

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 4-5, 1999
Betterton, Maryland

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**December 4 - 5, 1999
Betterton, Maryland**

The Executive Committee meeting was held at the Betterton Volunteer Fire Company on December 4 and 5, 1999. The meeting was called to order at 0900 hours by President Carl B. Edelin, Jr. Chaplain Dixon presented the invocation and spoke of those members who needed our prayers, followed by leading the group in prayer and the pledge to the flag. The Chaplain read from scripture and made comments on the services for Charles B. Burton. Welcome was given by the Assistant Chief of the Betterton department.

President Edelin gave his welcome, and then commented from his report. Carl has traveled 10,147 miles and performed 496 hours representing MSFA since last meeting. He then spoke on our beloved member Charlie Burton, our condolences to his family. The President updated the condition of George Blanco who has some heart problems. The Presidents have attended several meetings with Dr. Bass, Steve Edwards, John Ashworth and Dr. Mott, very informative. Congratulations to John Murphy for his appointment to the EMS Board. The Metro and RPC chiefs have combined into one group. He reported on the Bessie Marshall Fund raiser, a huge success. Health Care Finance Administration is currently revising the way they reimburse for ambulance transportation, new fee schedule to be implemented 2001, and uniform rate for different types of calls BLS, simple ALS, complex ALS and critical care. MIEMSS has triage tags for sale. Dr. Bass is drafting legislation to permit our ALS providers to give certain injections under the wellness program. Carl reported on the Mid Atlantic Association of State Fire Commissions annual conference. He stated the legislative committee will give a report on the low interest loan program. Congratulations to PP Joe Robison who was honored during the recent dedication of Engine 103. Governor Glendening awarded the Association a Governor's Citation for our assistance with the smoke detectors for the deaf and hearing impaired. James Raley has resigned his position on the MFRI Board of Advisors, Bob Knippenburg will replace him. Happy 75th birthday to PP Clarence Carpenter. The President requested the Executive Committee give consideration of the disposition of the 1997 Ford car and the auto insurance. President Edelin wished all a safe holiday season and a prosperous new year.

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. He attended the meetings addressed in the President's report, banquets, association meetings, MOSH, National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. He then made remarks on the life of PP Charles Burton and reported traveling 8,349 miles and put in 503 man-hours performing his duties.

Second Vice President Charles Mattingly presented his written report, stated the past two months have been extremely busy. He represented the Association at numerous events such as meetings, installation of officers, banquets and parades across the state. He also attended the meetings referenced in the President's report. He also attended various other meetings. Itinerary traveling

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7,585 miles and spending 363 man hours in performance of his office attached. He also spoke of Charles Burton, extends sympathy to the family.

President Edelin recognized the Past Presidents in attendance consisting of: D. E. Kirk, 63-64; T. L. Reynolds, 71-72; R. L. Wood, 73-74; 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; J. R. Robison, 89-90; B. J. Smith, 91-92; P. M. Hurlock, 93-94; R. L. Yinger, 94-95; G. F. Cross, 95-96; and S. D. Cox, 96-97. He then recognized the guests today to include: Betty Grabenstein, President LAMSFA, who spoke to the group briefly bringing greetings from the ladies.

Secretary Leonard King presented his written report, commented on the activities of the office. The minutes of the previous executive committee meeting have been transcribed, duplicated and distributed. All correspondence taken care of. Application for associate membership is still in the office of the Chief of Baltimore City. As of today membership consists of 365 active companies, 14 associates and 3 sustaining for a total of 382. Work is progressing well on the proceedings book, need updated pictures. The annual mailing of dues notices, credentials form and memorial service form will be going out first of year. The office continues the team effort working for the best interest. It is with a saddened heart and the deepest of feelings that we say a final thank you to "Sir Charles". Charles B. Burton served our Association with great distinction, commitment and dedication for six decades and the Secretary's Office for over four decades. Charlie's knowledge, wisdom and experience will sorely be missed by us all.

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

Treasurer Robert Saville brought greetings, and then presented a computer print out on the financial accounts with balances. Question was asked are their any other funds not recorded on this report, no. Trustee funds are separate.

ATTORNEY: Attorney Powell presented a check from MBNA for \$530.75, spoke on the appeal of the Good Samaritan ruling in Baltimore City. Roger spoke of the specifics being filed, his comments will be combined with another brief. He further spoke on the ambulance billing services in dealing with IRS. Lee Sachs spoke on the charging for specific items.

Chaplain Harvey Dixon provided a written report, introduced assistant Chaplain Donald Harris. He appreciates the manner in which the chaplain office has been used, provided statistics. Chaplain Dixon attended the Federation of Fire Chaplain's Conference, Harry Hetz also attended. He further spoke on insurance liability, in the process of sending a questionnaire to all chaplains in the state asking them to list their skills, their areas of need and ideas how we might better improve.

President Edelin asked PP Cox to give the oath of office for Father Newman. He then introduced Assistant Secretary Gene Worthington for comments. Gene announced his candidacy for 2nd Vice President and provided additional comments.

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Executive Committee Chairman Sterling opened the meeting, spoke of those not in attendance, went around the table for concerns: Judy Lau - thanks to all from PG County for the tribute to PP Charles Burton, attended banquets, Terry Thompson - spoke on the fire in Ellicott City, commission looking at the fire tax, may revamp the LOSAP program, Wylie Donaldson - things still going smoothly with the new administration, spoke on dinner meeting with the county council, Judy White - greetings, Washington County has provided a computer with software for reporting to each station, Frederick county made changes to LOSAP, will be hosting the fire marshal's office by doing a demonstration Christmas tree burn for public safety, Donny Hall - greetings, Mechanicsville Rescue Squad celebrating 40 years, Bobby Swann appointed to tri-county council, spoke on Project Impact, Richard Brooks - spoke on the Mid Atlantic conference, attended three funerals, held legislative dinner in Harford county, well attended, Lee Sachs - quiet, extend wishes for holiday season, Lester Downes - Preston VFC building new facility, spoke on training center.

BESSIE MARSHALL: President Grabenstein provided a written report, stated that 18 cases have been paid with expenses of \$13,050. Thanks for your continued support.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL: Fire Marshal Gabriele presented an oral report, Rocco asked for silent prayer in memory of six firefighters killed in Mass. last night. He spoke of the changes to the fire prevention commission, four new members, adopted two new regulations for licensing sprinkler contractors and the Christmas tree in public assembly. Rocco spoke on a press release reference Y2K and fireworks displays. He talked about the smart growth code committee, legislation will be introduced which will put in place a statewide rehab code. He then talked about the agency retirements forthcoming, will be filling four vacancies soon. He further spoke on the Christmas tree regulation, allows live trees in public assembly if meeting requirements. Two legislative bills will be introduced, enabling legislation to hire deputy fire marshals for code enforcement without taking the police training requirement, increase age to 21 to purchase black powder. Question was asked about new building being constructed in southern Maryland for disabled children.

MFRI: Director Steve Edwards presented his written report and started his oral remarks by thanking MSFA officers for their meeting with Dr. Moat. Steve spoke on the upper regional training center, construction contract is signed, Atlantic Construction successful bidder, 12 to 14 month construction time frame. He updated the improvements to be made at southern Maryland, received the submittals from the AE and is presently being evaluated, should be under contract within couple of weeks. Berwyn Heights project will be a design build, will vacate the present facility July 1, 2001. The institute had a very successful congressional fire service training day, others were also in attendance. The ALS training program is going well, received great comments. The Maryland Chief Officers Seminar is scheduled for January 15 and 16, to be held at MITGS outside of Baltimore City. A list of the spring seminars was provided, Maryland weekend at the National Fire Academy to be held February 18-20 for 240 slots. Steve further spoke on the internet training programs, hazmat classes to be offered. Agreement reached allowing placing the certified fire protection specialist program in distance education format. Congratulations to Steve on

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re-election as President of the North America Fire Training Directors.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES: Bob Hartlove presented a written report, stated that he has been appointed to the vacant fire supervisor's position, contact phone 410-260-8503. November brought an increased number of fire starts, responded to 803 calls to date. Cooperative efforts have resulted in an arrest in Charles County on arson charges. A number of railroad fires in Oakland resulted in charges against a maintenance crew foreman. Maryland received \$22,020 during 1999 to enhance rural fire protection in 50/50 grants up to \$750, 29 departments received this funding. Bob spoke on the federal excess personal property program, picked up some equipment. Classes are being scheduled for wildland firefighter I for year 2000, will be another fire camp training class. All firefighters who want to keep their "red card" current will need to attend a 4 hour refresher and take the physical fitness test. DNR conducted a juvenile fire setter intervention and prevention session, well attended. DNR will be sending instructors to Georgia in January to attend a train the trainer class on performance based qualifications systems and cooperative partnering.

BOARD OF REVIEW: Chair Doc Moltrup present for any questions, no report to give.

TRAINING: Chair Dan Stevens presented his written report, reported on the meeting held at Berwyn Heights. Dan reported on the liaisons to DNR, EMS, MFRI, hazmat and safety. He spoke on the convention seminars for this year. Robert Wright has retired and has taken a job with DOT as editor of the ERG. The committee is looking at a firefighter refresher training package.

SHOCK TRAUMA: John Ashworth provided a statistical handout, thanked the MSFA officers in keeping the open communications. He spoke on the admissions for FY2000 and some other key issues. OR minutes are fluctuating because of an increasing non surgical vs surgical interventions, surgeons who are faster. There was only 1 fly by, concerned about the nurse recruiting. He further spoke on the \$21MM capital requirement due to the number of patients. Shock Trauma Gala to be held on April 15, updated the HERO awards program.

President Edelin introduced Heidi Browning, 1st runner up Miss Fire Prevention, who made comments. Tom Flint provided her with a set of county maps.

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass presented a written report. He then proceeded by passing regrets with respect to the loss of PP Charles Burton. He stated that MIEMSS continues to work to fulfill its mission of providing leadership, direction and expertise, as well as coordination of EMS resources, through several on-going initiatives at both the state and federal levels. Dr. Bass reported on the HCFA progress regarding reimbursement of ambulance care. Dr. Bass reported on some personnel changes, in the process of hiring Phil Hurlock as the EMS Ombudsman. The rapid sequence intubation pilot project with the state police continues to go well. MIEMSS staff has circulated the revised draft of the EMS plan. MIEMSS continues to monitor the yellow alert hours in Region III and V. MIEMSS continues to revise regulations in response to the passage of a public access defibrillation bill. MIEMSS will be introducing legislation to allow medics to perform vaccinations

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and TB testing for their own personnel. MIEMSS continues to study protocols regarding the triage of severe head injuries and the use of ventilators by paramedics. Dr. Bass then gave an update of the activities of SEMSAC. He spoke of the EMS Board legislative issues, three proposals will be submitted. John Murphy has been appointed to the EMS Board. Question was asked about the tag fund \$2 increase, Bernie Smith commented budget office is looking at way to fund the shock trauma capital requirement.

EMS: Chair Charles Wills presented a written report, commented on the vial of life program is alive and well. Charlie spoke on the meeting with MIEMSS, items discussed included ALS training and legislation. Charlie further spoke on the immunization legislation, concerned about definition of public safety personnel. Senator Middleton will introduce the bill, request endorsement of this package. He spoke on the personnel changes at MIEMSS. He reported that 527 EMT's have not bridged at this time and reminded everyone that December 31 is the deadline. The following motion was made by Lee Sachs and seconded by Richard Brooks:

MOTION that the executive committee authorize the legislative and EMS committees to pursue a bill that would enable us to get immunizations for the entire fire service family including the ladies auxiliary. further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL: Bob Cumberland presented a written report, updated the activities from the last meeting held in October. The EMS committee continues to monitor the ambulance billing through HCFA. Bob recommends that MSFA submitting a name to serve on the EMS committee. The council is working on a video to educate firefighters on the hazards of bloodborne pathogens. Legislation includes HR 1168, 329, 1382 1990. NIOSH has been doing investigations of fire deaths. America Burning will be re-commissioned, new document to be America at Risk. Bob further spoke on NFPA 1500, council voted to support 1581, 1582. NFPA 1720 is in the public comment period, recommend we look at and comment. Bob reported on the disaster relief foundation from North Carolina.

Meeting was recessed for lunch, meal blessing was given. Chairman Sterling called the meeting back to order. President Edelin spoke on some activities for the evening.

COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATION TASK FORCE: Chair Steve Cox presented a written report, the committee continues to discuss various options.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Chair Riley presented the report. The Board approved a voucher for \$24,575 for 32 widows, 1 disabled fireman, 7 children. He then spoke on the copy of the procedure guide to follow. The Board needs 550 copies of 119 pages in the guide, printing cost of \$4,162. Charlie provided additional pricing for various options, feels that the money can be used from the state. Secretary King suggested his office could do the copying. President Edelin would like the hard cover binder to be used. The following motion was made by Donny Hall and seconded by Richard Brooks:

MOTION that the Office of the Secretary work with the Trustees to produce a fine document that we can distribute that will be lasting and easy to replicate. further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

SAFETY: Chair Bobby Balta presented a written report, proceeded to review his report. The committee discussed having a health safety commercial 7 to 10 minutes in length produced for airing on various cable public announcement spots. The committee discussed having another seminar, more to follow. Work continues to update the display, attendance at the meetings are good, but not excellent.

CONVENTION: Chair Leonard King presented his written report, commented the committee has been very productive. He provided dates for next conventions, June 18-22, 2000. The committee will again be making recommendations to the convention center administration about the food. Again want to recognize the cooperation from Ocean City, also the assistance from the other organizations that support the convention. Thanks to the more than 200 individuals that are required during the convention week. The proposed events schedule was presented, copy to be mailed in January to all companies. Question was asked about the time frame for voting, response two hours, also working on scan-tron voting procedure. Question was asked about the pricing of the events, response dissatisfied with the food vendor, need to negotiate price of food. Question was asked reference the time frame to install appointed officers, response not finalized. Question was asked about the session ending time after the start of seminars, response trying to accommodate personnel attending sessions and seminars. Question was asked about the executive committee meeting, response still in planning, tentative Thursday morning. Several made comments in favor of the changes to the convention. Concern was raised about having five sessions, the memorial service will count as a session. Ladies President Grabenstein also spoke on the changes as positive. Leonard again spoke on the passing of PP Charles Burton. Comment was given reference the outline of the voting procedures in advance. Executive Chair Sterling and President Edelin also requested any comments on the Convention Committee report, with none being received.

President Edelin introduced the Miss Fire Prevention Anne Marie Histon who brought greetings, spoke on other issues, looking forward for invitations.

WAYS AND MEANS: Chair John Means reported that the raffle tickets have been distributed, now lets everyone sell them.

ENTERTAINMENT: Chair Nancy Cox provided an oral report. Nancy has the cruise tickets for sale at cost of \$35 per ticket on Sunday May 21. Two free tickets will be given to the person selling the most tickets. The Lady Baltimore has been reserved exclusively for MSFA. Question was asked about parking for buses, available on Key Highway. Make all checks payable to Maryland State Firemen's Association.

FIRE PREVENTION: Chair Bobby Collins stated the committee has not met since the last executive committee meeting. Bobby reported on the fire safety video competition. Bobby stated

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that three members have resigned, will talk to the President about new appointments.

HAZARDS MATERIALS: Chair Ken Hyde presented a written report, committee has met twice, however attendance was poor. Ken spoke on getting a link on the internet, a commitment of support on training issues with MFRI hazmat programs, the process of creating a guide to starting a hazmat team is being delegated out, concern about the North American emergency response guide, terrorism. A letter was received from Harford county hazmat team reference membership to the committee. Concern was raised to stay focused on your committee has a completely different function within this state than the hazmat teams group.

LOW INTEREST LOAN TASK FORCE: Chair James Reigel presented a written report, stated that the committee has made the presentation to Fred Puddester. Joel further reported on the meeting, the Secretary expressed positive comments, commented on how thorough and well thought out the program appeared to be. Draft legislation has already been done, this will be agenda item for meeting with the Governor.

LEGISLATIVE: Chair Bernie Smith presented a written report and reported that rumors are already happening. Bernie thanked the low interest loan program task force for their work in short period of time. Discussions are already starting on how to fund. The legislative office will open the first day of the session, the ladies will again staff the office. He referenced HB 22 which is pre filed dealing with scholarships for survivors of line of duty deaths for emergency services, already reviewed and requested sponsor to amend. The legislative reception will be held on February 7. Concern was addressed about notifications that need to be made during the session, weekly newsletter will be sent with faxes.

MARKETING: Chairman Cynthia Verhousek gave the report, commented on an agreement with Illinois Mutual so that members can get disability insurance for their own profession with a 5% discount. She also spoke on some discount insurance packages, have a guest speaker for the convention. Cynthia talked about billing the insurance carrier for accidents and fires, neighboring states are. Concern was raised about the disability insurance, feels the MSFA attorney needs to review the proposal. Concern was addressed about the billing of fire calls, Pennsylvania presently does, some companies in Washington County are presently billing. Lee Sachs gave editorial comments about the legality of such a program. President Edelin charged the committee to further investigate, discuss with Attorney Powell.

MEMORIAL: Chair Don Mooney provided a written report, updated the activities, continue to meet monthly. He further spoke on the funding issue, money coming in slowly. There are still companies that have not responded to the survey. Don spoke of the breakfast at Level to benefit the foundation, thanks.

BULLETIN: Chair Ron Watkins presented a written report. Ron stated that the next issue is at the printer, twenty pages. Special thanks to Eileen Martin and Dan Tabler for their input. Thanks to the budget committee for the favorable consideration.

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RECRUITMENT & RETENTION: Bill Cooke presented the written report, stated the list of representatives for the 1-800-FIRELINE is complete. The governor's office has agreed to make an appearance on the video tape to promote, MIEMSS has agreed to make the video. Bill further spoke on a funding issue. The lower eastern shore is having a recruitment and retention seminar in Princess Anne on January 23. We need to advertise this program, convention seminar will be changed.

MISS FIRE PREVENTION CONTEST: Eileen Martin provided comments from the written report. ADC map books were given to the queens. Eileen continued by giving the activity reports of the queens. Both ladies look forward to invitations. Question was raised about the past queen serving on the committee. Question was asked reference this being a stand alone committee.

RESCUE: Chair Ed Woods presented a written report, working on the resource manual and the upgrade for equipment standards.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY: Chair Herman Rhue spoke on planning of a two day session next spring in western Maryland, in the process of putting together agenda. Herman talked about the need for early mutual aid.

The meeting returned back to the President, reminder to sign the card for the Burton family, closing prayer given by Father Newman. The Sunday morning meeting was called to order by President Edelin, asked Harry Hetz for prayer. Harry reported that Skip Massey's son had been transported to shock trauma. Harry read scripture from Isaiah, offered prayer, led the group in the pledge. The President recognized the Past Presidents in attendance consisting of: D. E. Kirk, 63-64; R. L. Wood, 73-74; R. N. Dempsey, 80-81; L. T. King, 85-86; J. R. Robison, 89-90; and B. J. Smith, 91-92. He then introduced other guests in attendance including Betty Grabenstein President of the Ladies Auxiliary. The meeting was turned over to the Executive Committee Chair. Chairman Sterling asked for committee reports.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION: Chair Doc Wilson provided a written report, thanked MSFA for endorsing HB 329 the children's sleepwear act. He reported on HB 1168 which will provide \$5 billion in federal grant program, request you send support letter. The following motion was made by Terry Thompson and seconded by Steve Hales:

MOTION that we instruct the President and the secretary to send a letter endorsing HB 1168. further discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

SCHOLARSHIP: Chair William Olsen presented a written report, spoke on the funding status upcoming. Seven queries have been received, talked about the jurisdictions that have supported the students.

TRANSPORTATION: Chair Tom Flint presented a written report. Tom presented Presidents Edelin and Grabenstein first copies of the tag book. The remaining books will be distributed in

January. Tom further spoke on the old black and white tags.

BUDGET & REVENUE: Gene Curfman presented the report, only one request was received. The Entertainment committee requested a working fund of \$200 to cover miscellaneous expenses in relation to the cruise or other activities. The following motion was made by Donnie Hall and seconded by Lee Sachs:

MOTION that we approve the budget committee request for the entertainment committee working fund. no discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

17 STATE CIRCLE: Chair Jim Ferguson presented his written report, have commitment from the painter to paint the building. An estimate has been received for \$1500 for the repairs to the building. Painting will be scheduled as weather permits.

STATISTICAL: Chair Jim Ferguson presented a written report, copy of new format presented. The committee felt that the request to incorporate additional information breaking down EMS responses any further would be redundant as this information is available from MIEMSS. Glema Balta has converted the report to Microsoft Access. The forms will going out next week. Concern was again raised about the EMS companies. Question was asked about the new format, copy to be furnished. Additional discussion continued about the statistical program overall.

Chairman Sterling stated one action item for resolution that being hosting the NVFC meeting in Ocean City. A motion from last meeting to table. Paul asked the special committee appointed to give report. Doc Wilson stated the request to host the meeting is still in MSFA possession. Lee Sachs read the discussion leading to the motion and also comments from the minutes at the June convention meeting. The following motion was made by Steve Hales and seconded by Richard Brooks:

MOTION to bring the previous meetings tabled motion off the table. voice vote taken, motion passed.

Chairman Sterling again read the motion from October.

MOTION that due to un-preparedness of this issue that we withdraw our invitation to host the NVFC meeting, discussion, voice vote taken, motion passed.

Chairman Sterling requested the Secretary to notify Bob Cumberland of the decision as a courtesy.

President Edelin introduced members from Union Bridge VFC, thanked them for their assistance on the bingo banquet to benefit the Bessie Marshall fund. They presented a check for \$3,518.75, which Carl presented to President Grabenstein.

Donnie Hall further spoke on the NVFC report requesting someone to participate on the EMS committee. The following motion was made by Donnie Hall and seconded by Lester Downes:

MOTION that the President does appoint someone in conjunction with the NVFC committee to represent EMS. discussion, motion was withdrawn.

The Chairman asked the auditor Mr. Jeffrey Connor to give report of the financial audit. Treasurer Saville gave introduction. Mr. Connor provided comments from the independent auditor's report. He reviewed the statement of financial position(balance sheet), statement of activities(income and expense statement), statement of cash flows, and the summary of functional expenses. He also provided statements to better explain the report. Discussion followed from various individuals for clarification. There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee the meeting was adjourned. An executive session was held with the Auditor.

Respectfully submitted,

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

MOTION SUMMARY

MOTION: That the Executive Committee authorize the Legislative and EMS Committees to pursue a bill that would enable us to get immunizations for the entire fire service family including the ladies auxiliary. Motion Passed.

MOTION: That the Office of the Secretary work with the Trustees to produce a fine document that we can distribute that will be lasting and easy to replicate. Motion Passed.

MOTION: That we instruct the President and the Secretary to send a letter endorsing HB 1168. Motion Passed.

MOTION: That we approve the Budget Committee request for the Entertainment Committee working fund. Motion Passed.

MOTION: To bring the previous meetings tabled motion off the table. Motion Passed.

MOTION: That due to the un-preparedness of this issue that we withdraw our invitation to host the NVFC meeting. Motion Passed.

MOTION: That the President appoint someone in conjunction with the NVFC committee to represent EMS. Motion was withdrawn.