

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 18 & 19, 1998
Grantsville, Maryland

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MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 18 - 19, 1998
Grantsville, Maryland

The Executive Committee meetings were held at the Grantsville Volunteer Fire Company in Garrett county, on April 18-19, 1998. The meeting was called to order at 0900 hours by President C. Daniel Davis, Jr.. Chaplain Damewood gave the invocation, spoke of those needing prayer, Father Newman offered prayer, followed by the pledge to the flag. Mike Simmons of the Grantsville department gave the welcome.

President Davis recognized those Past Presidents in attendance including: D. E. Kirk, 63-64; C. B. Burton, 79-80; R. N. Dempsey, 80-81; C. W. Riley, 83-84; L. T. King, 85-86; C. D. Carpenter, 86-87; R. P. Cumberland, 87-88; R. H. Shimer, 88-89; J. R. Robison, 89-90; T. A. Mattingly, 90-91; B.; J. Smith, 91-92; R. L. Yinger, 94-95; F. R. Cross, 95-96; and S. D. Cox, 96-97. The President then introduced the guests including: Robin Browning, President LAMSFA who brought greetings on behalf of the state ladies, stated that the ladies will be purchasing a fax machine for 17 State Circle. Donald Ware, President of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Association also brought greetings. President Davis moved to officers reports.

President - President Davis presented his written report and proceeded to summarize by commenting that it has traveled 43,188 miles and spent 1,804 man hours performing his duties. He and the other officers attended the reception honoring Dr. Kerwin, a certificate was presented to him. He also attended a reception for newly appointed PG Fire Chief Ron Siarnicki and presented him with our fire mark. The President assisted in the judging for the HEROES Award that will be presented at the Shock Trauma Gala. He attended the dedication of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel in the memory of PP Marvin Gibbons. He also attended several banquets, installations, committee meetings and county meetings. He continued with stating on the success at Annapolis, speaking on a few issues. The Riley and Smith team will give a detailed report, thanks to their hard work and the ladies support group. The President thanked several others for their participation. The Shock Trauma Board of Visitors presented a check for \$5,000 to the MSFA Scholarship Program. He then spoke on the Safety Seminar, pleased with the attendance, thanks to the committee. Convention planning is well underway, spoke on same changes within the program. He had the opportunity to attend the 5 States Presidents Meeting, seems we all have similar problems. He thanked Bill Cooke for his work on the entertainment program, spoke on some problems with the tickets. A special executive committee was held to discuss by-law proposals, eight presented, six accepted with changes. Special thanks to Dr. Bass and John Murphy for all their help during his family emergency. President Davis expressed condolences to MSFA families who lost loved ones, wish a speedy recovery for Bob Saville and Jenks Mattingly.

First Vice President Robert Knippenburg presented his written report and spoke on his activities, thanks to each for your thoughts and prayers during the past months. He further spoke on activities attended, banquets, installations, receptions. The three Presidents met with Deputy Fire Marshal

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Mike Mulligan regarding legislation governing their powers. He also attended the memorial dedication at the fire academy, a press conference at the request of the NVFC on the introduction of "Safe Harbor Legislation" concerning restocking ambulances. He expressed his condolences to all who have lost loved ones. Thanks to all for the cards, calls, etc.

Second Vice President Carl Edelin presented his written report, and spoke on the meetings he has attended around the state. He spoke extensively on the ambulance restocking bill and proposed federal legislation. He then spoke on the safety seminar, the upcoming convention, the ambulance billing workshop, suggest all companies look at their IRS status to cover auditing. He reminded all to submit nominations of statewide awards for convention. VP Edelin felt that the executive committee has not resolved the request from California Casualty Insurance Company, needs to be accomplished this weekend, spoke on the awards presented last year by the retention and recruitment committee and asked for a voucher be drawn for \$250. He requested the Executive Committee to consider the issuance of the MBNA credit card to the officers. Thanks to Charlie and Bernie, Louise and the staff in Annapolis.

Secretary Leonard King presented his written report, commented on the activities of the office. We are presently having problems with the phone system. Minutes of the last executive committee have been transcribed, copied and distributed. All official correspondence received has been properly acted upon. The 1997 Maryland Tax Report was completed and forwarded. He reminded all to keep up to date with the red light program. Several mass mailings have been made. Invitation letters for convention have been mailed, credentials forms are due at this time. Emergency Assistance Trust Fund elections need to be made in May and forwarded to the secretary's office before convention. PP Burton will be again be the registrar. The office continues the team effort for the betterment of the association. Proceedings Books will be distributed this weekend, see Mr. Burton, extremely difficult process this past year due to equipment failures. He read correspondence from Reverend Nick McDonald resigning as Assistant Chaplain due to personal commitments. He also read a letter from PP Bob Smith's family. He then spoke on a letter from Montgomery county reference the Volunteer Firefighters Room at College Park.

Financial Secretary Bob Jacobs presented his written statements and explained the reporting system. Question was asked reference to some totals, he responded that the sub-totals add to the correct amount in question.

Treasurer John Shuhart reported on Bob Saville's condition who is still in the hospital, proceeded to give the report. He then presented a computer print out on the financial accounts with balances. John reminded all to initial for reimbursement if you desire travel money.

Chaplain Pierce Damewood presented an annual report for the convention book, spoke on memorial pictures that are arriving late. Thanks to all for your prayers, phone calls, cards, etc.

President Davis presented Frederick County Honor Guard rep with award from last years contest. The meeting was turned over to Executive Committee Chair Dan Carpenter. He opened

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the meeting by going around the table for concerns: Steve Cox - thanks to Secretary King for the Proceedings Book, comments will be made during reports given reference NVFC and National Fire Academy, Lou D'Camera - many promotions going on, county has appealed the FLSA to the Supreme Court, Fran Jester - county commissioners voted this week to approve an estimated \$4.6M project to update the communications service, meeting was held reference the regional training center with the architect, maybe ground breaking this fall, Herman Rhue - activities rather quiet, Mark Bilger - Carroll County starting an 800 number for recruiting, county convention on May 16 at New Windsor, still working on the 800 MHZ system, elected to 1st VP of Maryland Arson Investigators Association, Roger Steger - work continues on the convention center, Salisbury Hdqts building undergoing engineering structural study. May 3 Ocean City dedication of Dorchester St fire house in honor of his father, Chip Jewell - spoke of his daughters condition, looking into a county memorial, reported on fire service articles recently presented in the local newspapers, county looking into a fit for duty standard, continue to have tax problems, George Blanco - announced convention date as June 6. Lee Sachs - spoke on budget increase of LOSAP to \$150 monthly, planning and funding for new fire academy underway, IRS disaster to several companies, many companies giving up managed bingo.

President Davis spoke on action proposed by the five states group will be addressing problem with Senator Roth. The chair proceeded by requesting action on last meeting minutes. The following motion was made by R. Steger and seconded by F. Jester:

MOTION: That we accept the minutes of the previous meetings as printed. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

The following motion was made by R. Steger and seconded by F. Jester:

MOTION: That we accept the minutes of the special by-laws meeting as printed. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

BESSIE MARSHALL BENEFIT FUND: Chair Betty Radisch presented a written report, paid 22 cases to date for \$16,200. Receipts have totaled \$23,878.72, your continued support is greatly appreciated.

ATTORNEY: Roger Powell spoke on the IRS audit, participated in the seminar on ambulance billing. He that those companies hiring outside billing services, good idea that you make sure there is hold harmless agreement and an indemnity agreement with the contracted company. Mitchie has not responded on the last two letters for estimates with the elimination of unnecessary contents.

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass presented a written report, stated that this has been an extremely good legislative year, summarized on those bills. MIEMSS continues to move into the new building. Task force continues to look into the AED program in public facilities, will need legislation in 99, draft this summer. Dr. Alcorta looking into changing the format on protocols, draft by July for review. The annual medical directors symposium will be held on April 30, encourage attendance.

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Dr. Bass spoke on the EMS billing seminar recently held, 150 in attendance, video tape will be available. Trying to develop a statewide triage tag, more in next few months. Dr. Bass attended a conference sponsored by MEMA regarding weapons of mass destruction, much work needs to be done. EMS week on May 17, budget was approved to include funding the new Region V EMRC, approval was given for the 12th helicopter. MIEMSS continues to look at the issue of specialized centers in the care of cardiac patients, series of meetings held. He spoke on the recent drill held at Aberdeen Proving Grounds reference CSEPP, good marks from the federal observers. He further spoke on meeting to discuss exchange of medical equipment with HHS. Trauma center review has been completed, written report to follow. Dr. Bass then reported on new appointments within SEMSAC and their activities, recertification process on CPR. Lee Sachs commended MIEMSS on the recent billing seminar, concern with the law change regulations draft time line, response given will be starting in few weeks, subsequent sections to follow about every three weeks. Question was asked about the AED refresher to include CPR, local option. Another question was asked about the CRT program, the EMS Board adopted resolution that CRT will remain in place in Maryland.

SHOCK TRAUMA: Mr. John Ashworth gave an oral report. Mr. Ashworth spoke on the admissions to shock trauma will exceed 6,000 patients. He stated the shock trauma did contribute \$5,000 to the MSFA scholarship fund. He then spoke on the gala and its activities to include honoring some of the care givers. They look forward to the MSFA convention and sponsoring the PP luncheon.

EMS: Chair Charles Wills presented a written report, spoke on an accident and injury prevention award program, asked for action today. He addressed a letter sent to Dr. Bass reference recent legislative initiatives. Charlie commented on the recent billing seminar. He gave an overview on the document "Emergency Medical Services, Agenda for the Future," greatly concerned without a national forefront. The committee responded to the training committee reference their ten year plan update. Discussion was made with Dr. Bass about CPR refresher. He further spoke on the resurface of the CRT program because of funding requirements for paramedic program. Mark Bilger asked question on number of EMTA's who have taken the bridge to B, response two thirds about 10,000.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL: Rocco Gabriele presented a written report, included is statistical data on fire deaths in Maryland. He introduced James M. Terracciano, retired police captain from PG county, who will be serving as the executive assistant, and then went over the mission of the new position. Bob Shimer will continue as the operations officer. Fire Marshal Gabriele spoke on the hiring of several vacancies, the transition continues smoothly and activities of the office. The Arson Prevention Grant fulfilled every expectation, the second phase of the grant is now well underway. Thanks to MFRI for their solid support and expertise during the project. The 1998 legislative session will be recorded as one of the most beneficial to the Office, highlighted some of the bills. He gave statistical data on inspections, investigations and plan reviews. He concluded his report with an editorial comment that we are experiencing a new era in fire safety, and it is an exciting time. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is ready to face new challenges and is poised to provide the citizens of the state the highest level of service.

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Alan Zentz introduced Rick Lillard and Randy Camp, and reported that new equipment was on display outside, thanks to MSFA for making this possible. He then spoke on legislation from the last session, and met with MFRI personnel relating to training requirements for wild land fires. A weekend fire training camp will be held in May, this will provide better unity prior to any dispatch out west. RCFP funding of \$19,800 for distribution in form of 50/50 matching grants. Efforts continue to restore funding levels on the hill, hopefully to \$6MM, will be meeting with the Congress staff shortly. He gave statistical data, wet spring provided lower calls. A reminder that the USFS will be conducting site visits to verify the inventory of surplus being used. Rick Lillard extended thanks for all the help at the South Mountain fire of over 100 acres. Question was asked about the dry hydrants being installed on the shore, suggest contact be made with insurance companies. Question was asked about the federal helicopters that carry the fire buckets that are out of service, He had no status, will investigate.

Vice President Knippenburg provided dates for next years Executive Committee Meetings as follows: June 18 at Ocean City, August 8,9 at Abingdon, October 31 and November 1 at Hebron, January 9,10 at Westminster, April 24,25 at Midland and June 13 at Ocean City.

BOARD OF REVIEW: This report was not recorded because of problems with the system, minutes only reflect motions made. The following motion was made by H. Rhue and seconded by R. Steger:

MOTION: That the Executive Committee concur with the decision by the Board of Review for application #9805 for the Madison VFC. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

The following motion was made by C. Jewell and seconded by L. Sachs:

MOTION: That the Executive Committee concur with the decision by the Board of Review for application #9806 for the Flintstone VFC. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

President Davis asked for blessing for the lunch, given by Reverend Taugher. After lunch the meetings resumed.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION: Chair Ebling was not present, Bill Cooke spoke for the committee. Discussion ensued reference awards given at last years convention is still not resolved. Bill asked for time to contact personnel involved and have for discussion Sunday, request granted.

SURPLUS PROPERTY: Chair Massey was not present, a written report was provided, no discussion.

STATISTICAL: Chair Worthington presented a written report with a big 109, this represented the total outstanding companies. Those not submitting was also attached to the report. Thanks to Baltimore, Dorchester and St. Mary's counties for 100%.

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IRS SURVEY: Chip Jewell reported that an article will be in the Trumpet.

SAFETY: Chair Jenks Mattingly is recovering from surgery, Lester Downes presented a written report, proceeded to comment from it. The first safety award will be presented at the 1999 convention, named the Smith/Stathem Memorial Safety Award. The award will be similar to the training award. It was reported that Prince George's County is experiencing problems with PPE. A safety bulletin was sent to member companies, some negative information resulted, an announcement will be sent to all member companies clarifying the intent of the bulletin. Preparations are being finalized for the taping of the safety video. Selective Insurance agreed to sponsor the emergency response pocket mask bags, ordered 650. Safety markers for books were presented by the state ladies, committee selected all for distribution. Last year's safety video was presented to the officers. Lester introduced gentleman from Provident Insurance who gave remarks. President Davis asked question about the lunch payments at the seminar, \$210 shortfall. Further discussion on the matter, President Browning has been paid.

LEGISLATIVE: Chair Riley presented a written report and reported on its contents, reporting that the session was difficult because leadership of the General Assembly had problems in reaching an agreement on key issues. The committee screened 1,428 house bills, 22 house joint resolutions, 799 senate bills, and 17 senate joint resolutions. There were 62 bills introduced this year concerning the emergency services, and gave a synopsis of the most important bills. MSFA testified on a total of 28 bills, of which we won 24 and lost 4. Funding levels are as follows: 508 funds \$7.5MM, grant 125K, Trustees 125K, EATF 547,244. The legislative reception held on February 2 was a huge success with 161 in attendance, and thanked everyone who assisted in any form. He then listed those that made trips to Annapolis, thanked the ladies for their help as always under the guidance of Louise Dell. The estimated savings these ladies provide is \$20,058. 2,376 man hours were contributed during the session and miles traveled of 38,345. Our accomplishments this year were achieved because of a unified effort by all.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION: Bob Cumberland presented a written report, spoke on specific bills to include HR3247-ambulance restocking, HR2523-tax exempt financing for ambulances, RCFP-\$10MM appropriation, HR94-FLSA problem. He then spoke on letter received from the Dept of Labor reference the FLSA sent to the NVFC. Concern was addressed about language within the letter which clearly addresses volunteering within the mixed jurisdictions. Attorney Powell felt this was one mans opinion, and we should address the correspondence with the Council. Question was asked about the Anne Arundel county suit to the supreme court, similar issue but not the same.

PAST PRESIDENTS: PP Smith presented a written report as supplied from PP Shimer. Bernie stated its good to be part of the association again. They stand ready to assist the association, still a communication problem exists on notifications.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL: Director Cumberland stated that President Davis, VP Knippenburg and himself would be attending the meeting next weekend in Texas.

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OUT OF STATE COORDINATOR: Robert Cumberland spoke on the Congressional dinner, gave the convention dates for West Virginia-Aug 6-8, Virginia-Aug 13-15, CVFA-Aug 20-22, Five States meeting Aug 21, Pennsylvania-September 24-26, Delaware-September 24-26.

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY LIAISON: Bob Cumberland presented a written report, spoke on the dedication of the chapel to PP Gibbons. The Foundation is working on next years program, but to date the working committee has not been contacted. He spoke on the white paper put out by the NFA. The NFA is to develop courses and train our people to handle major emergencies, and with the reduction in support this is not being accomplished. Next month is the 25th anniversary of America Burning. PP Cox voiced concern from Harford county reference lack of funding at the academy. The following motion was made by S. Cox and seconded by R. Steger:

MOTION: That the officers of the Association convey our thoughts to the Representatives and Senators that they meet with during their trip to DC and appropriate letters be sent conveying our thoughts of funding the NFA their programs and personnel. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

Delegate Betty Workman was introduced, she brought greetings to the group.

Bob Cumberland continued speaking, asked for copy of the letter to be carried to the NVFC.

MFRETC: Chair Shimer provided written report from meetings held, and spoke on new appointments of Ron Siarnicki and Gregory DeHaven. It is anticipated the committee structure of the Commission will change. The Commission took action to support the Flagship Initiative by sending a letter to the governor. Phil Hurlock announced that he would retire from the MFRETC at conclusion of his term. A donation of \$50 from the Commission was made to the MSFA Scholarship Fund in memory of Robert J. Smith. He spoke on the meeting held yesterday, planning for the CFSI dinner, looked at some grant requests, American Red Cross spokesman gave an overview of their services provided, next meeting at convention.

GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL: Robert Shimer presented a written report, reviewed highlights from the various committees reporting. A total of \$4.2MM has been placed in the FY99 budget to repair damages and to purchase and remove properties negatively impacted by the flooding in 1996. He also spoke of other budget monies for different programs.

MICRB: Steve Cox reported that Baltimore county addressed issue where they transfer people from the field to the academy to do teaching. Discussion ensued about the topic, brought solution to their dilemma. Today we have 572 Level II instructors.

TRANSPORTATION: Chair Yinger presented a written report, stated in the process of recertification. A listing of area coordinators was presented. Question was asked about the time

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frame, every five years. Question was again asked about pulling tags, committee does not have this authority, only MVA.

SEVENTEEN STATE CIRCLE: Chair Ferguson presented a written report, and has performed some minor repairs to the building, including repairing the toilet, handrails for the front steps and general maintenance. Repairs need to be done to the soffit with estimate of \$300-1,000, also exterior needs to be painted. Money is in the capital improvement fund to cover the costs, guidance given to do the repairs.

ENTERTAINMENT: Chair Cooke presented a written report, felt the affair went off fairly successful. Bill spoke on some problems with ticket distribution. An enjoyable time was had by all in attendance.

FIRE PREVENTION: Chair Bobby Collins presented a written report, and commented from the last committee meeting, Peggy Webb gave report on hearing impaired smoke detectors. Projects for the rest of the year were discussed, recommend another fire safety message for the bill boards. The 911 simulator has had some request and we plan to advertise further its availability. Miss Fire Prevention information was mailed. Miss Fire Prevention Rachael Testerman reported on her activities, traveled 4,000 miles performing her duties. The committee approved to purchase the "Risk Watch" program for cost of \$250. Placemats are available at the present time, if anyone needs same contact Alan Ryan 410-642-6440. Dennis Hansen provided a list for free fire prevention materials and literature. During the convention, a fire safety banner will be flown by airplane over the area. He spoke on a problem last year reference committee receiving only five badges, need fourteen total. Fire prevention floats will be judged on 15th street at the church Wednesday at 11AM. Bobby further spoke on getting bill boards permanently, requested to write letter to governor for the state to furnish them.

State Senator from western Maryland John Haffer took the microphone and brought greetings, spoke on the partnership with the fire service. Delegate Edwards also spoke bringing welcome. Charlie Riley spoke on the support given by the western Maryland delegation.

Chairman Collins continued his report, further mentioned the letter to the Governor. Rocco asked for clarification, further discussion on the objective.

WAYS & MEANS: Chair Means stated that the raffle tickets are out, money is coming in, sell.

Meeting returned back to President Davis, who asked for the benediction by Harry Hetz. Recess. President Davis called the Sunday morning to session, the Chaplain's Office read from scripture, gave prayer and lead the pledge. President Davis introduced the Past Presidents in attendance consisting of D. E. Kirk, 63-64; C. O. Baker, 78-79; C. B. Burton, 79-80; R. N. Dempsey, 80-81; C. W. Riley, 83-84; L. T. King, 85-86; C. D. Carpenter, 86-87; R. P. Cumberland, 87-88; R. H. Shimer, 88-89; J. R. Robison, 89-90; T. A. Mattingly, 90-91; B. J. Smith, 91-92; F. R. Cross, 95-96; and S. D. Cox, 96-97. He then introduced the guests today to include Robin

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Browning, President LAMSFA. President Davis appointed a Resolutions Committee of Roger Powell, Richard Snader and Lou Harvey. Chairman Carpenter asked for concerns from around the table, Mark Bilger talked about the dinner last night, George Blanco thanked all for their attendance at the banquet, assistant secretary Worthington welcomed all to the dedication of Level VFC on May 23 at 11AM.

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS: Chair Joan Robison presented a written report, stated the committee continues to monitor the LOSAP program. She gave some statistics, will have a comparison for next meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP: Chair Olsen provided a written report, stated that last year we had six students in five institutions of higher learning. He reported on the new grant from Shock Trauma, spoke on the annual meeting with applications from 3 continuing students, as well as 9 new applicants. The scholarship now administers about \$10,000 of revenue from outside the association.

MEMORIAL: Chair Mooney passed out some photos of selective sites. The committee continues to move along very well, had the opportunity to meet with governors staff reference the site selection. Don presented a booklet that was prepared, site seems to be very positive for selection near the Treasury building. A letter will be sent to all fire companies asking for names to be placed on the monument. A very aggressive fund raising program is underway. Phil Hurlock will be resigning from the group.

FIVE YEAR PLANNING: Chair Don Mooney presented a written report, stated that the committee had met and discussed many topics, make the following recommendations: Issue cellular telephones to the three presidents, discussion, alpha numeric pagers to the officers and executive committee to be phased in, issue state commercial gasoline card system, issue telephone credit cards, modify the automobile program to include the vice presidents, that we pursue the establishment of a state financed, statewide information system, and that a survey be conducted to determine what fire stations have computers, fax machines, etc., an outside audit be conducted approximately every three years, discussion, establish a timetable to consolidate and restructure committees and committee duties, insurance committee investigate a group life insurance policy and a group health policy, pursue a program of discounts for rentals, etc., commission a study of the association's management and structure by a management firm, establish a timetable to add different types of memberships to the association. Discussion ensued reference the recommendations. The following motion was made by G. Blanco and seconded by F. Jester:

MOTION: To pursue the obtaining State commercial fuel system cards for the current users. Discussion, Hand vote taken, Motion Passed.

Discussion continued on procedure to follow with these recommendations, some need action and some need to be reviewed by other committees. Chair Carpenter stated that #5 will be given to the Car Committee, #6 be given to the Data Committee, #9 be given to the Insurance Committee, #8, 10, 11, 12 go back to the Five Year Planning Committee, #7 and #4 be given to the

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Budget Committee. Budget Committee stated their is \$1,200 in this years budget to implement #1 and #2. The following motion was made by J. Ransom and seconded by C. Jewell:

MOTION: That we purchase the three telephones, no boosters until the car situation is resolved and that phase one of the pagers and use balance of the money to operate on thru the balance of the year.

Motion amended by Steve Cox to add a booster for the presidents car, amendment accepted, Hand vote taken, 9 yea, 1 nea, Motion Passed.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ROOM: Chair Ron Watkins presented a written report, stated the group continues to work on projects previously stated. He plans on visiting the room within the next 2-3 weeks. Question was asked about the Montgomery county letter reference moving the archives, have not discussed. President Davis advised to draft letter back to Montgomery county and state we are taking under advisement. R. Watkins again mentioned the usage of the room, feel we should use the room more to educate the public and less as storage facility for awards.

TRAINING: Chair Fairfax was not present, Ron Watkins commented that meetings this year were primarily for updating the ten year plan. The committee would like the approval of the executive committee so printing can be completed by convention. The committee is also working on getting the information together for the Zembower Award, accepting applications until May 15. He then proceeded to talk about the ten year plan goals. Question was asked about the officer qualifications, recommend the chief officer be trained to the highest level in all three. Commentary was provided by Lee Sachs, feels unreasonable to approve today. Bob Shimer concerned that the MFRETC has not had an opportunity to review the plan, response this is the MSFA plan. Charlie Wills stated all the EMS concerns have been addressed. Chip Jewell stated that the document needs to a positive, maybe a seminar at Ocean City would be a good idea. Bob Cumberland speaking on behalf of Washington county, concerned about recertification, policing the policy, personnel not meeting requirements what happens, agrees that an educational program needs to happen. Question was asked reference to distinguish between goals and mandates, everything listed is a goal. Fran Jester concerned about wording to establish minimal level standards, not goals. Pierce Damewood suggested that a special meeting be called to evaluate the plan. President Davis recommends that this be tabled and turned over to the in-coming training committee, cut off the discussion.

MFRI: Director Steve Edwards was not present, Steve Cox presented his written report and started his oral remarks by saying on behalf of Director Edwards. S. Cox commented on the North American Fire Training Directors, a forum for the enhancement and enrichment of state, provincial, and territorial fire training programs and their managers. Director Edwards has been elected as President of that organization. He then gave an update on the future of the Berwyn Heights facility, conditions set forth #1 the University will not expend any money and #2 a new 20,000 square foot facility be built on the training academy location at approximately \$3MM. MFRI has been attempting to have a capital budget project approved to renovate the SMRTC, it has been eliminated each year at the University System of Maryland level. He then spoke on the budget,

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thanks to the MSFA. MFRI will be advertising a new faculty position to lead the advanced life support program. Joe McDonough has announced his retirement July 1, search committee will be looking for replacement. MFRI will offer two national staff and command courses this year, the 1999 offering will be at Ocean City in March. MFRI will present its Leading Combination Fire Departments seminar on May 2 and 3. Much concern and discussion on the new OSHA respiratory standard, MFRI will conduct a seminar on April 22 and 23 to discuss. The OSHA respiratory standard will also be featured as one of the pre-convention seminars. MFRI has been contacted by the Discovery Channel. We look forward to the MSFA convention, will have a large number of faculty and staff in attendance. He spoke on the reception for Dr. Kirwan, the officers were in attendance. The drill of the month program hopefully will be in the convention packet. Fran Jester asked question about the arson classes that failed to start, response a couple no specific numbers, can get. Discussion continued on a specific class on the shore. Bob Shimer gave further explanation of the program teaching requirements.

MFRI BOARD OF ADVISORS: Charles Wills presented a written report, stated the report dealt with the past meeting, a kickoff meeting of the new structure to the board. Tom Mattingly reported a new concept for the regional training centers.

MCMERG: Bobby Balta presented a written report, commented on recent meeting. The training vessel has been transferred to the DRMO, now awaiting for Maryland to pick up the vessel. New appointments made to assist in attendance at the meetings.

PRESIDENTIAL VEHICLE: Bill Cooke presented the report, stated that the new car is at the dealership. Copy of invoices for car and lettering were presented. He furthered expressed an opinion on keeping the car. Discussion ensued on payment of the car, storage location, titling and tagging. The following motion was made by L. D'Camera and seconded by L. Sachs:

MOTION: That we pay for the car now and issue it to 1st Vice President. Further discussion, Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

Further discussion ensued about the tags, insurance, selling of the old car and lettering of the car. Bill Cooke reminded the group again of the records of MSFA at SMRTC open and accessible to anyone, recommends this material should be addressed.

President Davis called on the Chaplain for the blessing before the meal. After the meal the meetings continued.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES: Chair Laura Woods, progressing toward Ocean City.

President Davis presented the host company ladies auxiliary \$1,123, thanks to the company for hosting the meetings.

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CONVENTION: Chair King presented his written report, stated the committee was saddened by the passing of PP Robert Smith, the last original committee person. Bob was the original coordinator of the ads for the book and exhibits. This years convention will have a "New Look, New Shape, and theme will be "An Ocean of Opportunity." The convention center is now complete with exception of the kitchen equipment which is being installed presently. The program book ad requests are on going, running a little behind last years sales. Two bids were received for printing, awarded at \$12,700. Need the year end reports ASAP, goes to press May 9. Exhibits space has already drawn \$57,000 in deposit, hope to reach \$100,000, expecting 150 vendors. Prices were raised this year to reflect the increase usage of square feet. He announced a new program for Saturday a child safety seat program in conjunction with the city. Some displays of fire prevention floats and apparatus will be displayed down at the boardwalk. MFRI will be conducting convention seminars Sunday thru Tuesday. Registration will begin Sunday morning at 8AM, anything for stuffing in the packet must be there back stage by 8AM and no larger than standard paper size. Leonard then proceeded to give the schedule of activities during the convention. New this year will be a combat challenge, co-sponsored by Ocean City VFC planned for Thursday, exact location to be determined, no cost to our association. Question was asked about liability insurance, we have certificate. Concern was voiced about the day scheduled. Corporate partnerships to consist of five executive suites overlooking the convention exhibit hall are available, four already sold, one remains at cost of \$5,000. Several entitlements are given with this promotion. A rodeo will be held Friday thru Sunday, also discounted tickets for the shore birds ball team. The convention committee wants to know from you and your family what to be held during convention in the future. Planning has already started for the 99 convention, will be hosting the eastern region of IAFC conference, working on holding a Mid Atlantic Chaplains Conference. He then spoke on some logistics and locations of various booths.

HALL OF FAME: Chair John Gatton gave an oral report, stated that the rules for nominations were mailed, to date the return has been poor. He is still trying to get names of the inductees to the Hall of Fame in 1980.

BULLETIN: Chair John Gatton, Jr. presented his written report, stated the last issue was released in February, plans well underway for this one, will be the largest bulletin. He spoke on the award presented to him from the Printing Industries of Maryland. The deadline for this issue is May 1.

NFPA OVERVIEW: Chair Bill Huttenloch presented a written report, stated there are 50 NFPA standards out for review. He listed those he thought that will affect our service. He then gave a brief explanation of each. He then spoke on the OSHA announcement reference respiratory protection, request we consider having the attorney get a written ruling from MOSH, may differ from county to county. Lee Sachs suggested we do not ask for an opinion, many implications can come about if you are ruled an employer. Chip Jewell asked question reference a risk management standard, probably coming up.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Chair Riley presented the written report, gave the financial statement, paid out \$28,155 in pensions, death benefits and tuitions to include 28 widows, 1 disabled firemen, and 7 children.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS: Dan Carpenter stated that we have already approved the six amendments, already been mailed out.

BUDGET & REVENUE: Chair Fabizak presented the proposed balanced 1998-99 budget. Paul commented on some of the highlights, made some changes in the state appropriation. No action is required today. Question was asked about contingency money, item 16 covers this. President Davis asked question reference expenses for volunteer recruitment for installing the 1-800-FIRELINE in service and the awards to reprint the manual. Steve Cox then reported on the drill of the month manual, partnership between MFRI, MSFA and IFSTA to finance the \$2,000 requirement.

This concluded the committee reports. President Davis presented Grantsville a certificate of appreciation for their hospitality over the weekend. Chairman Carpenter proceeded with action items. First being recruitment and retention award from last convention. Bill Cooke spoke on the matter, requested to follow up for resolution. Further discussion. The following motion was made by L. Sachs and seconded by S. Cox:

MOTION: To authorize the expenditure of up to \$250 if the Recruitment Committee is unable to resolve the issue so that it is delivered to the recipient within two weeks. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

The following motion was made by L. Sachs and seconded by S. Cox:

MOTION: To approve and accept the award proposal from the EMS committee to first presented in 1999. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

Next item referenced California Casualty, insurance committee and special committee working on, will have report by June meeting. Requested information on the firefighters charitable foundation and the Maryland volunteer brigade, please contact the secretary, Bill Cooke provided some information that may be a lead. Lee Sachs addressed the FLSA issue, need plaintiff to file action. The following motion was made by C. Jewell and seconded by R. Steger:

MOTION: To allocate up to \$2,000 in joint venture with MFRI for drill of the month program. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

The following motion was made by L. Sachs and seconded by G. Blanco:

MOTION: That we authorize passing the presidents car this year onto next years 1st VP as a trial, motion is for one year and one car, clarify make the presidents car available for the 1998-99 administrative year to the 1st VP. Discussion, Hand vote taken, 8 yea and 1 nea, Motion Passed.

Secretary King brought concern that no administration can encumber a debt for the next administration, feels this motion did that. President Davis recommended that our stationary be changed to add line "Representing the volunteer fire, rescue and emergency medical services personnel." Steve Cox reported this was a recommendation earlier. The following motion was made by G. Blanco and seconded by R. Steger:

MOTION: That the stationary change be placed on all new replacement stationary. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

Chair Carpenter then asked for recommendations to pass on for next years committee, none made. President Davis has copy of the MSFA tax status. Chaplain Damewood offered prayer. There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Office of the Secretary
Leonard T. King, P.P.
J. Edward Cross
Gene Worthington
Charles B. Burton, P.P.

Motion Summary

MOTION: That we accept the minutes of the previous meetings as printed. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

MOTION: That we accept the minutes of the special by-laws meeting as printed. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

MOTION: That the Executive Committee concur with the decision by the Board of Review for application #9805 for the Madison VFC. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

MOTION: That the Executive Committee concur with the decision by the Board of Review for application #9806 for the Flintstone VFC. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

MOTION: That the officers of the Association convey our thoughts to the representatives and

senators that they meet with during their trip in DC and appropriate letters be sent conveying our thoughts of funding the NFA their programs and personnel. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

MOTION: To pursue the obtaining state commercial fuel system cards for the current users. Hand vote taken, Motion Passed.

MOTION: That we purchase the three telephones, no boosters until the car situation is resolved and that phase one of the pagers and use balance of the money to operate on thru the balance of the year. Motion amended to add a booster for the presidents car. Hand vote taken, 9 yea, 1 nea, Motion Passed.

MOTION: That we pay for the car now and issue it to 1st Vice President. Voice vote taken, Motion Passed.

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