

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2000
Ocean City, Maryland

The Executive Committee meeting was held at the Convention Center on 18 June 2000. The meeting was called to order at 0930 hours by President Carl B. Edelin, Jr., who welcomed everyone to Ocean City. Chaplain Dixon spoke to motivate the group to a good convention and led the pledge to allegiance..

President Edelin introduced those Past Presidents in attendance: Dave Kirk, 63-64; Raymond Adkins, 65-66; Peter Paul Lochary, 68-69; Jerry Glaubitz, 70-71; T. L. Reynolds, 71-72; Roy Wood, 73-74; Ed Preston, 74-75; Elmer Dunn, 76-77; Oscar Baker, 78-79; Bob Dempsey, 80-81; Tom Tharp, 81-82; Charlie Riley, 83-84; Leonard King, 85-86; Clarence Carpenter, 86-87; Bob Cumberland, 87-88; Bob Shimer, 88-89; Joseph Robison, 89-90; Tommy Mattingly, 90-91; Bernie Smith, 91-92; Phil Hurlock, 93-94; Richard Yinger, 94-95; Fred Cross, 95-96; Steve Cox, 96-97; Danny Davis, 97-98; Bob Knippenburg, 98-99. President Edelin introduced those guests in attendance including LAMSFA President Betty Grabenstein.

President Edelin thanked LAMSFA President Betty Grabenstein for her gracious help and companionship this past year. He discussed the President's banquet of last night and thanked Ron Siarnicki for the exceptional job he did as the emcee for the event. He thanked Mary Ann Gibbons for the delicious menu she put together for the event. He thanked Leonard King for getting everything put together and we look forward to a great convention. He thanked others who assisted during the evening. He congratulated Nancy Cox for the most successful entertainment operation we have had in many years.

President Edelin discussed the first edition of the MFRI publication Source Book for Fire Service Training. This Association put \$2000 into that project at that time, which was a shared cost with other organizations. The second edition is now out, and he feels this is a good way to return something to the departments. He asked that each department get a copy of this edition and we will put our sticker in the book to show our affiliation with the book. He asked that the Executive Committee consider this and that we give \$2000 to the project. Steve Cox said everyone that received the first edition had to sign for it, and they ask that we do the same thing this time to show those affiliated with the book just who the books were given to.

First Vice President Roger Steger thanked everyone for their support these past two years, and he is looking forward to going in as President on Wednesday and he invited everyone to the Installation of Officers. He also invited everyone to the hospitality house Monday at the 15th Street firehouse, which will be hosted by himself and Jenks Mattingly. He discussed his busy schedule and how long he was away from home and how many miles he traveled this past year for the MSFA.

Second Vice President Jenks Mattingly thanked everyone for the support given him this past year and he looks forward to serving MSFA in the coming year as First Vice President. He

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2000 – Page 2

discussed his travel around the state this past year and the hospitality he received everywhere he went. He said some changes need to be made and he hopes to help in this process.

Treasurer Bob Saville thanked everyone for his or her support and vote of confidence.

Financial Secretary Bob Jacobs is working on the convention registration, no report.

Secretary Leonard King said he still needs the Board of Review letter for next year from Howard County, Caroline County, and Frederick County. We need to vote today on the Associate Membership application from the Frederick County Department of Fire and Rescue Services. They have sent in their paperwork and their dues have been paid. There is a new Paramedic Team just for the Convention and Conference. It has been set up thru Clay Stamp, Dr. Bass and Richard Brooks as the Paramedic Coordinator. He thanked Richard Brooks, Dr. Bass, Chief Steger, and Clay Stamp (OC/EMS) for working this out for us. Ocean City EMS will have a paramedic crew and unit here during all events and sessions. He said there are still two slots open for the Golf Tournament, see Fred Cross or Nancy Cox, if interested. He discussed the convention in general, saying it is planned to be a great event. In answer to the rumor that the County flags will not be at the opening ceremony, they will be. He read two letters from Carroll County Association regarding this situation and other proposed parts of the convention. In answer to the letters, he pointed out that every convention proposal was first presented to the Executive Committee this past year. He discussed the County flags and how the new set of flags was obtained and upgraded. All 23 counties and Baltimore City flags will be displayed at the Memorial, Opening Ceremonies and all week.

President Edelin discussed the two letters previously mentioned by Secretary King and his displeasure with Carroll County Association's way of expressing their problems at the last minute before the convention. He again thanked Leonard King and his Convention Committee for the great job they have done on this convention. Oscar Baker discussed the letters from Carroll County and some of the reasoning behind them, primarily the misunderstanding of the name change for Pierce Damewood. President Edelin confirmed that the name change did come before the Executive Committee before it was done. Lee Sachs made comments on the situation and he also asked everyone to take back to their caucuses, before the election, the need for them to understand the By-Laws proposal which gives the Executive Committee the power to have the final say on the convention, and its importance. Terry Thompson further discussed the situation of the letters and the right of the Carroll County Association to be heard and voice their opinion. Lester Downes made a motion that we answer the Carroll County letters expressing our concerns and that they have been discussed by the Executive Committee. It was pointed out that the letters were addressed to Leonard King, not to the Executive Committee and that Leonard has already talked with the Presidents of Carroll County. Charlie Riley said we need to look at when we are installing our officers (Wednesday) and maybe should look at the new President taking over at the New Business part of the meeting.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2000 – Page 3

First Vice President Steger introduced President Paul Adkins and Public Information Officer Steve Price, of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company, who talked about the Ocean City fire truck (Engine 4) that was stolen last night out of the Fire Station at 74th Street. He said the Engine was involved in a high speed chase which ended in the Engine being damaged when it hit the guard rail while trying to avoid the stop sticks that had been set up. The thief was a 35 year old white male from Pennsylvania. He was not a firefighter associated with any department in Maryland.

MEMORIAL: Chair Don Mooney handed out copies of the Memorial brochure printed on Friday. He said he has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of General Services authorizing the easement to be made to grant us permission to put the Memorial at the triangle in Annapolis. They did sign it and technically we have three years to raise the money to build the Memorial. The bottom line now is to thank everyone who has been involved (Steve Cox, Robin Browning, Cathy Hedrick, Les Hedrick, State Fire Marshal, and the cooperation received from MFRI, Dr. Bass and MIEMSS). The model of the Memorial will be on display at the convention this week. Now we need \$500,000.00 and he appreciates all the help he can get to raise that amount. He thanked the Ladies Auxiliary for their help in the fund raising endeavors. He said that articles are being put in the fire news bulletins about the memorial.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Charlie Riley discussed the new Board of Trustees Procedures Guide they have put together to be used in the event of injury or line of duty death. Each company will get a copy of this book when they register at the convention this week. He asked that you tell your Company to put the book where they can get hold of it in the event of such a situation. He introduced the Trustees as Vice Chairman Bob Shimer, Secretary Clarence Carpenter, and Trustees John Means and Donald Knauer. He thanked them for their hard work this past year on this book. He also thanked Secretary Leonard King and his wife who did the final work of putting the book together.

ENTERTAINMENT: Nancy Cox introduced her committee members (Elaine Huttenloch, and Fred Cross). She wished her father and all the fathers a Happy fathers Day today. She reported that the cruise took in \$8890 and cost them \$7827.75 leaving them a profit of \$1152.25. They sold 258 tickets, they paid for 245, and 244 people actually took the cruise. It was a nice cruise with only small problems (food). She apologized for this mishap. She did talk to the cruise line (Malinda Coleman) about the problem, who was already aware of it with a written report by the person in charge of the cruise. She was apologetic and wanted to do whatever to rectify the situation. She even offered to redo the entire cruise again. After discussion with several people, it was felt that trying to track down all of the people on the cruise would result in not being able to contact everyone. She was then offered two gift certificates good for 10 people each, for another cruise of either dinner or brunch, and a check for \$1917.00 (the equivalent of 60 tickets), which is how many people they feel waited the longest for their food. The committee agreed to this after talking with the committee members and President Edelin. They felt this was a justifiable settlement. Now with the refund check added to the previous profit total, the new profit total is \$3069.25. The committee decided to donate the two tickets to the Bessie Marshall

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2000 – Page 4

Fund so they can raffle them off as a fundraiser. She said she hopes the Executive Committee will also agree to make this donation. She also thanked Ron Watkins, Betty Grabenstein and George Blanco for their help. She said that George and Betty brought a whole bus load of people to the cruise, and she thanked them for that. She also thanked Lee Sachs, Judy White, Elaine Huttenloch, Evelyn Graf, Fred Cross, and Joan Cumberland. Without all of their support, this would not be the trip that it was. She said that many people have come to her saying let's do this again, and now it is up to the Executive Committee as to whether it will be done again.

WATERWITCH MUSEUM: Wylie Donaldson discussed the project of possibly buying the old Waterwitch firehouse property in downtown historic Annapolis, as a possible location for a Museum. The committee has met several times, and they have met with Senator Astil, and Senator Middleton informally (but it was a good meeting). They have met with Mayor Dean Johnson twice. They have been trying to get the owners of the building (the Chesapeake Bay Foundation) to a meeting with them to negotiate the sale of the property before it was put into the hands of a commercial realtor. Unfortunately, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation would not do that, but they did have a meeting with a representative of the organization (Ms. Winchester) and the Mayor, to find out what their plans were and how we can fit into those plans. The way it is now, the Foundation is going to put the property into a realtor's hands. They do plan to do an appraisal of the property. They said they paid \$265,000 for the property and they are looking to get as much out of the building as they possibly can, and they are looking at getting between \$500,000 and \$750,000. Ms. Winchester is going to take back to her trustees, that we are interested in the property, if we are, and that maybe they will give us first shot at it when they do put it on the market. They say they also have some 15 other party's interested in the property. There are zoning restrictions in the area that will prohibit some of the interested party's from obtaining the property. The committee needs a go or no-go from the Executive Committee because 5 July is the date they expect to have their appraisal back and maybe they could then give us a first shot at the property before they put it out to the other 15 parties. He said we are talking a good price for a museum and Charlie Cadle, from Annapolis City, is involved with us. There was a discussion that we could talk to Charlie Black who now runs a museum. We may be able to get funding thru him, or not. We can discuss this at our next session. The committee needs a go or no-go, so we can be ready for 5 July. Chair Sterling asked that the group consider this recommendation between now and our next meeting on Thursday. If you have any questions, contact one of the committee members so we can be ready to act on this Thursday.

WAYS AND MEANS: Chair John Means said he will take your raffle tickets as soon as you can get them to him. He said the sales are off this year and that is disappointing. He discussed rumors of those who say they won't sell the tickets for whatever reason.

ATTORNEY Roger Powell discussed the new credit cards now available for departments. He also discussed the individual credit cards which can be obtained this week downstairs. This year you can receive a shirt for signing up for a card as a department or an individual. MSFA receives a benefit for every card obtained and every time the card is used. He discussed the opening of accounts for the Trustees, which was controversial at the Betterton meeting. He said

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2000 – Page 5

that Article 38A, Section 42, provides that the Trustees monies will be paid from the Treasury of the Maryland State Firemen's Association, and that resolves that issue. He said the Treasurer has advised him and the Trustees what accounts are available and how much is in those accounts. He discussed a question of the status of the Charter of the MSFA from the State Department of Assessment and Taxation. He said in those documents you will find an I next to our name which we did not understand its meaning. It only took a year to find out that the I means Incorporated according to the Department of Assessment and Taxation, and that our Charter is active and we are in fact, incorporated. He now has a Resolution submitted by the Sprinkler Technology committee in that it is not a resolution of the MSFA requested by the Executive Committee or the officers. He said he needs the Executive Committee to authorize this Resolution which provides that this Association support the U.S. Senate Bill 2100, that covers a Fire Prevention Act. He did not read the Bill. He said it is well written and he needs the Executive Committee to approve it so they can go ahead and do this.

NVFC: Bob Cumberland said the NVFC has held their Spring meeting and there were 38 Directors and 23 Alternates at the meeting representing 38 states. The Mark Muehler Award for Fire Prevention, went to Litness Stuckey from Columbia Miss. In the past Maryland has had a Firefighter of the Year candidate (Joe Robison was one). That is not true this year. He asked that the Departments and the Executive Committee look at that, the deadline for nominations is 1 August. The workshop held was to explain to the Directors the proper procedures to contact their legislators regarding Bills and getting them to support them. One Bill the Council did move into was Senate Bill 2100, which was moved to the monitor list to keep track of. Regarding protective clothing, they ask everyone to check into the defects in the vapor barriers in some of the turnout gear and he asked you to go back to the manufacturers to be sure your gear is not of the defective type. He said within the last two weeks, the Council has entered into partnership with Firehouse.Com on the Web community, and they will be having Chat Groups on Line. They have also entered into an agreement with Delmar Learning to provide discounts for manuals and materials that Delmar publishes. The next meeting of the Council will be in Daytona Beach on October 11 thru 13, 2000. The Resource Center is working with FD Dopps who has published a Respiratory Protection booklet. Each Director was given a free copy of this booklet, and I would ask directions from the Executive Committee on how he can give one away. There is a certificate in there for a Company to order the booklet, or the Association, or however we want to do it. This is a free copy (worth \$257), and he just needs directions on how to give it away.

FIRE LAWS: Chair Mark Bilger reported that the price for printing the 2000th edition of the Books, and the committee recommended they continue with the same type of paper used last year, is \$32,300 for 850 copies. This year Lexus Publishing Company is offering a CD ROM which will contain everything in the book for the price of \$4.00 with minimum order of 850 copies. He said the CD ROM has potential and it would be used in Annapolis on a regular basis. He said that Lexus has approached the committee and would like to market the Fire Laws books. They are offering to do this at their expense and at no expense to this Association. They would sell the books for \$45.00 per copy, which is \$7.00 more than they sell them to us. That \$7.00

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2000 – Page 6

would then be kept on account as a credit and when we print the 2002 edition, whatever money was made off the sale of the books, would be deducted from the cost of our printing. Chair Sterling asked if they needed action on this today. Mark Bilger said no, this is now just informative, and the money is in the budget to get the books printed and come 1 July he will see to that being done, and the \$7.00 issue can be brought up Thursday. Roger Powell made it clear that the CD Rom is in addition to the books. You cannot get just the CD ROM.

BULLETIN: Chair Ron Watkins said the latest edition of the Bulletin is out and hopefully everyone received it before you left home. He is to get all the extra copies of the Trumpet and the program, but they haven't found them here yet. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the boxes, please let him know ASAP. For the many committees that present awards during the convention, it is very hard to get the pictures when you are hiding behind the podium and the recipient has his back to the camera when he is accepting an award. He said he will be in about the first row, not behind the stage as in the past, so please when presenting the award, step out from the podium and you and the recipient face the audience (and camera). When committees are giving a report, make sure the Trumpet gets a copy, so they can get it in the Convention issue. The deadline for these reports is 15 July.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES: Chair Laura Woods said they have the shirts and hats this year down stairs along with several other items such as a raffle for a brass head axe and a lamp made from the MSFA mug. She said this year she did get some medium sized shirts.

MIEMSS: Dr. Bob Bass said he has two Federal issues to discuss. The Federal Health Care Finance Administration has completed its one year long process to come up with a National Fee Schedule to reimburse ambulances. The regulation should be out in about two months. If you would like a copy of this, it is available downstairs at the MIEMSS booth. He said he doesn't think this will have a big impact in Maryland particularly on the volunteer service. They anticipate the reimbursement for the BLS will be around \$250. There will be a lower ALS and a higher ALS, and the higher could be as much as \$350 to \$400. Another issue is called the Anti-Kickback Law that was set up in the late 1980's. A couple years ago, the Inspector General and the Health and Human Services decided that if the hospital gives you equipment or Supplies, that might be considered improper under that law. They wrote an opinion thus creating a lot of controversy, to the point that Congressman Bob May of Ohio, introduced a Bill. The Health and Human Services went to him saying the Bill would pass a regulation that would allow that practice. That proposed regulation was just published, and they want comments back on it by 21 July. What you need to know about the regulation is, they are telling the hospitals that even if the ambulance company doesn't Bill, the hospital can't Bill for those supplies. This can have a chilling impact especially on the motivation of the hospital to do that exchange. MIEMSS will write a reply of concern to that and a couple other technical issues too. He urged the leadership to also write their concerns with this. He said they have developed a Work Plan of the Medical Response to Weapons of Mass Destruction (biological, chemical, etc). It is a thick document and they would like your input. It is also available downstairs at the MIEMSS booth. He said they have now printed the Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program Standards, which is also

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2000 – Page 7

available downstairs. Lee Sachs emphasized what Dr. Bass said regarding the exchange program. It makes no sense to him that this regulation says that the hospital can't Bill. It is bad enough that the sheets get dirty and the hospital washes them and then they can't Bill for that. He discussed the other items we get from the hospital (IV fluids, drugs, etc) and they can't Bill for those, and we can't Bill for those. What's going to happen is the hospitals are going to stop doing it. It is now so routine to those who ride a lot, then all of a sudden we're going to have to start buying these items. It is a terrible proposal, we need to get to our Congressmen to relate just what problems this will cause. It will impact on all of us at the street level.

HALL OF FAME: Chair Bob Dempsey said he has all of the certificates and they are being put in frames this morning. He asked that all members of the Hall of Fame be ready to come up on stage at about 10:00 Wednesday morning, because he does want help in giving out all of the items to the new recipients. They had 36 nominees for the Hall of Fame, which is the most in quite a while, and the committee had a terrible time selecting only 10. He said that on the Margaret Gates Award, each recipient will get a plaque and a certificate for their station. This is new this year. They felt that any person that puts in 50 years of their life, deserves something along with something for his station.

FIRE PREVENTION: Chair Bobby Collins said the Fire Prevention Books are on display and they ask that the Companies pick them up by Wednesday evening. They also have some free material that can be picked up. The Fire Prevention floats will be judged Thursday morning at 0800 in front of the Convention Hall.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: Chair Judy Lau said they were tasked to come up with an Individual Membership Committee which consists of herself, Bernie Smith, John Long, and Bob Seibel. They came up with a guideline for soliciting Individual Memberships, with the following recommendations: Categories and Memberships would have to be established, the cost per category would have to be determined, then submitted to the Constitution and By-Laws committee for consideration and approval by the Body. There would also be Individual and Business Memberships. They requested that the Insurance Committee research group policies for Life, Health, Disability, Cancer Care, and any other coverage that might be of interest to the membership. The Marketing Committee should look into discounting membership fees for businesses like COSCO, SAM'S, BJ's, wholesale food companies, auto parts stores, and other regional merchants that might be interested. It really needs to be something that works in your community. They thought of discount prices for Fire Service catalogs. This would be for those people that cannot come to the convention and must then shop at home. We could arrange for the discounts for the people shopping that way. Also discussed discounts at regional parks. They think that all of the above recommendations will entice memberships, but they also need to find more enticements for the younger members. She discussed shopping for scholarship funds for the younger people. This would not only encourage membership, but also benefit everyone in the long run. She thanked President Edelin for giving them this committee, and if they can be of any further service, let them know.

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2000 – Page 8**

Bernie Smith reminded the Past Presidents to be sure to wear your red jackets for the opening ceremony.

Danny Davis said he needs help locating pictures. He said in the past, the presidents have had their pictures taken during the convention, and they were given copies of the pictures. He said he has not received any pictures since Steve Cox went out of office, and during his time in office. He said he has sent letters to Ron and Leonard to try to get these pictures. He said if time is the problem, he would be glad to go thru the pictures and even pay for them himself. Steve Cox said he also has had a problem with this. They both would like the Executive Committee to put pressure on Ron to help them get the pictures. Chair Sterling said they will get this done.

ACTION ITEMS: Chair Sterling said the Association needs to act on the application for Associate Membership for the Frederick County Department of Fire and Rescue Services. The following motion was made by Judy White and seconded by Wylie Donaldson:

Motion: To accept the Frederick County Department of Fire and Rescue Services into Associate Membership. Motion passed.

Chair Sterling said the next item is the recommendation by the Entertainment Committee to donate the cruise tickets to the Bessie Marshall Fund. The following motion was made by Lee Sachs and seconded by Calvin Stack:

Motion: To donate the cruise tickets to the Bessie Marshall Fund. Motion passed.

Chair Sterling asked Treasurer Saville if the \$2000 for the Source Book has been budgeted. He said they do recommend that it be funded. The following motion was made by Calvin Stack and seconded by Terry Thompson:

Motion: To allocate \$2000.00 for the MFRI Source Book. Motion passed.

Chair Sterling said the next item to act on is the request from the Sprinkler Technology committee to adopt their resolution as a convention resolution, pertaining to the College Fire Prevention Act, U.S. Senate Bill 2100. The following motion was made by Terry Thompson and seconded by Wylie Donaldson:

Motion: To adopt the proposed resolution as presented by the Sprinkler Technology Committee. Motion passed.

President Edelin said there was money received from the cruise people in addition to the two tickets, and they would like to give this money to the Bessie Marshall Fund instead of the general account. The amount was \$1917.00. The following motion was made by Judy Lau and seconded by Wylie Donaldson:

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2000 – Page 9

Motion: To donate the \$1,917.00 from the cruise to the Bessie Marshall Fund. Motion passed.

Chair Sterling said that Micky Harris is back in the hospital. He's been there for two weeks, and he has had congested heart failure. He is doing better. He has his telephone number if you want it.

Chair Sterling thanked President Edelin for allowing him to serve this year, he has enjoyed the opportunity. He also thanked all of the people who participated in these meetings, the committee chairmen with their reports, the support agencies, and the allied groups. He felt it was a good year. To the Secretary's office, you are appreciated for your work. He also thanked the members of the Executive Committee, who he has enjoyed working with this year. He wishes good luck to Steve Hales as the new Chair, and Donnie Hall as the new Vice Chair. He also gave his best wishes to the incoming MSFA and LAMSFA Presidents for a successful year.

LAMSFA Senior Vice President Peggy Webb Said the red white and blue ribbons given out last night were in memory of LAMSFA Past President Jean Slifka. She had been very concerned about our flag.

President Edelin thanked everyone for their help and cooperation this past year. On Wednesday he would like the Executive Committee in the hall, so he can call them up on stage. He thanked all of the committee chairmen for their excellent work this past year. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as your President.

Chaplain Harry Hetz prayed for help and guidance with this convention and conference. There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee the meeting was adjourned at 1130 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

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