed, there must be other reasons fire trucks and trains seem to be a logical combination of interests.

History provides at least some reasoning for his marriage of machines. The invention of the steam engine can be traced to a patent in 1698 to England’s Thomas Savery. But it was well over 100 years before the first steam locomotive engine was built by another Britt, George Stephenson in 1813. In 1841, Paul Hodge tested the first steam fire engine in New York City. Though steam railroad locomotives quickly gained popularity, it wasn’t until 1852 that the first steam fire engine was built for the Cincinnati Fire Department and put into service to fight fires.

The first steam pumper in Baltimore City was named “Alpha” and placed in service in 1858. Additional steam engines were soon placed in service in the newly created paid Baltimore City Fire Department. Frederick, Hagerstown, Easton, Elkton and other larger Maryland cities purchased steamers over the next 50 years.

But, the similarity between railroad locomotives and steam fire engines is not the only historic association between trains and fire engines. Today a long distance mutual aid response only requires a GPS or directions to the fire and plenty of fuel.

But, the similarity between railroad locomotives and steam fire engines is not the only historic association between trains and fire engines. Today a long distance mutual aid response only requires a GPS or directions to the fire and plenty of fuel. But in years gone by, to provide mutual aid over a long distance required a train ride for the equipment. In 1885, the steamer Juliet of the Independent Hose Company No. 1 in Frederick was loaded on to an awaiting train of what would become the Pennsylvania Railroad and transported over three different rail lines to the town of Emmitsburg to fight a fire at St. Joseph’s College to save the buildings that today house the National Fire Academy.

According to MSFA Past President and former Laurel mayor Joe Robison, the first recorded line of duty death in Prince Georges County occurred when the Baltimore City Fire Department sent assistance to Laurel by train and a Baltimore City firefighter was killed unloading the steam pumper from the rail car. Steam pumbers from as far away as New York City were transported to Baltimore by train to fight the Great Baltimore Fire in 1904. According to a book published by retired Baltimore City Assistant Fire Chief Gary Fredericks, one such steamer that responded from Altoona, Pennsylvania was actually owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad to protect the Altoona shops.

Hose reels and wheeled extinguishers were common in many railroad yards. Fire fighting stations were common throughout large classification yards. One such fire company was actually located within the roundhouse of the B&O rail yard in Brunswick. Many railroads have provided some form of fire protection for many years. The unusual Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad pumper would run continued on page 7
Smoke Alarms and Liability

by Brian S. Geraci, State Fire Marshal

As my first year as your State Fire Marshal comes to a close, I want to thank everyone who has supported me during this time. I believe that we have had a good year, but we need to continue to get the message out to all of our communities regarding smoke alarms, escape plans and to get out and stay out. During my visits to several county fire and rescue association meetings, the issue regarding smoke alarms and liability was brought to my attention. I was really taken aback when I heard that some fire departments in this great State were not providing and or installing smoke alarms as a service to their communities in fear of liability. There really should be no debate over this issue at all, as it is a service we must provide in order to keep our citizens and firefighters safe from the effects of fire. When I spoke at these meetings, I would ask what your liability is if you do not provide and install smoke alarms within your community. It occurs to me the liability is much greater if you have the opportunity to provide these life saving devices and choose not to.

Fire Departments have been providing and installing smoke alarms for many years. I remember providing this service in the late 70’s as a firefighter working in Silver Spring. You can see this has become an accepted practice in the fire service community for many years, so by not providing this service you have created that liability you have been trying to avoid.

As you well know, smoke alarms have been the first line of notification to alert occupants of a fire in their homes for several decades. The statistical data has shown, since the inception of smoke alarms, the number of civilian fire deaths has decreased dramatically. The materials of newer furnishings, appliances and other amenities going into homes all over the State have greatly affected a family’s time to escape a home fire, and shortened the time to flashover in the room of origin. I cannot stress enough the importance of having working smoke alarms in all dwellings.

If as a department you are concerned regarding liability, I have seen many waiver forms that are available for your use. We cannot ignore this issue and just not provide this vital life saving service to our citizens. I am asking that you please provide and install smoke alarms in those homes within your community on every level of the home and in each sleeping area. The smoke alarms shall be the new 10 year sealed battery smoke alarms where permitted. Even providing batteries for electric smoke alarms with a battery back-up can go a long way to save lives in your community.

Every year, in partnership with my office, the MSFA provides $500 dollar grants to be used toward fire prevention. Please take advantage and apply for this outstanding program to help purchase smoke alarms that can be installed inside the homes of your communities. I would also ask that you seek any and all opportunities when in a home to check for the presence of working smoke alarms.

Thank you once again for a good first year. Fire prevention should be your departments most valuable and important life saving community service.

SAVE THE DATE!

Public Fire and Life Safety Educator’s Spring Conference
March 28, 2015
Time: 0800 – 1600
Location: Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute
University of Maryland
4500 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD 20742

SAVE THE DATE!

Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference
September 29, 2015
Time: 0800 – 1500
Location: Johns Hopkins APL
Kostkaoff Conference Center
11100 Johns Hopkins Rd, Laurel, MD 20723
“Long before trips to Wisconsin and Florida were made to pick up apparatus, fire engines were frequently delivered by rail. Special rail cars the opened on the end were designed to transport large equipment such as fire engines over the tracks to awaiting fire companies. The freight cars were backed up to a loading ramp at a freight station and the car end doors would open to allow the engine to be driving on to the ramp. Even early steam pumpers were delivered behind a steam locomotive to cities and towns large enough to afford the “modern” technology. Firehouse train gardens during the holidays have been a family tradition at many firehouses throughout Maryland. Wise Avenue, Ellicott City and some Baltimore City fire stations are among the favorites in the Baltimore area. Recently, even more Maryland fire companies have recalled the past traditions and built train gardens for public display. The allure of the trains and the excitement of the fire trucks are a natural combination that has entertained children young and old for decades. Fire trucks and trains have a common bond that is shared by many members of the fire and rescue service. I can personally attest there is no greater joy than have my grand children watching two sets of trains pass each other on my 4x8 layout. My 2 ½ year old grandson wears his fire chief t-shirt while being mesmerized watching my HO trains. Of course, granddad has to wear his “choo-choo” shirt and have his “fire call” on his belt! The smiles of my grand-children assure me fire engines and train engines will attract big and little boys and girls of all ages for years to come. BE SAFE!!
Eastern Shore Association Meeting

by Emmons Horner

The September meeting of the Eastern Shore Volunteer firemen’s Association, which was held in Talbot County at the Trappe VFC, featured the election of officers and hall of fame induction.

Officers elected to serve for the next year and their respective companies are: President, George McCracken, Trappe; 1st VP George Mister, Deal Island/Chance; 2nd VP Robyn Hahn, Hacks Point; Secretary, Barbara Steiner, Church Creek; Asst. Treas., Donald Ford, Deal Island/Chance. The oath of office was administered by MSFA 1st VP, Johnie Roth. Reappointed as Chaplain was Donald Knauer of Madison and Parliamentarian, Richard Smith of Oxford.

Admitted into the Hall of Fame were Tracy D. Whitby-Fairall of Linkwood-Salem, and Heather Miller of Chesapeake City.

The Association meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of Sept., Nov., Feb., and May, with a luncheon at 1 p.m. and meeting at 2 p.m. November will be at Hacks Point. Member companies are urged to attend and support the Association.

Teaching the Art of Babysitting for Half-a-Century

by Mike Dixon, editor

For fifty years the Takoma Park VFD has been working to make sure parents have access to a carefully trained group of babysitters to whom they may trust child care while going out for the evening.

This course started in 1964 when veteran firefighter Jim Jarboe took on the assignment, and he has kept it going over the decades.

During the practical five-week program, attendees learn the ins and outs of babysitting. Making sure they study the things they need to know to be responsible on-the-job, these young people hear about fire safety, infant and child care, home safety, first aid, CPR, and personal safety.

Upon attending all sessions and passing a final exam, students receive a certificate. Over 2,500 well-trained young people have graduated and the Department is now seeing a 2nd and third generation of enrollees return for the series.

Others instructors help Jim deliver segments. Tina Willey teaches the infant and child care session, and “would you believe she took this class 45 years ago,” Jim remarked. The Takoma Park Police provide an instructor for the personal safety lesson, while additional members of the fire department and graduates help out with other parts.

Besides the certificate of completion, a class photo is presented to the group and the local newspaper runs an article about the class.

Good babysitters, something that helps provide peace of mind to parents, are hard to find, but Jim Jarboe and one Montgomery County department have been doing their part for half-a-century.

On October 6, eleven girls and boys completed the popular Baby Sitter's Training Program, sponsored by the Takoma Park VFD.

Standing, from left: Abby Ehrensten, Merete Oakes, Emily Washburn, Jim Jarboe; Sitting middle, from left: Sydney Hastings-Wilkins, Seren Sarkozy-Banoczy, Trevor Brooks Sitting front, from left: Benjamin Zamarron, Elijah Kodjak, Nikita Kodjak, Emily Harris Not pictured: Caleb Williams. The Class was presented by Jim Jarboe, with assistants, Rusty, Tina and Ashlee Willey, TPVFD and Sgt. Tina Smith, from Takoma Park Police Department.
Alfaro Montgomery Co. EMT of the Year

by Jim Jarboe

At the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Annual Banquet on September 18, 2014, Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department member Jorge Alfaro was honored with the Association’s prestigious EMT of the Year award.

The Department’s nomination noted that the personable first responder is well-respected by volunteers and career personnel alike. On every call, he shows concern for patients and the high standard of care. The CPR instructor has been the department’s most active member for the past five years, especially in the field of EMS. From 2010 to July 31, 2014, he has put in 7,810 hours of standby duty time at the station and since becoming an EMT he has been the top responder, answering 2,709 calls in approximately 4-1/2 years.

Alfaro completed the Instructor One Course, allowing him to assist with company training, and in 2010, he received his EMT certification and his EVOC in 2011.

He serves on the Board of Directors, a position he has held for five years. Helping out in a variety of functions, he also serves as Santa Claus, riding through the neighborhoods.

Delmarva Power Donates Smoke Detectors

By Johnie Roth

November 3, 2014, in Salisbury, Maryland the Delmarva Power donated 1,200 residential 10 year, long-life, sealed lithium battery Smoke Alarms to the Maryland state Fire Marshall’s office for distribution throughout Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Since 2000, Delmarva Power has donated 20,150 regular smoke alarms, 1,042 special needs smoke alarms for the hearing impaired, and 2,050 carbon monoxide alarms to fire safety officials in Maryland and Delaware.

Editor’s Note

Welcome to the Oct. 2014 edition of the Volunteer Trumpet, the newsletter of the MSFA.

We have coverage from all over the state, bringing you the latest MSFA and member company news from every corner of Maryland.

In October, we enjoyed attending a special celebration in Centreville as the Goodwill Fire Company marked 125 years of service to Queen Anne’s County. There Goodwill historian, Dan Tabler, shared stories about the company’s heritage with us.

The retired newspaper editor and oldest member of the department mentioned that he served as the first editor of this newsletter.

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

We are always pleased to hear from you as our goal is to print interesting and informative content for the 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.

Mike Dixon, Editor
trumpet@msfa.org
Goodwill Fire Company Celebrate 125 Years of Service

by Dan Tabler

The Goodwill Fire Company in Centreville was 125 years old on Oct. 28th. The oldest fire company in Queen Anne’s County, the company hosted an open house on Saturday, Oct 25th, with a number of activities. There were tours of the firehouse and the emergency equipment, free refreshments, historical exhibits, and fire prevention material for children and adults.

The original minutes of the fire company, now in a glass display case in the firehouse, show that the unit was organized in the Centreville Town Office on Oct. 28, 1889 with 37 active members and 24 honorary members. Those honorary members were town citizens who paid some type of dues to show they were in favor of the company’s organization.

The first president was A. Randolph Weedon, with Robert M. Price as vice president. Frank Keating as secretary and Wrighton L. Lowe as treasurer. The chief and also chief engineer was Frank Gemmell.

The original hand-written minutes were recopied in Dec. 1947 by then-president of the company, the late E. O. Willis. They ran from that initial meeting to minutes of April 27, 1891. They show that the first alarm answered by the new fire company was a false alarm on Feb. 7, 1890. Apparently, the first fire to occur in town to call out the company after its formal organization was on March 18, 1890, when Plummer’s stable on Kidwell Avenue was slightly damaged. The minutes stated, “The members showed good turnout.”

The fire company has had four homes. The first was on the lower floor of the old town hall, which was located behind the present day courthouse. In 1907, after the building of the Opera House on Commerce Street, the company moved to more spacious quarters on one side of its first floor.

Around 1920, the company purchased property on Water Street. The property was a narrow brick structure, which has since been torn down. This site served as the firehouse location until the present firehouse was built in 1948 on Broad-
Rehab 8 On-the-Job, Supporting Emergency Workers

by Mike Dixon, editor

Rehab 8 from the Community Fire Company of Rising Sun is a busy unit supporting Cecil County first responders at major alarms. And weary firefighters battling a blaze or working some type of extended incident are always pleased to see the shiny red and white canteen arrive on the scene. It means the tired crew battling flames and the heat or cold will soon have refreshing drinks and hot food.

It’s a major job, sometimes feeding hundreds of hungry firefighters, but they are always there and will stay on the incident as long as needed. Just ask one of the crew leaders and fire company secretary, Kristin Batz, about that and she will describe the runs. “We average about ten working calls a year and the crew works about ten fundraisers each year,” Kristin noted.

The team provided support to Port Deposit when the Susquehanna River flooded, Kristin added. As a result, Water Witch FC requested a response, asking that they feed hundreds of tired emergency personnel on this incident. Over four long weary days for emergency responders, Rehab 8 provided badly needed breaks, offering refreshments, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Working in shifts, the Rehab 8 team put in over 100 man-hours from the time they answered the call on a Thursday until incident command relieved them on Saturday.

They additionally assisted Water Witch of Port Deposit when a tanker rolled over in the municipality and were called back there a week later when another tanker exploded in the middle of the night. The crew also supports the Maryland State Police on crime scene work and on search and rescue missions.

But that isn’t all as you are just as likely to find them at community and fundraising activities in Cecil County. Over the autumn, they worked the Rising Sun Health Fair, the Civil War Reenactment, and the Rising Sun Spooktacular.

The Volunteer Trumpet caught up with them as they worked a great Halloween community event in Rising Sun. The cook tending the grill on that fine October Saturday was fire company president, Walter Funk. As a long line of youngsters in costumes stood at the canteen’s window, team members took orders and Walter attended to the hot dogs on the sizzling grill. If that wasn’t enough, the unit also assists in fire prevention.

Pres. Funk and Marie Walker get another order ready

Rehab 8 at the town’s Civil War festival. From left Kristin Batz, President Walter Funk, and two other Rehab 8 Crew Members.

Kristin Batz passes a soda to a customer
Goodwill VFC Historian Dan Tabler talks about the company’s history during the open house.