

**MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 1999
DAMASCUS, MARYLAND**

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MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**August 7, 1999
Damascus, Maryland**

The Executive Committee Meeting was held at the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department Activities Center on August 7, 1999. The meeting was called to order at 0900 hours by President Carl B. Edelin, Jr. Assistant Chaplain Hetz offered the invocation and spoke of members who needed our prayers, followed by leading the group in prayer and the pledge to the flag. Welcome was given by Assistant Chief Leonard King of the host company. Mr. Gordon Aoyogi, Montgomery County Fire Administrator also welcomed all to Montgomery County.

President Edelin gave his welcome, went over the logistics of the day's activities. The President recognized the Past Presidents in attendance consisting of: D. E. Kirk, 63-64; G. A. Glaubitz, 70-71; R. L. Wood, 73-74; C. O. Baker, 78-79; C. B. Burton, 79-80; R. N. Dempsey, 80-81; C. H. Riley, 83-84; L. T. King, 85-86; C. D. Carpenter, 86-87; R. P. Cumberland, 87-88; J. R. Robison, 89-90; T. A. Mattingly, 90-91; B. J. Smith, 91-92; P. M. Hurlock, 93-94; R. L. Yinger, 94-95; S. D. Cox, 96-97; and R. E. Knippenburg, 97-98. The President then recognized the guests today to include Betty Grabenstein, President LAMSFA, who spoke to the group briefly bringing greetings from the ladies. The President then went into reports.

President Edelin presented his written report and proceeded to summarize by thanking Damascus for hosting the meeting. He has traveled 6,125 and spent 272 hours performing the job as President. Thanks to all for the support at convention, main goal is to represent all member companies of MSFA only possible thru teamwork. The President then thanked the Convention Committee for an outstanding job with the convention. He visited with Past Secretary Bob Benson who was honored by the IAAI. The President then reported on issues that the Association needs to address, the Assisted Suicide Prohibition Law, the Good Samaritan Law as it applies to ambulance billing, favorable ruling on FLSA at Virginia Beach. The low interest loan group is close to a final report that he will present to the Governor later this year. Effective July 1, the insurance carriers changes were made, recommend titling the vehicles as emergency to comply with IRS regulations. Also suggest to place the name of the company in the back window of the officers car. He attended meetings on the 800 MG, only 48 channels available, decided to wait until the 700 MG frequencies become available sometime between 2005 and 2007. This year will see a new direction for the Fire Prevention Committee, targeting the young and the elderly. The Recruitment and Retention Committee has new energetic members, look for exciting new projects. The President was part of the selection committee for the replacement of John Murphy. SYSCOM passed the Y2K testing program. He recommends that any business cards printed carry the mission statement. Civic Development Group made contact, would like to conduct a telemarketing fundraiser in our name, guarantee of \$60,000, need direction. Reminder of the next county presidents meeting will be held on November 14 at Earleigh Heights. Charles Wisner has resigned from the Executive Committee, working to replace him, committee listing is out for review. He received memo from John Bender on another problem with sprinklers.

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First Vice President Roger Steger presented his written report and proceeded to comment on the contents. Roger spoke that it is an honor to serve the association, here to serve you. Thanks to many for their support. Thanks to those who made the convention successful, best wishes to PP Knippenburg for well deserved rest. Roger attended activities at banquets, county association meetings and parades, MOSH guidelines, EDIFC, Lt. Governor's birthday party, Y2K exercise, presidents meeting. Roger traveled 6,328 miles and put in 314 man hours performing his duties.

Second Vice President Charles Mattingly presented his written report, stated it is a great privilege to stand here this morning. Also thanks to others, specifically family. He represented the Association at numerous events such as meetings, installation of officers, banquets and parades across the state. He also attended the birthday celebration for Mrs. Townsend, over 3,000 in attendance. Sad note on the passing of W. Paul Burton from Waldorf, he was 91. Congratulations to Ridge for 50 years of service. Itinerary traveling 2,338 miles and spending 149 man hours in performance of his office attached.

Secretary Leonard King presented his written report, commented on the activities of the office. An application has been received from Fairmount VFD of Somerset County, forwarded to standards committee. Applications for Associate Membership have been received from the Cumberland Fire Department and the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services. He reminded all to get corrections in for the 99-2000 Directory. The Secretary's Office continues to work with the data systems updating the inventory. The Convention Proceedings Book is presently being transcribed. The 1999-2000 budget approved does not provide sufficient funding, numbers provided. The office has developed several reports that assist the officers and committees. The office continues the team effort working for the best interest of the Association.

Financial Secretary Bob Jacobs presented his written statements and provided explanation of the statements.

Treasurer Bob Saville presented a computer print out on the financial accounts with balances. He thanked the Auditing Committee. The books have been given to the independent auditor. Question was asked about funds in the MLGIP, response about \$200,000.

Chaplain Harry Hetz stated that he had talked to Chaplain Dixon last night, gave an activity list. Father Newman has been in and out of the hospital. Harry spoke on some recent deaths and illnesses across the state.

President Edelin introduced Joe Torella from MEMA who made comments on the intrastate mutual aid compact draft. Question was asked about reimbursement and control sections, doesn't mention the volunteer sector. Also concern about the workers comp and liability. Question was asked about mutual aid agreements presently signed, response will not affect local agreements. Question was asked reference to involvement on day to day operations, response the jurisdiction will continue as present, only pertains to declared disasters. Question was asked about the need for this document to receive funding from FEMA, response no. Mr. Torella will provide answers on concerns raised about the compensation and expenses.

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ATTORNEY: Attorney Powell stated that we have received the quarterly report from MBNA and should receive \$778, also requested an updated mailing list. He then spoke on the recent decision finding billing causes you to lose your good samaritan protection. This needs to be addressed over the summer with the legislature. He then spoke on FLSA, recent opinion favorable for volunteers, and read excerpts from letter drafted.

Executive Committee Chairman Sterling opened the meeting by going around the table for concerns: Bob Knippenburg - spoke on the contract with O'Leary's concerning the national memorial lithographs, selling price \$20, \$16 for MSFA, attended the EDIAFC banquet, attended various other meetings. George Blanco - Dr. Miltonberger passed away, being buried today. Wylie Donaldson - AA County convention dates September 9-11 hosted by Orchard Beach, cadet program to begin in fall at vo-tech school. Donnie Hall - Southern MD, will be hosting the next Executive Committee Meeting. Terry Thompson - Howard going thru accreditation process, complete in August, training for volunteers will be coordinated by Training Committee. Judy Lau - announced PG Convention September 18-25. Lee Sachs - Baltimore county fire dept continues to go through reorganization. Calvin Stack - Dorchester County companies undergoing fund raisers, Talbot county having fairs, new station in Cambridge coming. Lester Downes - need a push put on the upper shore training center.

Chairman Sterling asked for approval of Associate Membership applications for the City of Cumberland Fire Department and the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services. The following motion was made by Lee Sachs and seconded by Judy Lau:

MOTION to approve Associate Membership applications for Cumberland Fire Department and Montgomery County Fire Rescue Services. No further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL: Fire Marshal Gabriele presented a written report, Rocco congratulated all for their appointments to the Executive Committee. He then updated the medical condition of Bob Shimer, Bob Thomas has been appointed as Acting Chief Deputy. He then reported on the retreat held to discuss the future, review manpower, workload and services. The agency will be hiring a fire protection engineer, office secretary, and as many deputies as the budget will allow. He further spoke on recent promotions and hires. The OSFM has reached an agreement with the USFA whereby they will conduct a review of the agency. The agency has requested legislation which will allow the OSFM to hire individuals as code enforcement officers who will not be required to attend a law enforcement academy. Reminder that the Mid-Atlantic Association of Fire Commissioners will meet in Maryland October 17-20. The western regional office is looking for a new location in Hagerstown. Rocco spoke on the water restrictions and ban on burning.

MFRI: Director Steve Edwards presented his written report and started his oral remarks by congratulating the committee on their appointments. Steve spoke on the upper regional training center, assures doing everything possible, Atlantic Construction successful bidder, need agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife. Steve updated the improvements to be made at southern Maryland and the headquarters facility at MFRI. The institute is progressing with its ALS training program, six classes

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this fall, limited class size to 35. MFRI conducted summer schools, one class had to stop due to lack of students. He spoke on the customer survey completed at convention. Steve spoke on the 23 goals that MFRI has established for FY2000.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL: Bob Cumberland presented a written report, updated the activities. Looking at corporate sponsors for the NVFC, Anheuser Bush and Miller Brewing Company. IAFC was awarded a contract to create the business plan for the USFA. Bob spoke on the 1720 committee standards as related to times. Need a letter to the Council that Maryland will host the spring 2001 meeting.

HAZ-MAT: Chairman Kenneth Hyde presented a written report, looks forward to revitalize the committee. He presented a budget request, also provided goals for the coming year.

LOW INTEREST LOAN TASK FORCE: Vice Chairman Joel McCrea presented a written report, spoke on the need statement with data gathered from the statistical committee. Many departments are unable to assume the debt necessary to replace aging apparatus and repair or expand their stations. Currently working toward legislation to establish the revolving loan fund, presented a budget request of \$500 for postage and mailing.

TRAINING: Chairman Dan Stevens presented his written report, report contained the goals for the coming year and budget request.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION: Chair Marcine Goodloe presented a written report. The first objective this year is to insure the 1-800-FIRELINE is being utilized to its fullest. The next initiative will be to develop a fax back system which will offer various info to all of the associations.

SHOCK TRAUMA: John Spearman brought greetings, spoke on document handed out. John spoke of the shock trauma's mission. He then went over the MSFA partnership goals, maintain open communication channels, expand educational services, support EMS fund, support scholarship committee. He further spoke on the slides provided, education and funding programs.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Alan Zentz presented a written report, everyone should be aware of the drought situation. The Governor issued a statewide open air burning ban on August 4. Applications were mailed out for federal funding in the form 50/50 matching grants up to \$750. Alan then referred to wildland firefighter qualifications training. The DNR has applied for and obtained a low interest loan for purchase of heavy equipment. Alan then announced that he would be leaving DNR and has accepted a position with the USFS, thanks and good luck in your new position. Question was asked about prohibiting fireworks displays, response will look at next week.

BESSIE MARSHALL BENEFIT FUND: Betty Radisch provided a written report, stated they have received 3 cases in the amount of \$2,250 to date. Again this year the lottery will be the main fund raiser, tickets have been sent to all fire departments.

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OUT OF STATE CO-ORDINATOR: Steve Cox presented a written report, spoke on attendance at the convention in Virginia. He then provided dates for upcoming conventions.

SAFETY: Chairman Bobby Balta presented a written report, proceeded to review his report. He reported that 700 masks were given away at convention, thanks to Selective Insurance for their donation. Sarah Causey from Joppa Magnolia won the safety contest. Joe Zienda of Bay District won the first Smith Stathem award. The safety committee is gathering data on heart attacks.

EMS: Charles Wills presented a handout packet and proceeded to state that Dr. Alcorta distributed review copies of the strategic plan for the weapons of mass destruction. Charlie brought concerns about the seal of excellence standards adopted by MSFA, appears that SEMSAC has adopted standards over MSFA objection. The EMS committee will form a sub-committee to look into solutions for the recognition of statewide certification and licensure. Bell Atlantic Telephone Pioneers want to revitalize the "Capsule of Life" program, asking for MSFA endorsement to use in publicity. There was discussion reference the elevator problem carrying stretchers. The EMS Committee is requesting a statewide program allowing internal wellness for and by EMS providers. A discussion took place on the treatment and release of minors. Charlie then spoke of the Good Samaritan Law, recommends individual companies purchase umbrella policy to cover same. Chair Wills was very much concerned about his minority role representing the volunteer service, he feels personnel representing the jurisdictions do not have our best interests at heart. The following motion was made by Donnie Hall and seconded by Terry Thompson:

MOTION that the executive committee support and endorse the "Capsule of Life" and the "Internal Wellness" programs that were spoke of by the EMS Committee. Further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

Discussion lead into the elevator standard, Fire Marshal will investigate further. Meeting was returned to the President, Harry Hetz provided the blessing for the meal, lunch break. The meeting was called back to order by Chairman Sterling.

FIRE PREVENTION: Chairman Bobby Collins presented a written report and discussed several projects for the year, smoke detectors, conference, seminar, simulator, brochures, bill boards. Two new projects this year are to produce a video of fire safety messages aimed toward school children, and to develop our own handout literature on fire safety. Question was asked about rep from Allegany-Garrett counties, need appointee.

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass presented a written report and proceeded to report on the passing of Dr. Miltenberger. He spoke on federal EMS initiatives regarding reimbursement of ambulance care. He then gave an update on the triage tags, 50,000 to be shipped on August 13. The rapid sequence intubation pilot project with the Maryland State Police continues to go well. MIEMSS is on a committee to look at HB287. The weapons of mass destruction subcommittee and steering committee have completed their draft reports. The provider review panel met for the first time on June 11, Lee Sachs was elected chair. Dr. Bass spoke on the activities of SEMSAC. The EMS Board reviewed their

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conclusion of their study regarding the long term viability of the EMS fund, reconfirmed their recommendation of a \$2 increase surcharge. MIEMSS is considering how best to correct the omission of fire EMS providers from the exclusion to the assisted suicide law. MIEMSS is considering seeking a change to the definition of commercial ambulance to include private entities that want EMS services on site. MIEMSS is considering statutory changes in immunity protection. Question was asked reference money in the budget for replacement of ALS equipment, will be purchasing equipment this year. Question was asked about this equipment being Y2K, not aware of any equipment having a problem.

MARYLAND STATE POLICE: Sgt. Zeigler spoke on behalf of the Major, new aircraft up and running Trooper One. Demos will be done on case by case basis. New cad program at SYSCOM.

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS: Chair Joan Robison presented a written report and highlighted the report. The secretary has copy of the disc prepared for Comptroller's office. This year 8,249 members qualified, up from last year. Reminder again that \$3,500 is the subtraction for this filing year. The committee continues to monitor the counties for legislative updates in their LOSAP.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Chairman Riley presented the report, spoke on the surgery of Bob Shimer. The Board approved a voucher for \$12,450 for 32 widows, 2 disabled fireman, 7 children. They approved voucher for Jeffrey Deeter of \$853 for tuition to college.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION: Doc Wilson reported on the activities of Congress. Doc requested the executive committee make a motion that the state endorses HR329, children's sleepwear safety act. The following motion was made by Lee Sachs and seconded by Lester Downes:

MOTION that the Executive Committee support and endorse HR329 dealing with children's sleepwear safety. No further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

TRANSPORTATION: Chairman Tom Flint presented a written report. He stated that waiting on info back from county coordinators, printing of tag book will follow. Question was asked about the black and white tags, waiting on meeting with MVA.

AUDIT: Chairman Henry Purdy clarified the line item on the budget to be \$400 for the committee, \$2500 for the outside audit.

COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATION TASK FORCE: Chairman Steve Cox presented a written report. A total of six replies were received and reviewed. Steve provided explanations for each of the concerns. The committee is still in an information gathering state. Lee Sachs voiced concern reference personnel providing reports, appears to be good management practices. Roger Powell spoke on the tension existing on the need to continue providing services and need to control length of meetings.

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ENTERTAINMENT: Chair Nancy Cox provided a written report. Two issues need to be addressed. The Fire Marshal asked if MSFA would co-sponsor an evening at Timonium Dinner Theater by selling 100 tickets. The next issue is a promotional cruise on Cruises Come True. Discussion ensued on the dinner theater. The following motion was made by Wylie Donaldson and seconded by Terry Thompson:

MOTION that the Executive Committee support the concept of the dinner theater by selling tickets in cooperation with the Mid Atlantic Fire Commissioners. Further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

The following motion was made by Lee Sachs and seconded by Judy Lau:

MOTION that the Executive Committee not support the cruise program concept. No discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS: Chair Patti Gordy stated the committee has not met, need further input on the individual membership category. Anyone planning on submitting by-law changes, present them at the February meeting.

BULLETIN: Chairman Ron Watkins presented a written report and discussed the future of the bulletin, more articles from various regions, addressed the goals.

LEGISLATIVE: Chairman Bernie Smith presented a written report and reported on its contents. A new copier has been received.

SCHOLARSHIP: Chairman William Olsen presented a written report, awards manual now contains the scholarship program. Bill provided a projection of funding for the next five years.

President Edelin presented a check for \$5,000 to Richard Yinger to be used to purchase smoke detectors for the hearing impaired.

WAYS AND MEANS: Chairman John Means has ordered the raffle tickets.

NFPA OVERVIEW: Chairman Bill Huttenloch presented a written final draft of the Maryland fire service health and safety standard. Bill gave further explanation on the impact of this document to the fire service. He then reviewed the impact statement attached. Discussion centered around the physical requirement and mask fit testing. Question was asked about time frame for responses, want to finalize by October. He brought concern on the voting member, presently states that the Secretary is the voting member, he would like to have a change made and allow him to vote.

STANDARDS: Chairman Bill Huttenloch has a request from Fairmont, application sent to them.

17 STATE CIRCLE: Chairman Jim Ferguson reported all moving well with repairs.

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STATISTICAL: Chairman Jim Ferguson requested a budget of \$200, advised to see the Budget Committee.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM: Bill Huttenloch displayed the new speaker covers, need five new microphone cables.

MEMORIAL: Chairman Don Mooney provided an update on the activities, looking for a sculptor, hopes everyone saw the model. He further spoke on the funding issue.

CONVENTION: Chairman Leonard King presented his written report and commented that the committee is working to finalize all aspects of the 99 convention. Many constructive comments and ideas were discussed, all under consideration. Leonard spoke on the most positive events being the dedication signs for the facility, the corporate sponsorships, honor guard contest, utilization of the control center, size and type of exhibits, training sessions, golfing, child safety seats and the combat challenge. Final financial picture of convention is not complete. The committee will again be making recommendations to the convention center administration about the food contractor and a bank card machine. The cooperation again received from all was great, a total team effort, 200 individuals are required to put on the convention, still looking for a few good people. Leonard read quotes from letters received from attendees at the convention.

VP Mattingly spoke of the next executive committee meeting logistics, reception Friday night, reception Saturday night, \$50 per night per couple to include meals. All reservations must be made through the Secretary's Office, 60 rooms reserved. Suggestion was made to take reservations today, sign ups with funds only were taken.

President Edelin presented Damascus VFD with a check for \$440 for their hospitality.

BUDGET & REVENUE: Chairman Paul Fabiszak presented his report, reported on the budget surplus from last year, committee recommends \$5,000 additional be carried forward. Several requests have been received being line 27 \$900 for training to cover travel to the FDIC and office supplies, line 62 funding of \$1000 for haz-mat, addition of \$500 for statewide loan committee, fax lines for officers at additional \$3600, NFPA committee attendance for \$3,000. The budget committee recommends approval of all the requests. Question was asked about budgeting for NFPA committee, Steve Cox was on there last year at no cost to association, cost was covered by the NVFC, response Steve is no longer the alternate to NVFC, therefore they would not budget the cost. The President also thought it was a good way to test the association for funding at national levels. The following motion was made by Lee Sachs and seconded by Judy Lau:

MOTION that this executive committee accept the budget committee recommendations as presented. No further discussion, voice vote taken, passed.

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Action items need to be addressed, first being approval to register the MSFA vehicles as emergency status with no cost to the Association. The following motion was made by George Blanco and seconded by Terry Thompson:

MOTION that this executive committee approve the request to register the vehicles as emergency vehicles. No discussion, voice vote taken, passed.

The Executive Committee discussed the fund raising proposal passed out by the President where company wants to use MSFA name and pay \$60,000. This may be in conflict with fund raisers by the local companies. The following motion was made by Terry Thompson and seconded by Lester Downes:

MOTION that the Executive Committee not go into this agreement with this company to use our name for a fund raiser. No discussion, voice vote taken, passed.

The President requested that the mission statement of MSFA be printed on back of all future printing for business cards. The following motion was made by Wylie Donaldson and seconded by Terry Thompson:

MOTION that all business cards ordered from now on will have MSFA mission statement on the back. No discussion, voice vote taken, passed.

Lee Sachs spoke on observation of his reference the budget expenditure of \$3,000 for NFPA committee work. Discussion lead into the budget process of committees not being funded because of new chair persons. Request the budget committee look into matter and provide suggestions at the October meeting.

The meeting was returned to President Edelin who brought thanks for everyones attendance, wish everyone a safe trip home. Henry Purdy offered the benediction. 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: To approve Associate Membership applications for Cumberland Fire Department and Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services. Motion Passed.

Motion: That the Executive Committee support and endorse HR329 dealing with children's sleepwear safety. Motion Passed.

Motion: That the Executive Committee support the concept of the dinner theater by selling tickets in cooperation with the Mid Atlantic Fire Commissioners. Motion Passed.

Motion: That the Executive Committee not support the cruise program concept. Motion Passed.

Motion: That this Executive Committee accept the budget committee recommendations as presented. Motion Passed.

Motion: That this Executive Committee approve the request to register the vehicles as emergency vehicles. Motion Passed.

Motion: That the Executive Committee not go into this agreement with this company to use our name for a fund raiser. Motion Passed.

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