

MARYLAND STATE FIREMENS ASSOCIATION SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 11, 2001

Savage, Maryland

A Special meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 0900 hours by President Charles J. Mattingly, III, at the Savage VFD. Chaplain Hetz gave the opening prayer for the Military, Firefighters, Police, and the success of this meeting. President Mattingly welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming. He thanked the Savage VFD and Auxiliary for the coffee and donuts. Chaplain Hetz remembered PP Charles Stallings who died recently. He asked we keep Herman Rhue in our prayers as he is in the hospital. Chaplain Hetz led the pledge to the flag. President Mattingly explained the meeting was scheduled for today to save time at our regular meeting in December, as the subjects of this meeting could be lengthy. He welcomed the President of the Virginia Firefighters Association, Mr. Jim Stokley and Mr. Mike Dillon of Long and Foster. He also introduced Mr. Jamie Turner, Jasper Larkey, C. O'Neal, K. Odessa, and K. Wilson, from the Delaware VFA.

PRESENTATION made by J. Stokley and M. Dillon on the marketing facilities available through the Long and Foster Company. They presented handouts and a slide presentation to the Committee on who they are and what they can offer to the Association. They provide services that are established for the Association, and provide monitoring of our performance, and quarterly and annual reports. They discussed their proposed initial components offered (insurance, legal, real estate, computer and travel discounts). They have a Communications Plan to stimulate awareness and to help members make the appropriate benefit choices. He said that existing programs are delivered through the Internet and Telecommunications platforms. Components of their program include a sponsorship letter, periodicals, introductory meetings, Direct mail, Posters, On-site enrollment, Annual Convention, and Distribution. They include a website integrated within the MSFA.Org, a dedicated toll free line, and a real person behind every call to them. He said they do require a 5-year contract, which is non-negotiable. They do not charge any fees to the MSFA. W. Donaldson asked about a health insurance plan? They presently recommend a short term medical program. They are still looking for a reliable marketable health benefits program for the fire service members. He said they only deal with Fire/EMS Associations, not the individual departments. They feel they can market our Membership Committee as well as other committees. They said they do not sell Fire Department insurance via the MSFA. They market and endorse the Association and not the individual departments. Minimum number of participants asked of by B. Balta? They said they require 10,000 members of the MSFA, and explained this number for the MSFA as we all do qualify by being a member of a department that is a member of the MSFA. President Mattingly said we will not act on this today, but will do so at the December meeting.

MSP happenings discussed by R. Gabriele. He said that Col. Mitchell asked that a "Hammer Team" be formed as a Hazardous Incident Team that responds to Anthrax incidents only. This applies to smaller counties that do not have their own police force (or Sheriff Department). He discussed Anthrax and the criminal investigation of it. The team will be a 4 man team on call 24/7. Over all, this will consist of 60-80 personnel. He discussed training requirements of these people and the equipment that will be required. He said that actual evidence will go to the FBI for

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evaluation. If the situation is a hoax then it is considered a criminal event. He agreed they will respond only when called. It was noted that the only person authorized to identify the powder as Anthrax in Maryland, is Dr. Joseph Benjamin. It was also noted that this team will respond where a Hazmat team does not exist.

SAFETY Chair B. Balta discussed the MOSH document and their Workgroup meeting of 26 September 2001. He said that only 11 individuals returned comments on the document, and they do plan a response to each of these individuals in writing. He discussed a recommended Implementation Committee formed through this Workgroup, consisting of Gene Worthington, Bob Sledgeski, Leroy Wilkinson, Bob Cumberland, Kevin Morris, Bill Grabau, Chuck Rodgers, John Frazier, and Leon Fleming. He discussed their suggested Implementation Schedule. He said the committee voted to change the name of the document to “Maryland Fire Service Health and Safety Consensus Standard”. L. Sachs questioned the Implementation Schedule and asked if this will happen even if there is no money to pay for the physicals? B. Balta said this schedule is not gospel as it was not approved, only suggested, and their main concern now is the wording of the document. The following motion was made by R. Steger and seconded by L. Sachs:

MOTION: To adopt the Fire Safety Health and Safety Consensus Standard as approved by the workgroup, but the implementation of the medical Standards be deferred until a satisfactory funding mechanism is put in place. Discussion: R. Steger said we need a Maryland Standard or we will have to abide by NFPA 1500. B. Kurtz said the document does not state if it is state funded. B. Balta agreed it does not say who will pay for the physicals. B. Balta read part of the response to a letter to the Attorney General regarding clarification as to the possibility of changes being made to this document regarding the requirement of physicals of volunteer fire fighters. Question called for. **Motion approved by all.**

NVFC Firefighter of the Year was Dan Stevens of Waldorf VFD, as noted by L. Sachs who send him congratulations from the MSFA Executive Committee.

NYFD fundraising efforts in Maryland were discussed by President Mattingly. He said the funds raised would be sent to New York FD unions for their disbursement. This is a problem, as we want to make sure our funds go to the widows and orphans of the NYFD Firefighters killed on 11 September. He said that MSFA has set up a special account for the money collected. He said the career firefighters are getting credit for the funds and the volunteers are not. We need to stand up for the volunteers. W. Donaldson asked why we have heard nothing from the NVFC on this matter. We need to contact our representatives to the NVFC and have they stood up for the volunteers. T. Thompson said we need to beat our own drum or we will be eaten up by the career unions.

NIKE RUN Across America, G. Worthington said the Run will be in Bel Air on Sunday November 18th. It is for the benefit of the NY Fallen Firefighters.

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There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee the benediction was offered by Chaplain Grimm. The meeting was adjourned at 1125 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

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