CFSI HOSTS 30TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES SYMPOSIUM AND DINNER

By Ronald Watkins
MSFA Public Relations Committee

On April 18 and 19, the Congressional Fire Service Institute hosted the 30th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner at the Washington Hilton hotel. The theme of this year’s gathering was “Engaging Future Leaders”. Fire service leaders from across the country and even some from other countries gathered to attend seminars and meet with their congressional representatives to discuss legislative matters that affect them and their ability to provide fire and rescue services to their areas.

Many spent the day Wednesday on Capital Hill in the offices of their Senators and Representatives. Thursday, there were several seminars available to the attendees. Prior to the dinner, several hospitality rooms gave those in attendance a chance to wind down to a long-time fire service instructor and former CFSI Board member, Louis J. Ambili from Delaware. Lou was well known throughout the nation’s fire service, having 70 years involved with fire service instruction.

There were many local participants in the program and being honored with awards from the CFSI. The colors were presented by the Cadet class of the Washington County VFRA, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by members of the Kimble family from the Hagerstown (Continued on page 9)

MFCA and MSFA officers receive $3,000.00 check from Provident Insurance Company officers. Photo by Watkins
The President’s Corner

By Mark A. Bilger

Being afforded a page in each issue of the Volunteer Trumpet is an honor but also can be a demanding task. One of the signs of your’ s Presidents procrastination is when Volunteer Trumpet Editor Mike Dixon gently reminds me that time and tide and the Trumpet waits for no one.

To lead this great organization effectively, travel is an ongoing part of my days. I appreciate the gracious hospitality of so many of you over this past year. I am grateful for your generosity and many acts of kindness shown to me while attending your meetings and events.

I have also enjoyed the opportunity to see old friends all across this great state and to make new friends. It is inspiring and encouraging to see the dedication and commitment of so many Volunteer Emergency First Responders.

I also want to take just a minute to thank all of you who volunteer to serve as a committee chair and those of you who volunteered to serve on a committee in 2017 -

“I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve this great association and I look forward to joining the distinguished ranks of the Past Presidents.”

Mark A. Bilger, President
MSFA President, 2017-2018

Without your hard work the Maryland State Firemen’s Association would not exist.

I would also like to acknowledge the most generous support we all received from Governor Larry Hogan. He is truly of a friend of all the Volunteer Emergency First Responders who provide service to the citizens of Maryland.

In closing, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve this great association and I look forward to joining the distinguished ranks of the Past Presidents.

Mark A. Bilger,
President
MSFA President, 2017-2018
Thank you for your past support and I ask for your continued support

Richard Blair

for President
Of the
Maryland State Firemen’s Association
Some Views from President Bilger’s Term

As President Bilger prepares to wrap up his term at the convention, we are sharing a few photos from the past year.

Top — President Bilger and 1st VP Blair monitor the Executive Committee Meeting at the Midland VFC.

Center — At Kent Island, President Bilger makes a point during the president’s report.

Bottom — At Director Edward’s last Executive Committee Meeting at Kent Island, the President prepares to recognize the director.

Photos by Dixon
Chip’s Firehouse Logbook: Past, Present and Future

The “King” of the Convention

by Chief Clarence “Chip” Jewell, III

In almost every June since 1893, the Maryland State Firemen’s Association has met for an annual meeting and convention.

Though the convention has been held in various cities throughout Maryland, for over half a century, Ocean City has hosted the event.

Our convention has grown in size, quality and variety in no small part to past convention chairman Past President and Secretary Emeritus, the late Leonard King.

My first recollections of a convention chairman was Ralph Small as he announced the annual parade. Past President Small served as the convention chairman from 1977 to 1990. Past President Marvin Gibbons of Hillandale took over from Chairman Small and served 1990 to 1991. In 1991, Chief Gibbons turned the reins of the convention over to fellow Montgomery County firefighter, Past President Leonard King.

I have known Leonard King nearly my entire fire service career, especially during my tenure working for Montgomery County Department of Fire/Rescue Services.

He was part of a triumvirate of fire service leaders from Damascus Volunteer Fire Department that became president of the Maryland State Firemen’s Association that included “Mister Buck” Gladhill, truly the patriarch of Damascus and Chief Leslie B. Thompson who was definitely large and in charge as he towered over the convention.

These three men were lifelong friends dedicated to the MSFA. Leonard King took the convention personal, trying new ideas and making changes to enhance the experience. His put his heart and soul into the event each year. Each year, he looked at ways to make the convention more meaningful.

The crab feed became a family picnic until further changes in the convention center eliminated the bay front area under the building. Even then, an indoor “picnic” was tried but eventually eliminated. The prayer breakfast became a Wednesday morning staple in both food and personal enrichment. Changes to the convention hall provided impetus to change and expand the convention.

The first expansion of the convention hall provided rooms to include educational seminars and sessions on Sunday and throughout the week were to provide attendees an opportunity to add to their knowledge and even enable credit hours for EMT’s and instructors.

Fire and Life Safety initiatives and community outreach programs were added to take the fire service outside the traditional box of fire prevention.

“Chairman King had a vision of an expanded convention that ultimately became known as the Maryland State Firemen’s Association Convention & Conference.”

(Continued on page 12)
Delmarva Safety Conference

By Michael Le Compte

OCEAN CITY — The Delmarva Safety Conference was held April 9 and 10, 2018, at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Ocean City and was a partnership of the Delmarva Safety Association and the Maryland State Firemen’s Association. The attendance was 195 from all over the state of Maryland and Delaware.

MSFA Safety Committee Vice-Chairman Mario Melfa instructs on the "Power of Safety and How to Sell It to Others!"

Delmarva Power Safety Director Robert Gregory instructing on OSHA Electrical Safety for scene safety.

Dr. Jennifer Taylor former Director of firefighter injury safety from Drexel University, is training others in "How to make a Safety Culture that Will Work".

MSFA VP FAUST APPOINTED TO FOUNDATION BOARD

Michael Faust, 2nd VP of the MSFA, recently joined the Board of Directors of the University of Maryland Chester River Health Foundation.

VP Faust has spent his 25-year career in marketing, including 15-years as a director of marketing for MBNA. Since 1986, he has been an active member of the Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company, serving as director, president and fireline officer, and since 2010 he has served in leadership capacities with the MSFA.

He is currently the 2nd VP of the Association. Speaking on behalf of the Foundation Board, Carl Gallegos, PhD, chairman, said the Foundation was pleased to welcome the new board member, who brings “unique talent to support our mission.”
VOTE FOR

MICHAEL FAUST
FOR MSFA 1st VICE PRESIDENT

Dick DeVore
Candidate For
2nd Vice President
MD State Firemen’s Association
By Ron Watkins, MSFA Public Relations Committee

ANNAPOLIS, April 22, 2018 — On April 22, the MSFA Cancer Support Committee hosted the 3rd Annual Cancer 5K Walk in Annapolis. The purpose of the walk is to raise funds for the Committee to be able to put together the “Cancer Comfort” bags that they prepare to be given to any member of the Maryland fire service or their family members that have been diagnosed with cancer.

The bags contain various items to help provide some support and entertainment to those undergoing cancer treatments and are available from any Committee member or any of the MSFA or LAMSFA presidents.

The day started early, as the Committee members got things set up at the Maryland Fallen Firefighters Memorial. The Sandy Spring Canteen was available to provide some snacks, water, and coffee to the early arrivals. Registration started at 7:00 AM, with the walk to begin at 8:00.

Directions were posted along the route, the committee members got started registering the walkers as they arrived. A very good turn-out participated in the walk, as they were blessed with a very nice day.

Everyone got ready to start as the event was kicked-off by Past President Johnie Roth addressing the crowd and giving last minute instructions. The colors were presented by the Harford County Honor Guard and Marcia Roth, LAMSFA Senior Vice President sang the National Anthem.

All of the walkers assembled under the large Maryland flag hoisted between the ladder trucks from Hollywood and Prince Frederick for a group photo, and then got started on their tour of Annapolis. The walk went from the Memorial, down along State Circle to the harbor and up the hill back to the Memorial. The whole group was in a happy mood as they made their way around town, and got back to the starting point around 10:00.

The event was a success, and the Committee would like to thank the Prince Georges County units and personnel, the Sandy Spring VFD, and the various individuals that worked to make it possible. Please remember to put this event on your calendar for next year, and come out to walk with us!

Photo Captions — Above; They are on their way; Below: Getting ready to start the walk.

Photos by Watkins
CFSI HOSTS 30TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES SYMPOSIUM AND DINNER

(Continued from page 1)

area. James Kimble, Sr. is President Emeritus of the Volunteer Fire Dept. of Halfway, Jim Kimble, Jr. is a firefighter with the Williamsport VFC, and Hannah and Katie Kimble are junior firefighters.

The keynote speaker was Kirstjen Nielson, Secretary of the Department of Human Services. Of the awards presented, the CFSI/Motorola Solutions Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award was shared by Anthony R. “Tony” O’Neill, of the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications and Steve Austin, of the International Associations of Arson Investigators. Steve is a well-known friend of the Maryland fire service from Delaware and Tony is a product of the Maryland fire service. Another Marylander to be recognized at the dinner was Mike Weller, of the National Fire Academy. He was presented with the Dr. Anne W. Phillips Award for Leadership in Fire Safety Education.
Newspapers Cover Montgomery County Recruitment Initiatives

By Satchel Kornfeld, EMT
Recruitment & Retention Officer, Montgomery Co. VF&RA

The Philadelphia Inquirer’s May 6, 2018 edition featured Montgomery County, MD’s recruitment effort. And the Poolesville VFC also had a piece in a Montgomery County Newspaper about the Statewide Recruitment Day.

Freddy Be Safe

Chief Jarboe of the Takoma Park VFD submits these reminders and poster about personal safety and with the hot, muggy days on the Chesapeake arriving soon (hopefully) the chief has shared one with readers on the danger of children and hot vehicles.

For the latest numbers and statistics about this public health problem visit the website http://noheatstroke.org/
A photo is worth a thousand words but may not always tell the whole story…. Similar to the saying, “Never judge a book by its cover”. When the average person looks at this photo they see an absolutely beautiful young lady in front of an antique firetruck.

Now, when I look at it, I see the same thing, but know of the story behind the picture. This young lady was very generous as she volunteered her time to travel with me to model in this picture for a fundraising calendar in benefit the Alzheimer’s Association.

Chelsea Reid is a beautiful young lady that is a volunteer firefighter and paid EMT in Queen Anne’s County, Maryland. The truck she is standing in front of is a 1961 International 190 series firetruck owned by Goldsboro Volunteer Fire Company and is still in service today.

The fire service started in her family over 50 years ago. As a 3rd generation firefighter, Chelsea proudly keeps the family tradition alive. In her commitment to the fire service, she has successfully completed 19 MFRI classes including EMT, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazmat Ops, Fire Officer I and Pumps just to mention a few. I constantly tell my daughter that she can do anything she puts her mind to and Chelsea is a prime example of that.

Little girls with dreams become women with visions - Unknown
and expand into the multi-discipline service of today.

Chairman King had a vision of an expanded convention that ultimately became known as the Maryland State Firemen’s Association Convention & Conference. Working closely with the leadership of the Town of Ocean City, the June convention grew to a nationally recognized event attracting more vendors and top notch speakers.

With an expanded exhibit hall, increased apparatus displays that even allowed extension of ladders and booms filled the exhibit area. Dealers and manufacturers made extra efforts to attend the MSFA Convention that soon became an East Coast show for more than Maryland firefighters. Convention sponsors had the availability of “sky box” areas that were directly aligned with the convention floor and overlooked the primary exhibit area. A new center for the arts provides a separate and distinct location for the Ladies Auxiliary of the MSFA and additional meeting space.

The convention continued to become more family friendly by forming partnerships with Jolly Roger Amusements and providing fireworks and movies on the beach.

The convention has recruited excellent national and even world renowned speakers and programs to enhance the fire service educational experience. Practical evolutions are provided to encourage the younger members of our fire service to attend.

Present Convention Committee Chairman Chief Ron Siarnicki has built on the convention foundation of Past President King and continued to expand practical training and family events.

An annual golf tournament and bingo have added to the family experience providing more activities for all members of the family. The convention parade continues to draw companies and units from throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Although the parade route had to change to a more northern parade route above 15th St., the pageantry and pride of the fire service becomes a very public event.

Over the last few years, a return of more uniformed marching units add to the professional demeanor and tradition of our volunteer companies.

The convention continues to evolve, even with adversities such as a construction at the convention center and traffic from the air show. The continued expansion projects will serve to allow the convention more flexibility and potential. Who could possibly have imagined when Mayor Harry Kelly and Mayor Fish Powell met with the MSFA leadership 50 years ago to propose building a convention center the MSFA Convention and Conference would become one of the foremost fire service events in the country?

The foresight of our leadership has allowed the MSFA Convention and Conference to meet the needs of the modern fire service while providing a variety of activities for all members of the family. Past President Leonard King took the reins of the MSFA Convention and led our traditional annual meeting into the 21st century.

His vision, dedication and commitment as chairman of the MSFA Annual Convention provided the foundation of leadership needed to evolve into the MSFA Convention and Conference we know today.

Rest in Peace, Leonard. Thank you for your wisdom and hard work on behalf of the Maryland fire service.

Welcome to the 2018 MSFA Convention and Conference!!

BE SAFE

Read

The Volunteer Trumpet

The Newsletter

of the

Maryland State Firemen’s Association
A Controlled Burn Outside Ridgely

By Bruce Secrist

RIDGELY, March 25, 2018 — On Sunday March the 25th, members of the Ridgely Volunteer Fire Department and the Queen Anne-Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company conducted a controlled burn of an old farm house. Crews had the chance to practice with ladders, forcible entry and roof ventilation prior to the structure being burnt.
Editor’s Note — Bruce, our midshore correspondent and photographer, keeps us updated on fire service happenings from the Eastern Shore with items for the Volunteer Trumpet. He also maintains an interesting Facebook Page — On and Off the Fire Scene at www.facebook.com/onandoffthefirescene. Check it out for much more as Bruce documents happenings related to first responders in his part of the State.
MSP Medevac’s Working a Serious Accident in Denton

Trooper 1 preparing to load their patient at a serious MVC in Denton, Maryland as Trooper 4 sits in the background.  Photo by Secrist

Welcome to the
Maryland State Firemen’s
Association Convention
Ocean City, Maryland
June 16—22, 2018
Hose Drill in Ridgely

At a controlled burn outside of Ridgely young members of the Ridgely Volunteer Fire Department practice their skills with the hose. Photo by Secrist