Special Award Presented at Executive Committee Meeting

Article & photo by Ron Watkins, MSFA Public Relations Committee

A special award for heroic action was presented to 7 year old Terese Lawry from Valley Lee, from the MSFA Fire Prevention Committee and the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen’s Association at the MSFA Executive Committee meeting, held at the Hollywood VFD on February 6, 2016.

The award was for the actions of Terese, when she alerted her family to a fire in their house and directed them to go to their family meeting place at the mailbox in front of their home. Her mother, brother, and the family dog were saved as the fire department arrived to fight the fire. Terese put into practice what she had learned when the local firefighters came to her school and taught them about what to do in the case of a fire.

Another “Close Shave” at the Executive Committee Meeting

Pres. Roth Presented With Challenge

Article & photos by Ron Watkins

At the MSFA Executive Committee meeting in Berlin last December, Past President Dave Keller had his beard shaved for donations to the Besnie Marshall Fund, raising over $600.00.

At the meeting in Hollywood, President Johnie Roth was presented with a challenge to have his head shaved to raise funds for young Nolan Scully, a 3 year old young man whose family is from Leonardtown. Nolan is suffering from a rare form of cancer and is to leave for Philadelphia in the next week for an extended period of special radiological treatment for his condition. His family is to accompany him for the period of treatment, over several weeks.

Fortunately, the Presidential scalp was already nearly bereft of cover! With a starting bid of $100.00, and more donations coming in at a rapid pace, our own professional barber, John Gatton, Sr. wielded the clippers with expert strokes and soon

(Continued on page 4)
by Johnie F. Roth, Jr.

This is a very busy time of year for the leadership of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association (MSFA). We have been spending many long days and evenings in Annapolis, meeting with Maryland General Legislators, testifying on bills, and keeping an eye on proposed bills.

There have been 1,086 bills proposed in the Senate and 1,485 in the house on a variety of issues. At this time, House Bill #19, entitled Public Safety - Building Performance Standards - Local Amendments to Fire Sprinkler Systems Provisions has been heard (it was never cross-filed on the senate side) and we wait cautiously for notice that the bill has been killed.

Among the other proposed public safety bills to be heard this term are topics including, but not limited to Carbon Monoxide Alarms, Aggressive Drunk Driving, Income Tax Credit, New Dwellings Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems, and Hate Crimes on Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders.

Since the last Trumpet, minimal progress has been made with our partners from MFRI and MIEMSS regarding the NREMT program and process. Discussions still move forward regarding the “Students in Process” (SIPS) progress and the future students preparing to be Emergency Medical Technicians in Maryland. The position of the MSFA is that students that remain in the SIPS process DO NOT DELAY in either taking the NREMT Test or getting into a NREMT Prep Class. The clock is running and any delay could jeopardize a student receiving their NREMT certification. If anyone has any questions regarding this program, please contact MIEMSS directly.

The MSFA Leadership Summit has been scheduled for March 2016 and invitations have been sent out to those that have been requested to participate.

Much work continues on the 124th Annual Convention in Ocean City, Maryland June 18-24, 2016. Two friendly reminders regarding this year’s convention: first, make your reservations early as the Ocean City Air Show will take place the weekend that we begin the convention, and second, the deadlines are quickly approaching for the numerous awards that will be presented by the MSFA at the annual convention. Please take a moment and submit your members for these prestigious awards.

Thank you all for your numerous invitations to banquets, dedications, and meetings. Your MSFA officers make every effort to attend or to send an appropriate representative to support these events.

I CANNOT EMPHASIZE ENOUGH MY SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITIES AND THE GREAT STATE OF MARYLAND.
Zero injuries, Again!

By Jim Jarboe
Takoma Park VFD

We are proud to announce that there were no reported injuries of volunteer members of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department during calendar year 2015. This is based on all departmental activities including in-station training and actual response to EMS and fire-related calls totaling 1,804.

What makes this injury-free achievement “doubly” significant is that calendar year 2014 was also injury free. During that year members responded to a total of 1,236 EMS and fire-related calls.

We believe that the main reason contributing to these injury-free years is the volunteers’ ongoing attention and adherence to safety practices and regulations not only during in-station and training activities, but also, more importantly, during their participation at the scene of incidents. Sometimes a “dash” of good luck adds to a lower risk of injury as well.

While we share the news of our two consecutive years of zero injuries with all of you, we are careful not to suggest that 2016 will be another injury-free year of our volunteers. Hopefully it will be, but there is no guarantee. Too many variables interplay, however, that can influence less than a desired outcome. Examples include, unexpected or hidden dangerous conditions during emergency operations, equipment failure and human error. Yet, we are confident that our volunteer members of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department will continue to do their best to keep themselves free of injury this year and every year.

Always on the job.

For generations, we’ve been there — protecting the future of more emergency responders than any other provider of emergency service insurance in North America. With 24/7 claims support, industry-leading training tools and a 97.6 percent loyalty scale, VFIS is the preferred insurance provider among agents and their customers.

Just like you, we’re always on the job.

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President Challenged

(Continued from page 1)
rendered President Roth to a balder state. By this time, the amount raised had reached $847.00.

Executive Committee member Justin Towles made an offer to match whatever amount was raised, and matched this sum for a total of $1,694.00 to go to the family to help them while they stay in Philadelphia with their young son.

Nolan was presented with several other things to help him in his journey. The Cancer Support Committee developed a special cancer support backpack, filled with things to provide some forms of comfort. He was also given a “coupon tree”, filled with $500.00 worth of meal cards from his favorite restaurants.

His father, who had until recently, served as the chief of the Leonardtown VFD, and his family thanked the assembled MSFA members profusely for their generosity.

Nolan Scully and his family with President Roth and the officers of the LAMSFA. Photo by Watkins

John Gatton Sr. finishes the job of shaving President Roth’s head to raise funds for Nolan’s family. Photo by Watkins

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Chip’s Firehouse Logbook: Past, Present and Future

Plug Uglies

by Chief Clarence “Chip” Jewell, III

The early volunteer fire service has a lineage in the large metropolitan cities when citizens organized to help confine fire and save belongings. As the cities grew, so did the number of volunteer fire companies. The volunteer companies soon became very competitive with ornate uniforms and engines. Even the fire houses would be built bigger and better than other companies in the city.

The competitive spirit and pride of the volunteer companies spilled over to the fire scene and even into the streets. Companies would fight to get to the fire first or get “first water” on the fire. The company pride developed into behavior that actually threatened the population. In many cities, the volunteer companies were seen more as a group of “thugs” than a community service.

In Baltimore, competing fire companies, especially the Mt. Vernon Hook & Ladder and the New Market Company, grew especially violent. These fire companies became bastions of political activity and directly contributed to the Baltimore Election Riots of the 1850’s.

Communities lived in fear of the “plug uglies” of Baltimore. The streets of Baltimore were essentially under mob rule by the volunteers. The violence of the volunteer companies eventually led to the hanging of one of the firefighters for murder. In April of 1859, the hanging of Henry Gambrill and three others culminated the end of the volunteer fire company era in Baltimore and the establishment of the paid Baltimore City Fire Department.

Such vicious actions were not exclusive to Baltimore. In 1853, the first paid fire department in America was formed in Cincinnati, Ohio not because of lack of volunteers, but rather to quell the violence of the volunteer companies.

When I am asked about the historical accuracy of the volunteer fire company violence portrayed in the movie “Gangs of New York” I must admit, volunteer companies in New York were at times feared more for their violence than praised for their fire fighting heroics. Even some of the Baltimore “plug uglies” traveled to New York to contribute to the near riotous atmosphere.

Smaller towns such as Frederick had fire companies that were somewhat overzealous. It has been passed through generations one company had a large ball on a rope to throw under the feet of competing fire company personnel pulling hose reels and engines to a fire to trip the rival company manpower. This unique fire appliance would trip up the rival manpower to allow another company to rush ahead and be first to a fire.

A newspaper report notes a “battle royal” broke out between companies to claim a beer barrel sign at a brewery fire. The beer barrel is still proudly displayed in the trophy case of the Independent Hose Co. No. 1 in Frederick. But, as the generations have passed, the fire company competitions (Continued on page 11)
Training Announcement for All Responders

National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Training: A new coordinated, multi-disciplinary training program, developed through the national Second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2), is being offered for **ALL EMERGENCY RESPONDERS** and those supporting Traffic Incident Management operations - police, firefighters, EMS, state and local departments of transportation, towing, utilities, and other incident responders.

The purpose is to promote a shared understanding of the requirements for achieving the safety of responders and motorists, quick response, and effective communications at traffic incident scenes, leading to a **safer, faster, integrated responder team**.

**This is a 4 hour awareness class** being held in conjunction with the DELMARVA Safety Association / Spring Safety Conference. There is a separate charge to attend the two-day Safety Conference on Monday & Tuesday. Information on the conference can be obtained at [http://www.delmarvasafety.org/](http://www.delmarvasafety.org/) or contact Michael LeCompte.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Sunday April 3, 2016</th>
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<td>Time:</td>
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| Location:        | Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel  
                  | 10100 Coastal Highway  
                  | Ocean City, MD 21842 |
| Lead Instructor: | Patrick Rooney, Training & Certification Manager  
                  | SHA/CHART  
                  | prooney@sha.state.md.us  
                  | 410-582-5608 |
| Conference Contact: | Michael LeCompte, Chairman, MSFA Safety Committee  
                   | michael.lecompte@comcast.net  
                   | 443-366-0328 |

Please register individually, NO group registrations, and cancel your registration, if you are unable to attend.
The Chaplain’s Corner

Brotherhood

By Chief Chaplain John F. Long, Jr.

I want to use this issue to talk about something that most of us in the fire service like to brag about, and that would be “Brotherhood.” What is brotherhood, what does it mean, and why is this word so important to the fire service?

First let’s look at the Webster definition of the word: the quality or state of being brothers; fellowship, alliance; an association (as a labor union or monastic society) for a particular purpose; the whole body of persons engaged in a business or profession.

So now you know the secular definition of the word. Now let’s look at what God’s word has to say. Psalm 133:1 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!” Romans 12:10 “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.” 1 Peter 2:17 “Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.”

The idea for this article came as I attended the MSFA Executive meeting where I saw firsthand the brotherhood of the fire service in action. But as we talked I heard some people who were not happy with some of the actions of folks at the meeting.

How do you define the word “Brotherhood” in the fire service? What does being a member of the “Brotherhood” mean to you? God has gifted you with the will, abilities, knowledge, and strength to serve as a firefighter, EMT, paramedic. God wants you to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:9. He does not give these attributes to everyone (we wish he did so we wouldn’t have to work so hard to recruit new members), but he did give them to you. Which makes you a member of the brotherhood.

So what are the responsibilities of being a member of the fire service “Brotherhood?” Well we must lookout for each other in the station, on a call, at training, and even when we are not on duty. The “Brotherhood” does a great job when one of our own is killed in the line-of-duty. We show up in masses to honor the one who gave their lives back together very quickly and get back into serving their community.

The same goes with helping support a family that has a child who is suffering from cancer and has to go out of state for the special treatment. That puts a great financial burden on the family as the parents have to take time off of work and live in temporary housing in a different state for weeks as their child is going through treatment and they still have the everyday bills to pay (home loan, car payment, etc.).

The fire service (emergency services) of Maryland “Brotherhood” can make a big impact on the traumas associated with any and all of the types of tragedies faced by our brothers and sisters.

As the Chief Chaplain for the Maryland State Firemen’s Association I will do my best to get the word out when one of our brothers or sisters is in need. Let’s all do our best to help them out.

Brothers & Sisters in Need

There are two families that I would like to tell you about at this time. Kara and Donnie Phippin and their two sons, Nathan and Brayden, who lost their home to a fire.

We have established the ‘Phippin Fund’ to accept monetary donations for the family. Please send donations to: Phippin Fund c/o Hebron Vol. Fire Dept, Inc. PO Box 300 Hebron, MD 21830

Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jonathan Scully’s son has

(Continued on page 11)
Training Announcement for All Responders

On average:
5 Firefighters are struck and killed each year
1 Police Officer is struck and killed each month
1 Tow Operator is struck and killed each week

TRAINING PROVIDED AT NO COST!

The Delmarva Safety Association and the Maryland State Firemen’s Association present the National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Train the Trainer Course: A new coordinated, multi-disciplinary training program, developed through the national Second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2), is being offered for **ALL EMERGENCY RESPONDERS** and those supporting Traffic Incident Management operations - police, firefighters, EMS, state and local departments of transportation, towing, utilities, and other incident responders.

The purpose is to promote a shared understanding of the requirements for achieving the safety of responders and motorists, quick response, and effective communications at traffic incident scenes, leading to a safer, faster, integrated responder team.

This is a **10 hour Train the Trainer** class being held in conjunction with the DELMARVA Safety Association Spring Safety Conference. There is a separate charge to attend the Safety Conference on Monday & Tuesday. Information on the conference can be obtained at [http://www.delmarvasafety.org/](http://www.delmarvasafety.org/) or contact Michael LeCompte at the information below.

**Date:** Monday April 4 through Tuesday April 5, 2016

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day.

**Location:** Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel 10100 Coastal Highway Ocean City, MD 21842 T/P#: 410-524-3535 Special Room Rate for DSA Conference; $80 per night.

**Lead Instructor:** Patrick Rooney, Training & Certification Manager SHA/CHART prooney@sha.state.md.us 410-582-5608

**Conference Contact:** Michael LeCompte, Chairman, MSFA Safety Committee michael.lecompte@comcast.net 443-366-0328


Please register individually, NO group registrations, and cancel your registration if you are unable to attend.
Denton Sprinkler Demonstration

By Kelly Renshaw

It's 3am and you've been jolted awake by the sound of the fire alarm. Without a sprinkler system in place there is an uncontrolled fire in your home. Smoke and gases fill your home spreading quickly along the ceiling and heating up the air. The current of hot air forces a curtain of deadly gases down the walls, making escape more difficult. In a few minutes the air will become so hot that the entire contents of the room will ignite spontaneously. This is known as flashover and usually occurs between 1,000 and 1,500 degrees. Then you remember that the house was built with a residential sprinkler system. When the heat reaches 155 degrees the closest sprinkler will sense the temperature change causing the filament to burst and activating one or two sprinkler heads near the source of the fire. Water released cools the heat source and controls the burn giving you additional time to vacate your house.

Caroline County residents and officials got a chance to see the effectiveness of sprinklers at extinguishing a fire in a dwelling. The State Fire Marshal’s Office and the Maryland State Firemen’s Association hosted the demonstration in Denton on October 14, 2015, which featured a side-by-side comparison that shows the speed of a typical home fire. Photo by Steve Mroczek

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Denton Sprinkler Demonstration

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Bruce Bouch from the Fire Marshal's Office narrates the demonstration.
are more prevalent at firefighter challenges and on the softball field. There is rightful pride in each department. Whether a volunteer fire company, career station, or a recruit class, the teamwork and dependence on your partners builds a cohesive bond that naturally blends into a competitive spirit. And though, the individual company allegiance is an important ingredient to the camaraderie of a station, the molding of the individual teams into an effective firefighting unit is critical to success on the fireground.

Unfortunately, we are reminded of the dark past of our service when the negative publicity of errant acts of a few reflect on us all. The recent actions of a volunteer crew that made headlines nationally cast a dark shadow on every fire and rescue service provider. Most people have no idea who the individuals were, who the company was, or even what county the event occurred. The only thing the public remembers is firefighters were fighting on the fire scene of a house fire.

The general public cannot fathom how when someone is losing everything they own to the ravages of fire, firefighters can actually become involved in altercation, more worried about personal pride than the citizen that has cried help. And to make matters worse, this most recent action has only revived the public perception of animosity and hatred between career and volunteer firefighters.

We cannot afford this kind of adverse publicity, not to mention the potential of jeopardizing the lives of fellow firefighters. The chief of the jurisdiction made it very clear such actions will not be tolerated. I hope every chief, whether the smallest volunteer company to the largest metropolitan jurisdiction, takes the same action.

Regardless of volunteer or career, union local or county association, black or white, man or woman, Christian or Muslim we all have a certain pride and allegiance to our diverse cultures. Our diversity is our strength and should never be an excuse for violent actions. When the siren blows, alarm sounds or pager alerts, we unify to protect our community.

The fire bell has again been tarnished. It is up to each of us to polish the brass. We must build on our proud tradition of service to our community. We need to use our competitive spirit and company pride to attack the red devil, not our brethren of service.

The historical footnotes of violence sometimes overshadow the heroic efforts and dedication of our forefathers. Let the annals of history provide future generations a vision of our pride, compassion and service.

Be Safe,
CHIP

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The Volunteer Trumpet

This periodical is issued six times a year by the Maryland State Firemen’s Association. Its purpose is to publish interesting and informative articles for the volunteer fire, rescue and EMS personnel of MD.

Send inquiries to trumpet@msfa.org

Mike Dixon, Editor
Heidi M. Coleman, Copy Editor
MSFA Safety Committee Targets Top Causes of Firefighter Deaths

By Captain Edgar Carman of the MSFA Safety Committee

The Maryland State Firemen’s Association Safety Committee has chosen to address the top three causes of firefighter deaths in the country - heart attacks, injuries from falls of elevation, and those struck by a vehicle.

In order to be successful in this mission, we must first acknowledge the situation. Our focus is directed to the number one cause of firefighter deaths - HEART ATTACK!

Recent reports from multiple sources (including the CDC, NFFF and USFA) show that 55 to 60 percent of firefighter fatalities are from heart related issues.

For this calendar year alone (Jan 2016), the U.S. Fire Administration has reported six fatalities, with four being cardiovascular.

In 2013, there were 1,140,759 firefighters in the U.S. This is made up of 354,600 Career and 786,159 Volunteer firefighters. As reported by the USFA during 2014, 61 firefighters died from stress or overexertion and 59 of those were heart attack. That is 67 percent of the fatalities for that year!

A study by Dr. Sue Daye, from Johns Hopkins Medical Systems, showed that out of a one thousand firefighters who participated, more than 70 were NOT advised by the attending physician of their serious health risk or offered any recommendations or further possible treatment, to reduce their risk.

Over the years, firefighters have faced a significant number of changes. We spend a tremendous amount of time and money to design our newest and best stations, apparatus and training facilities. We buy the best responder personal protective equipment, but we fail to protect our most valuable resource - our MARYLAND FIRST RESPONDERS. Our personal home lives are busier than ever, with most households being dual income. Coupled with increased activities, there is little time reserved, for self-maintenance! At the sound of an alarm, we drop everything and hit a zero too sixty pace, in seconds!

Three Things We Must do

As the MSFA Safety Committee sees it, there are three things we must attempt to do, urgently:

First, we must educate ALL firefighters and those who provide emergency medical services. We must offer physicals examinations that target our potential medical risk factors. And offering consultation that clearly identifies a path to lower that risk, should be a top priority to stop Maryland firefighter deaths.

Baseline and regularly scheduled physicals, physical ability (and/or agility) testing and a departmental "Wellness — Fit For Duty Program" should be established to monitor and assist all Maryland first responders. Many of these already exist, but are not always mandatory or utilized with any type of aggressiveness. Many Maryland counties do not fund any type of pro-active physical.

Next, we should offer our members "proactive programs", such as gym memberships, Lifestyle Balance programs, Smoking Awareness classes, Health Department-Diabetes Prevention programs, that are currently offered in all 23 MD counties and other available programs. This will improve their health, raise departmental and individual morale, boost membership and departments "Fit For Duty!" A by-product of healthier employees, will be a reduction in LODD, lost time due to injury or illness and a reduction in health care and/or workers comp claims and loss. To make this work, we must market individual availability and have a total buy-in from top to the bottom management. This would include the support of the MD State Firemen's Association!

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(Continued from page 12)
Positive Support Will Only Make This Work!

Finally, we must use the information we gather to make the best possible decisions for our firefighters, departments and communities. For smaller companies, these are tough calls, as most departments have seen a decrease in membership - especially in the volunteer field. It is not easy to tell a fellow firefighter, especially one who may have trained you, that he cannot do his job, because of a medical condition.

But, we must put him or her first and we could be saving his life or that of other firefighters!

With all of the risks we take, dangers we face and levels of uncertainty with every call, we find it ironic that the NUMBER ONE KILLER OF FIREFIGHTERS comes from our lifestyle, of poor eating and limited balance and exercise.

Sure there may be some genetic issues we cannot circumvent, but, with proper education and examinations, we can change this trend. It will not be easy, but it is a necessity for us!

I hold this cause dear to me because, as a result of my fire department physical examination, I was alerted to a condition that could have contributed to my early demise!

It was many years before I took the threat seriously, and now I have corrected all of the conditions with my educated balanced diet and exercise. The changes have made me a happier and more productive person at emergencies, at the station and in my personal life. It is time to show our Maryland First Responders what they are missing!

Should you need advice on pro-activity with your department’s medical exams or wellness programs, please contact the safety committee for free information at 410-641-0378,

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Correspondents & Photographers Wanted

Get coverage for your company, association, or MSFA Committee in the Volunteer Trumpet

To contribute material or discuss opportunities contact the editor
Mike Dixon, trumpet@msfa.org
President Johnie Roth held the February meeting of the MSFA Executive Committee meeting on February 6 and 7, 2016.

The meeting was hosted by the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department and the Volunteer Trumpet was on hand to record the scene.

We are sharing some of those photos here.

MSFA past president Davis and members of the Hollywood VFC pause from work associated with hosting the event for photo

Top: Second VP Bilger monitors the meeting from the executive table; right — First VP Davis discusses MSFA business with a committee member

Photos by Dixon

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Seated at the executive desk, President Roth monitors a meeting discussions.

There is a lot of work to be done when the Executive Committee is in session. Chris May performs one of those tasks, taking care of handling sophisticated equipment to record the meeting audio. There are tables full of microphones scattered around the large meeting room.

The Hollywood volunteers are busy during the weekend too, as members of the VFD and the Ladies Auxiliary prepare to serve several meals. It’s about lunchtime on Sunday, and the kitchen staff is ready and waiting.
The Denton Sprinkler side by side burn on October 14. See main article page 9
Photo by Steve Mroczek