

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**June 21, 2001
Ocean City, Maryland**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 0830 hours by President Charles Mattingly, III, at the Ocean City Convention Center. Chaplain Newman presented the Invocation and the President led the group with the pledge to the flag. President Mattingly welcomed everyone, his new officers (welcoming Terry Thompson to the team), the new Executive Committee and Chairman Donald Hall. He thanked everyone for their support this past year and looks forward to the coming year as our President. He welcomed the Past Presidents in attendance as: R. Adkins (65-66), J. Glaubitz (70-71), E. Preston (74-75), E. Dunn (76-77), O. Baker (78-79), R. Dempsey (80-81), C. Riley (83-84), L. King (85-86), R. Cumberland (87-88), R. Shimer (88-89), J. Robison (89-90), T. Mattingly (90-91), B. Smith (91-92), P. Hurlock (93-94), R. Yinger (94-95), F. Cross (95-96), S. Cox (96-97), R. Steger (00-01). The President introduced those guests in attendance including: LA-MSFA President Nora Ryan. President Mattingly announced the dates and locations of the Executive Committee meetings for the coming year as: August 25-26 – Paul Hall Center at Piney Point; December 1-2– Hebron VFD in Hebron; February 9-10 – Baden VFD in Brandywine; and April 20-21 – Funkstown VFC in Funkstown.

President Mattingly introduced the Executive Committee: Chairman D. Hall, C. Stack, S. Hales, W. Donaldson, L. Downes, G. Mellin, C. Jewell, B. Kurtz, L. Sachs, J. Lau, R. Steger, G. Blanco, P. Sterling.

Executive Committee Chair Hall welcomed everyone, the old members of the Executive Board, the new Board member Gene Mellin, the officers and the new 2nd V.P. Thompson, and he looks forward to a very productive year. He asked for audience cooperation during the meetings to allow the members of the committee to properly conduct their business without interruptions.

BUDGET Chair P. Fabiszak presented and discussed the written proposed Budget for 2001-2002. The following motion was made by S. Hales and seconded by W. Donaldson:

MOTION: To approve the 2001-2001 Budget as presented.

Chair Fabiszak discussed the proposed Budget saying several areas have not yet submitted their Budget inputs and therefore not included in this proposal. He said the Sergeant-At-Arms committee has purchased shirts and hats and they are asking for reimbursement funds of \$400. This is not reflected in this proposed Budget. L. Sachs asked about the short fall and Paul said they have not done that yet. They will meet again before the August Executive Committee meeting to determine exactly what the short fall is. L. Sachs asked about this proposed Budget and if it includes mileage and per diem allowances. Paul said yes it does and it is presented at the current rate. **MOTION approved by all as presented.**

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CONVENTION: Chair L. King discussed this year's convention and he thanked everyone for their participation in the convention. He gave the dates (Saturday thru Thursday) of the future conventions as: 2002 (June 15-20), 2003 (June 14-19), 2004 (June 12-17), 2005 (June 18-23), 2006 (June 17-22). The 2005 date had to be voted on if we plan to follow the Fathers Day tradition. The following motion was made by J. Lau and seconded by L. Sachs:

MOTION: To approve the June 18-23 2005 as convention dates. Approved by all.

S. Hales discussed the critique of the convention and L. King said we need a full day (at least) to properly conduct the critique. Chair King discussed the convention, problems encountered, the weather and the exhibitors. He wants everyone's critiques (good and bad). L. Sachs complimented the convention committee on another successful convention. Applause given to the committee for job well done. Chair King complimented the Sergeant-At-Arms for their good work during the convention. R. Watkins thanked those who presented awards and did pose the recipients so he could get a picture of everyone. He asked those involved to get the list of winners for the parade and other awards as soon as possible. He also wants the number of attendees at this year's convention. L. King said they have to count the number of flushes for a final number. P. Hurlock asked about the many pictures taken at the conventions and what happens to them. L. King said they have now found the photo company and purchased the albums, and in process of obtaining the pictures back to PP S. Cox's term of office. They are also trying to get the videos that were taken. R. Steger said we should put together the highlights of the convention and produce a video for resale to the membership. L. King said this is the first year we broadcast over the NET, and they plan to put highlights of the convention on it all year long. They also plan to rework the opening that will benefit all of the fire service in Maryland. R. Snader said we owe a debt of gratitude to the Internet providers and the many (about 36) connections provided. F. Cross said the tournament scheduled for Friday is sold out, but not everyone shows up and any others that do show up, they will try to find a slot for them. R. Watkins said he was in contact with the media reps during the parade for interviews, pictures, comments etc. He asked that he be made aware of any MSFA happenings so releases can be given out. B. Kurtz said he has received good comments on the parade. The only negative comment was the lack of more program books in the packet. L. King said the reason only two in the packet was that was all that would fit in the bag. Extra books were given out during the convention for the asking. Prayer Breakfast attendance was discussed by L. King. Early sign up was 137. The actual attendance at the breakfast was 349 people. This affected the catering, but they did a good job. This is why we ask everyone to buy their tickets early. D. Mooney discussed the judging of the parade and the large gaps in the parade. The gaps were caused by the tie ups at the judging stands with opening doors and compartments. This was done on some but not all of the apparatus. This type of judging should not be done during the parade. L. King agreed but said lets have the critique later, not at this time. They also discussed turnouts at the functions (picnic, etc). L. King discussed the heavy turnout at the parade, which was well attended. L. Downes asked that the parade winner's names be posted on the Web. J. Snader said it will be on there as soon as they receive it. He also asked about the amount of spaces the Combat Challenge took up in the parking lot. L. King said that was one reason for the bus

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tickets. If we need more parking tickets, then we must do without the Challenge. J. Means discussed the strip tickets and the selling of the tickets. E. Woods reported that all parade trophies have been given to individuals to deliver. L. King thanked the PG County Fire & EMS, Montgomery County Fire & EMS, Howard County and Baltimore County for their help this year.

TRUSTEES Chair C. Riley discussed the recent Disabilities Claims approved this morning as: G. Bott (Charlestown), E. Reynolds (N. East), H. Flowers (N. East), W. Combs (N. East). He said the committee has reorganized its officers as: Chairman B. Shimer, Co Chair C. Riley, Secretary P. Hurlock, members C. Carpenter and J. Means. He also discussed the Colburn Cup award program saying they had no applicants for the award this year. Hopefully this will improve next year. He said a new Procedure Guide for Company's to use as a guide for submitting a death claim, was given to each Company last year and they will get copies to all new Company's and to those that were not present. He thanked everyone for their help in the past to him and the committee.

L. Woods discussed the items sold this year (sold out the glass mugs and golf shirts). She discussed the items that went upstairs and were not sold. She asked that an estimate of this number should be given to them so they could order more. She also said that C. Black wants to know what to do with the 15 cases of Centennial Proceeding books that are in storage. L. King said the number of items given away is the same for each year. R. Steger said the number given last year was 50. C. Black has already been told to sell the books. The value of the books and coins was \$32,000, and was already taken out of the Convention Committee funds. The lithographs was also asked about and why not do the same thing with them?

RAFFLE Chair J. Means said this years profit on the raffle is about \$17,000, which is about \$2000 less than last year.

STATISTICAL Chair L. Gilroy said they now have 57 Companies that have not yet turned in their Stats report. He read the names of the counties that have 100 percent turned in. He will give the list to the Officers.

L. Sachs discussed the private helo services for EMS. The main concern is the way they operate which is inappropriate. He discussed an example he encountered, which he did relay to the EMS Committee and also to Dr. Bass. When the MSP helo is delayed and they are told a private helo is available, this puts the EMS people on the spot to make a decision. If the private helo is dispatched, the patient will receive a Bill for several thousand dollars. He asked if a jurisdiction sends the private helo and the patient cannot pay for it, who is liable for the payment? The jurisdiction? He discussed a draft of a guideline, given to him recently, that purports to resolve the issue. The problem is, it does not. He told Dr. Bass that there are so many issues with this that are unanswered, that we need to go forward before this can be adopted. He discussed the guideline and noted that the patient is ultimately responsible for the payment of the

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Bill from the commercial helo company. R. Powell discussed the issue and his recent talks with the proper people on the subject. He discussed the problem of the patient becoming a victim of the Billing by the private helo company, which should not happen. He said there are a lot of questions, but very few answers at this time. There is tension between the States Rights issue and the Federal Free Emption issue, and it needs to be studied more. He discussed other issues involved as qualifications of the private helo personnel, storing of the helo's in Maryland, maintenance, etc. They plan to study this and bring some answers back to the August Executive Committee meeting. He recommended that the Executive Committee (at least for now) table this until the August meeting. Dr. Bass agreed this is a very complicated issue which they are trying to work out. He discussed the Guidelines sent out, and discussed the helo problem which is just now becoming an issue. It has been great for the past 30 years, but now there are too many private helo concerns. He discussed the Billing issue and said he went to the private helo companies asking if the patient cannot pay, would they be willing to do the flight gratis. The answer was no. He discussed the Billing issue and the regulations which differ for the Federal and the State. He said the answer is if you need a helo, call Syscom. If the MSP helo is 30 minutes or more away, and a helo is needed, the private helo should be called, or take the patient in by ambulance. The private helo will charge if it is called. He said the private helo concerns have agreed to keep Syscom informed of their status. If the weather is bad, the commercial helo's will not fly either. He agreed that he, R. Powell, the EMS community, etc, should get together between now and the August Executive Committee meeting and have dialogue, and bring a report back to this committee. We all want some solution to this situation. R. Yinger and R. Brooks discussed the Billing issue and asked if the patient is carried by private carrier and it is determined that the money is uncollectible, will the jurisdiction be Billed? Dr. Bass said they would not be Billed. L. Sachs asked who decides the patient will fly commercial when the patient is unconscious, and it is determined he cannot pay for the commercial transportation? This situation puts the EMT on the scene, in the position of having to make the decision. Now the patient says to the EMT Company, what right they had to call a commercial transportation which will charge him the fee he cannot afford to pay. Dr. Bass said it has to be a case by case issue. We cannot have a one policy fits all. L. Sachs said we can have a one policy fits all, if we get some more input from all the people involved maybe we can come up with such a policy. J. Baer said the general public will not be involved in a discussion like we are now having. This Association has this past year talked the public into accepting the \$3 fee issue, and we do not need the public (patient) to be told they will be Billed for this or what, when we have already told them we need this additional \$3 to ensure they will get the proper service they would want and should have. R. Powell discussed the patient who believes he is getting ambulance and helo service for that \$3 fee increase, and does not understand the difference. The patient who cannot afford to pay the helo Bill, cannot afford to pay the hospital Bill either. The patient then claims bankruptcy to avoid paying the debt, or a legal aid lawyer gets involved in a law suit. The issue will be made out of the whole situation, not just one case, and that is why we need to try to prevent this from happening. President Mattingly asked the Chair of the EMS committee, Dr. Bass, and R. Powell, to take this letter under advisement and report back at the August Executive Committee meeting. C. Wills said that MSP should also be included in this meeting.

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President Mattingly agreed and said that Major Lewis has been notified and he is willing to attend the meeting. R Yinger said something bigger than the Billing, is the commercial helo people who can do our jobs at no cost to the State. They were advertising this at the Convention this week.

LA MSFA President N. Ryan said that on 15 July the Perryville Officers are holding an open house for her at their Fire Company, and everyone is invited to attend.

BUDGET Chair P. Fabiszak said the issue of the reimbursement of \$400 to the Sergeant-At-Arms for shirts, needs to be resolved. The following motion was made by B. Kurtz and seconded by C. Jewell:

MOTION: To approve the request for reimbursement of \$400. For Sergeant-At-Arms shirts.

B. Smith discussed the neat uniform appearances of the members. After discussion, D. Mooney said that Baltimore County Firemen's Association will pay for the shirts. **The motion and 2nd was withdrawn.**

FIRE MARSHAL's OFFICE B. Thomas extended thank you on behalf of R. Gabriele for the support extended to him by the Association. There will be a salute for Rocco later this year and the Association will be notified of the date. He said he handed out a summary report of the Fire Marshall Office today. He thanked the Association for their co-sponsorship of the Life Safety Conference.

SAFETY Chair Balta asked for comments back by 31 July, on the MOSH Health and Safety Document handed out earlier. C. Wills said that we had previously agreed that we would not endorse the document unless the State came up with the money. President Mattingly said this is still the same policy with him now. R. Steger discussed the document and the Officers stand that it could be endorsed when the funds became available. This is not a one time funding, but a year to year funding program. R. Cumberland discussed the funding issue, saying that they also need to work with the local politicians about 1710 and 1720.

Resolutions list discussed by H. Hetz, and will be here today.

Chair D. Hall thanked everyone for their cooperation with this meeting and looks forward to the remainder of the year.

R. Steger relayed his thank you from Mayor Mathias. He congratulated the MSFA Officers and the Executive Committee members and pledged his support for the coming year.

President Mattingly discussed the committee appointments and handed out a packet to each chairman. He asked the Trustees to not hold their committee meeting during the Executive Committee meetings, but rather hold them prior to the meetings. He discussed the Fuel Division

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program already in place, to obtain fuel tax refund. He discussed the Raffle response is decreasing, when it should be increasing. We need the Raffle and we need to better promote it to the Departments. He discussed the passing of Death Notices, which need to be given to everyone. He said he plans a meeting of the officers, Executive Committee members, and committee chairmen to discuss duties. Meeting date to be announced later.

R. Snader discussed the new e-mail provider. He asked for everyone's e-mail address so they can put together one mailing list. J. Baer asked about a possible organization chart for the MSFA? President Mattingly said they will take that under advisement.

1st V.P. G. Worthington discussed being contacted by AOE Technologies about a national fund raising campaign. They don't know anything about this, but will look into it. President Mattingly said as many as possible should attend the Life Safety Conference in Laurel at the Johns Hopkins Center.

Benediction given by Chaplain H. Hetz. The meeting was adjourned at 1040 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

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