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Fire Chaplains Meet in Annapolis

by John F. Long, Jr. ETC, USC, RET.
Chief Chaplain MSFA

There were over 168 chaplains and 59 spouses in attendance from all over the United States and Canada. The furthest travelled from North Pole, Alaska. Chaplains attended one of five classes offered during the pre-conference October 17-19. Classes included Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy, LODD Notification, Keeping Chaplains Fired up, ICISF Individual and Group Intervention, and ICISF Pastoral I and Pastoral II. The conference kicked off with a Weary Travelers' reception Sunday night. Many speakers were on hand and focused on topics from LODD to firefighter behaviors. On Monday a fellowship trip was taken to Fort McHenry in Baltimore, in addition some of the chaplains enjoyed a ride on the new Baltimore City fireboat. On Tuesday, the chaplains and

their spouses held the FFC's memorial service at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Memorial located in Annapolis. Wednesday night at the annual banquet, MSFA Chaplain Emeritus J. Harvey Dixon was given a citation for his dedication and service to the Federation. Chaplain Dixon is one of the founding members of the Federation of Fire Chaplains. A special lifetime achievement award was awarded to Chaplain George Grim for his work as a chaplain and with the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. Chief



(L to R) Chaplains Harvey Dixon and Executive Director Ed Stauffer

Chaplain John F. Long, Jr. was awarded the Federation of Fire Chaplains "Chaplain of the Year Award". On Thursday, goodbyes were said. The chaplains will gather again next year in West Palm Beach, FL. Additional photos—Page 8

Fire Department Listening Station Opens

By Mike Dixon, Editor
Volunteer Trumpet

The Singerly Fire Company of Elkton officially kicked off an oral history initiative, the Singerly Listening Station, several months ago. Part of a larger process that



is preserving and documenting the history of the department, the recordings are archived in the company museum. Longer, raw foot-

age is retained for research and future use, while a shorter, edited video production featuring interview highlights is streamed on the company website.

See Presidential Detail
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The President's Corner

by David Keller, III

We had a productive meeting of the Executive Committee on December 6 & 7, 2014, at the Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company.

The Association heard from MSFA officers, committee chairs, the MSFA Ladies Auxiliary, and allied agencies, during a packed weekend of activities.

I, along with 1st VP Roth and 2nd VP Davis, have been busy traveling from one corner of the State to the other, representing the organization. We have attended county association sessions, MSFA committee meetings, partner conferences, fundraisers, banquets, company meetings and much more.

Our MSFA Chief Chaplain John Long was selected at the Chaplain of the Year at the Foundation of Chaplin's Conference in Annapolis. I want to add my congratulations for this well-deserved recognition.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee takes place February 7 & 8, 2015, at the Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company, 203 North Church Street, Suddlersville, MD. All committee chairs, organizations and agencies are reminded that reports for the meeting should be sent to report@msfa.org by January 31, 2015.

Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate in these meetings so you may be better informed and updated on the various emergency services issues and opportunities as we serve the citizens of Maryland.

I am fortunate to have assistance from a strong leadership team, along with the exceptional knowledge and help of the past presidents, as we leverage this strong combination of experience, qualifications, and commitments to focus on the opportunities and challenges faced by the volunteer fire and EMS service in the second decade of the 21st century.



MSFA President Keller

Once again it has been a busy period for the presidents and vice-presidents. We look forward to a continued busy calendar in the remainder of my term in 2015 as we keep the lines of communications open for the betterment of the Maryland Fire Service.

Thanks for supporting the organization and its leadership team.

David Keller, III

President, MSFA

MSFA Trustees Benefits and the Presumption Law

By Douglas Alexander

The MSFA Trustees administers death and disability benefits for certain individuals who are killed or injured in the line of duty. The Board of Trustees is responsible for reviewing claims and dispersing the benefits (a description of those benefits can be found under the "Trustees/Benefits" tab on www.msfa.org).

Recently, the question arose as to whether a volunteer firefighter who had acquired certain types of occupational cancers would be eligible for these benefits under Maryland law. The Trustees contacted the Maryland Attorney General and requested an answer on whether the Trustee's benefits were included in the application of the "Presumption Law". According to the Attorney General's Office, the answer is no.

Maryland has established, through its' Worker's Compensation statutes a presumption that a volunteer firefighter, who has met certain criteria, suffers from an occupational disease. Those criteria are:

- (1) has leukemia or prostate, rectal, throat, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, brain, testicular, or breast cancer that is caused by contact with a toxic substance that the individual has encountered in the line of duty;
- (2) has completed at least 10 years of service as a firefighter, fire fighting instructor, rescue squad member, or advanced life support unit member or in a combination of those jobs in the department where the individual currently is employed or serves;
- (3) is unable to perform the normal duties of a firefighter, fire

fighting instructor, rescue squad member, or advanced life support unit member in the department where the individual currently is employed or serves because of the cancer or

leukemia disability; and (4) in the case of a volunteer firefighter, volunteer fire fighting instructor, volunteer rescue squad member, or volunteer advanced life support unit member, has met a suitable standard of physical examination before becoming a firefighter, fire fighting instructor, rescue squad member, or advanced life support unit member.

Once those criteria are met, a Worker's Compensation Claim is going to be approved unless it can be proven that the disease did not occur because of fire fighting activities.

That same presumption does not apply to death and disability benefits through the MSFA Trustees. Worker's Compensation applies to both single incident injuries as well as to occupational diseases (long term health problems that a worker suffers as a result of their work activities over the course of their career). Trustee benefits apply to specific incidents, for example, a firefighter breaking an arm on the scene, or

having a heart attack within a few hours of a fire call. While you might still be eligible for Trustee benefits if you develop one of the occupational cancers listed above, the burden is on you to prove that the cancer was caused by a specific, documented incident, and that is a very difficult burden to meet.

If you are injured, or a loved one is killed, while serving as a volunteer firefighter, rescue squad person, or EMS provider, or if you develop an occupational disease, there might be funds available to help you through those difficult times. You should contact a lawyer to help you with the specifics of filing a Worker's Compensation claim, and you should contact one of the Trustees to determine whether you are eligible for death or disability benefits through the MSFA.

"... the question arose as to whether a volunteer firefighter who had acquired certain types of occupational cancers would be eligible for these benefits ..."

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FROG (Fire Rescue Operational Guidance) Leadership Seminar

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

The Maryland State Firemen’s Association recently presented a leadership seminar entitled FROG (Fire Rescue Organizational Guidance) at the Frederick County Public Safety Training Academy.

FROG is a “graduate” level course, facilitated by Chief Officers with real life expertise. The curriculum was developed by nationally-recognized fire service leaders from volunteer and combination departments across the United States with technical support provided by the U.S. Fire Administration.

The course focused on three strategies necessary in all successful organizations:

- (a) managing the processes;
- (b) leading the people, and
- (c) creating intentional organization culture.

The weekend seminar utilized facilitated discussions and hands-on exer-



President Keller speaks at the seminar.

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FROG Seminar participants.

cises. Participants worked together to produce solutions to common leadership challenges through various scenarios and discussions.

Topics included analyzing and understanding the fire department’s people, processes, and culture. At the

conclusion of the course, participants had developed practical guidelines, customized to their own organization, which could be implemented in their own organizations.

Chip's Firehouse Logbook: Past, Present and Future

Loss of Legends

by Clarence "Chip" Jewell, III

There are many individuals that have made a difference in the fire service in my lifetime. I had personal mentors that counseled me and helped me progress in the many different facets of our diversified service. There are individuals on the state level who have championed the fire and life safety, helped foster the volunteer fire service and developed programs to continue to make the Maryland fire and rescue service a national leader.

Since last winter, we lost two national fire service icons that not only had a direct effect on the Maryland fire and rescue service, but truly had far reaching national and even international fire service respect. I had the distinct privilege of personally knowing these giants of the fire protection disciplines.

I first met James C. "Robbie" Robertson in 1972 when he served as the first modern day Maryland State Fire Marshal. As a young 19 year old dispatcher, the state fire marshal's office shared a building with Frederick County Central Alarm, where I worked, usually alone on a shift. Two brothers

and former state troopers Donald and Top Barnes were assigned our area and reported to Robbie. Tim May and Jerry Chipley took their place when Top retired and Donnie became Frederick County sheriff. Robbie would occasionally stop in the radio room just to say hi. His manners of a southern gentlemen and extensive knowledge base were always enjoyable conversation for a young dispatcher.

In a report of his death last year on FIREHOUE.COM, it was noted Robbie's interest in fire protection stemmed from seeing the aftermath of the Winecoff Hotel fire in 1946 that killed 119 people. He moved to Florida after serving as Maryland State Fire Marshal for 18 years doing consulting and working for the NFPA. He wrote many articles and contributed to many books, but the book Introduction Fire Prevention was recently released by Brady in the 8th Edition is a fire service staple.

Upon his partial retirement, he never truly retired, he became intently involved with the National Fire Heritage Center

(NFHC) to help promote saving and archiving the thousands of books, manuscripts and drawings



that have been a part of the many fire service disciplines. Robbie saw the vision of the need for a national fire service archive and spent many hours with Wayne Powell, Chief Ronny Coleman, and the many members of the NFHC to promote the need to protect the perishable of our nation's fire service. Robbie was also very supportive of the Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum, co-located with NFHC in Emmitsburg. I am so very grateful to have been a good friend of Robbie. He will be missed by many in Maryland and around the world.

Dr. John Bryan was a pioneer of fire service education, especially in the area of life safety. In a tribute at his funeral, Dr. Jim Milke, Professor and current Chair of the Department of Fire Protection Engineering at the University of Maryland, noted that in 1950, members of the Maryland State Firemen's Association saw the need for a fire protection engineering program at the University

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"There are individuals on the state level who have championed the fire and life safety, helped foster the volunteer fire service and developed programs to continue to make the Maryland fire and rescue service a national leader."

"Since last winter, we lost two national fire service icons that not only had a direct effect on the Maryland fire and rescue service, but truly had far reaching national and even international fire service respect. ."

Victims of Impaired Driving Honored at 11th MD Remembers Event

COINCIDES WITH LAUNCH OF NEW SMARTPHONE APP DESIGNED TO END DUI

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

Honoring lives lost and detailing the State’s ongoing efforts to put an end to impaired driving, Deputy Transportation Secretary Wilson H. Parran joined Maryland State Police Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Jones, Mothers Against Drunk Driving National President Jan Withers, Maryland Motor Vehicle Administrator and Governor O’Malley’s Highway Safety Representative Milton Chaffee, safety advocates, and the families and friends of drunk/drugged driving crash victims at the 11th Annual Maryland Remembers memorial service on December 11, 2014.

The annual ceremony, held in the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis, serves to raise awareness of the dangers of impaired driving that increase during the holiday season.

The holiday season marks one of the most dangerous periods with regard to impaired driving-related deaths. Maryland law enforcement officers will be deployed in full force throughout the holidays to find and arrest impaired drivers. Last year, more than 23,000 arrests were made for DUI offenses throughout the State.

The event also coincided with the official launch of an innovative smartphone app that is intended to prevent impaired driving by helping people plan ahead or find a safe ride home if they have been drinking. The ENDUI app, now available at Google Play for Android phones or at the iTunes

Store for iPhones, was developed by the Maryland Highway Safety Office to combat impaired driving and save lives.

ENDUI App features include:

- Creating a “designated driver list” of family members and friends who can be contacted quickly in the event that someone has had too much to drink;
- Instantly locating the nearest taxi service or public transportation options;
- A Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) guide, where the number and type of drinks a person has consumed is entered into the app and an estimated BAC level is provided;
- Two skills tests designed to measure a person’s reaction time and response functions, characteristics that diminish with impairment;
- The ability to report an impaired driver by contacting 9-1-1 with the push of a button; and
- DUI facts and educational videos

The ENDUI App is part of a comprehensive strategy to save lives by preventing impaired driving through education, enforcement and engineering efforts. Other educational campaigns include Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over and Checkpoint Strikeforce, which are major components of Maryland’s Toward Zero Deaths campaign. This campaign focuses on preventing impaired driving, aggressive driving, and distracted driving, while also promoting seat belt use and pedestrian safety. For more information on the



Toward Zero Deaths campaign, visit www.towardzerodeathsmd.com. For more information about Maryland Remembers, please visit

20 Years . Providing Thanksgiving Dinners

Every year since 1995, the Takoma Park VFD in partnership with the Takoma Park Lions Club and the Auxiliary of the American Legion Cissel-Saxon No. 1 has donated money to purchase dinners for families in need for Thanksgiving. The cost for a dinner from Safeway in 1995 was \$28.00. Today it is \$49.99. Each dinner will serve 6-8 people. As of this year, 462 families have received Thanksgiving Dinners. With each box,



Members Jim Jarboe and Dave Hooker loading the truck for the deliveries

“These three icons of the American Fire Service were trailblazers. The yearn for knowledge, to provide knowledge, and to recognize the fire and rescue service as much more than lights and sirens truly enhanced our discipline and made a difference in the lives of our members and the citizens we all serve.”

Chip’s Logbook

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of Maryland. Dr. Bryan studied at Oklahoma State and was recruited to return to Maryland in 1954 and developed the curriculum. Dr. Milke further noted that on January 30, 1956, Dr. Bryan met with Governor Millard Tawes, a former president of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association and member of the Crisfield Volunteer Fire Department, to encourage funding for this new program. Ironically, the famous “Oyster Roast Fire” that claimed 11 lives and injured hundreds, occurred in Brooklyn, MD just across the Baltimore City line in Anne Arundel County the Sunday after the meeting. No doubt Governor Tawes fire service background coupled with the tragic events at Arundel Park, encouraged state funding for the fire protection engineering program.

“Prof”, as he became known, became the department chairman and remained in that position until his retirement in 1993. Dr. Bryan was truly the expert in human behavior, probably brought on by his knowledge of the early “Oyster Roast Fire”. The entire 20th edition of the NFPA Fire Protection Handbook is dedicated to Dr. John Bryan not only for his tenure at the University of Maryland, but his service as Chairman of the NFPA Board of Di-



Dr. Bryan. Photo:

rectors and Chairman of the NFPA Standards Council. Section 4, Chapter 1 of the 20th edition of the NFPA Fire Protection Handbook was written by Dr. John Bryan.

Dr. Bryan was also a dedicated volunteer, serving in the College Park Volunteer Fire Department and helping to organize the Be-

thesda – Chevy Chase Rescue Squad. Dr. John “Prof” Bryan was not only a visionary, but also a father figure and mentor to many that entered the field of fire protection engineering. His legacy will be the untold lives that have been and will be saved by his studies, his written works, and the many fire protection engineers that sever throughout the world dedicated to fire protection and life safety.



James C. Robertson

Harvey Eisner did not live in Maryland, but his annual pilgrimage to the Inner Harbor in Baltimore to organize and coordinate the premier fire service exposition was a labor of love. As the Editor-In-Chief of

Firehouse Magazine, he took a personal leadership role in assuring the annual Firehouse Exposition in Baltimore was an exceptional experience for everyone in attendance. He built the annual event from a show to a true educational opportunity for every level of fire and rescue service provider. From the

newest volunteer to the seasoned career chief officer, the July visit to Baltimore became an event that provided an opportunity to absorb innovations in equipment and training.

These three icons of the American Fire Service were trailblazers. The yearn for knowledge, to provide knowledge, and to recognize the fire and rescue service as much more than lights and sirens truly enhanced our discipline and made a difference in the lives of our members and the citizens we all serve. They are missed by many, but will live in the text books, studies and magazine articles that will be archived for generations to come.

Be Safe,

CHIP

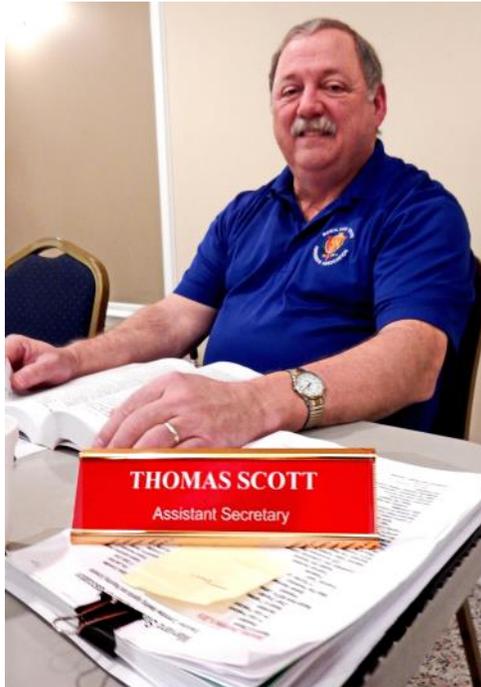


Photos courtesy of the National Fire Heritage Center

Views from the Pocomoke City Executive Committee Meeting



Sgt.-At-Arms Laura Woods of Arundle VFD is always busy keeping order. Attentive to her duties, she is quick to restore quiet in the room. Her she displays her signs for Bob Hahn of Hacks Point



Top — One of the most active tables is that of the secretary. A full team works this station, copying and assembling documents the Executive Committee and the president need to manage their work. Thomas Scott of the Prince Frederick VFD, an asst. secretary is one of those members



Left—Ron Watkins of the Damascus VFD, the public relations committee chair, worked a corner of the station, snapping pictures of officers, and committee members.

Save the Date

By Bruce Bouch, DSFM

Public & Life Safety Educator’s Spring Seminar March 28, 2015

Maryland Fire Service— Risk Reduction Weekends May 16-17, 2015 Statewide Smoke Alarm Installation Program

Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference, Sept. 29, 2015

Oct. 17-18, 2015 — Statewide Smoke Alarm Installation Program

MSFA Convention June 20-25, 2015

Editor’s note

Welcome to the Dec. 2014 edition of the Volunteer Trumpet, There is lots of coverage in this issue and hope you enjoy it.

We are always looking for additional contributors to strengthen the publication . So be sure to send your company & MSFA material, including photos, to the editor.

Mike Dixon Editor
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NEXT ISSUE

- Rev. J. Harvey Dixon
- Chip’s Logbook
- New Chaplain’s Column



The Pocomoke City VFC, hosted the Executive Committee Meeting. On a rain soaked Saturday in December the engine room lights at Worcester County Station 100 glowed in the gathering evening darkness as threatening clouds hovered over the firehouse.

Fire Chaplains See article page 1



Rev. Ed Stauffer, Chaplain George Grimm and George's wife.



Rev. John F. Long, Jr. and his wife Kathy.

Young Firefighter Recalls Working Presidential Detail 51 Years Ago.

By Mike Dixon, Editor
Continued from page 1

Elkton, July 24, 2014 — Today a veteran firefighter, Leroy Hampton Scott, III (microScotty) sat down to help fill in Singerly Fire Company's past at the department's listening station. With over a half-a-century under his belt, Scotty shared stories that are part of a structured initiative called the Singerly Listening Station, an oral history project that is documenting the public safety agency's heritage and honoring the memories of those who served. The teenager joined the ranks as a rookie in 1958. After that, he contributed countless hours to the service, fighting blazes, hanging onto the back of rushing fire engines, doing fundraising, and helping keep the organization running. He reached the rank of deputy chief before eventually retiring from active duty. Scotty had many recollections, but some stood out more than others for him. When the senior volunteer was

asked about an extraordinary thing etched in his memory, he quickly mentioned an event that took place 51 years ago this autumn, something he still vividly recalls. "The things you got to do, but you'll never get a chance to do again," he explained. "As near as I am to you [about 5-feet away]," he motioned with a sweeping hand gesture, "I was that close to the president." The Singerly junior officer was part of a November 14, 1963, detail, helping protect President John F. Kennedy during his 62-minute visit to Elkton to dedicate the new I-95. Long before the chief executive touched down on Cecil County soil, security, crowd control, and safety arrangements had carefully been pinned



President Kennedy (center) is joined by the governors of DE & MD in cutting the ribbon to open I-95 on Nov. 14, 1963. Source: Cecil Whig photo

down. Elite secret service men guarded JFK, Maryland and Delaware State Police established secure perimeters, and the fire department stood by at the landing site.

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Rock Hall Hosts Controlled Burning for Live Training

By Nevin Steffy

This photo was taken at a controlled burning on November 8, 2014, in Rock Hall.

The building was the an old funeral home at the edge of town. Station 7 (Rock Hall) contracted with Strike the Box Training (www.striketheboxtraining.com) to manage the controlled burning so that multiple evolutions could be done inside the building, giving hands on fire training to various invited companies..

This photo was taken from outside the building, shooting through two doorways and is an excellent depiction of the type of fires firefighters experienced throughout the day during the training session.

All told, there were in excess of 40 live burns done inside the building throughout the day. Eventually, the building was burned down to the foundation, at the request of the owner.

Companies participating in the training were Rock Hall Fire Company, Chestertown Fire Company, and Betterton Fire Company from Kent County. From Queen Anne's County the Queenstown Fire Company participated in the training session.

Strike the Box Training will build custom courses to meet the needs of a department. They also have several "canned" classes. Visit their website for additional information on Strike the Box or contact Trevor Steedman, Owner and President, at 443-944-4911.



Bobby Finck of Church Hill, MD, an employee of Strike the Box Training monitor the progress of the controlled burn. He is also a professional firefighter on the Western Shore. Photo credit: Nevin Steffy

Presidential Detail

Continued from page 9

When Marine 1 came into view, newspapers estimated that there were 5,000 people on the Mason Dixon Line outside Elkton. That helicopter eased down to the ground, bringing the nation’s leader to the famous old Line where a speaker’s stand was set up for the ceremony. The Delaware National Guard “played Hail to the Chief,” while the youthful president walked to the stand to offer remarks.

The large, enthusiastic crowd greeted the energetic leader warmly on that memorable day in mid-autumn. As JFK, the governors and other dignitaries delivered speeches, an engine and rescue truck stood by, in case they were needed. “I recall that Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder of Newark, Delaware was there too since it was on the state line and I believe we had an ambulance,” he noted. “We were right up front. They wanted us nearby in case something happened, as it did eight days later.” Chief Edgar (Spec) Slaughter commanded the operation that day and “I was on 27, the old rescue. The rescue got placed closer in,” Scotty re-

called. After snipping the ribbon and unveiling a marker on the state line, the president shook hands while returning to the helicopter. At the door of the craft he waved to the crowd before disappearing inside. “While the bird faded into the eastern horizon, the area was bathed in a dramatic sunset as people headed back to their cars on this chilly Thursday afternoon,” the Morning News reported.

Scotty was also a rural mail carrier in 1963, and when he came back to the post office on November 22, 1963, he learned about the death of the president. Practically everyone in Cecil County recalled that it was only eight days earlier that the president had visited Cecil to open the North-eastern Express, which was soon renamed the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway. While many here had seen John F. Kennedy on that historic day, Scotty’s work as a volunteer firefighter had allowed him to see the energetic, youthful man up close and that made the entire sequence of events “mean that much more to me,” he concluded. While most people settled down



Deputy Chief Hampton Scott (retired) of the Singerly Fire Company.

to listen to news flashes out of Dallas and to deal with the shock, Scotty wasn’t done. “I also worked with my dad in construction, after finishing the mail. We had just poured concrete at the First National Bank of North East. I had to stay and finish the concrete and everybody in the world was coming by to tell us what had happened.

This was just one of Scotty’s many stories, a moment when a volunteer fire department assignment brought him to the dedication of the new expressway, where he stood feet away from the President of the United States. His encounter with Kennedy was thrilling and was something he shared 51 years later.

Correspondents & Photographers Wanted

Contribute coverage from your area to the Volunteer Trumpet
The Newsletter of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association

To contribute materials or discuss opportunities contact the editor

Mike Dixon trumpet@msfa.org



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



At the Pocomoke City Executive Committee Meeting in Dec., the busy leadership team pauses for a quick photo before returning to work on association and meeting matters. L to R, President Keller, 1st VP Roth and 2nd VP Davis.

