

# MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel*

*www.msfa.org*



## SAFETY COMMITTEE

Paul R. "Bobby Balta, Jr., P.P. - Chair

Wayne Higdon, -Vice Chair

Jimmy Rose - Vice Chair

Barbara L. Steiner - Secretary

July 18, 2010 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Fallston Volunteer Fire Co, Fallston – Harford County MD

The MSFA Safety Committee July Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 18, 2010 by Chair Bobby Balta, P.P. at the Fallston Volunteer Fire Dept. in Fallston MD. Roll Call was taken by the Chair: See Below:

Also present were Pres. Doyle Cox, First VP David Lewis, Second VP John Denver, Bobbi Stevens

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Bobby Balta, Chair.

Bobby announced that he will email members prior to upcoming meetings. He requested that any member knowing that they would not be present at the meeting respond to the email stating such.

Pres. Doyle Cox thanked the members who have served in the past. He appreciated their commitment to the committee. The Convention Critique will take place at the Odenton Fire House please give any concerns to Bobby or to Doyle. There were a lot of changes at the convention this year. Some were positive and some negative. Overall, the convention was successful. Jolly Rogers drew 1200 persons. Tuesday PM at the Ocean Pines only drew around 300. The Memorial Service and Awards Ceremony and Opening Ceremony were all up in attendance. Surveys were handed out. 195 came back. Comments on surveys were good and bad, the majority was positive about 10 were negative. The Convention Center will start construction in November. The portion behind center will be extended out to the bay and no trailers will be on the back deck. Comments from the Safety Committee were given to President Cox on changing the opening ceremony.

Executive Committee meeting dates:

August 28/29, 2010 Hollywood MD

November 13/14, 2010 Aberdeen

February 19/20, 2011 Cordova

April 9/10, 2011 Friendsville

Expectations of Safety Committee for coming year were expressed by the President to include a restructuring of the committee. There will be 2 vice chairs. Each Vice Chair will lead a sub group concerned with safety issues for fire and EMS. The following goals were presented: promote use of Safety belts (the President thanked John Fisher for his initiative in seat belts pledge signing at convention) 300 persons signed the pledge in 09/10. Our challenge is to triple this by the close of the convention next year by going to county association meetings and fire houses to obtain the pledges. The committee members are to spread the Safety message using e-mail and postings on company web pages. The committee is to discuss and formulate idea's on possible methods to have our member companies adopt the 16 initiatives form the "Everyone Goes Home Campaign". We are to promote the Smith Stathem Safety Award and have at least 15 entries next year. The Safety Display is to be at all

Executive Committee meetings. Sponsor Safety Seminars in Western Maryland, Eastern Shore, and Southern Maryland.

First Vice Pres. Dave Lewis Comments:

Thanked everyone for attending the meeting today and promised to assist the committee especially with the 16 initiatives.

Second Vice Pres. John Denver: Comments

Thank you for your attendance and commitment to the committee.

Chairman Balta briefed the committee on the restructuring of the committee. The committee has 39 members and is becoming unmanageable by one person. There will be three groups within the committee one consisting of the President, the two Vice Presidents, the five members with term limits, the Executive Committee representative, and the Recorder. One group headed by Vice Chair Wayne Higdon will concentrate on safety within fire activities. The other group headed by a Vice Chair Jimmy Rose will concentrate on safety within EMS activities. Each subgroup will have the same goals as outlined by the President only viewed from different angles. The subgroups can meet or correspond independently and present to the core group ideas and suggestions at the scheduled meetings. The members of the committee are urged to make use of technology in order to communicate ideas such as the MSFA Discussion Forum on the web page and e-mail. Continuous contact by committee members concerning Safety issues are a must not just at the scheduled meetings.

MIEMSS has paneled a study group concerned with safety while riding in the back of ambulances. Chairman Balta is a member of the panel and will keep the committee informed of the progress.

“It ain’t going to happen to me” is an attitude that seems to prevail throughout the fire and rescue community. We on the safety committee must Endeavour to change that attitude through persistence in reminding our brothers and sisters that “it can happen any time anywhere and quickly”. This can only be accomplished by this committee repeatedly reminding everyone of the benefits for safe practices. We, the committee members, must attend association meetings, post on company web guest comment pages, and conduct safety seminars to remind everyone of these benefits.

Jimmy Rose has expressed an interest in developing and producing a seminar to be taken around the state concerning accidents in emergency apparatus. He has first hand knowledge of what can happen and that the use of a seat belt can save your life. Jimmy is still recovering from an accident in a fire truck that occurred a couple of years ago in which the seat belt he was wearing saved his life. The goal is to have 2 or 3 seminars around the state this year and do a presentation at next year’s convention. In order to provide a meaningful presentation we will be asking for information from companies that have experienced mishaps. We will not be getting into specifics on these but will need enough information that will impress upon our members on the use of seat belts.

The committee will be discussing the 16 initiatives to determine what can be used to benefit our member companies. We will use the MSFA Discussion Forum for the interchange of ideas.

Future meetings and locations;

August 15, 2010 Waldorf

October 17, 2010 Glenn Dale

January 16, 2011 – Cordova

March 20, 2011 – Ridge

May 15, 2011 Bowling Green

All meetings will start at 10: 00 AM

If you can't make the meeting please contact the chairman or vice chairmen in order to be excused. If you miss 3 meetings without being excused you may be dropped from the committee. View the MSFA WEB site at least weekly for new information or to relay ideas to the committee.

Comments by members:

An NFPA regulation or suggestion about not wearing helmet while riding in apparatus was mentioned, Dan Stevens can do research on the issue.

Janet Fisher stated that Ocean City banned cell phones usage by members during a call, abuse results in suspension immediately for use or texting.

Robert Hahn stated that no body uses cell phones in fire trucks in Perryville.

John Fisher: engine saved lives in Grasonville when scene was blocked and a tractor trailer hit a piece of apparatus which hit firefighters but was not fatal.

An ongoing project with Gary McGinnis is the 16 initiatives. He is willing to give us a seminar on how best to present it to the state. "Everyone Comes Home" sponsored the room and partnered with the Safety Committee at the convention. He would like Committee members to sign up as State advocates. Contact Ron Siarnicki or Victor Stinaro for more information. Applications for the program and 16 Initiative packs and disks can be gotten online at EveryoneComesHome.com. A letter is needed from MSFA President stating that the candidate is on the Safety Committee. Gary also stated that the Safety Committee seat belt initiative has 300 plus individuals signed and 18 companies have 100% participation on pledge. "Everyone Comes Home" is sponsoring 4 hour class that the Safety committee can take advantage of. At Fire EXPO in Baltimore Sat July 24, 2010 in Rm 311 there will be a 3 hr class presented.

Vice President stated that we could use MFRI to get word out. We also need something about safety in every issue of *TRUMPET*.

Frederick County has taken apparatus out of service because Insurance carrier will not cover vehicles that are overweight. Maryland law exempts fire apparatus from weight limitations however the insurance company can cancel insurance. Vice President John Denver stated that in accordance with the 2009 NFPA manufactures won't build units if they can't pass approved weights.

**Next meeting:**

August 15, 2010 at Waldorf VFD 10 am

Next Exec Com meeting is in Hollywood, MD August 28-29

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.

Respectfully Submitted

Barbara Steiner

Directions:

US 301 south to Leonardtown Road (Route 5 toward Patuxent River) turn left

Leonardtown Road to Old Wastington Road (first stop light) turn right

Fire house on the right.

	18-Jul-10 Fallston	15-Aug-10 Waldorf	17-Oct-10 Glen Dale	16-Jan-11 Cordova	20-Mar-11 Ridge	15-May-11 Bowling Green
Aaron, Barbara	P					
Aaron, Gene	P					
Balta, Jr. P.P., Paul R, "Bobby"	P					
Britton, Jr., Alfred W. "Butch"	P					
Callison, Larry	E					
Campbell, Jr. W. R. "Buddy"	A					
Carr, Mary	P					
Corrado, Jill	A					
Corrado, Gunter	A					
Cunningham, Victoria	P					
Decker, Jr., James F. "Jim"	A					
Diem, Thomas	P					
Fisher, Janet	P					
Fisher, John	P					
Fretterd, Sr., Wayne	A					
Garnice, David	P					
Hahn, Robert W.	P					
Higdon, Wayne	P					
Howel, Hobart "Hoby"	P					
Huttenloch, William	E					
Kline, David	P					
Lott, Peter	E					
Mautz, Dan	A					
McGann, Gerard	E					
McGinnis, Gary	E					
Musgrove, Sr., Thomas W.	A					
Owens, Hugh	P					
Ridgell, Timmy	P					
Rose, Jimmy	E					
Scheinin, Steven J.	P					
Shelton, James "Benny"	P					
Steiner, Barbara	P					
Stevens, Dan	P					
Stevens Sr., Raymond F.	P					
Struntz, Donna	P					
Wathen, John	P					
Wisner, Stephen J.	A					
Wolford, John	P					

P = PRESENT

A = ABSENT

E = EXCUSED