

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**February 10-11, 2001
Severna Park, Maryland**

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MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 10 - 11, 2001

Severna Park, Maryland

The Executive Committee meetings were held in Severna Park, Maryland at the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company. President Roger A. Steger, Sr. called the meetings to order at 0900 hours and called upon Chaplain Rev. J. Harvey Dixon for the Invocation and to lead the Pledge to the Flag. President Steger introduced Bob Schappert, Chief of the Earleigh Heights VFC, who welcomed everyone to Severna Park. President Steger introduced the following Past Presidents in attendance: T. L. Reynolds (71-72), R. N. Dempsey (80-81), C. W. Riley (83-84), L. T. King (85-86), C. D. Carpenter (86-87), R. P. Cumberland (87-88), R. H. Shimer (88-89), J. R. Robison (89-90), B. J. Smith (91-92), P. M. Hurlock (93-94), G. F. Cross (95-96), S. D. Cox (96-97), R. E. Knippenburg (98-99), and C. B. Edelin (99-00). President Steger introduced those guests in attendance, which included LAMSFA President Peggy Webb.

PRESIDENT Steger thanked several individuals for their support and assistance. The President discussed the various meetings and other events that he has attended, which include the MIEMSS Legislative Committee, EMSOF Committee, EMS Board, MOSH, Maryland Fire Chief's Seminar, and the Governor's State of the State Presentation. He said that the Presidents, Bernie Smith, and Charlie Riley met with Speaker of the House Casper Taylor, and President of the Senate Mike Miller in reference to the \$3.00 increase for the vehicle registration. Their concern was raising the fee when the State has a surplus. They explained the impact the decrease of 28 percent will have on the Fire, Rescue and EMS providers across the state. He thanked Dr. Bass, MFRI Director Edwards, MSP Aviation Major Lewis, Shock Trauma Director John Ashworth, representatives from the Maryland State Firemen's Association, and EMS Board Chair DeVries, for their commitment and dedication in meeting with legislators explaining the impact that any decrease in the EMSOF Budget would have on the health and safety of the citizens of Maryland. He attended viewings for Firefighter Stitley (Frederick County), and Assistant Chaplain Rev. Harris' wife. He offered condolences and prayers to the families, friends, and their Companies, from the MSFA. He thanked Col. Mitchell and Chief Executive Spud Blake (MSP) for meeting with the President's and R. Yinger to discuss the concerns of the MSFA. He thanked Major Lewis and Corporal Moroney for their support in explaining the impact of the reductions in the operations of the EMSOF Fund. He met with Sgt Sam Shelly (OIC Commercial Vehicle Division, Eastern Shore) in reference to DOT standards and CDL/Emergency Vehicle licenses for Fire, Rescue, and EMS drivers. They met with Major Balsoma to discuss the next step in changing the regulations for emergency vehicle licenses. He said they are working on firefighter safety guidelines and with the help of MFRI Director Edwards, and MIEMSS Dr. Bass, they will have a program presenting their best interests of the volunteer responders in the state. He met with the MOSH committee and Secretary of Labor John O'Conner, and approved a final draft. The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulations are printing the books. When they are completed, our Safety Committee will distribute them to each Fire Company and hold a meeting to discuss the regulations. They will be holding seminars during the Convention this June. The safety program is important because if we don't have a Maryland program, we will come under NFPA 1500.

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FIRST VICE PRESIDENT Mattingly also thanked several individuals for their support and cooperation. He presented and discussed his written report. He expressed his condolences to the family members on the loss of their loved ones: Mr. Gilmore Buck Stitley of Frederick, Mr. Robert Adams of Hollywood, Ms. Sadie Stallings (mother of LA Recording Secretary Clara Mae Buckmaster), Ms. Irene C. Mangan (mother-in-law of Col. Mitchell), and Denise Harris (wife of Assistant Chaplain Donald F. Harris). He discussed their meetings with the General Assembly in Annapolis, relating to the Motor Vehicle Surcharge Senate Bill 292, along with other Bills relating to the Fire and Rescue Service. He urged everyone to contact their legislators to support Senate Bill 292. He commended Mr. Edwin Emkey and the members of the English Consul VFC for their work with the Cadets of the English Consul Junior Fire Company. He congratulated the Second District VFD/VRS on their 50th Anniversary. He said he has the forms today for committee membership application, and for the new Budgets for the committee chairs.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT Worthington thanked everyone for the support and confidence shown him in his travels this year. He apologized to those who sent him invitations, that he was not able to attend. He attended funeral services for Past President William Moore. He offered sympathy to Ron Watkins for the passing of his brother-in-law Sonny Ridgley (in a house fire recently). He introduced the new people visiting us here today (C. Stewart, Flowers, and D. Johnston). He discussed legislative meetings attended in Annapolis and committee meetings in the Association. They attended the Recruitment and Retention committee meeting where it was decided to have their press release here today on the 1-800-FIRELINE phone line. They attended the meeting held to discuss the Howard County local union letters sent to its members. They hope to meet with the Metro Union Presidents soon. He thanked Mr. Wasserman, Delegates Moe and Malone for their support to the fire service. He said that Delegate Conway has a funding package they are interested in. He thanked Senator Roth for his procurement of \$100mil for the Fire Act. They met with Col. Mitchell to review issues, and he suggested we do public educational training sessions to further educate the public about the emergency services. He also provided two of his PIO personnel to this project for the next 30 days. The officers met with MIEMSS to discuss the proposed disciplinary actions notifications. He discussed the banquets he and the officers have attended and the meeting with the Carroll County Association and the President of Reese VFC to discuss their lawsuit over the withholding of funding for ambulance services.

SECRETARY King reported that they are working with the Data Committee to resolve the problems with the computers, e-mail, website, and up-grade of the equipment. The minutes of the last Executive Committee Meetings have been transcribed, copied, and distributed to those on the mailing list. He asked everyone to return the Credentials Forms to the Secretary's Office, the Annual Dues payment to Financial Secretary Jacobs, and the Memorial Forms to Chief Chaplain Dixon. He thanked Financial Secretary Jacobs for his assistance with the mailings. He encouraged the departments to submit nominations for the awards being presented. He reviewed

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the schedule of events for the convention in June noting that registration will start on Sunday morning and will again be done by computer. Balloting will be conducted on Tuesday morning, so get your Credentials Form in as soon as possible. He stated that they have been involved with the 2000 Convention Proceedings Book. It is not available for this weekend, but will be distributed to all member departments through the Executive Committee members, officers, Past Presidents, and committee chairpersons, as soon as possible. He said they have been involved with the Historical and Archives Committee, the Volunteer Firefighter's Room Committee, and the Public Relations and Bulletin Committee. They visited the Volunteer Firefighter's Room at the University of Maryland and found the room and its display to be in a very bad condition. The display cases are almost bare, and what is left is in bad condition. They also visited the MSFA Room at MFRI Headquarters and found that several file cabinets were locked with no keys. They did locate some of the photos that have been missing. John Hogle has boxed several items and cleaned the area in their preparation for the MFRI move in the near future. Chairman S. Hales has requested that every committee and organization turn in a written report and Secretary King reminded them that they need thirty copies of their reports turned in to the Assistant Secretaries prior to the meetings. Also, if you are not able to meet your scheduled reporting time for the meetings, please contact the Secretary's Office so that any concerns can be met and the Executive Committee Meetings flow smoothly. He thanked the Assistant Secretaries and other individuals for their continued assistance and services to the Secretary's Office and the Association.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY Jacobs presented his written report for the period ending 31 January 2001. He discussed the direct and in-direct expenses and balances.

TREASURER Saville read and discussed his written report noting the current balances of each of the accounts. L. Sachs asked if Bob could show a listing of each of the accounts and how much each has spent and for what. Bob said he would do this.

CHAPLAIN Rev. H. Dixon discussed his written report and his activities. He has met with Chaplains at Eastern Shore Correctional Institute to consider riot strategy. He expressed his sympathy to the family of Chaplain Donald Harris and he has been working with his wife, Denise in this time of need. He has talked to Roy Wood and his family in regard to the hospital confinement of his wife Ethel. He represented MSFA at the funeral of Virginia Firefighter Orlean Trader. He attended the MSFA 2001 Convention planning meeting at Largo Maryland. He expressed sympathy to the family of Joel Simpson regarding his recent death.

LAMSFA President Webb discussed the funding account of their Association. She thanked the MSFA Presidents for their help and cooperation, and for making her feel like a part of their team. She discussed the proposed legislation regarding the Maryland Income Tax Bill, which includes

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the Auxiliary members (HB1095). It was noted at this time that the MSFA fully supports (HB1095). They are not discussing LOSAP at the State level as this is a county by county issue. She mentioned that in 1988 they had 224 Auxiliaries, but now has only 180. Many of them have joined their fire/rescue departments so that their equal work will allow them to receive the Tax Deduction Credit and become eligible for LOSAP.

ATTORNEY Powell said the Supreme Court has denied our appeal, by refusing to hear our appeal.

BESSIE MARSHALL FUND Chair Orlove presented her written report and discussed the 20 cases recently funded, and the 1567 plus cases their Fund has paid since 1953 (\$494,676.65 plus). She said the Auxiliary has invested with the Maryland Local Government Investment Pool and discussed the profit they have made. She thanked everyone in the MSFA that has supported their Fund, and the hospitality extended to her and the committee.

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY - John O'Conner thanked the MSFA for their participation in the Safety and Health Program for the Fire Service. Eileen O'Brien (Labor and Industry) discussed the NFPA 1500 and the Compliance Work Group which has been working on this document which will be presented. They are planning training sessions around the state to make everyone aware of this program. B. Balta said the MSFA Safety Committee will be getting a copy of this document to each department in the state. They plan to hold meetings by regions to make everyone aware of the program.

President Steger said the program will be the main program of this year's Convention. It will be on the agenda with breakout sessions planned. D. Hall asked about who will have to comply with this issue? E. O'Brien said they do not mean this program to be an enforcement document, but rather a guideline. They thanked President Steger for the opportunity to speak on this program here today. President Steger said that Kevin Morris will come up with the guidelines and answers of the many questions now being asked of the program.

LEGISLATIVE Chair B. Smith, C. Riley, and B. Shimer presented their written report and discussed the Bills listed. He said the MSFA is not supporting HB-32 and SB-225 (Highways – Prohibition on Use for Solicitations). He said that HB-833 (Maryland Emergency Medical Systems Operations Fund – Moving Violations Surcharge) will have difficulty getting by the Judiciary Committee. He said that HB-1209 (Maryland Emergency Medical System Operations Fund – Prince George's Hospital Regional Trauma Center) is seeking funding for the Prince George's County Hospital Regional Trauma Center. He discussed problems with the FAX machine at 17 – State Circle, and the repair estimate made at a minimum of \$265.00. They recommended authorization to purchase a new FAX machine. He said they are also requesting that the Data Systems Committee consider replacing their present computer and also obtain a scanner. If the present computer is upgraded, it should remain at 17 State Circle as a back-up system. B. Smith said they need uniformed people to be in Annapolis this Wednesday when they will testify for the \$3 Bill. C. Riley discussed the progress of the \$3 Bill and the representatives

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that are in favor of the Bill, and those that need to be talked to more. He said they need one more vote to get the Bill out of committee. B. Shimer discussed those that have supported our efforts with this Bill. D. Hall said that Southern Maryland Firemen's Association has called for support of this issue and they back the Bill and challenge the rest of the state to do the same with letter writing and personal contacts. B. Smith discussed the mailings their committee have been making, and the next one will be out soon to cover the latest in the progress of the Bills of interest to this Association. B. Shimer and C. Riley further discussed what is being done and who is in opposition to the \$3 increase in the tag fee. J. Lau thanked the committee for their work in Annapolis and in getting our message across to the Legislators. L. Downes and B. Cooke also thanked the committee for their work on this issue. R. Steger discussed the Solicitation Bill saying it is a statewide public safety Bill, and we cannot support it because of its effect on the "fill the boot" program for Jerry's Kids fund raiser. V. P. Mattingly discussed this Bill showing the other effects of the Bill in certain areas and the safety factor involved with the solicitors in traffic looking for a handout. President Steger said with the upcoming delegation meetings, they are asking for representation from the different areas to support the \$3 Bill. B. Cumberland discussed a Bill on emergency lights on the back of fire apparatus. C. Riley handed out to each Department, a packet showing the operational impact of the EMS Fund reductions, if this Bill is defeated or dies. He discussed this impact and its effect on each County. President Steger asked about a Fire Police Bill? C. Riley said it has been discussed with Colonel Mitchell, but no Bill has been seen yet. The Bill will be about emergency lights in the vehicles of the Fire Police Commander. Major Lewis (MSP Aviation) discussed SB292 and the cuts proposed if the Bill is not adopted. He said that Colonel Mitchell said they are behind this Bill 100 percent. He said that starting next week, they will visit different areas in the state to pass out literature on this Bill and explain to the general public why the increase is needed. President Steger thanked Major Lewis for his help and cooperation with Bill.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION Chair Goodloe presented her written report and welcomed back Bill Wagner who is returning to health after his illness. She discussed the recruitment tape and the 1-800-FIRE-LINE. She thanked Governor Glendening for making the introduction to the tape, and to Jim Brown of MIEMSS who has agreed to make the tapes at cost, and to handle the publicity for the release of the tapes. She said a copy of the tape was given to the Executive Committee members for their County's use for recruitment outreach. She said they plan to do a workshop on the tape and its use. She said the FIRE LINE is functioning, but to date, the response has been poor. She hopes with everyone's help in publicizing the tape, the response will increase. She said the FIRE LINE contact list will be passed out to insure contact information is correct. This is needed as soon as possible. Attached to her report was a recommendation to be used on our Website. John Denver of Conectiv Power Delivery, offered a recruitment poster sample for the Committee to consider. They have offered to sponsor the suggested poster. They plan to have the poster at the June MSFA Convention. Mr. William Bernard (Special Assistant to Governor Glendening) read and presented a proclamation to the MSFA, President Steger, declaring February as Maryland Volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Rescue Month. B. Cooke discussed the contact list and said corrections do need to be made for each County.

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FIVE YEAR PLANNING COMMITTEE Chair Raley presented his written report and discussed the recommendations made regarding the President's Phone which would allow the outgoing President to keep his phone for the year following, while serving on the Executive Committee. He also recommended that all MSFA committee meetings be listed on the Website and move to a paid web service provider with regular updating. He recommended the fast tracking of individual memberships and the possibility of an interest ballot question for the upcoming convention, and establishment of a timetable. He said the MSFA will need alternative funding sources to pay for operational costs. They feel the entire benefit package does not need to be in place to initiate the category of Individual Membership. The original buy-in may be as simple as a pocket card, a patch, subscription to the Trumpet and other incentives for sustained and new members. They recommended that MSFA take action to pursue office space and a paid staff in the upcoming Budget proposal. He said they do recognize the success of 17 State Circle, but the space there is limited and would not house the operational needs for the MSFA. C. Edelin asked the committee to propose a Budget for their recommendations. They agreed to do this.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES - Maureen Brooks and Bob Hartlove presented a written report and discussed the retirement of Jim Mallow. Steve Koehn has been named the Acting State Forester. She said they have received approval to fill the State Fire Supervisor vacancy. Interviews were held on 9 February, and the person selected should be announced next week. She discussed the funding for the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program at \$32,700.00. The funds are earmarked for training volunteer firefighters, purchase of PPE, installation of dry hydrants, and 50/50 matching grants to the VFD's. On the Eastern Shore, they have installed 50 dry hydrants and have plans for an additional 261. On 31 March, there will be a dry hydrant training session at MEBA in St. Michaels Maryland. She said the Maryland DNR Forest Service has responded to 36 fires which had burned approximately 900 acres of forest, grass, and marshland, so far this year. This is an increase over last year. Their spring fire season begins in mid-March. She said the Inter-agency fire crew members will be recognized by the Maryland General Assembly for their efforts in the Western fire fighting last summer. This date is tentatively scheduled for 9 March. The Maryland weekend fire training camp is scheduled for 19-21 May at the Broad Creek Scout Reservation in Harford County. She discussed the new excess property program created last year, and negotiations are currently underway with the Department of Defense to include the State Forestry Agencies in the program. This will then provide the service to the volunteer fire departments. She said the Maryland DNR Forest Service and the Blackwater NWR US Fish and Wildlife Service, became official members of the Dorchester County Firemen's Association in January. She said the website address has changed for the DNR and the Maryland DNR as: Department of Natural Services <http://www.dnr.state.md.us> Maryland DNR Forest Service <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/Forests> President Steger thanked them for their continued work and cooperation with the MSFA.

MFRI Director Edwards presented and discussed the highlights of his written report. He said discussed the Upper Eastern Shore Regional Training Center construction progress which has a construction time frame of 12 to 14 months. The project is estimated to be completed by July

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2001. The Southern Maryland Regional Training Center renovation project is scheduled for construction to begin in FY-2001 at total cost of \$4.2 Million. The project shows that an estimated additional \$600k to \$800k is needed to complete the project as per the approved plan. He discussed the MFRI Test Validation Study review committee which is now conducting an annual statistical analysis of all tests. Test description, mean score, reliability coefficient, standard deviation, and item bi-serial point correlation analysis are outputs of the analysis that are examined in an effort to validate a particular test. The bi-serial point establishes a correlation between the higher and lower scoring of student's performance on each question. Theoretically, the higher scoring students should perform better than the lower scoring students on each individual test item. He said the Fire Act Grant Program recently passed, authorized at \$100 million, will be receiving grant applications effective 1 May 2001. The grants must be awarded by 30 September 2001 and the grant recipient will have 16 months to fulfill the grant requirements. The maximum grant award to a single department is \$750,000. He said the annual Professional Development for Instructors (PDI) was held on 27 January at Berwyn Heights. The Railroad Emergencies Seminar will be held on 7 and 8 April 2001 at the Southern Maryland Regional Training Center in LaPlata. The National Fire Academy (NFA) Fire/Arson Investigation course (R205) will be held on 26-30 March at MFRI College Park Training Academy, and on 21-25 May at the Anne Arundel County Training Academy. He said a validation and reliability study has been conducted for the Hazardous Materials Operation class final exam. He discussed that analysis and recommendation as valid and reliable with some modifications. Bill Wagner asked about the grants and can they go to an Association? Director Edwards said the grant can only go to a fire department. L. Sachs asked about the website for the grants? They are <http://www.usa.fema.go> and <http://www.usa.grant.fema.go>. B. Cumberland said NVFC is also holding seminars including a grant writing seminar.

TRAINING Chair Stevens presented and discussed his written report, and the attached copy of the minutes of the 26 January meeting in LaPlata (their next meeting will be on 23 Feb or 3 March). Their meeting was to solicit regional input for the update of the 10 Year Training Plan. Their meeting included a presentation on the renovation project for the Southern Maryland Regional Training Center in LaPlata. He said the shortfall of \$600k-\$800k is due to changes and inflationary costs. The meeting at LaPlata was attended by Director Steve Edwards who said the shortfall funding needs to be in the FY2002 capitol budget (supplemental budget).

MIEMSS Dr. Bass presented his written report and discussed Senate Bill 38 which seeks changes to the commercial ambulance law which would permit the licensing of non-transport EMS programs and transport services other than ground ambulances, e.g., helicopters. He discussed Senate Bill 292 (\$3 Bill) and House Bill 1148 (which is cross filed with SB292). He said that over the weekend of 6 January, about 60% of the hospital emergency departments in Region IIIA had a significant amount of down time due to Yellow Alerts, and MIEMSS is continuing to monitor the situation. He said the helicopter replacement committee met in January and a final report will be sent to the legislature by 1 June 2001. He said the AED task force continues to monitor the facility AED program and explore potential locations for AED placements. Currently 48 business, organizations, and facilities have been approved to

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participate in the Facility AED Program. He said there has been two AED saves, one in the Senate office building in Annapolis, and the other at the Inaugural Ball in Washington D.C. He said the Medicare's strict enforcement of its "medical necessity" rules is having a significant impact on the commercial ambulance industry and on inter-facility transports. There is a new helicopter service (STAT MEDEVAC) housed at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. Service to begin 1 March 2001. He said the EMS Care 2001 Conference will be held on 27-29 April 2001 at the Greenbelt Marriott. He discussed the Health Information Privacy Act which limits the disclosure of "protected health information". He said a committee has been appointed by DHMH who released a list of recommendations to improve the protection of public safety workers from occupational exposure to bloodborne diseases. The MIEMSS Infection Control Committee is sponsoring a forum on bloodborne pathogens with an update on the standards for pre-hospital care providers on 21 February 2001 at the MSP Training facility at Camp Fretard in Reisterstown.

LUNCH: Father Newman gave the blessing for lunch. Meeting recalled to order by Chair Hales at 1300 hours.

EMS Chair Wills presented his written report and said the committee has not met since our last Executive Committee meeting in December. He discussed the joint EMS Board and the SEMSAC meeting on January 9, 2001. He and the three MSFA President have presented the position paper on the Maryland Cardiac Rescue Technician Program. It was well received by all except SEMSAC Chair Roger Simonds and Union Rep Grote. He wrote a letter to the members of the EMS Board with a copy to the MSFA Presidents, restating the MSFA position on the issue, and asked the Board members to again consider our position at its meeting on 13 February. He thanked Dr. Bass and his staff for their assistance in the statewide meeting. On 22 January, he, President Steger, and L. Sachs attended the meeting of the MIEMSS Disciplinary Action Committee. Dr. Bass explained to the committee the issue before them was how, when, and where to publish final actions against providers by the EMS Board. He explained that the actions were a matter of public record and that most states publish final actions in one form or another. Dr. Bass mentioned publishing this in the MIEMSS Bulletin, and L. Sachs countered that the Bulletin publishes approximately 28,000 copies of each edition, and he felt this was too much overkill. After much debate, it was agreed to let the attendees think about the consensus until the next meeting. The consensus included the following:

1. A listing of final Board actions would be made available to all Medical Directors and designated jurisdictional officials.
2. The Bulletin will publish all final decisions by case number only. This will allow educational opportunities.
3. The MIEMSS data base will contain case number, description of the incident, etc. with designated Provider ID number(s) and name(s). This will be accessible to anyone, but may be accessed by Provider ID number only.

C. Wills said that on behalf of the EMS Committee, he sent to D. Stevens (Training Committee), suggested revisions to the MSFA Ten Year Education and Training Committee. He challenged some of the other committees to help Dan with that. He discussed the MIEMSS matching grant

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program which is now out in its final form. He reminded everyone of the following required provisions:

1. Applications must be submitted and approved before the equipment is ordered/purchased.
2. Jurisdictions must have a long-term 5 year AED and Monitor/Defibrillator needs an assessment program on record prior to submission.
3. Technical assistance in submission of programs and applications are available from the MIEMSS Regional Offices.

L. Sachs said the final agreement on the discipline actions, was to oppose the publishing of the names of who ever is being disciplined.

SHOCK TRAUMA Brenda Fosler and John Spearman discussed their written stats on Patient Admissions OR Cases, Beds Occupied, Patient Diversion Trends, Trauma by Category, and FY2001 Income Statement. She discussed the Nursing shortage and vacancy rates in Maryland hospitals and they are even being recruited outside the U.S. She discussed their Managing Resources, the EMS Operations Fund and the impact to the Trauma Center if the \$3 Bill is not approved. She discussed the Educational Programs which consisted of Tours, Case Reviews, ALS Skills Lab, Observation Program, and On-Site Clinical Programs. Chairman Hales said the down side of these stats are the other Trauma businesses that are in competition with the Trauma Center. J. Spearman said yes there are other Trauma Centers. and the nurses average length of service is four years. He said there is no less patients, but the rate has slowed down. He said money needs are \$41.6 Million for the next 5 years, and the income sources are the \$3 Bill and patient income. He said they do have corporate sponsors, which is done thru successful solicitations. J. Lau asked about resources thru legislation? He said Nursing classes are being done thru the schools, otherwise not sure if it is being done or not. He said they definitely do support the \$3 Bill, but agrees there must be additional ways of obtaining financial funding. Brenda said the STC Gala this year will be on 5 May at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel. She said they have two cases for the Hero Award this year as: Suburban Case – Harford County / Jarrettsville VFD and the Rural Case – Allegany County Mt. Savage VFD. They had 18 nominations, but only two were chosen. She thanked B. Kurtz for making the nomination. She thanked the Hero Committee for the honor, and he discussed the incident leading up to the nomination. Brenda further discussed the incident. R. Powell discussed the Gala at the Marriott and the date and the \$10,000 involved. He said three affairs were booked for the same date, and everybody was offered \$10k and then there was no problem with the booking, but now no one gets the \$10k. J. Spearman said that might have happened, but now they are told they will get that level of money over the next three years. D. Hall discussed the awards nominations and the recognizing of those nominees other than the winner. She said currently they do only recognize the winner, but they will consider looking further at this idea.

911 BOARD representative Hurlock presented his written report and said they have two vacancies on the Board, one from the Maryland State Police and the other from APCO. They also need a Vice Chair. A part time employee has been hired to review and monitor the funds received thru the collection of fees. They are looking at the concern of having a consultant on board to review the requests received that involve technical and complex issues. They are

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presently reviewing their present policies. The following Counties submitted requests for funding:

1. Baltimore County – \$101,622.00 for replacement of telephone equipment in their 911 Center. Approved.
2. Talbot County - \$555,301.00 to upgrade current 911 telephone system, with new technology. Approved.
3. Somerset County - \$24,720.00 for new generator to handle upgraded 911 Center and both the heat and air conditioning during an emergency. Approved.
4. Frederick County - \$1,479,149.00 for new 911 telephone equipment, emergency generator and security system for their new law enforcement complex. The new facility will house the Frederick County 911 Sheriff's Office and MSP Barrack. Approved.
5. Calvert County – Request to upgrade their 911 equipment and computer software and associated equipment. Request put on hold – no one present from the county to make the presentation.

Requests from Anne Arundel County, Carroll County and Howard County, will be discussed and reviewed at the March 27th meeting. They have reviewed the analysis of the legislative audit that was conducted on the ENSB.

NVFC Delegate Cumberland presented his written report and said the Spring meeting of the council will be on 19-21 April in Wenatchee Washington. He said the NVFC Fire Prevention Award will be presented at the Spring meeting. Nominations for this award must be received at the NVFC office by March 1, 2001. Chairman Fred Allinson is still trying to meet with the new President of the IAFF, Harold Schaitberger. They met with FEMA Director James Witt and Ken Burris to discuss the agency plan to implement the Fire Grant program. At this time FEMA is reviewing the guidelines and setting of a grants office at FEMA headquarters in Washington D.C. The thirteenth Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner and Seminars will be held on 25 April 2001 at the Washington Hilton. The theme for this year's dinner is "Working Together Toward Common Goals". The chairman of the CFSI this year is Senator Paul Sarbanes, and CFSI is working on a program to recognize the Senator at one of the MSFA meetings. Bob said he is a candidate for the NVFC Executive Committee this year.

OUT OF STATE COORDINATOR Cumberland presented his written report. He said the Cumberland Valley VFA Spring 5 States President's meeting will be held on 31 March at the Taneytown Fire Dept. The Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association 2001 Convention will be held on 2-4 August at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and the 5 Presidents meeting will be on 3 August 2001. The West Virginia State Firemen's Association 2001 Convention will be held on 9-11 August at Stonewall Jackson State Park in Weston West Virginia. The Virginia State Firefighters Association 2001 Convention will be held on 15-18 August in Hampton Virginia. The Pennsylvania State Firemen's Association 2001 Convention will be held on 26-29 September at Somerset Pennsylvania. The Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association 2001 Convention will be held on 13-15 September in Dover Delaware. The Fall meeting of the NVFC will be in Albany New York in October.

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AWARDS Chair Graf reported they have little or no changes to the Awards format, so they will not print a new manual this year.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS Chair Gordy presented her written report and discussed the one

Change proposal for the Hall of Fame Committee. The proposal adds the following to the responsibilities of the Hall of Fame Committee as: “Marbury Gates Service Cup Award, and Roll of Honor”. L. Sachs asked who made these determinations up to now. She said this was already being done by the Hall of Fame committee, and now they are making it official. The following motion was made by B. Kurtz and seconded by J. Lau:

MOTION: To present as a by-law amendment, that the duties of the Hall of Fame Committee be expanded to include “The Marbury F. Gates Service Cup Award and the Roll of Honor” Motion passed.

DATA SYSTEMS Chair Snader had no written report but discussed the changes forthcoming to the Website. He asked for recommendations to the Website and that they be forwarded to him. He said they are using a commercial Website designer as had been questioned. If you have any inputs for the Website, please get them to him or Rob. He said the only reports they have been receiving are from B. Balta and L. King. He would like to get inputs from the rest of the committees. B. Balta said he has submitted a report to the Website but has not seen it there. R. Snader said he would check on this. B. Shimer said he does put the Past Presidents items on the Website too. L. King said the problem has been the outage and the previous server, not the local in house committee. J. Mattingly said he should have also been receiving a report from D. Stevens too. He discussed the Adobe Acrobat format being used. They plan to do more work on this link to make it easier to get on by the user, just follow the instructions to down load the attachment. He said that Rob Korb is the Web Master, not him.

FIRE LAWS BOOK Chair Bilger presented his written report and said the 2001 edition of the book has been distributed throughout the state. He thanked the Executive Committee members for their assistance in the distribution of the books. He also thanked the Legislative Committee for their assistance in Annapolis. His report says the committee is already working on the 2002 edition of the book. Article 27 (Crime and Punishment) and Article 38A (Fires and Investigations) of the Annotated Code of Maryland are being re-written. The committee feels the information contained in these two Articles are very important to the Fire Service and they need to make sure any changes are printed in the next edition.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP Chair Long presented his written report and discussed their meeting on 21 January 2001 which had only two members present. He said the committee is presently in a research mode and are gathering information from other state associations to find out what is being done across the country so they don't have to re-invent the wheel. They are also working with the Marketing Committee in searching for benefits that would be available to

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members if they join the MSFA. He discussed the following types of membership they have researched to date:

1. Individual Member: Anyone who is a member in good standing in a Fire/Rescue/EMS/Support company that belongs to the MSFA. Dues would be paid annually, amount to be determined by Executive Committee.
2. Silver Life Membership: Anyone who is a member in good standing in a Fire/Rescue/EMS/Support company that belongs to the MSFA. Dues to be paid in a one time fee determined by the Executive Committee.
3. Gold Life Membership: Bestowed on all Past Presidents of MSFA and those individuals that the Executive Committee feel deserve the honor. There would be no dues.
4. Retired Membership: Would entitle the person to all the same benefits as a regular member. However, this membership would be at lower cost and only offered to those individuals who are retired. Dues to be set by the Executive Committee.
5. Individual Associate Membership: Available to anyone who supports the MSFA. Individuals who are career Fire/EMS/Rescue and not members of a Volunteer Fire/EMS/Rescue organization in Maryland. They have no benefits, and the dues to be set by the Executive Committee.
6. Corporate Membership: Available to any corporation that supports the MSFA. Dues to be paid annually and benefits yet to be determined. Dues to be determined by the Executive Committee.

He discussed suggestions needed to handle the membership accountability with a full time MSFA office, and a Volunteer membership Committee. He discussed membership benefits that could be made available to those joining the MSFA. He also discussed the Constitution and By-Laws changes that would have to be made to accommodate the new memberships. L. Sachs said an intent is just passing the buck. We need the best possible membership program we can put together, and not present it until it is ready, and that means it cannot be ready this year. C. Edelin said we need to get the membership category established and then build onto it. L. King suggested this membership as non-voting members. He also questioned the full time office needed to track the membership? He said this is a Volunteer organization (career members are Associate members) and we should try to keep it that way. The following motion was made by C. Edelin and seconded by T. Thompson:

MOTION: To accept the report of the Membership Committee as written and place it on the ballot at Ocean City in June. Discussion by President Steger as to its coverage and benefits, and L. Sachs said the motion should be more specific as to duties, benefits, etc.
MOTION and 2ND WITHDRAWN.

Chair Long was asked to look further at these memberships and the changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. P. Gordy asked to work with J. Long on this. Chairman Hales asked them to take their time and do it right.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHIVES Chair C. Black not present and his written report was presented by L. King. He, Chairman Hoglund (Vol. Firefighters Room) and L. King visited the

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facility in Berwyn Heights to access the historical records and the fixtures in those offices which are the property of MSFA. They found a large amount of photographs of Association events of the 1990's, but with no proper identification. They did review the required move out date with the MFRI staff, so they could present a realistic plan to protect the MSFA property. They visited the Firefighters Room at the University of Maryland and found the displays in very poor condition. They were not able to gain entry to the material stored below the display cases. They made the following recommendations:

1. Move all Historical & Archives material to one location with humidity control. That the committee be allowed to move the material to a temporary facility in Hebron Maryland to facilitate sorting and cataloging. The facility in question is free as it belongs to the Chairman, and it has fire and theft alarms.
2. The Association rent a humidity controlled storage area near Annapolis to store the records, prior to the 2001 convention.
3. The committee retains ten copies of the Anniversary Book and turns the balance over to the Ways & Means committee for sales purpose at the 2001 convention. L. King reminded everyone that the Centennial Books are the charge of the Convention Committee. However, the Convention Committee and the Historical and Archives Committee will be working together to sell the books.
4. The committee is authorized to move the MSFA office fixtures to a humidity controlled storage area near Annapolis, to meet MFRI move date requirements.
5. We move all material from the cases at the Maryland Firefighters Room and store same.
6. Committee is allowed to build new exhibits for the Maryland Firefighters room utilizing photographs of the MSFA officers, historic photographs, and photographs of our present service and operations.
7. Committee is allowed to rent a cube truck for one day, and a storage facility of proper size. A locksmith will also be needed to make keys for the file cabinet locks. Total cost estimated not to exceed \$2,000. He said that if the Maryland Firefighters Room is not properly maintained, then the MSFA should remove their name, support, and material from the room. The present image is less than desirable. B. Cooke discussed the material being stored and that some of MSFA's material is at the SMRTC in LaPlata.

BOARD OF REVIEW Chair Moltrup presented a written report and discussed Application Number 01-06 from the Fairmount Volunteer Fire Company in Somerset County. They are asking for a grant for construction of a new building. The total cost of the project is \$390,084 and they have a bank commitment of \$150,000 loan, and \$5,000 in matching funds from the County. The committee approved a grant of \$235,984. L. Sachs discussed the application and agreed to the grant on the condition they get the loan from the bank. T. Thompson discussed the money differences, which were explained by D. Moltrup. The following motion was made by T. Thompson and seconded by C. Stack:

MOTION: To approve Application Number 01-06 for a grant of up to \$250,000 for the Fairmount VFC (under their revised new bid price). Motion approved.

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INCENTIVES PROGRAM Chair Joan Robison presented her written report and discussed the change to the subtraction modification which did not take place until this year (2001). She said the committee has only received one request for a copy of the LOSAP Manual (Worcester County). She presented two charts with her report. One summarizes the current LOSAP information by County, and the other one summarizes several of the counties participants, recipients, and funding levels. P. Hurlock asked about when someone does their tax by electronic filing, how is the declaration Form sent in? The answer was the Form is not sent in, but retained and when they should call you, you have the Form for backup.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE Chair Joe Robison presented his written report and discussed the meeting on 10 January with FEMA Director James Witt to discuss their plans to implement the new \$100 Mil grant program. He discussed the breakdown of the \$100 Million and how it affects the fire service. A department will be able to submit applications in no more than two categories and the cap on the total is \$750,000. The categories are: Training of firefighting personnel (\$6.5 Mil), Firefighting equipment and communication equipment (\$15 Mil), Personal protective equipment (\$35 Mil), Fire prevention programs (\$12 Mil), and Wellness and fitness programs for firefighting personnel (\$6.5 Mil). All grants will be awarded by 20 September 2001. The Committee is recommending that President Steger appoint a Grant Committee with the following duties:

1. Apply for grants for the Maryland State Firemen's Association.
2. Support seminars for grant writing in the state of Maryland.
3. Solicit assistance from other agencies familiar with grant writing.
4. Solicit Maryland State Police, David Mitchell for assistance.

J. Robison recommended that every department apply for some kind of a grant. B. Cumberland said the application forms will not be available until 1 May 2001. R. Powell said he would be glad to help writing of the grants, if needed. V. P. Mattingly said the grants can only be applied for by a fire department. He said that on 7 April, the Hollywood VFD will be holding a grant writing seminar given by the VFIS. L. Sachs said this is not definite as it has to go to the National Register and the applications will not be available until 1 May. B. Balta asked about matching funds and can they be from another grant? E. Woods asked if a corporation can apply for a grant? J. Robison did not know these answers. L. Sachs said the PG Fire Departments and all the rest of the departments can apply for a grant.

The meeting was turned back to President Steger who made some closing remarks and called upon Chaplain Hetz for a closing prayer. President Steger called the meeting back to order on 11 February 2001 at 0900. Chaplain Hetz gave the opening prayer and led in the pledge to the flag. President Steger introduced the Past Presidents in attendance; C. Riley (83-84), L. King (85-86), B. Cumberland (87-88), J. Robison (89-90), T. Mattingly (90-91), B. Smith (91-92), P. Hurlock (93-94), C. Edelin (99-00). The President introduced other guests in attendance including LAMSFA President Peggy Webb. V. P. Mattingly reminded the committee chairs to pick up their budget forms, and there are also forms available for anyone interested in serving on a committee. The meeting was turned over the Executive Committee Chair Hales who continued with reports.

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MEMORIAL Chair Mooney said he has met with DGS and all problems have been ironed out. They will go to Public Works in March. He should be able to report good news at the April Executive Committee meeting.

TRUSTEES Chair Riley presented his written report and discussed their last meeting of 9 December 2001. He said they have paid out \$18,376.62 in benefits. This consists of a \$5,000 death benefit, \$1,126.62 in retroactive widow benefits, and \$12,250.00 for the January benefits list. The monthly benefits list consists of 33 widows, one disabled fireman and 6 children. He said the death benefit for Gilmore Stitely of Citizens Truck Company has been approved. President Steger asked about the wording “widows” should maybe be “spouse”? C. Riley said it is no problem and is correct, not as stated in the report.

CONVENTION Chair King and V. Chair T. Mattingly presented their written report and said the committee has all but completed all aspects of the 2000 Convention and Conference. L. King discussed the highlights of the 2000 Convention and Conference, and the one single most concern that was so greatly improved, was the events that involved the food and catering service from the Convention Center. The areas of most concern to everyone was the total lack of attendance during the exhibits evening session and the breaks in the main floor program. He discussed the Corporate Partnership program which has proved to be a benefit for the organizations that participate, the Convention Committee and the overall Convention and Conference. He gave the dates for the next five years as these dates have to be reserved far in advance due to the scheduling of the Convention Center. They again recommended to the Convention Center administration, that the food contractor have more than one snack bar set up with additional workers during the entire convention. They also recommended that a bank card machine be installed in the Convention Center. They have also recommended that permanent screens be installed on the sides of the stage. The Program Book Committee has already started on the 2001 book. When you receive your Information Packet, fill out the forms and send them in as soon as possible. All committee chairs and officers are reminded to have their reports in as soon as possible, but no later than the April Executive Committee meeting. The exhibits package will be sent out next Tuesday to the prospective vendors. The MSFA Chairs will have two rooms on the second floor at the convention to display their projects, etc. He encourages them to use the space. The committee would like to thank Mayor J. Mathias, the City Council, Public Works Department, Transportation Department, the Police Department, the Ocean City Vol. Fire Department, and the entire staff at the Convention Center for their total cooperation and assistance with our Convention and Conference. He expressed their appreciation to the Prince George’s County Fire and EMS Department, the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services, the Baltimore County Fire Department, the Howard County Dept. of Fire and Rescue Services, MFRI, MIEMSS, State Fire Marshal’s Office, and the Governor’s Office for their assistance and cooperation. He thanked the individuals on the Steering Committee, and the various sub-committees for their total team effort and the amount of time they have put into the Convention and Conference. He also included with his report, the tentative schedule of events for the Convention and Conference this June. Also included is a schedule of deadline dates for the awards to be submitted. T. Mattingly said they are waiting for the envelopes so the mailings can

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be made. The picture work needs to be camera ready and be good black and white. L. King said the Chairs can pick up their computer disk, and they are to USE THAT DISK ONLY. He said when you give your report at the Convention, do not read what you put in your report for the Program Book. Also submit your nominations (FF of the Year, etc) as soon as possible. G. Blanco and V. P. Mattingly discussed the planned Beach party and the night it is scheduled. L. King said it was decided at the December meeting and all of the schedule decisions were made. It was after getting all of the inputs, before this was put together.

PUBLIC RELATIONS Chair Watkins presented his written report and he reported they have almost all of the next issue of the Trumpet to the printer. Work has started on the Media Guide distribution, and this should be done before mid-March. He thanked those who sent information pieces to be included in the Trumpet. For the Spring Issue, they will again run a segment for each candidate running for offices in the Convention elections. If there is anything you want published, get it to him as soon as possible. He thanked all of the MSFA family who sent cards or attended the memorial service for his brother-in-law, Jesse Ridgely Jr, who died in a fire in his home on 7 January. He and his wife appreciate the kind thoughts and prayers.

MARKETING Chair J. Lau had no written report, but said they did bring the tri-folds to the officers, and if anyone needs anything, please let them know.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL Gabriele presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the Budget Hearings held on 31 January and 6 February and their concern in possible cuts of some vacancies. They have 14 vacancies within the office of the State Fire Marshal. They are presently attempting to fill 6 of the vacancies with Deputy Fire marshals. They will begin the process in April. They have appointed Mr. Andrew Schneider of Calvert County as a Fire Protection Engineer. He began service on 10 January and has been assigned to the Southern Regional Office in Prince Frederick. He said with the retirement of Warren Gott, they have promoted Jack Waldner to the rank of Deputy Chief State Fire Marshal, and assigned as Commander of the Bomb Squad. Deputy Allen Gosnell has been transferred to the Metro Region in Westminster. Deputy Mark Van Baalen has been transferred to the Northeast Region in Bel Air, and Deputy Carson Widdoes was reassigned to the Bomb Squad at BWI. Their office has submitted two legislative Department Bills (HB-201 Explosives Restrictions, and HB-205 Fires and Investigations – Mutual Aid Agreements- Clarification) to the General Assembly Session. He thanked the MSFA for their support of these two Bills. During the year 2000, the Field Operations Bureau investigated a total of 1114 fires, of which 396 were determined to be arson, and 229 arrests were made. The Deputy's performed 13,609 fire code inspections during the year, and the engineers performed a total of 1975 plan reviews for various projects being built in Maryland. The Fire Death Summary Report showed there were 65 deaths due to fire. This was a 29% reduction from CY1999. He discussed the Lower Delmarva Smoke Detector project and the lack of a working smoke detector (lacked batteries) in the home that burned (where eleven people died). They conducted a Free Smoke Detector give-away program of 700 battery powered smoke detectors. Support came from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) who purchased 500 smoke detectors for the project, and Home Depot who

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contributed 200 detectors and additional 100 9 volt batteries for the event. He thanked the Salisbury Fire Department and Fire Chief Tom Lewis for their help. He said the Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference will be held on 25 September at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory Kossiakoff Conference and Education Center in Howard County. The cost is \$25 per person. He said that about 121 individuals and/or companies have complied with the Md. Fire Sprinkler licensing requirements (HB-1007). He said the Western Regional office in Hagerstown will relocate to a new office downtown Hagerstown, by the end of March (or early April). The Metro Regional office in Littlestown Pike in Westminster will be moving in May or June, to a new location to be determined. He said they are working on a revision and update to the State Fire Prevention Code, and the Fire Marshal Office will make its first presentation at their meeting on 22 February in Laurel. He discussed the Fire Deaths in Maryland for CY2000 statistic charts and tables in his report. He discussed and re-emphasized the need in the reporting of the Fire Departments and EMS Department stats each year. He thanked those who do participate in this program. C. Jewell discussed and congratulated the MSP and the Fire Marshal Office for their actions in a recent funeral service. The cooperation between the agencies was tremendous. B. Balta asked (on behalf of the chair) of the Metro Chief's Safety Committee meetings, the attendance by the Fire Marshal's office. Rocco said he would take care of that.

SCHOLARSHIP Chair Olsen was not present, but his written report was received and distributed. In the report he stated they have received 18 scholarship queries to date, and most are EMS related. He thanked Brenda Fosler for her help in the MIEMSS Newsletter supporting this program. Fifteen of these persons have been forwarded scholarship applications with the committee guidelines. Three were considered unqualified and were so notified. Applications for continued support have been mailed to their 7 current students. Their financial outlay for the Spring Semester is projected at approximately \$3,300.00. No invoices have been received to date for the Spring Semester. They anticipate the graduation of Matt Stevens this year from UMUC in Fire Science. Philip Stevens and Daniel Hudson are also expected to graduate with AA degrees in Fire Science and Fire Protection Engineering, respectively. Philip Stevens plans to go on to UMUC and Daniel Stevens to UMCP for the 2001/2002 academic year. The next Annual Scholarship meeting will be on 3 May (7 p.m.) at the College Park Fire Station.

STANDARDS Chair Huttenloch presented his written report and discussed their meeting of 9-10 February 2001. The committee has reviewed the new MOSH regulations. He has received the 2001 NFPA Technical Meeting Report on proposals and he discussed some of these and recommended a complete revision of the following items:

1. NFPA 1500 Standards for Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program.
2. NFPA 1561 Standards for Emergency Service Incident management System.
3. NFPA 1981 Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Service.

He said there is a new standard for NFPA 1852 (Standard on Selection, Care and Maintenance of Open Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. There are four standards that have been recommended to be withdrawn, which are:

1. NFPA 902 Fire Reporting Field Incident Guide.

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2. NFPA 903 Fire Reporting Property Survey Guide.
3. NFPA 904 Incident Follow-Up Report Guide.
4. NFPA 1521 Standard on Fire Department Safety Officer.

He said they also have a plan to have a committee to review the Fire and Emergency Service Protective Clothing and Equipment. He said they will be reviewing these documents and reporting back to them by 30 March 2001 on any changes that will affect the MSFA standards. He asked if anyone has any comments on these proposals, please let him know as soon as possible. Chair Hales asked if the Executive Committee could have a master copy of the standards on Saturday of the Executive meetings. Huttenloch said he would and he would make a copy of any standard anyone should want. B. Balta mentioned an Ergonomics Standard 1900-900. Bill said he has heard about this, but has not received a copy as yet. L. Sachs discussed a new set of regulations out from OSHA called Ergonomics. It covers every employer, even if they only have one employee. There are some exemptions, but none for the fire service. He discussed the rigid requirements of these regulations, saying it is the worst set of regulations that OSHA has ever come up with. He said anyone in a small business that is not aware of this regulation, should start asking questions. Example, if anyone makes a complaint, you have to immediately refer it to a physician, who must make a determination if it is ergonomically related, or not, and the employer has to pay for that examination. This can go on to up to three physicians, and the employer still has to pay the bill for all three. Treatment is then another issue, and the problem has to be corrected. C. Jewell said he is aware of this, and it is ridiculous. C. Jewell asked about a part of his copy of the book which is missing. Bill said the medical part is not missing from the master copy, it is in there. L. King asked about the career people that will be going around the state explaining the regulations, and he hopes there will also be a volunteer to accompany these people. B. Balta said yes there would be a volunteer person also with the presentations. L. King said just doesn't let the presentations be conducted by career only. V. P. Mattingly said he understands there will only be one career person involved, the rest will be the volunteer people. B. Huttenloch said the public address system needs repairs and to be updated, as a point of information, and the MSFA will be getting a few Bills on this in the near future.

SUN TRUST BANK Mr. Jon Martineau and Mr. Tim Cecil discussed fire department financing opportunities available thru their bank. They gave a bag of handouts from the bank, to each person present here today. They presented a written report explaining the banks opportunities as to what can be financed, and what is required (documents, approvals, 501c3, documents, and terms, and interest rates). B. Knippenburg asked about a 501c6 rating, qualifying or not. Not sure, maybe. B. Knippenburg asked if a fire department social hall could qualify for a loan? They were not sure, would check on it. C. Jewell asked about interest points? Also asked if a bond is the same as a loan? When a county government backs a loan, a bond is a loan. L. Sachs said there has to be an agreement with the local government and he discussed the procedure usually involved. L. Gilroy said his department just went through this type of loan and he explained some of the requirements of the loan. He said it is more than just a normal bank loan.

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STATISTICAL Chair Gilroy presented his written report and discussed the distributed new forms for calendar year 2000. He has asked all county and area representative to monitor their return. He said they are still working with the Data Processing Committee to develop a database and have this form and instructions put on the Web page. He said they have received only 86 percent return last year and in some cases, departments chose not to insert anything in the appropriate blocks. L. Sachs congratulated the committee for their work on this report. Edelin asked how and to whom the report will be distributed. Gilroy said that is up to the Executive Committee. The money to print this report was discussed and the cost for every department could be an expensive endeavor. L. Sachs said we should authorize the committee to send a copy to each county association and let each county decide how they wish to make the distribution of the report to the departments. Gilroy said his budget has enough money in it to make this requested distribution to the counties. President Steger said the printing of this report should be charged to the Secretary's office budget.

TRANSPORTATION Chair Flint presented his written report and reported that as of 1 January 2001 Mary Beth Beard is the new MVA representative. A meeting with Mrs. Beard was held on 6 February at which time, the incoming presidents vehicle tags for 2001, were picked up and discussion held on other issues relating to member tags. There have been no updates or changes from MVA. He said a letter has been sent to ADC Map Company of Alexander Virginia, requesting map books for the incoming presidents. A letter was also sent to all County Coordinators advising them that the tag fee for the year 2001 would remain at \$3.00. A meeting is scheduled for 31 March 2001 to be tentatively held at Hillsboro VFD on the Eastern Shore.

WAYS & MEANS Chair Means said he had no written report today. He discussed the raffle tickets saying they are out, so please get them sold. Last year we sold less than the previous year, let's hope we do better this year. If you need more tickets, let him know.

BUDGET AND REVENUE Chair Fabiszak said he has no written report today. He said they have not met since the last Executive Committee meeting. The Treasurer has advised them that the Communications Committee needs additional funding, and C. Wills said the EMS Committee has money they can let go. Therefore they are recommending that \$2000 be transferred to Line 90 (Executive Communications). He said they do have the forms for next year, and he asked they be returned by 31 March 2001. At that time V. P. Mattingly will advise of a date, time, and place to hold their meeting, and they will present a proposed new Budget to the Executive Committee in April. The Membership Committee has said they will propose a request to them to be considered and brought to the Executive Committee in April, for this and next year. The following motion was made by C. Edelin and seconded by C. Jewell:

MOTION: To accept the recommendation for the transfer of \$2000 from the EMS Committee to the Communications Committee. Motion approved.

L. Sachs asked about using an outside auditor this year, or not? He said it has already been approved.

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SAFETY Chair Balta had no written report. He said the committee is concerned about the Safety and Health Wellness Book, which has been discussed today, and were passed out to the members of the Safety Committee. He said the most important part of the book is the first 30 pages, the Regulations. He said the Appendices are guidelines and examples for procedures and policies for your Company to follow in case someone does ask what your policies and procedures are. He said the next Safety Committee meeting will be next Sunday (18 February) in Glendale. At this meeting he will be passing out these books to his members to get them out to the rest of the state. He asked that everyone be represented at that meeting so that everyone can get the books. He again discussed the Web page and that his reports are not being put on the page. This needs to be taken care of soon. He feels we are not all computer compatible with each other.

INSURANCE ADVISORY Chair D. Cox presented his written report and said the committee has not had a meeting since the last Executive Committee meeting. They have, however, been in communication by E-mail. He said the 2001 Ford Crown Victoria has been ordered and will be ready by convention time. The ads for the 1998 Ford Crown Victoria, have been placed on the MSFA Web page and information mailed to each fire department about the sale. Bids will be opened on 21 April 2001 at the next MSFA Executive Committee meeting in Rocky Ridge. He discussed an Insurance Policy for Individual Members. He said that C. J. Bens has developed an insurance survey and would like to distribute it to each member department. A copy of the survey was given to each Executive Committee member. C. J. Bens discussed the many different types of insurance and benefits the membership would be interested in. He said the lack of adequate medical protection is the key concern, particularly the younger members. There may also be other areas of interest such as individual and/or Group Life Insurance. They discussed the contact from each department, even though the insurance would be for the individuals, would be for collecting the surveys. C. Stack recommended the Board of Directors be given the surveys, and they act as the point of contact. Agreed by the Chair. D. Cox said that he, John Long (Membership) and J. Lau (Marketing) have been working with Nextel Communications to develop a wireless communication package that could be offered to the members of the fire, rescue, and EMS service. He introduced Jennifer Johnson and Keith Martin of Nextel. They made a presentation for a one year commitment where Nextel will be the exclusive, and endorsed, wireless provider for the MSFA. They said they need a commitment to 4,000 members purchasing the Nextel units over the course of 2001, to qualify for a 10 percent discount. If at the end of 2001, the 4,000 units are not sold, the discount would be revisited. They discussed the requirements and benefits for the subscriber and the MSFA. Nextel would have a presence on MSFA Website, attendance at quarterly county association meetings, one page advertisement in each Trumpet, with an article describing the Nextel-MSFA program, Nextel monthly promotions e-mailed to MSFA membership, advertisement in monthly MD Dispatch, advertisement in the monthly President's Newsletter, opportunity to distribute Direct Mail pieces through mailed out convention packets to the membership, and MSFA Secretary mailing, Exhibit space and sponsorship opportunities at MSFA Convention in Ocean City, Ad in the Convention book, Calendar Ad, and Nextel would receive a quarterly membership list. L. Sachs asked if there is a separate network that the fire service could be on the same one? He said

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not at this time, but they would hope this could be done at a later time. He also asked about whom is paying for the ads discussed above in the Trumpet and Convention book? She said this is not worked out at this time. She said the people who presently have the Nextel phone would not be counted as part of the 4,000 unit holders. C. Jewell asked if a private business can purchase the units thru their business, and is also a member of the MSFA via a company? She said yes, you can do this. J. Snyder asked about Billing and if not paid, who takes the burden of payment, disconnect fee, etc. He was told the individual will be the one who takes the burden of all payments. He discussed disconnect fees which accumulate for each month the Bill is not paid? This is not supposed to happen in this plan. D. Cox asked for directions on where they are to go with this or what from here? S. Hales asked about coverage area? They discussed national and rural (east coast) coverage. L. Downes asked about the area past Hagerstown as not being in this area. He was told this area is being expanded, and will light up in the near future. The following motion was made by L. Sachs and seconded by B. Kurtz:

MOTION: That the committee be authorized to proceed with the investigation and negotiations of the offer from Nextel. Motion approved.

WATERCRAFT COMMITTEE Chair Schlotterbeck was not present, but his written report was received and distributed. In the report he stated the committee now has representation from most areas of the state. They are seeking representatives from the Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland, to serve as points of contact for the committee. He mentioned that problems associated with the lack of a written mutual aid agreement for water related emergencies still exist. He noted that response to their Marine Survey, has been good. The committee is planning a Marine Rendezvous on 14 March. This is open to everyone, and is being hosted by the Bowleys Quarters VFD. Guest speaker will be Bob Baron (President of the Steam Trades Association). The Port & Marina Seminar is scheduled for 21 and 22 April, and will be held at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. He noted that Committee V. Chair, Helfrich is stepping down, as he is moving to Arizona.

Chair Hales went into action items for the Executive Committee.

The following motion was made by L. Sachs and seconded by J. Lau:

MOTION: to approve the recommendation of the Five Year Planning Committee to allow the outgoing President to keep his/her phone for the year following the office, while serving on the Executive Committee. Motion approved.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Chair Long discussed a proposed Constitution and By-Laws change proposal to Article 1 Name and Membership, Add as:
Section 8 - INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP – Individual Membership would entitle the individual to participate in MSFA functions and participate in all benefit programs offered by the MSFA and be approved for Individual Membership by the Executive Committee. Individual Members of the MSFA would not be eligible to vote at the annual convention. To qualify for an Individual

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Membership in the MSFA, each individual would have to be a member in a Regular member as outlined in Article I, Section 2. Each Individual member would be required to pay annual dues as set forth by the Executive Committee. Application for Individual Membership will be made through the Office of the Secretary who will maintain a listing of all Individual Members. Each Individual member will be assigned a membership Number, which will be issued only one time. The following motion was made by C. Edelin and seconded by C. Stack:

MOTION: To approve the recommended By-Laws change to add Section 8 to Article I as presented by the Membership Committee, and place this proposal on the ballot at the convention in June. Discussion on the motion: P. Sterling asked about the advantage of joining as an individual when I am already a member via my company. President Steger said this is a means of obtaining the many benefits previously discussed. C. Jewell said when this is passed, we will be a membership of numbers. We need an interim time regarding the number of members. L. Sachs discussed this and said is this what we want to do? We need to distinguish the two memberships (Company and Individual). D. Cox said this is a ground base and we will build on it. President Steger discussed the advantages as he sees it for the individual, that you would not get by being a member of a fire company. The advantage is when MSFA talks to other organizations, we can say we have so many (large number) of members. This is an advantage when negotiating certain issues where large numbers talk. P. Sterling said we need to decide on the benefits before we try to sell this at Ocean City. President Steger said in the By-Laws change, should be added the “benefits will also be determined by the Executive Committee”. C. Edelin said the cost now is zero dollars, but later the benefits will cost something. D. Hall asked if an Individual Member can hold office? J. Long said no. C. Riley said for a By-Laws change, you had better have all of your ducks in a row or it won't fly. He recommends no to this. T. Thompson said it sounds like the Individual Member would have more benefits than the department member would have. He agrees this needs to be presented at Ocean City. Joe Robison said the impact of this is for the strength of the Association by increasing its membership. V. P. Mattingly said this is a recruitment tool and later the committee comes up with benefits to increase the desire to belong to the MSFA. We need something to hold the membership instead of losing the members. C. Edelin said this is what the local departments should have been doing all along. B. Knippenburg said we need to set up the ground work so this committee can go forward with the development of the membership. The By-Law needs to be approved first. C. J. Bens said we need to put the word out, but the By-Law needs to be adopted first. **Motion was approved by a 11 yes hand vote.**

The following motion was made by L. Sachs and seconded by J. Lau:

MOTION: To table the other three Membership proposals (Silver Life, Gold Life Time, and Corporate) until the first meeting after the convention. Motion approved.

D. Mooney asked that we all be positive about this recommendation, and we go out and sell this idea. Don't be negative when you talk about it. P. Hurlock discussed the numbers that would be assigned to the individual member. It would not be a Social Security number but think

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about using the same number that MIEMSS is reassigning to class members. B. Cooke discussed the cost to MSFA to service the new individual members. This would increase membership mailing, etc. Chair Hales said the cost is tied to the benefits. President Steger asked if the committee can print this change proposal and distribute it to the membership. It will be done.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE – L. King discussed the proposals as:

1. Move all the materials to one location of a humidity controlled facility. Now move it to Hebron which is a temporary location that is humidity controlled.
2. Prior to the 2001 Convention, rent a humidity controlled storage area in the Annapolis area for all of MSFA records and historical items, etc.
3. Historical and Archives work with the Convention Committee for the sale of the Centennial Books.
4. Move the MSFA office furniture to a humidity controlled location in the Annapolis area.
5. Remove all display cases from the Firefighters Room and store them.
6. They do something of value to the Firefighter Room, but do not put items of real value in the room.
7. Rent a cube truck for one day to move the items discussed. The total cost to be a max of \$2000.

The following motion was made by T. Thompson and seconded by B. Kurtz:

MOTION: To approve the recommendations of the Historical and Archives Committee. Discussion: D. hall discussed the storage saying it needs guidelines, and the cost of the storage area being asked for, is not known. Chair Hales said that is included in the \$2000 asked for. MOTION approved.

17 STATE CIRCLE COMMITTEE Chair J. Ferguson presented his written report and said the painting has been completed, and the Bill submitted today. He said there are several areas that the painting contractor was unable to finish and will require touch up. These will be completed as time and weather permit. He said the building has recently been inspected by him and everything appears to be in order. There have been no reports on any required repairs. The masonry will be pointed in the Spring.

Chair Hales asked for comments from around the State. C. Edelin discussed a firehouse in Middleton Delaware that has 15 Bay's in it. It is something to see. C. Jewell thanked, on behalf of Frederick County, everyone that participated in the memorial service for the firefighter, Gilmore Stitely. He discussed the circumstances of the fire. He also said that Jason Baer is still in the hospital after another surgery. He should be home this week. B. Kurtz said he has enjoyed representing MSFA at some of the conventions and banquets. He said Hartford Cecil County Memorial Service is on 30 March at Jarrettsville. He hopes any and all three Presidents can attend the service. D. Hall said that Charles County is having a hard time with attendance for EMS calls. They are looking in the paid personnel direction. He said that Calvert County is

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also having this problem with one of their departments. They are recruiting and using lighted road signs to get their message to the public. He mentioned a fund raiser, Basket Bingo, is planned for V. P. Mattingly at the Hollywood VFD on 17 February. C. Stack said the 72nd Annual DelMarVa Convention will be held on 11 & 12 May in Chincoteague Virginia. L. Downes said the Eastern Shore Firemen's Association meeting will be held on 18 February at Goldsboro. They will have a guest speaker on CDL licenses.

President Steger thanked everyone for the nice meeting this weekend, it's been a positive meeting. Be sure to contact your legislative representatives from each county for inputs and representation from the counties, to the legislators in Annapolis. He thanked the Earleigh Heights Auxiliary for the meals these two days. Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Rev. Dixon. There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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

MOTION SUMMARY

MOTION: To present as a by-law amendment, that the duties of the Hall of Fame Committee be expanded to include "The Marbury F. Gates Service Cup Award and the Roll of Honor" Motion passed.

MOTION: To accept the report of the Membership Committee as written and place it on the ballot at Ocean City in June. Motion Withdrawn.

MOTION: To approve Application Number 01-06 for a grant of up to \$250,000. for the Fairmount VFC (under their revised new bid price). Motion approved.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation for the transfer of \$2,000. from the EMS Committee to the Communications Committee. Motion approved.

MOTION: That the committee be authorized to proceed with the investigation and negotiations of the offer from Nextel. Motion approved.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation of the Five Year Planning Committee to allow the outgoing President to keep his/her phone for the year following the office, while serving on the Executive Committee. Motion approved.

MOTION: To approve the recommended By-Laws change to add Section 8 to Article I as presented by the Membership Committee, and place this proposal on the ballot at the convention in June. Motion approved by an 11 yes hand vote.

MOTION: To table the other three Membership proposals (Silver Life, Gold Live Time, and Corporate) until the first meeting after the convention. Motion approved.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation of the Historical and Archives Committee. Motion approved.