Artist Commemorates Fallen Firefighter

by Chip Jewell III

A beautiful painting of a horse drawn steam fire engine responding from the early quarters of the Juniors by a Frederick County artist has recently been unveiled at the Junior Fire Co. No 2. The artist, Sherry Kemp, was commissioned by the great granddaughter of Firefighter William “Uncle Billy” Davis who was killed in the line of duty as he was attempting to respond to an alarm of fire and was killed as the engine moved out the door. The President Emeritus of the Junior Fire Co. No. 2, the late Tom Fox, was also a great grandson of Firefighter Davis.

The 1908 American LaFrance engine portrayed in the painting shows Firefighter Davis driving the horses as the engine responds from the early firehouse of the Junior Fire Co. No. 2 then located at 2nd St. and North Market St. in Frederick.

The basis for the painting is a black and white photo of Firefighter Davis on the 1908 LaFrance posed at the engine bay prior to his death. The artist used her artistic license to design a painting of the steamer responding from the engine house. Firefighter Davis died in 1910 after he suffered traumatic injuries when he was pulled from the engine to the floor responding to an alarm of fire. His is the first recorded “paid” line of duty death in Frederick.

MSFA Past President Leonard King Dies at 75

By Ronald Watkins
MSFA Public Relations Committee

On February 1, 2018, Chief Leonard T. King Sr. passed away at the Anne Arundel Medical Center with friends and family at his side.

Leonard had been a stellar figure in the Maryland fire service for many years. Prior to suffering a stroke in 2008, he was an active participant in the Maryland State Firemen’s Association and the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association. He joined the Damascus VFD at the age of 16. He served through many of the offices of the department, including President and Chief. He attended the University of Maryland’s fire engineering curriculum, prior to being hired as a fire inspector for Montgomery County. He also served as the Training Officer for

(Continued on page 14)
The President’s Corner

By Mark A. Bilger

I would like to start my remarks by thanking the 35,000 volunteer fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers for your dedication to service which saves the citizens of Maryland millions of dollars each year.

The MSFA Leadership submitted a request to the Governor asking for an increase in our annual allotment and an increase to the widows and orphans fund. I am very happy to report that Governor Hogan honored our request and included the increases in his budget.

Major General Linda L. Singh testified in favor of our increase in front of the Appropriations Committee and the Budget and Taxation Committee. Thanks to her testimony our increase are still in the Governor’s Budget.

The Maryland General Assembly is in full swing. There have been 1258 Senate Bills and 1816 House Bills introduced to date. The MSFA Legislative Committee is currently tracking 89 bills.

The Legislative Committee reviews every piece of legislation to determine the effect on Emergency Services. The MSFA is supporting twenty-three bills, opposing twelve, bills, monitoring twenty-eight bills, watching twenty-four bills dealing with local issues, and supporting the two budget bills.

In addition to written or oral testimony in support or opposition to a given piece of legislation hours are spent in official and unofficial meetings clarifying our position with legislators. The legislative committee also participates in the Maryland Emergency Services Working Group where agencies/organizations discuss legislation. In addition our committee is a voting member of the Emergency Services Coalition made up of legislators and organizational groups.

I would like to close my comments by thanking Governor Hogan and Major General Linda L. Singh for the continued support...

Mark A. Bilger, President
MSFA President, 2017-2018
Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation’s Buy a Brick Campaign

Each customized and professionally engraved red brick will be incorporated into the existing walkways and become part of the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial, forever. We appreciate your generosity and support over these past 20 years and we look forward to your ongoing support in the years ahead as, together, we honor and remember our Maryland Fallen Heroes —

THANK YOU! The Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation
For more information visit this web page

https://www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/marylandfire/

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
2017–2018

Aug, 26, 2017 — Reese & Community Volunteer Fire Company
Dec. 2, 2017 — Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department
Feb. 24, 2018 — Singerly Fire Company
April 14, 2018 — Midland Volunteer Fire Department
June 17, 2018 — Ocean City Convention Starts
Delmarva Safety Conference With MSFA

by Michael LeCompte

MSFA Safety Committee Chair

The Delmarva Safety Association along with the MSFA Safety Committee will be offering again this year, a regional safety educational conference in Ocean City on April 9th and 10th, 2018.

This regional safety conference will be held at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center at 101st Street in Ocean City and a SAFER Grant for the tuition and hotel stay has been requested. This safety training seminar is available to all Maryland Firefighter/EMS and will involve two full days of numerous classes on our current safety issues and trends!

Classes to be offered will be:

• When Safety Fails....A Moment In Time;
• OSHA Electrical-269 Training; The Power of Safety - How To Sell It?;
• Natural Gas and Propane Awareness Safety;
• Falls Hazards and Prevention;
• Your Safety and direct recognition of the Opioid Crisis in Maryland!
• Safeguarding Your Identity and Retirement!;
• There are No Accidents!;
• Risk Management - Risky Business.....Back To Basics!;
• A Safety Culture That Will Work;
• Your Member is Down/When Violence Erupts; Emergency Training for the Active Shooter-Hands on - Scenario!;
• Empower Your Safety Culture!

Registration for the event is currently open at www.delmarvasafety.org

Any questions or additional information contact Michael LeCompte, Chairman at 410-641-0378.

A GRANT HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF MARYLAND FIREFIGHTERS TO HAVE THEIR TUITION AND CLARION HOTEL ROOM REIMBURSED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION, VISIT OUR WEB SITE - www.delmarvasafety.org

*The Clarion Resort Hotel reservation # (410-524-3535) and your room total costs will be $97.24.

*You must reside 60 miles or more from Ocean City, for the hotel reimbursement to be paid directly to you.

Delmarva Safety Conference & the MSFA Safety Committee
Regional Safety Conference
Ocean City
April 9th & 10th, 2018.

MSFA Officers Cont.

Financial Secretary
Mitch Vocke
Jarrettsville VFC—Harford
PO Box 401
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
H 410-692-6914
C 410-808-1693
wmvocke@harfordpublicsafety.org

Chief Chaplain
Ferndale VFC—Anne Arundel
343 Cool Breeze Ct.
Pasadena, MD. 21122
H 410-437-6756
C 443-623-0753
pray@msfa.org

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 Maryland.

Mike Dixon, Editor
Heidi M. Coleman, Copy Editor

Send email inquires to trumpet@msfa.org

The Volunteer Trumpet
55 Sunnybrook Drive
Elkton, MD. 29121
The Great Baltimore

Fire of 1904

by Chief Clarence “Chip” Jewell, III

Winter months usually bring memories of large fires that are very challenging and very cold. One of the largest fires in American history, and the largest fire in Maryland history, occurred in February of 1904 in the City of Baltimore.

Boston, Chicago and San Francisco have all had major fires, but Baltimore was different. Boston (1872) and Chicago (1871) both had fires in the early 1870’s when structures were still predominantly wood frame construction, thus contributing to the rapid fire spread.

San Francisco (1906) was more modern city, but the massive earthquake caused disruption to the water system and fractured gas lines throughout the city creating a nearly impossible task for the fire department. Civilian fatalities occurred in each of the three other major fires, with over 300 killed in Chicago.

Baltimore had a thriving downtown area consisting of mostly steel, brick, masonry and “fireproof” structures. Of the 1526 structures destroyed, only 58 were frame construction. 54 of the brick structures were over 6 stories tall. However, many structures had wooden roofs, window sash or other wooden accruements. There was no recorded loss of life though 247 firefighters from 11 jurisdictions were injured.

The response to Baltimore was most likely the largest mutual aid response in Maryland history. Decades before the mutual aid radio system, apparatus from as far away as New York City, Atlantic City and Altoona, Pennsylvania were summoned to assist the Baltimore City Fire Department. Dire telegraphs dispatches were sent out throughout the east coast requesting assistance.

Even in 1904 a dispatch error could occur as the initial response of the New York City Fire Department was sent to the New York harbor believing request from Baltimore was for a fire on the “City of Balti-
Executive Committee Meets at Singerly

By Mike Dixon

ELKTON, Feb. 24, 2018 -- On a cold, damp Saturday at the end of February in northeastern Maryland, fire service leaders from throughout the state assembled at the Singerly Fire Company for a meeting of the Executive Committee. The meeting, called by President Bilger, had a packed agenda as the Association addressed matters of concern to the volunteer fire, rescue & EMS services.

President Bilger thanked the Singerly Fire Company and the Singerly Ladies Auxiliary for their hospitality. Here are some views from the sessions as officials addressed the business of Maryland’s first responders.

It was a long day for members of the Executive Committee as their day starts promptly at 9 a.m. and continues until about a little after 4 p.m. During that time, MSFA committees and emergency services allied agencies from throughout the state updated the Association.

Three members of the Executive Committee, Wayne Tom (right), Past President Frank Underwood (bottom left) and Robert A. Block (bottom right) listen intently to reports.

Coverage continues on page 17 & 19
2018 Legislative Session

By Ron Watkins, MSFA PR Committee

ANNAPOLIS, January 16, 2018 — Each year as lawmakers gather in Annapolis, the Association’s Legislative Committee works to keep elected officials informed about matters of interest to the member companies and they monitor bills making their way through the session.

As part of the committee’s work, an annual Legislative Reception is held at the Miller Building in Annapolis. On January 16, the MSFA leadership team, past presidents, executive committee members, and others were on hand to greet and speak with elected officials about the matters that affect the Maryland Fire Service during this current legislative session, which started January 10 and goes on for 90 days.

Maryland Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. meets with MSFA representatives. (L TO R) during the reception. Front Row  MSFA Ladies Auxiliary (MSFALA) Jr. VP Lori Gallion Denbow, MSFLA President Vivian Boyd, MSFALA Sr. VP, Marcia Roth, MSFA 2nd VP Mike Faust, President Mark Bilger, and 1st VP Rick Blair.

Photos by Watkins
Legislative Session
Continued from previous page

We thank the delegates, senators, staff members and partner agencies for attending the MSFA legislative session.
Water Rescue in Caroline County

By Bruce Secrist

Hillsboro, Feb. 23, 2018 – Caroline County dispatched Station 80 (Queen Anne-Hillsboro) and Station 56 (Marydel – Boat 56-1) for a water rescue in the area of Quail Run Road. Chief 80 (D. Lister) arrived on location to find an elderly dog stuck in the mud approximately 100 feet off shore. After further investigation it was determined better access could be made from Miller Landing Road. Crews were able to make a successful rescue using a canoe and Station 56 units were placed in service prior to arrival.

See additional photo on page 20.
Takoma Park VFD Members Graduate

By Jim Jarboe

On February 2, a graduation ceremony was held at the Montgomery County Training Academy (MCFRS) for EMT and Fire classes, with the following Takoma Park VFD members graduating (right photo). President Elmer Hamm, Nishiwa Sato Bess EMT, Jose Montoya EMT, Gloria Chan EMT, Xochilt Montoya EMT, Daria Kirilenko Fire, Reilly Caprioglio-Chase Fire, Chief Tom Musgrove and Chief Jim Jarboe. (bottom) MCFRS Lt. Jason Smith presenting Daria Kirilenko with the Chief Marvin A. Gibbons "Tops in the Firefighter II Class" Award. Congratulations, a job well done!

Poster on right — Chief Jarboe sent along this safe driving poster reminder.
CUMBERLAND — The Allegany County Line of Duty Deaths Memorial was dedicated at the county office complex on Nov. 267, 2017. Twelve names are listed on the memorial.
Remembering Leonard T. King

By Ron Siarnicki

From my earliest encounters with Leonard King, I realized he was knowledgeable, honest, and true to his word. Leonard and I shared a unique relationship. It was admittedly a bit rocky at first but strengthened and bloomed as we truly began to know each other.

In every capacity where he served, Leonard saw the inner strengths that came from collaboration, trust and dedication to service. He realized that no matter what patch you wore on your sleeve, if you were true to the mission and purpose of the fire service, you were good with him. For that I admired him.

Leonard was an experienced firefighter, a skilled leader, opinionated to say the least, and yet a kind man. Leonard was a great friend. And, like he did with so many, Leonard King left a profound impression on me.

Whenever I worked with him, he was fair and honest. A man of great integrity and reason, he would stand his ground for what he believed, especially when we had controversial issues to address.

And people listened to him. He was respected. Because, in the end, you knew he was always looking out for the greater good of the fire service.

Over his many years in the fire service in Maryland, Leonard had the benefit of responding to nearly every incident imaginable. From a barn or tractor fire in Damascus to a multi-family dwelling in Anne Arundel County, he experienced it all.

Leonard always had great stories to share about incidents and loved listening to other’s experiences. He would light up his pipe, sit around the engine bay and partake in the conversation at hand, interjecting his opinions and life experiences to benefit the group and himself.

More importantly, he learned valuable lessons from every incident and every interaction and shared that with others. He also understood the value of our fire service traditions, and he very much wanted others to know about them and share them.

He seemed to want to make sure that firefighters knew how and why things were done in the past. Because he knew those things – whether it was a fire service tradition or an advancement in how we operate – linked the generations together and helped move the fire service forward.

Leonard’s appreciation for knowledge, experience and tradition were also the cornerstone for his efforts to establish the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in 1981.

In partnership with Chief Melvin Gibbons, Leonard wanted to ensure that there would always be a single place for people to go to honor and remember our fallen firefighters.

He understood how important such a memorial would be to the families and friends, as well as countless others, who simply wanted to pay their respects to the greatest sacrifice one can make – to lay down their life for another.

Leonard possessed the compassion and kindness to recognize that the fire service – and our country – needed that sacred place.

Outside of the firehouse, you could find Leonard in his garage working tirelessly to restore another antique King Car. I think he felt he owed it to these vestiges of the very early days of automotive making to keep their stories relevant.

Leonard relied on his mechanical knowledge and pure interest in their unique history to restore the cars to their original luster.

As happy as he was to be tinkering under the hood, polishing the chrome or detailing the upholstery, he was even more enthusiastic to share his knowledge and experience with you. He wanted others to understand, and hopefully appreciate, the valuable role they played in automotive history.

I think that was why he was such a collector of things; from antique furniture to farm products to fire service memorabilia. He loved the idea of maintaining the historical nature of things that appealed to him.

He was committed to saving the heritage of the American Volunteer Fire Service just as much as saving his King Cars, because he dedicated himself to preserving both.

As we look to the future, I think we should take a page from Leonard’s “owner’s manual of life.” Share your knowledge, your experiences and your passions so that other’s will learn and improve their own lives and happiness.

Photo by Blair
MSFA Cancer Support Network 3rd Annual Walk — April 22, 2018

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION
CANCER SUPPORT NETWORK
3rd Annual
Hope Awareness
5k Walk
Annapolis, MD

REGISTRATION BEGINS at 7:00AM with Walk starting at 8:30AM
Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Park
MSFA Past President King

(Continued from page 1)
Montgomery County at the Fire Service Training Academy before his retirement.

Leonard was very active in the various County and State fire service organizations, serving on many committees. In 1983, he was elected as 2nd Vice President of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association (MSFA) and served as President of that organization in 1985 – 86. From 1987 – 88, he served as President of the Montgomery County Volunteer Fireman’s Association and was elected to the Montgomery County VFA Hall of Fame in 1987. From 1986 until 1993, he was in the position of Assistant Secretary of the MSFA, and from 1993 until 2008, he took over the office of MSFA Secretary upon the retirement of Charles Burton. He was appointed to the MSFA Hall of Fame in 1988.

He was an active worker with the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association, and was elected President in 1990, serving through 1991. When the Treasurer, Ralph Small, retired; he took on the job of Treasurer of the MFCA, holding this position until 2008.

His active roles in these organizations were recognized in many ways throughout his years of service. In 1992, he was awarded the MSFA’s highest award, the Gladhill-Thompson Trophy. This was particularly meaningful to him, as the award is sponsored by the Damascus VFD and named for two of his mentors over the years – Bernard “Buck” Gladhill and Chief Leslie B. Thompson. In 2005, he was the first recipient of the Robert Shimer Memorial Administrator of the Year Award, and in 2008, he was awarded the Marbery F. Gates Service Cup Award for 50 years or more of service to the MSFA.

His work with the MFCA was also rewarded, with being presented with the William Perry Award for service, which at the time was the highest award given by the MFCA. In 2001, he was the recipient of the Leslie B. Thompson Memorial Award, which is now the highest award for service to the MFCA.

Besides his years of service to the Damascus VFD, he also was a member and active participant with the Marlboro VFD in Prince Georges County, the Deals VFC in Anne Arundel County, the Rocky Ridge VFC in Frederick County, and had been made an honorary member of several other departments throughout the State. On the national scene, he was a member of the Board of Directors for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation from 2003 until 2015.

Leonard’s services included viewing on Friday, February 9, at the Molesworth-Williams Funeral Home in Damascus, right across from the Damascus VFD station. There was a fire department memorial service at 8:30 PM Friday night. Funeral services were held at the Damascus Methodist Church, with internment at the Church Cemetery. A reception was held following the services at the Damascus VFD Activity Building.

For a personal reflection on the passing of Chief King see an additional column on page 8

Trustees Clarify Colburn Cup Rules

By Doug Alexander
Vice-Chairman Trustees

Each year at the annual convention and conference of the MSFA, the Colburn Cup is awarded to an individual who performs an act of heroism during the previous year. This award is sponsored by the Princess Anne VFD in memory of PP Dr. George W. Colburn.

Unfortunately, each year the Trustees receive very few applications. We encourage any member company that has had a member perform an act of heroism to apply for this prestigious award.

One occurrence we have seen recently is groups of personnel being submitted for this award. This award is NOT for groups on an incident. This award is for an INDIVIDUAL that has performed an act of heroism. We cannot consider groups of personnel submitted for this award. This award is not for a firefighter who works hard at the station, or is a top responder, or who has taken copious training. There are other awards for all of these criteria.

Please keep the Colburn Cup award in mind when a member of your company acts heroically during the year. Write it up and submit it to the Board of Trustees Secretary Jeff Thompson, 202 Oriole Road, Chestertown, Md. 21620, or jefft1064@gmail.com

Applications for this award are considered from May 1 to April 30 each year. The application may be submitted anytime during the year, but must be in the Trustees hands by April 30 of each year to be considered. If you have a question, please do not hesitate to contact one of your Trustees.
Chip’s Logbook

(Continued from page 5)

ver, Pennsylvania also located on a direct rail line was believed to have approved apparatus ready for response if requested, but never called.

The fire was initially dispatched as a “thermostat alarm”, essentially what today would be an automatic alarm, for a heat sensor at the John E. Hurst Co. at 10:48AM on February 7, 1904. Only one engine company, one hook & ladder company, a district engineer and a salvage corps unit were on the initial assignment. Though most firefighters are familiar with Box 414 as the initial box struck for the Hurst Co., the “local” alarm was actually Box 854.

According to the report of Chef Engineer George W. Horton in the Technical Report of the Great Baltimore Fire written by Baltimore City Assistant Chief Gary Frederick (ret) and published by the Fire Museum of Maryland, an explosion occurred within 5 minutes of arrival at the scene shattering windows and immediately lighting fires in at least 7 surrounding buildings. 25 engines and 11 hook & ladders were summoned via Box 414 that initially sounded at 10:55AM.

The Baltimore City Fire Department realized very early that help from outside of the area would be needed. At 11:40 AM, the dispatch from Baltimore was received in Washington, DC, “Big fire here. Must have help at once.” Additional cities that sent apparatus and manpower were Wilmington, Delaware, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, York, Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Chester, Pennsylvania, Atlantic City, New Jersey, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, and New York City. The steam pumper from Altoona, Pennsylvania was actually an engine named “Altoona” owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The destruction was devastating. Essentially, nearly everything in an area known today as the Inner Harbor was destroyed. From Pratt St. to Fayette St. and everything in between from Charles St. to Jones Falls fell prey to the conflagration. Over 140 acres covering 86 city blocks laid in ruins on the morning of February 8, 1904. Over $29,000,000 dollars in insurance claims were paid, an unimaginable amount in 1904. It was estimated over 70,000,000 gallons of water were pumped.

There were many contributing factors to the spread of the fire across the business district of the City of Baltimore. The fire load of the initial fire building and the ensuing explosion destroying many windows in surrounding building that allowed showering fire brands to enter the buildings appear to be the initial contributing factor that spread fire almost simultaneous to building exposures.

Winds were consistently blowing, causing burning embers to fly over the city. Though mutual aid response was quick by 1904 standards, it was after 2:00PM before the first Washington, DC engines were ready for operations. Hose couplings became a major issue, highlighting the need for standardization.

A final stance at Jones Falls was the turning point that kept the fire from swallowing the east side of Baltimore. 37 engine companies from up and down the east coast valiantly stood their ground along the banks of Jones Falls from Baltimore St. to the harbor. 1231 firefighters, 57 engines and other miscellaneous equipment from companies from 4 states and the District of Columbia fought the raging battle over two days. Smoldering fires as late as September of 1904 were attributed to the embers from the fire.

Much of the research for this article was found in Fire Department Operations: A Technical Report The Great Baltimore Fire written by retired Baltimore City Assistant Chief Gary Frederick. Chief Frederick is one of the foremost experts on the Great Baltimore Fire. Steve Heaver and the Fire Museum of Maryland published the book, which I believe is still available at the museum. The Fire Museum of Maryland often conducts guided tours of downtown Baltimore along the path of the fire.

I encourage anyone interested Maryland fire service history to take advantage of this excellent presentation. As you walk the streets that were in ruins in February 1904, just try to imagine the noise and smoke from 57 steamers, the stench of over 100 horses and the chaos as over 1200 firefighters that struggled to save a growing city.

Be Safe

Chip
Benefits of Joining
By Roger N. Powell, Esq.

We all had different reasons for joining a voluntary fire company, some of us joined the same company our fathers were members of, some because our friends joined, some to help out in their communities, some to ride on that shiny fire engine with the sirens and air horns blaring, some for EMS, some for school, and some for other reasons.

We probably never thought about training when we first joined, but we all watched the need for and obligation for training evolve until training became a major component of our membership.

We probably never thought about safety when we joined, but like training safety evolved to become a major component of our membership.

We probably never thought about our physical condition when we joined, but our physical condition also became a major component of our membership.

We probably never heard of county associations and certainly not The Maryland State Firemen’s Association when we joined, but county associations and The Maryland State Firemen’s Association were there in the background providing benefits to us of which we were not aware and which we likely took for granted.

And as far as the NFPA, if any of us had ever heard of it, to us at that time in our careers, it seemed as if all the NFPA did was to propound rules and regulations which, made it more difficult for us to “do our thing” - things like turnout gear, seat belts, positive pressure breathing apparatus, fitness and physicals, and more.

Some of us still do not know what The Maryland State Firemen’s Association does for us as volunteers.

The purpose of this article is to review some of the benefits that The Maryland State Firemen’s Association provides for us and from which we benefit.

The most obvious method by which you can review the benefits we all receive is to go to the officers directory and look at the committees listed (actually you need go no further than the table of contents to review the committee listings).

Let’s look at a couple. The convention committee provides obvious benefits - and fun! But, there is more than partying and fun at the annual convention. There is education and training, business meetings where officers are elected, and presentations by individuals with national stature of “talks” about things of importance to each of us. You can take a look at the convention proceedings book or the convention book to review all the takes place and the convention schedule. Your company also receives a convention package before convention which contains a schedule, information about awards, speakers, training, where to stay, what to do after business meetings, who the exhibitors are, the parade, and more. It takes a pretty large committee each year to plan the convention.

How about the ways and means committee? It raises money for MSFA operations through the annual $10,000.00 raffle.

The training committee coordinates training for you through its liaison and partnership with MIEMMS and MFRI, and helps determine courses and course material which training is free for you.

The safety committee coordinates with other committees to insure a safe working environment on the scene of an incident/emergency and otherwise when just hanging out at the firehouse.

The awards committee determines who from those nominated by a member company receives an award - given at convention.

The information technology committee operates the web site which lists our committees, our officers, and what’s going on.

The legislative committee is actively involved with the Maryland legislature to support legislation favorable and important to the Maryland volunteer emergency services or to oppose legislation which is harmful or contrary to...
Feb. Executive Committee Meeting
Continued from page 6

Representatives of the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department address the Executive Committee (top); The Lakeshore Volunteer Fire Company (left) and the Midland Volunteer Fire Company (bottom) also addressed the Executive Committee.

Continued on page 19
Nominations! Nominations! Nominations!

By Jim Jarboe

Nominations. Where are they when you need them for an award? The MSFA Convention awards are right around the corner and they have numerous awards. There is no reason your department cannot find someone to nominate for at least one of the awards.

Again, where are they? Why do we have a problem getting nominations for someone that is worthy of an award? There are over 350 fire/EMS departments in the state, it’s hard to believe that there are not more nominations. I know that volunteers do not volunteer for the awards or recognition, they do it because they want to help the people in their own communities.

Keep in mind when an individual receives an award, it’s not only his/her name that is mentioned, the department and community is also mentioned. The award might be a onetime opportunity for a member during his/her entire time in the department to receive the recognition.

So the next time an award comes up, especially through MSFA, look around your department to see if you have someone that is doing an outstanding job, whether in the station, in the community or on an emergency call.

We as leaders, need to give praise when it’s due. It could also mean a lot, not only to that individual(s), but to their family and department. Just think how many have missed out on the recognition that they deserved.

Maybe there are some reasons they don’t get nominated, here are a few that I have heard over the years:

That’s their job; I never got it;
Not sure how to write it up; No body nominated me; No one told me about it; and finally jealousy.

Hopefully none of these was the reason someone in your department did not get nominated.

If it happens and is worthy of an award nomination, do it and nominate.

Legally Speaking

(Continued from page 16)

the interest of the Maryland volunteer emergency services. Such state benefits such as EMSOF funding, 508 funding, Riley scholarship funding and funding of Maryland State Police Aviation, are a result of this committee’s efforts along with the efforts of the MSFA presidents. This committee is also responsible for the sprinkler law, the move over law and other legislation which has benefited the Maryland volunteer emergency services.

The EMS committee deals with MIEMMS and training content and delivery of services.

The fire prevention committee deals with fire prevention matters of all sorts and delivery of fire prevention material throughout the state— including smoke alarms.

The volunteer trumpet committee produces the Volunteer Trumpet in which publication you are reading this article and to which you may make contributions to be published.

The scholarship committee reviews scholarship applications and awards scholarships.

The marketing and public relations committees help get the word out about what and who we are. Like the statistical committee, these committees are important to our officers and the legislative committee regarding legislation and funding.

The recruitment and retention committee is charged with finding and implementing methods of recruitment and retaining members. The benefits we offer are vital to the recruitment and retention process. The wills for heroes committee writes wills for members of our member companies (you can download a package from the MSFA website (click on committees and click on the wills for heroes committee).

And, yes, there’s more—much more. Read the officer’s directory and The Firelaws of Maryland Book— the only legal publication in Maryland regarding which The Maryland State Firemen’s Association holds a copyright. There are LOSAP benefits. There are benefits in addition to worker’s compensation provided through the Trustees of The Maryland State Firemen’s Association for firefighters injured or killed in the line of duty including survivorship benefits for widows and surviving children (there are also federal benefits).

There is the income tax subtraction law which allows you a tax benefit on your state taxes for earning a defined number of points in a given year (like LOSAP).

By virtue of our ongoing partnerships with MIEMMS, MFRI, Maryland State Police Aviation, Maryland Military Department, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, and The State Fire Marshall and other state agencies, we secure and provide additional benefits to our member companies.

Want to know more? Join a volunteer fire company. We promise you’ll get as much as you give. There is nowhere else where you get what we give.

Join today, earn benefits!
Hosting the large meetings of the MSFA Executive Committee involves a lot of work. From early on that Saturday morning, things had been bustling in the firehouse kitchen as Ladies Auxiliary members and Singerly firefighters prepared to serve over 100 Turkey dinners with all the trimmings to attendees.
Water Rescue in Caroline County

Photo and article by Bruce Secrist. See full coverage and additional photos on page 9