

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 22, 2000
Ocean City, Maryland

The Executive Committee meeting was held at the Ocean City Convention Center. The meeting was called to order by President Roger A Steger, Sr. at 0830 hours. Chaplain Dixon presented the invocation and lead the group with the pledge to the flag.

President Steger welcomed everyone and his new officers commenting on Gene Worthington's new attendance book. He thanked Past President Leonard King and his convention committee for a great job on this convention.

President Steger asked that anyone having any comments or suggestions on the convention, to contact the convention committee so they can bring it up at their critique, and maybe discuss them at our next Executive committee meeting and work them out. We want everyone's ideas, everyone's input. He thanked all committees and their chairs and just everyone who helped with the convention. He wished everyone a safe trip home from the convention. He introduced those Past Presidents who were in attendance and welcomed Past President Carl Edelin to the meeting. He read the new list of committees chairs, which is almost complete. The Low Interest Loan Board still has vacancies, as it could not be filled until the By-Law proposal was passed, and he now has 30 days to appoint the committee. He said the chairpersons will be sent a list of their committee members, and their telephone numbers. He discussed his goals and programs planned for the coming year as: market our Association to our membership, and to corporate businesses and individual memberships with incentives and a statewide group insurance plan for our members and Workmens Compensation and a death benefit for our members, get more involved with Local, State and Federal Governments on legislative matters, and a statewide firefighter safety guide which we have been working on for about a year and a half now. Teamwork is the number one thing we need now. Guidelines and procedures need to be established for the Low Interest Loan program. A Retreat is scheduled for July at the National Fire Academy. The committee chairs and the Executive Committee has been invited to attend. He read the list of the Executive Committee members and discussed some of the topics planned for the Retreat as Recruitment and Retention, Volunteerism as a dying breed, Incentives, Marketing, Insurance, Public Relations, Standards, Safety, Fire Prevention, Convention, Training, EMS Protocols, Legislation, volunteers to benefit our citizens, Low Interest Loans, Computer Systems, Data Systems, Insurance needs, Five Year Plan, Historical and Archives, and our Budget needs. He read the schedule of the upcoming Executive meetings, and the first meeting will be August 26 at Solomons.

1st Vice President Mattingly welcomed everyone here today and thanked Leonard King and his Convention crew for a great Convention this year. He said some changes were made this year and some of them worked and some need to be fine tuned. The Memorial Service was a great success with a lot of participation with good comments made. He thanked everyone for the support to him and the hospitality shown him around the state. He discussed the committees and

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the Officers goals planned for this year and further on down the road. He welcomed Gene Worthington to the team and looks forward to working with him and Roger this year.

President Steger said we will have an American and State Flag for the head table for future Executive Committee meetings. He also asked the Executive committee to obtain for him a County coordinator for each County for the Statistical reports.

2nd Vice President Gene Worthington thanked everyone for the support shown him this week. He said he's ready for the challenge and ready to go. He pledged to be a team player and looks forward to a great year.

Secretary Leonard King discussed the Installation of Officers last night. He thanked everyone for their support and also all of the members of the Convention committee for their job well done. He introduced the new Asst. Secretary, Joe Cooper, and he congratulated President Steger.

Treasurer Bob Saville thanked everyone for their support. He said copies of the Awards list and of the Budget, are available up front. He gave 2nd V.P. Worthington a new Catalog Case for his papers.

Financial Secretary Bob Jacobs thanked everyone for their support, and especially the newly elected officers, and he looks forward to working with the new 2nd V.P. Worthington. He congratulated Leonard King for the successful convention. He asked those committees that have any monies to turn in, please do so before the end of the month. Those funds are needed for the Audit and final report. Thank you and good luck to the new officers.

Chaplain Dixon thanked everyone for their support over the years, and especially this past year. He discussed the success of the Memorial Service and asked if they could have the previously discussed County Coordinator also be the one to collect the pictures for the service, rather than sending them to the Secretary. He asked that the pictures be labeled on the back as sometimes the picture and the write-up get separated and they do not know who is in the picture. He thanked Harry Hetz for the work he did with the Seminar. Now the Federation of Chaplains want to use our program throughout the country. Rev Dixon said all of the pictures used in this years Memorial Service, was given back to the area reps, this morning.

Chair Steve Hales introduced the members of the 2000-2001 Executive Committee including: Wylie Donaldson, Judy Lau, Lester Downes, Terry Thompson, Lee Sachs, Chip Jewell, Ben Kurtz, Calvin Stack, George Blanco, Paul Sterling, and Past President Carl Edelin. They each congratulated the new officers and agreed to work with them this year. Chairman Hales said we are here primarily to approve the Budget. A copy of the Budget was made available to each member present. President Steger pointed out the wish to have this Budget reflect the change of rate for overnight stays from \$25 to \$40 and the travel expense up \$5 (change from \$15, 20, 25 to \$20, 25, 30), and the procedures printed and given to each member so they are aware of the new changes. The following motion was made by Lee Sachs and seconded by Judy Lau;

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Motion: To accept the proposed budget as presented, and with the proposed change to the travel and overnight as presented by Present Steger. Motion passed.

Chair Hales said the Officers have asked him to ask the committee chairs not to hold committee meetings during the Executive Committee meetings. The committee reports are to be the highlights of the report, not read verbatim. Reports coming to the officers requiring little decision will be acted on that day. Those requiring more consideration will be acted on the following day. Those reports requiring a lot of consideration are to be sent to the Secretary at least 10 days in advance of the meeting, so he can get it to the Executive Committee before the Executive Committee meeting. If you do not have a report, please notify the Secretary so that no one is looking for one. When reporting or speaking to the Executive Committee, they would like you to give your name, who you represent and the subject matter.

Public Relations Ron Watkins discussed pictures for the Convention Book and they are needed before April. Please make sure your picture has been turned in. When you give your report, make sure it is a written report.

Low Interest Loan Fund Chair Joel McCrea said he has applications with him today. There is only \$500,000 in place now. They need to get the applications together so they can show the Governor just how much money will be needed. You must submit an application to be able to receive any funds. He asked everyone to take the applications back to their County and relay the information of the committee to each Department and what has to be done. He said the law is in effect, we just need to get the applications submitted.

Museum - Wylie Donaldson discussed the Waterwitch project and said they briefed the Governor during the Convention and he was very supportive of the idea. The Governor put his staff on the project to get to the Chesapeake Bay foundation with the idea, and ask them to get into negotiations with us. We have received no feedback yet from his office. He said they also briefed the Lt. Governor on the project and she also was very receptive. He said that he has talked with Charlie Black (Hebron Museum) who would also like to be on the committee and he volunteered to help us set up the museum. He said that until we hear from the Governor, he doesn't know if the sale of the property can be stalled or not. The property is supposed to go on the market through a realtor on or about 5 July. He feels we need to decide whether to proceed with the project or not. Lee Sachs asked how can we make a commitment when we don't know where the money is coming from. Donaldson discussed possible Grants (but they take time). Lee Sachs said we cannot submit a bid on a piece of land until all of this research has been done and a presentation made. Donaldson said this is just an update of the progress and we don't have another Executive Committee meeting until August, unless we have a special meeting to discuss this subject. Paul Sterling said he is for the museum, but we need to consider that the money is not there yet, and we would also need a full time administrator.

Chair Hales discussed the museum and said we need inputs for the committee. Carl Edelin said to help them move forward, there could be a contingency clause put in the contract, subject to the approval by the Executive Committee of the MSFA within 30 days of acceptance of the

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contract. This would give them 30 days to put it together. Tom Mattingly said what they were hoping for was to get the Governor involved and slow this process down to better give us time to prepare. Maybe we will have to get into a short option on the property with a time frame that would allow us to maybe put this through a legislative session. We just need to slow this train down enough so we can have a shot at it. They now need direction from the Executive Committee before they can proceed. Roger Powell discussed the bid process and the need for us to make contingencies in whatever contract we approve. We need to make a viable offer that includes contingencies whether it is accepted or not. He explained such contingencies as related to our situation. The following motion was made by L. Sachs and seconded by W. Donaldson:

Motion: That the President or Executive Committee Chair call a Special Executive Committee for the purpose of considering the Museum issue if necessary. Motion passed.

Board of Trustees Chair Charlie Riley reported the Trustees have held their organizational meeting. The coming year they will be organized with: Chairman Charlie Riley, Vice Chairman Bob Shimer, Secretary Clarence Carpenter, and Trustees John Means and Phil Hurlock.

Chaplain Harry Hetz gave the benediction. There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee the meeting was adjourned at 0933 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Office of the Secretary
Leonard T. King, Sr., P.P.
J. Edward Cross
Joseph A. Cooper