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Retirement Ceremony for Major General Adkins

by Johnie Roth, Jr.

On Saturday, February 28, 2015 the leadership of the Maryland State Firemen's Association gave a final salute to Major General James A. Adkins at his "Change of Command, Change of Responsibility, and Retirement Ceremony" at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, MD.

Major General Adkins has been a true friend to the MSFA over the years overseeing the Amos 508

Funds.

As the guest of Maryland Governor Lawrence J. Hogan,

Executive Board Member Richard Smith, and MSFA Member Nancy Cox presented Major General Adkins with his own Fire Chief helmet as a token of our appreciation.

As we bid a fond farewell to Major General Adkins we give a warm welcome to Major General Linda L. Singh who was appointed as the 29th adjutant general of Maryland.

Leaders of the MSFA have a scheduled meeting with Major General Singh within the next few weeks.



President Keller, Major General James A. Adkins, 1st. VP Roth, & Executive Board Member Smith.

Sudlersville VFC Receives \$2,500 Donation

Article and photo by Ron Watkins, MSFA PIO Committee

On Saturday, February 7, at the MSFA Executive Committee meeting, the Sudlersville VFC was the recipient of a check for \$2500.00.

This was a donation from a farm family in their area. This donation was the result of the Story family, of the Village View Farm being selected as one of the winners in a contest funded by the Monsanto Fund and administered through the America's Farmers Grow Com-

munities organization.

Under this annual program, farmers with farms of 250 acres or more in 1,324 counties throughout 40 states can enter to win \$2500 donations to a local non-profit agency of their choice. The Story family is involved with the Sudlersville department, with two daughters being members of the department. They were selected by a random selection process to receive their prize and chose Sudlersville as their agency.

The Grow Communities program is a part of the larger American Farmers program

sponsored by Monsanto, whose efforts are aimed to bring a broad range of solutions to help nourish the population of our growing world. More than 89,040 farmers nationwide participated in this year's program. There are several winners throughout the country. The award was presented by Mr. Brick Veirs, the Northern Delmarva regional representative.

See photo page 4

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The President's Corner

by David Keller, III

We had a productive meeting of the Executive Committee on February 7th and 8th, 2015, at the Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company, and I want to thank the company for the superb hospitality.

During a packed weekend of business, we heard from MSFA officers, committee chairs, the MSFA Ladies Auxiliary and allied agencies.

The chair of one of those committees, C. Dan Carpenter reported that the Hall of Fame is accepting nominations for the 123rd Annual Convention in Ocean City in June 2015.

Thus far the committee has received two nominations for the Hall of Fame and no nominations for the Marbury F. Gates Service Cup Award.

Dan reminded us that the closing date for nominations is April 15, 2015. Please mail your submissions to C. Dan Carpenter, III, 1106 Cornwall Drive, LaPlata, MD. 20646-3544.

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.

Officers of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and the Ladies of the Maryland State Firemen's Association welcomed new and returning Maryland State Senators, Delegates, and Staff to the Annual MSFA Legislative Reception on January 20th in Annapolis, Maryland. The evening was quite successful and consisted of discussions relating to budget, proposed challenges, and becoming familiar with newly elected legislators.

We have also attended county association sessions, MSFA committee meetings, partner conferences, banquets, company meetings and much more.



President Keller

It has been a busy period and we look forward to continuing the work for the Association as we look ahead to the convention, in a few months.

Our next Executive Committee Meeting is hosted by the Urbana Volunteer Fire Company on April 18th and 19th, 2015. Thank you for supporting the organization and its leadership team.

David Keller, III

President, MSFA

Multi-Company Training

By Bruce Secrist

The photo below was taken at a serious MVC with heavy entrapment on Route 404 (Shore Highway) in Hillsboro, Maryland. It shows members from several companies working on a very intense extrication of a passenger in a tractor trailer cab. The driver climbed out of the wreckage unharmed and refused treatment at the scene. Unfortunately, the passenger was very heavily entrapped. Once extrication was complete he was transported to The University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center where he later succumbed to his injuries. With volunteer crews becoming smaller, especially during the day, many counties have started a dual dispatch for rescue boxes that are reported serious or reported to have entrapment. Dual dispatch has always been the case for a structure fire and because of that, neighboring

companies train together on fire suppression, search/rescue, ventilation, RIT and water supply. With that being said, not many companies train with their neighboring companies on auto extrication. We are starting to see an increase in multi-company extrication and you should be familiar with the operation of, not only your tools but your neighboring company's tools too. If you are a Chief Officer and your company is considering hosting a multi-company extrication drill, remember, as important as practicing extrication techniques are, it is just as important to emphasize training with different brands of rescue tools. One day, this training could mean the difference between life and death. ~Stay safe and everyone goes home~



Top — Ashley Dukes, former member of Station 40, St. Michael's

Left — Members from Sta. 300, Sta. 400 and Caroline Co., DES work a serious motor vehicle accident with heavy entrapment on Route 404 in Hillsboro

Additional photo on page 12.

Photos by Bruce Secrist.

Branchville Hosts Wreaths Across America for 9th Year

By Thomas Tanner and Jennifer Wilbanks

The Branchville Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue Squad and our Ladies Auxiliary were proud to once again host the patriots from Wreaths Across America (WAA). The December event marked Branchville's ninth straight year welcoming and serving the WAA convoy.

Started in 1992, WAA honors the men and women of our Armed Forces that have fallen in service to our country by annually laying wreaths at the grave markers of service members at Arlington National Cemetery.

This year marks 150 years since the founding of Arlington National Cemetery and through the efforts of many volunteers, WAA was able to lay a wreath at all 227,000+ grave markers. Trucks loaded with wreaths departed December 7, escorted by the Patriot Guard Riders, rolled down the East Coast in an ever expanding convoy of trucks, buses and escorts, arriving at Branchville on December 12 for their final overnight rest stop before they continued to Arlington.

Once there, each truck was washed by Branchville Volunteers. Before dawn on the morning of December 13, the men and women of Branchville cooked and served breakfast to the hundreds of drivers and volunteers supporting this noble effort.

As a part of the mornings activities, Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, took time to visit the College Park Veterans Memorial in our first due, and place a wreath.

He also presented Branchville with a wreath as a thank you for our hospitality. In turn, Branchville President Ronald Leizear, Sr. presented Wreaths Across America with a one thousand dollar donation. Following breakfast and a final mission briefing, the convoy left



Ronald Leizear, Sr., Pres. Of BVFC presents Morrill Worcester, founder of Worcester Wreath and Wreaths Across America, with a donation check from Branchville.

Branchville and drove under a United States of America flag supported by two ladder trucks as they made their way to Arlington National Cemetery.

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The Wreaths Across America convoy departs Branchville for Arlington



Sudlersville VFC Receives \$2,500 Donation. See article page 1

Chip's Firehouse Logbook: Past, Present and Future

Back to the Future

by Clarence "Chip" Jewell, III

When I first joined the fire/rescue service, EMS was pretty simple. Once you received your first aid card, you were highly qualified to throw a patient on a cot, get them in the back of the Cadillac ambulance, and ride in a low seat beside the patient.

You had to hold on as you ran warp speed with lights and sirens to the hospital. Care was very basic, primarily confined to breathing and bandaging, with an occasional use of a manifold suction unit or oxygen resuscitator.

As we moved forward in the early 70's to EMT, we began to focus on more specific patient care. Eventually, our concern for direct patient treatment became so in depth, time on the scene began to increase to a point patient care could be compromised.

Patient care is still our primary concern. But, we have reverted back less on scene time and concentrate on the primary life threatening issues to provide transport in a more timely manner. Maybe the old "scoop and scoot" wasn't so bad after all.

It seems what goes around comes around. As I think back

to the good ole' days of booster lines and three quarter boots, I also realize the present trends in firefighting are taking a look back.

Remember hitting the fire from the outside before entering the building to "cool it down before you go in"? Or the grizzled fire chief that refused to ventilate? Maybe these actions were not totally off base. Funny, sounds vaguely familiar to the recent research by Dan Madrzykowski and Stephen Kierber.

No doubt, the advent of NFPA 1500 has directly contributed to a 50% reduction of firefighter fatalities in the last 30 years.

But, the adage "when your ears start to get hot, get out" is no longer a barometer of the increased heat. Our knees have several layers of protection instead of just the three quarter boot lining which would quickly heat to warn stop crawling forward.

We now go deeper into the red devil than ever. Maybe too far, too fast. Couple our technically advanced gear with the high heat, fast burning fire loads in today's structures and we have a recipe for disaster.

As I write, I can already hear moans and groans and the squeaky voice of "wimpy, wimpy

wimpy" from a trash bag commercial. We are programmed to get in there, go after the fire and be aggressive. Ventilation is a must. We have been trained that we have to get into the fire or we will push it back into the unburned areas. To go back to being a "yard breather" and flow a hand line into a building is sacrilegious.

The research published in the latest edition of the NFPA Journal highlights research of Dr. Dan Madrzykowski of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Underwriter's Laboratories (UL)

Stephen Kierber and makes some very sound discoveries for changing our tactic to some of the firefighting methods of old. Hitting the fire before entry and knowing the flow path before ventilation seem very sound. But, there are those that have not embraced these studies.

These ideas have seemed to come full circle, as in circa 1969 when you were lucky to find more than two breathing apparatus on



"As I write, I can already hear moans and groans and the squeaky voice of 'wimpy, wimpy' from a paper towel commercial."

Continued on page 7

"Do we need to go 'back to the future'? The information provided by NFPA is very convincing. I encourage every operational member of your department to read the January/February NFPA Journal. You may go from 'Doubting Thomas' to 'I'm a Believer'."

Volunteer Trumpet Welcomes New Contributors

Editor's Corner

Welcome to the February 2015 issue of the *Volunteer Trumpet*, the official newsletter of the Maryland State Firemen's Association.

As we have mentioned before, we are continually working on improving this publication, and in upcoming issues you will hear about several enhancements.

One area we have focused on involves getting additional writers and photographers involved with the publication so we effectively cover activities from all corners of the State.

We have had success with that. Chip Jewell became our first regular columnist, creating the popular personal perspective piece, Chip's Firehouse Logbook, and Nevin Steffy recently came onboard as our first regular photographer.

With this issue, we welcome a number of new contributors. The Rev. John F. Long, Jr., an ordained Baptist Minister, who serves as the Chief Chaplain of the Association has become our second columnist. He also serves as the Chaplain to the Anne Arundel County Volunteer Firefighters Association and the Anne Arundel County Fire Department.



MSFA Chief Chaplain Long

Look for his thoughtful and reflective essays on faith in the "Chaplain's Corner," beginning with this issue.

Bruce Secrist is a member of the Cordova Volunteer Firemen's Association in Talbot County. The third generation firefighter, a member of the department for 23-years, has a strong interest in fire scene photography.

Start looking for his pictures and news pieces from the mid-shore. He is one of the publishers of the website, Delmarva Fire Photography where his work can be viewed at www.dmvfire.com as well as on his Facebook page "On & Off the Fire Scene." By trade Bruce is a furniture/cabinet maker.

Heidi M. Coleman, a member of Singerly Fire Company in Cecil County, is coming on board as our copyeditor. The professional archaeologist and paralegal has an eye for detail, so she will carefully proofread copy and our pre-press sheets before they go to production.

Heidi is an Emergency Medical Technician with Singerly, and also the co-curator for the fire company museum, a responsibility she shares with her husband Macon, another professional archaeologist.

Nevin Steffy, a member of the Galena Volunteer Fire Company in Kent County, a photographer, joined us in 2014 (see April issue). Covering the Upper Shore, he has provided the newsletter with excellent pictures as we focused on more images and action shots. Nevin is a Public Safety Telecommunications specialist with the Delaware State Police.



Bruce Secrist of Cordova

We are pleased to have this new group join a fine cluster of veteran reporters from around the State, working to provide the most up-to-date and comprehensive coverage possible.

As our staff works on the next issue, please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions for coverage.

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 personal of Maryland

And we continue to look for additional contributors. So be sure to send your company and MSFA material, including photos to the editor.

Mike Dixon, Editor
trumpet@msfa.org



Heidi Coleman working the Singerly Antiques Show



Nevin Steffy with Galena VFC

“These ideas have seemed to come full circa, as in circa 1969 when you were lucky to find more than two breathing apparatus on the scene of a fire. . . . The fire fuel load of today is a very different animal than the residential interiors of the 1970’s.”

Chip’s Logbook

Continued from page 5

the scene of a fire. The research has much merit, but also many a Doubting Thomas. The fire fuel load today is a very different animal than the residential interiors of the 1970’s. According to the article, Dr. Madrzykowski notes a small single family dwelling can go from smoke conditions to flashover in 30 seconds.

Normally, research is conducted in a specific environment without the variables that may exist in a real life situation. However, these studies were put into the daily operations of the Los Angeles County Fire Department that noted a 45% decrease in firefighter injuries and property loss decrease of 7% over an 8 month period.

None of this new information is a revelation. Certainly a cooler environment upon entry to a structure is safer than having personnel enter a high heat volatile environment. Does the “drown from the ground” or “hit hard from the yard” make sense BEFORE entry? Is less ventilation sometimes better?

Every fire is different. It is truly up to the front seat officer and the incident commander to determine the proper tactics.

Do we need to go “back to the future?” The information provided by NFPA is very convincing. I encourage every operational member of your department to read the January/February NFPA Journal. You may go from “Doubting Thomas” to “I’m a Believer”.

*Be Safe,
CHIP*

2015 MSP Polar Bear Plunge

By 1st VP, Johnie Roth

Members of the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department (in Montgomery County, Maryland) pose for a group photo with MSFA First Vice President Johnie Roth and LAMSFA Financial Secretary Marcia Roth right before they took the Polar Bear Plunge into the Chesapeake Bay. The event took place January 24th at the Sandy Point State Park and all members raised

monies for the Special Olympics of Maryland. The MSP Plunge benefits Maryland’s children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Vice President Roth has already challenged all members of the MSFA to join him and his family for next years plunge and make a Big Splash for Maryland Special Olympics.



New Assistant Treasurer Appointed

At the Executive Committee meeting held on February 7 & 8 at the Sudlersville VFC, Drew Carroll was appointed to the position of Assistant Treasurer of the MSFA.

Drew is a member of the Hacks Point FC.



*Drew Carroll, Asst. Treasurer
Article and photo by Ron Watkins,
MSFA PIO Committee*

The Chaplain's Corner

Why do Fire Departments Have Chaplains?

By MSFA Chief Chaplain
John F. Long, Jr.

The question should be why doesn't our department have a chaplain? A trained Chaplain is a vital asset to any department. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has recognized in their Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives (number 13) that trained Chaplains help their organizations reduce stress.

This not only goes for the firefighters but also extends to their families. Health and safety standards (like the NFPA 1500 Standard on Firefighter Health and Safety) require that assistance programs be made available to ensure that such services are there when needed.

The knowledge and skills that a Chaplain brings to the table, especially in the realm of mental wellness and resiliency, are needed more today than ever before.

With increased demands at work, hours of training required, to maintain certifications and riding eligibility, fundraising, finances, drug and alcohol issues, and family activities, firefighters and EMTs are struggling and when they struggle their stress increases. This can lead a member to have marital problems, explosions with fellow members, staying away from the station, and even affect their physical health.

The Chaplain's role is to tackle the holistic needs of the emergency service. The Chaplain has a place in dealing with employee assistance programs, critical incident stress de-fusing and debriefing, and in-house with firefighters and EMTs who

are suffering from the stressors of the job. The Chaplain is emerging as the psychological caretaker within the fire service in today's high stress and fast paced environments.



Members of our organizations, as well as family members all fall prey to crisis, cumulative stress and mental health issues. We often focus on the needs of the public

but those same needs are prevalent within our own organization. It is the Chaplain who we depend upon to keep their finger on the pulse of the organization especially within the realm of mental health and our own resiliency.

The role of the department Chaplain is more than just prayers at the start and end of meetings. A Chaplain who is trained and active with your membership will in itself be an invaluable asset,

helping your department maintain its membership and growth.

Nothing stops us from taking a firefighter to the hospital when they break an arm. Why are we hesitant to have someone onboard who can help with the unseen issues. It is all about the mental wellness and resiliency of our personnel and thus a healthy organization. This is an area we do little to support yet often is prone to fail.

It is not a bad thing to care and not a bad thing to be taken care of from time-to-time. The human element needs to be addressed and preserved. In doing so we will better do what we do best, SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES.

“The Chaplain’s role is to tackle the holistic needs of the emergency service.”

Save the Date

By Bruce Bouch, DSFM

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

MSFA Convention
June 20-25, 2015

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

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

TRUMPET NOTES

NEXT ISSUE

- Rev. J. Harvey Dixon
- Chip's Logbook
- Chaplain's Column

ATTENTION MSFA CANDIDATES

Statement on Advertising

Candidates for MSFA offices may place advertisements in the *Volunteer Trumpet*.

Since office-seekers are working to serve the Association, candidates are provided space at a discounted rate.

Advertisements for the convention issue must be received by April 15, 2015. For additional information email the editor trumpet@msfa.org

ON THE JOB AROUND MARYLAND

Animal Rescue by Bruce Secrist — Talbot Center dispatched Sta. 60 (Easton) and Paramedic 96 for a dog fallen through the ice at the end of Radcliff Manor Lane. While units were responding, Talbot Center advised the best access would be from the property at the end of Lee Haven Road. Tower 61 requested Sta. 40 (St. Michaels) be added to the call. Units arrived on location to find a yellow lab approximately 250 feet off shore. Two firefighters from Sta. 0 entered the water and were able to successfully rescue the dog. Once it was back on shore the dog was transported to a local animal hospital by the Talbot County Humane Society and was reported to be in good health.



Kent & Queen Anne's at Manufacturing Facility, by Nevin Steffy — On Jan. 17, 2015, Kent and Queen Anne's County units were dispatched on Kent County 60-6 to the address of 10200 Worton Rd. for a reported explosion and fire of a manufacturing building. Units arrived to find an explosion had occurred in a dust hopper of a recycled paper processing plant. There was a small residual fire that was quickly extinguished.

In the photo, Chestertown's Tower 6 and Church Hill's Tower Ladder 5 operate around the dust hoppers to ensure the fire is out. This was Tower 6's first working alarm.



LAMSFA
Spring Conference

- DATE:** Saturday, April 11, 2015
- LOCATION:** Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Company
3825 Federal Hill Road
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
- REGISTRATION:** 9:00am-9:45am
- MEETING:** 10:00am
- BREAKFAST:** 8:00am-Buffer Style
- MENU:** Pastries, Bagels & Donuts
Juices, Hot Tea & Coffee
- LUNCH:** 12:30pm-Buffer Style
- MENU:** Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn & Applesauce
Salad, Rolls, Cake & Ice Cream
Hot & Cold Beverages
- COST:** \$16.00 per person
- CONTACT:** Linda Scheide 443.824.4608

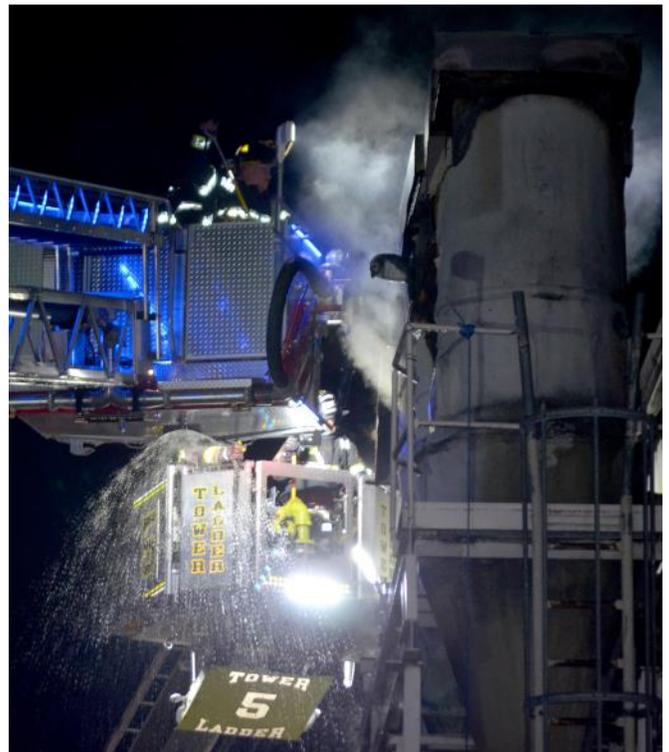


Photo by Nevin Steffy

Views from the Sudlersville VFC

by Mike Dixon, Editor

The Sudlersville VFC hosted the February meeting of the MSFA Executive Committee. While the officers, committee members and company representatives worked on a packed agenda, the *Volunteer Trumpet* took a few minutes out to capture a few images at Queen Anne's County Station 6 for readers.



L-R: Earl Leager Engineer, Malcolm Faust Jr, (Past Chief) 2nd assist. chief; William Faust Engineer; and Life Member Chuck Downey



L-R: Firefighter Justin Skinner & Engineer Earl Leager

Hacks Point Fire Company Tag Day



Over the Memorial Day 2014 Holiday, the *Volunteer Trumpet* was out enjoying the fine weather, when we encountered a dedicated volunteer crew working on the annual Hacks Point Fire Company fund drive. So we grabbed our camera and chatted with members Heather Kennedy and Fred Noss, as they cheerfully greeted cars coming into the river front community.

Mike Dixon, Editor



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



Members from Sta. 80-Queen Anne-Hillsboro doing extrication at a county drill in St. Michael's.

