MSFA Hires Full-Time Executive Director

By Ron Watkins, MSFA Public Relations Chairman

After many years of talking about the need for someone to be the day-to-day contact for the MSFA, three years ago the Strategic Planning Committee made the decision to answer this problem and this year, the first full-time employee of the Association was hired.

After many interviews were held, Ms. Kate Tomanelli was introduced by last year’s President Mark Bilger as the new Executive Director at the Executive Committee Sunday morning at the MSFA Convention in Ocean City.

Ms. Tomanelli is well associated with the volunteer fire service of Maryland. She is a member of the United Communities VFC in Anne Arundel County, where she is an EMS Lieutenant. She has a great deal of experience in business management and volunteer fire/rescue involvement.

She will be working out of the new MSFA office, located at 2130 Priest Bridge Drive, Suite #4, in Crofton, MD. The office phone number is 443-302-2911 and her cell phone number is 516-666-2351. Her E-mail address is ed@msfa.org. Anyone with questions or issues that you need the MSFA to address, feel free to contact her. She will be keeping regular office hours and the phone will be answered during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

We would like to say “Welcome aboard!” to Kate and look forward to working with her.

MIEMSS Hires New Assistant State EMS Medical Director

By James Brown, MA., EMT

MIEMSS is pleased to announce that Timothy P. Chizmar, MD, has been hired for the position of Assistant State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Medical Director. MIEMSS is the state agency responsible for the coordination of all components of Maryland’s trauma and EMS system. Dr. Chizmar comes with excellent credentials necessary to fill this position, including outstanding fire service and career/volunteer EMS relationships that he has developed while growing up through Maryland’s EMS and physician training systems.

Dr. Chizmar was born and raised in Bel Air, Maryland. He graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and completed residency training in Emergency Medicine at the University of Maryland Medical.
The President’s Corner

By Richard C. Blair

I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve each and every one of you as the MSFA President.

Over the next year the MSFA Officers will be working with our legislative groups from each county from around the state on ways to enhance the incentive programs throughout the counties as well as the State of Maryland.

This year the MSFA has a new Legislative chairman, Dale Hill. Dale will be working at 17 State Circle in Annapolis. Dale can be reached at 301-331-3557 if you have any legislative issues or matters that you would like to discuss with Dale. Last year the MSFA Legislative Group in Annapolis worked on increasing the Income Tax Subtraction Modification for the Volunteers and had a positive outcome.

This year the Legislative committee is looking at another very busy year. As of today, 8/25/2018, there will be no less than 45 new State Delegates in Annapolis and at least 15 new State Senators that need to be educated on the fire and emergency medical services. This year the MSFA Legislative committee will be sending out a candidate questionnaire to each candidate who is seeking office in Annapolis.

I have also appointed a new committee that is titled the MSFA Statewide Emergency Services Task Force. This committee will be looking into ways to fix EMS issues that are affecting the State of Maryland. The committee will be holding its first formal meeting on September 04, 2018 to discuss the issues that are facing Maryland’s Emergency Medical Services from across the state.

Also, appointed is a small study group to look into setting up a MSFA Fire and EMS Statewide Summer Camp for our Cadet Programs around the state. At this time the small group is looking at all the logistics that would be involved in making this oper-
Dr. Chizmar

(Continued from page 1)
Center. He is board-certified in Emergency Medicine and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Currently, Dr. Chizmar is serving as the Medical Director for multiple organizations including MIEMSS Region III, Harford County Department of Emergency Services, Harford County Volunteer Fire and EMS, and the Harford Community College Paramedic Program. While attending medical school, Dr. Chizmar concurrently pursued his interest in EMS and earned a Maryland Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification. He has been an active volunteer member at the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company for the past twelve years.

Dr. Chizmar practices emergency medicine full-time at the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center and Harford Memorial Hospital. In addition to his clinical work, he is the Base Station Medical Director for University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health and Co-Chairperson for the hospital’s Emergency Management Committee. Dr. Chizmar is an active member of the MIEMSS Protocol Review Committee and State EMS Advisory Council (SEMSAC), representing the Maryland American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) chapter. He was selected as the 2015 EMS Physician of the Year by Maryland

President’s Corner Continued

(Continued from page 2)
ational. More to come on this……

The Presidents and the Executive Officers of the MSFA would like for every one of our member companies to keep the New York Fire Department and the 343 Firefighters who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and their families in your thoughts and prayers. As we honor those who have lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and the other 2,000 emergency services personal who have lost their lives since that tragic day.

Thank you to all our volunteers for your dedication and service to your community and taking your time to keep everyone safe.

Richard C. Blair, MSFA President 2018-2019

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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 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
Chip’s Firehouse Logbook: Past, Present and Future

Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association

by Chief Clarence “Chip” Jewell, III

On August 3, 2018, I attended the 117th annual convention of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association (CVVFA) at the Community Fire Company of Fairplay in Washington County. I had the honor of presenting the living history of the Frederick County fire service and Maryland State Firemen’s Association that was a part of the opening ceremonies for the 125th MSFA Convention.

Though very much aware of the CVVFA, I was not very familiar with the colorful history of this dedicated organization. It may come as somewhat of a surprise that the association is actually named for a railroad.

Though very much aware of the CVVFA, I was not very familiar with the colorful history of this dedicated organization. It may come as somewhat of a surprise that the association is actually named for a railroad.

As was common in early days, a major fire in a town that needed assistance from another community would have to dispatch personnel and equipment by rail. Thus, the towns along the Cumberland Valley Railroad depended on the rail line to provide the mutual aid to a neighboring town request for help. The Cumberland Valley Railroad was one of the earliest to enter the new era of transportation. The initial Cumberland Valley Railroad Company was chartered by the Pennsylvania Legislature on April 2, 1831. Parts of the right of way still exist today, primarily utilized by the Norfolk Southern Railroad as a major route from the northeast to southern environs.

Fire companies arriving in another community frequently discovered the hose couplings were different and unable to hook directly to hoses or water supply systems. According to the CVVFA’s website, General Joseph F. Boyd, a retired member of the Union Army and principal of the railroad, was astute in firefighting and encouraged additional efforts to improve fire protection. As the Chambersburg shop of the railroad continued to expand, the Cumberland Valley Hose Company was organized in the borough at the urging of the Cumberland Valley Railroad (CVRR) to protect both the community and the railroad interests.

The railroad provided the fire station and the Borough of Chambersburg provided supplies and equipment. The fire company was built on Second Street near the CVRR shop area. The shop workers became the volunteer firefighters and the master car builder, George Nitterhouse, became the fire company president. When fire assistance was needed along the railroad line, fire equipment would be loaded on CVRR cars and transported to the town in need. The inability to couple hoses of neighboring companies upon arrival in a neighboring town became a ma-

(Continued on page 11)
Smoke Alarm law Update

Brian S. Geraci
State Fire Marshal

I want to thank all of you for your due diligence in getting through the first of the year with the new requirements for BATTERY ONLY smoke alarms. Your work in installing these new smoke alarms has made a difference as fire deaths are down across the state and we have seen more saves with the working ten year sealed battery units.

As you all know as of January 1, 2018 the replacement of BATTERY ONLY operated smoke alarms must be with units powered by a sealed in 10 year long-life batteries with a hush button feature. Any BATTERY ONLY unit that is not a ten year sealed battery unit can no longer be installed as a replacement and as of October 1, 2018 can no longer be sold in the State of Maryland.

The battery requirement also does not apply to: A fire alarm, smoke detector, smoke alarm or an ancillary component that is electronically connected as a part of a listed centrally monitored or supervised alarm system or capable of sending and receiving notifications by a low power radio frequency wireless communication signal or wireless local area networking capability and any other device that the State Fire Marshal designates as exempt through the regulatory process. Hard wire smoke alarms with a battery backup do not have to meet the ten year sealed battery requirement. That requirement is for BATTERY ONLY smoke alarms. Both battery and hard wire smoke alarms need to be replaced every ten years the date of manufacture for the smoke alarm can be found on the back of the unit. Smoke alarms manufactured in 2008 need to be replaced this year.

Smoke alarms are required to be installed outside of each sleeping room and on every level of the house. Homes constructed since 1994 require smoke alarms to be installed in all sleeping rooms but regardless of the date of construction we highly recommend placing smoke alarms in all sleeping rooms.

Please take the time to inform your communities of this new information at community events and while you are out during the next state wide Community Risk Reduction Weekend which is October 20 & 21, 2018.

By James E. Jarboe,
Past Chief & Life Member

Takoma Park VFD Chief LaScola Passes Away

TAKOMA PARK VFD — Chief LaScola passed away on May 27, 2018 in Winchester, VA at the age of 95. He joined the Takoma Park VFD on September 27, 1941, and later he became career in 1947.

He held line officer ranks of Sergeant (1953), LT/Asst. Fire Marshal (1954) and Deputy Chief (1957). On April 16, 1960, he was promoted to municipal fire chief by the mayor and city council. He followed Chief Melvin E. McBride 1948 and Chief Raymond E. Carter 1955. He held the position of Fire Chief until December 31, 1976 when he retired.

Some of his highlights over the years:
In 1954, he received a "Life Saving Award" from the mayor and city council for saving a woman from a house fire.; In 1954, he was bestowed "life member" in the Takoma Park VFD; Since 1957, he was a member in the International Association of Fire Chiefs, serving three years as the MD director; In 1968, the International Association of Fire Chiefs Award was presented to Chief LaScola for the department's "Home Inspection Program"; In 1971, and he served two years as chairman of the metro council of fire chiefs committee;
Also, in 1977, he was inducted into the Montgomery County VFRA "Hall of Fame"; On Feb. 26, 1997, the Takoma Park VFD "Top Responder Award" was named in his honor; In 1980 and 1981, he served as the President of the Eastern Division of the IAFC; He took great pride in the department's fire prevention program and for the 18 consecutive years the department received fire prevention awards from the National Fire Prevention Association. In closing, during the 20 years that I was a volunteer and career firefighter under his leadership, I learned a lot from him which I carried throughout my years as an officer.

I should note, safety was his top priority. Whether in the station, during training sessions or on the scene of an emergency. It was all safety, especially for the personnel and residents of Takoma Park. You had to know Chief LaScola, in order to appreciate him.

Gone and hopefully not forgotten.
March 20, 2018

Dear Friend in Christ,

I write today to request your presence at a special Blue Mass on Sunday, September 30, 2018 at 10 a.m. at St. Casimir Catholic Church, located at 2800 O’Donnell Street in Canton, Baltimore. It is my privilege to celebrate this Mass sponsored by the Archdiocese, St. Casimir Parish and the Catholic War Veterans of the USA, which will honor men and women in law enforcement, as well as firefighters, emergency medical technicians and other first responders serving at the federal, state and local levels in our region.

We offer this Mass in thanksgiving for the service of those who put their own lives in harm’s way for the benefit of others, and for those who came before us, including those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their selfless service.

Please confirm your presence by contacting Mr. Gilbert T. Barker, Sr., State Commander of the Catholic War Veterans, Department of Maryland, at bmore21222@aol.com or 410-299-7283.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore

attachment
By Jim Jarobe

I would like to share an incident where two firefighters might have prevented a possible tragedy in a hot vehicle. As they were walking through a parking lot, they happen to notice three children alone in a parked vehicle. They immediately called 9-1-1 for the police.

The temperature outside was in the 90’s, that meant the temperature inside the vehicle was around 120-130. They checked out the business establishment for the owner, and it wasn’t long before they found the owner. She was advised of the situation, she stated she wasn’t going to be long in the store, that she left the windows down a little ways for air.

When she finally opened the door, inside were the three children under the age of five. Their condition was hot and sweaty. The firefighters explained the danger of leaving children, seniors and pets in vehicles, especially in hot weather.

I truly believe the actions of the firefighters definitely prevented the possibility of heat injury or even death to these children. A job well done!
HAGERSTOWN, Aug. 11 & 12, 2018 -- Early on a fine Saturday morning in Western Maryland President Rick Blair called the August meeting of the MSFA Executive Committee together. There was a packed schedule of business that spanned two-days. So, over 100 representatives from the shore to the mountains went immediately to work on matters over this mid-August weekend.

Photos: Dixon

President Blair intently listening to a discussion of great importance to the Maryland Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service about EMS matters.

Past President Roth takes to the floor to make remarks on an important discussion.
Chairman Hemphill (3rd from left) kept the meeting moving efficiently along over two days as the Association addressed a packed agenda.

There is a great deal of behind the scenes work that goes on during the meetings. As the representatives addressed the agenda, these ladies were busy preparing breakfast and lunch each day. President Blair thanked the Western Enterprise Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary and the Company for the great hospitality provided over the weekend.
Notes from the August Executive Committee Meeting

HAGERSTOWN, Aug. 11, 2018 — SMITH THANKED — Retiring MSFA Executive Committee member Richard Smith was recognized for 15 years of dedicated service to the Association as a member of the Executive Committee. Smith first served under Presidents Bob Dempsey in 1976-77 and Tom Tharp in 77-78. Over the decades he served under a number of additional presidents. (L to R) Richard Smith, President Blair.

DR. ALCORTA — Once Dr. Alcorta finished his final report and President Blair officially thanked him for his service, the physician received a standing ovation. With that the last business matters had been taken care of, but it took him a long time to make his way out of the room. There were lots of handshakes, private conversations, and individual farewells as the caregiver made his way to the exit door, for the last time.
Chip’s Logbook

(Continued from page 4)

or issue. After an especially serious fire in Shippensburg, PA in 1901, General Boyd, now Superintendent of the Cumberland Valley Railroad, realized action was needed.

He called a meeting of the fire chief’s in four states the railroad traversed for the purpose of improving firefighting efforts in the towns served along the line. The meeting was held in Chambersburg, PA on August 15, 1901 with representatives from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia for the specific purpose of organizing fire protection efforts, in particular standardization of hose couplings.

In 1902, Winchester, VA firefighters invited all to converge and organized the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association. The membership consisted of fire companies located along the CVRR up to 50 miles south of Winchester, 50 miles west or east of the CVRR, and 50 miles north of Harrisburg, PA. Thus, the initial boundaries of the organization membership was 100 miles wide and 215 miles long.

The Great Baltimore Fire of 1904 gave a national spotlight to the need for hose coupling standardization. As happened along the Cumberland Valley Railroad, the call for assistance from Baltimore saw equipment and apparatus from throughout the East Coast transported by train to assist in the conflagration. As already experienced along the CVRR, the steam pumpers disembarked the trains in Baltimore soon discovered the various hose threads were not compatible.

In 1905 the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) adopted a national thread size for couplings. However, the new NFPA standard was different from the standard already established by the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association.

The Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association has grown from the right-of-way companies of the Cumberland Valley, to and expansive membership across several states. The presidents of the firefighters association of the member states gather annually at the association’s convention to share ideas and concerns that reach across state lines.

The organization has been a leader in firefighter safety, especially responder safety. CVVFA became a leader in education and training for responder safety after one of the organization members was struck and killed on Interstate 81 in Washington County. The Emergency Responders Safety Institute, sponsored by the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association, is the foremost organization concentrating on responder safety with emphasis on highway and traffic safety.

The information in this column is a small portion of the extensive history of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association I was able to obtain online. I encourage you to go to their web site, cvvfa.org, and read the unique and detailed history of the organization. Also, view the many portals on the web site that explain the present day mission, accomplishments and training opportunities of this dedicated fire service entity.

It was a privilege to be asked to present a bit of our Maryland fire service history to an organization that continues to trail blaze and support the health and safety of fire and rescue personnel throughout our region.

Be Safe

Chip

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2018 EMS Educational Programs

SAVE THE DATES

Peninsula Regional Medical Center Trauma Conference – September 21, 2018 – Ocean City, MD

Dr. Alcorta Attends Last MSFA Meeting

By Mike Dixon, Editor

HAGERSTOWN, Aug 11, 2018 — After Dr. Richard L. Alcorta completed his last report as the State Medical Director to the Executive Committee on August 11, President Blair asked the physician to step to the front of the room. The director has been a regular part of the agenda since his appointment with the state, but this was his last meeting with the Association as he retiring at the end of October.

After he stepped forward President Blair thanked the caregiver for his dedication to the citizens of the state and for his support of Maryland’s first responders. Following a few remarks he presented Dr. Alcorta with a trophy, noting the appreciation of the Maryland Volunteer Fire Service for his work.

Above — As Dr. Alcorta moved to the front of the room, he joked with the MSFA leadership team. (L to R) President Blair, 1st VP Faust, 2nd VP DeVore.

Below — President Blair presents a token of appreciation to Dr. Alcorta.
The July/August issue of Sprinkler Age, the official publication of the American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) announced that Richard Smith, past chief of the Oxford VFD, will be presented with the ASFA’s Fire Sprinkler Advocate of the Year Award at the annual convention in Washington, DC on Oct. 2, 2018.

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From Sprinkler Age

AFSA Vice President of Meetings & Operations Marlene Garret is proud to recognize all of Smith’s accomplishments saying, “Richard Smith is a true inspiration and a well-deserving recipient of AFSA’s Fire Sprinkler Advocate of the Year award. He’s devoted much time and energy meeting with elected officials and fire service officials to defeat legislation introduced to give counties the opportunity to opt out of the installation of residential sprinklers in new construction. Maryland passed legislation that became law as of July 1, 2015, requiring new residences to have residential sprinklers.”

The Fire Sprinkler Advocated Award is designed to honor individuals not directly involved in the fire sprinkler industry whose efforts have had national impact in advancing life safety and property protection through the use of automatic sprinklers. Each year, AFSA’s Legislative Committee selects a recipient from a pool of nominations with approval of the AFSA Board of Directors.

This year, Smith, was nominated by Chief Stephan Cox, past president of MSFA. Cox said that “Chief Smith should be elected for his dedication to defeat legislation introduced to give counties the opportunity to opt out of the installation of residential sprinklers in new construction. Smith’s volunteer firefighting career began in 1965, Sprinkler Age reports:

“He joined the Oxford, Maryland fire company, following in his brother’s footsteps and joining many of his friends in becoming a volunteer firefighter...” Upon his return in from serving as an infantryman in the U.S. Army in 1967, “he quickly found himself elected second lieutenant of the fire company. . . . While developing and honing his skills, Smith proceeded to continue to work his way up through the leadership until he became the fire chief in 1975.”

The MSFA congratulates Chief Smith on this well-deserved recognition.

Visit this link to read the full article on Sprinkler Age. https://sprinklerage.com/smith-named-fire-sprinkler-advocate-of-the-year/

Continued on page 14
KEVIN MOZAK
16 YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

SPRINKLER AGE
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION
VOL 37/04

JUL / AUG 2018

RICHARD SMITH
FIRE SPRINKLER ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

VOLUNTEER TRUMPET
Ocean City Today Checks In With the Resort’s Volunteers

OCEAN CITY — Aug. 3, 2018 — On a Saturday night in the middle of the summer of 2018, Ocean City Today reporter Greg Ellison stopped by the Ocean City Fire Department headquarters to report on the contribution of the resort’s volunteer firefighters to public safety. With permission, The Volunteer Trumpet is abstracting part of the article here.

By Greg Ellison, Ocean City Today

OCEAN CITY, Aug 3, 2018 — “Despite any financial incentive, Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company members are happy to sacrifice leisure time to serve the community. Mike LeCompte, who was on duty last Saturday at Fire Headquarters on 15th Street, has been responding to accident scenes for the past four decades.”

This is a very time-consuming, he said. “When you look at the end of the year and the hours we put in, it’s a lot of time.” Capt. Connor Braniff said in addition to handling emergency calls in the resort, volunteer fire units respond when needed for fires calls in Berlin and Blopville, among other locations in Worcester County. “We have a very large geographical response area,” he said.

“In addition to putting out blazes, volunteer firefighters also assist with water rescues. “We handle beach responses after lifeguards are off duty,” he said. Braniff estimated last Saturday more than a dozen volunteers were staffing engine crews at the 15th and 130th Street stations, to bolster the response capabilities of roughly two-dozen career firefighters on duty that day.

“We’re mainly there to handle the major things until they arrive,” he said. Helping paramedics and EMS units is also a priority, LeCompte said. “Sometimes we drive for them and let them do their thing in the back,” he said. “If we got a call with multiple victims, then we all jump in and do what we have to do. . . .”

“To meet the challenge of attracting membership, Braniff said the volunteer fire department began a new live-in program this year with several students from Eastern Kentucky University. “This is the first iteration of that and it’s been a very successful program,” he said. “They’re in a fire-related field in college and I’m pretty sure the word of mouth is going to be good for us.” Braniff said the department also markets to seasonal police officers and Beach Patrol members.

“If they’ve got fire experience, they’re welcome to apply,” he said. “They’re all green but it’s great because they want to learn.”

Unlike career officers who work scheduled shifts, Braniff said volunteers generally are ready to go out at all times. “We’ve got to be ready to get in that mindset as soon as the calls come in,” he said. “I could be at home just sitting on my couch reading a book and I’ve got to be ready to go at a moment’s notice.”

In addition to serving his community, Braniff said what attracted him to join the department a decade ago was the challenge involved and the resulting camaraderie.

“We’re a big family and we also have fun,” he said. “It takes a little while to get accepted and you’ve got to earn your place, but once you do, I’ve got lifelong friends.”

Although volunteerism comes with some personal cost, LeCompte said the civic benefits far outweigh individual sacrifice.

“The volunteer fire company, because of the amount of calls we have, saves the city and county a ton of money because of what we do for free,” he said. “We could be out boating or fishing today. It takes time and you’ve got to love it.”


Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company members, from left, Jack Turner, Dominic Buzzuro, Justin Poland, Captain Connor Braniff, Cesar Campos and Mike LeCompte stand ready to answer emergency calls last Saturday at Fire Headquarters on 15th Street.

Photo Credit: Ocean City Today by Greg Ellison
Two members of the Sudlersville VFC attended the meeting in Hagerstown. Standing next to City of Hagerstown Battalion Commander’s unit are Sudlersville Fighters Kyle Crossley and Justin Skinner.

Photo: Dixon