

MARYLAND STATE FIREMENS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 16th, 2002
Ocean City, Maryland

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 0830 hours by President Charles Jenks Mattingly at the Ocean City Convention Center in Ocean City Maryland. Chaplain Dixon gave the opening prayer for the success of the upcoming meeting and convention, and led the group in the Pledge to the flag. Steve Hales welcomed the group to Ocean City. President Mattingly introduced the Past Presidents in attendance as: R. Adkins (65-66), T. Reynolds (71-72), E. Preston (74-75), O. Baker (78-79), C. Riley (83-84), L. King (85-86), C. Carpenter (86-87), 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), S. Cox (96-97), D. Davis (97-98), R. Knippenburg (98-99), C. Edelin (99-00), R. Steger (00-01). Trustees in attendance were: R. Shimer, C. Riley, C. Carpenter, P. Hurlock, and J. Means. Guests in attendance were: LA President N. Ryan, Sr V.P. R. Maher, Jr V.P. ClaraMae Buckmaster, Chaplain L. Hetz, Miss F.P. Heidi Johnson, 1st Runner up Miss F.P. Katie Vann, Fire Marshal W. Bernard, DNR M. Mitchell, Shock Trauma J. Spearman and Brenda Fosler, MIEMSS Dr. Bass, PG County Chief Blackwell, Fire Marshall R. Thomas, and MIEMSS A. Teohanis, Pa. Assn. President (and Board member Bill Loch), and the President of the Va. Fire Association.

President Mattingly thanked the officers and the members of the Executive Committee, Chairman D. Cox, Committee Chairmen, and everyone that has welcomed him and his wife this past year.

Vice President Worthington discussed this past year and his work with President Mattingly and V.P. Thompson, and their decisions with the events of this past year. He thanked everyone for the hospitality and fellowship given to him and his wife wherever they went. He read the stats for the hours, miles, and events he attended this year and looks forward to the many events and the challenges that await him this coming year.

Vice President Thompson discussed the events of the Association and the officers, and thanked everyone for the welcome to his wife and him during the many events of this past year. He congratulated President Mattingly for a good year. He discussed the recent events involving the situation with PG County regarding the career and volunteers. He said there is still a lot of work to be done and we will do it.

LA MSFA President N. Ryan thanked the officers and the Association for their help and cooperation this past year.

Secretary King thanked everyone for their cooperation with the Secretary's Office and the Assistant Secretary's for their work this past year. He discussed the upcoming convention events starting with the Memorial service this evening. They expect a large crowd and look forward to the event. The opening ceremony planned for tomorrow will be a special event with some firsts for us and for anyone. He also thanked several different organizations for their help and cooperation with this convention. He said that only one member from each department will do the registering for their department. Committee Chairs will register for themselves, only. Committee members must each register for themselves, only. The parade on Wednesday will start at 1300 hours. The Prayer Breakfast will be held inside this year with Mayor Mathias as the guest speaker.

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Presentation -L. King introduced the Ocean City Convention staff and presented each with a plaque of our appreciation for their work during our convention.

President Worthington discussed the new ~~C~~committees booklet distributed to the Executive Committee and Committee Chairmen. He discussed his plans for the coming year saying he looks forward to working with the Executive Committee, ~~and~~ the Committee Chairmen and members. He discussed the upcoming Executive Committee meetings as all formal business will be conducted on Saturday, and Sunday will be for the promotion of the MSFA. ~~(A)~~ select number of the committees will be giving a presentation of their role in the Association). The state agencies will also be giving presentations as well. His goal is to have at least one member from each Company in attendance. He is also planning an Officers Retreat. He discussed several of the committees and plans and guidelines for them, as well as getting our 508 Funds up to where they should be. The major project will be to obtain implementation of the Firefighter Health and Safety Plan. We need to encourage this implementation of the plan, and obtain funding for the physicals required in the plan. ~~He offered B~~best wishes for a successful year.

1st V.P. Thompson thanked PP Mattingly for his successful year and he welcomed Bob Jacobs to the team. He congratulated L. King for a very successful convention. He said he looks forward to the challenges of the coming year. He mentioned the still existing problem with Prince Georges County and ~~an upcoming meeting~~ tomorrow in Washington.

2nd V.P. Jacobs thanked everyone for their support and he looks forward to working with Gene and Terry this coming year. President Worthington presented Bob with his Vice Presidents badge at this time. He congratulated PP Mattingly for his successful and to L. King for the very successful convention. L. King said the National Anthem was sung by B. Jacobs daughter-in-law. He said regarding the Financial Secretary Office, he will take care of the deposits thru 30

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June and Paul Fabiszak will do the statements, etc, after that. Any funds due the Association now, please get them to him ASAP so he can get the books done before 1 July.

Secretary King thanked everyone for their support and looks forward to working with President Worthington, Terry, Bob and all the new officers this coming year. If the Secretary's Office can be of assistance, call him. [He also thanked the team of over 200 individuals that put on this years convention and conference.](#)

Treasurer Shuhart said this is going to be a very tight budgeted year. We have done a lot of spending and we need to cut back on some of the spending. Keep the money coming in, we need it.

Chaplain H. Hetz said Rev Dixon's wife has come thru surgery and is doing fine. Rev Dixon had to attend a funeral today and could not be here. He said anything the Chaplain's Office can do for you, please let them know.

Trustees C. Riley reported the officers remain the same this year (Chair R. Shimer, Secretary P. Hurlock, and members C. Carpenter, J. Means, and himself). He thanked everyone for electing him again for this position. He said from now on they will hand deliver the Line of Duty checks to the survivors. He discussed the deficit and the payouts made this past year. They are into their reserves, which they do have. He said Chairman Shimer would like to be consulted when the letter is sent requesting funds for the Trust Fund for this year. He said yesterday they recognized C. Oscar Baker and D. Knauar for their legislative service to the MSFA this past year. He said that all claims have been paid and they are still awaiting the paper work for one from Ocean City.

Convention President Worthington complimented L. King and the committee for the excellent convention this year. He asked for comments on the convention and asked for comments for the critique at Leonard's next meeting. R. Yinger asked about the Bus Tickets and the Executive Committee being next door to each other at the same time. Don't do that next year. C. Stack said there was a Bus problem on Monday morning. L. King said we apparently over taxed the system that one day. We apparently also over taxed NEXTEL, as there were too many units in Ocean City, in use, at the same time. S. Cox said they failed to realize they are used all over the state and we all brought them with us to Ocean City. J. Means said the lines for the registration for committee people, as the lines were backup up. Maybe use two machines next year, instead of just one. Comment was made about the politicians being on the stage too long. L. King said we could tell the politician he is too long, but can we live with it for the next 8 years? They asked about too many Proceedings Books being printed? L. King said the bag will only hold so many books and they will not hold all of the books, as we allow for 5 books per Company. C. Riley asked about

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the proceeds of the Fill The Boot for the Memorial, and asked if it is all for the memorial, or split. Answer is, it is split between the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Fund and the Maryland Memorial. J. Mattingly asked about some of the names not being in the Registration computer, and he would like to see all of the books put in the bag so they do not have to come back later looking for additional books. President Worthington introduced his wife Sharon. He introduced the new members on the Executive Committee as: Charlie Abrecht, Bill Huttonloch, Jim Ferguson, and Fran Jester. He introduced new Committee Chairmen as: (Budget) S. Cox, (Firefighter of the Year) J. Gatton Sr, (Historical and Archives) J. Spiker, (Low Interest Loan Program) Gene Curfman, (Standards) C. Stack, (Vol FF Room) F. Underwood, (Ways & Means) L. Jonske (President Worthington thanked J. Means for his many years of Chairing this committee), (Five Year Planning) L. Sachs, (Insurance Advisory) J. Gosnell, (ISO) B. Cooke, (Management) P. Hurlock, (Marketing) D. Alexander, (Membership) D. Cox, (Procurement) J. Doran, (Rural Water) C. Gamble, (Charter Review) R. Shimer, (MEMA) F. Cross, (President's Assistance Group) W. Lay. He announced the dates of the Executive Committee meetings for

this new year as: August 17-18 at Level VFC, Nov 2-3 at Shaft VFC, Feb 8-9 at LaPlata VFD, Apr 26-27 at Preston VFC.

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Budget – S. Cox and P. Fabiszak said the Budget has been prepared for this next year. Paul discussed the process of the old and new Budgets. S. Cox asked for any modifications needed for any of the new committees. A copy of the proposed Budget was given to the Executive Committee members and discussed by Paul. He asked that this Budget be approved for the 2002-2003 year. He said when the Treasurer has closed the year, he will notify the Financial Secretary, they will meet, review, and fine tune this years Budget, noting what is leftover, and fine tune the new Budget for next year. The final figures will be available for the Executive Committee meeting in August. The following motion was made by P. Sterling and seconded by W. Donaldson:

Motion: To approve the proposed Budget as presented for 2002-2003.

Convention Chair L. King said the convention has been discussed and he thanked everyone for the comments made about the convention.

Constitution & By-Laws Chair Patti Gordy reported all of the proposed amendments did pass.

Special Activities Chair L. Woods thanked everyone for their participation with the MSFA items, and she reported they took in \$16,680 this year. She still has plenty of shirts, mugs, etc for sale. She plans to be at each of the Executive Committee meetings with the items for sale.

Attorney R. Powell discussed the MBNA issue and their refusal to attend our convention this year. He presented a copy of their contract and read their requirements. He feels that according to the contract, they should have been at this convention with their product. He asked permission to write a letter of our displeasure to the MBNA regarding their refusal to attend this convention, as

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it violates their contract. He also discussed the NEXTEL contract and said they did give us money with the Gold membership. He discussed the issue with Long & Foster and the list of Advantage participants (vendors). The sign up for Individual Membership this week has been very disappointing, as only about 50 people signed up to join. He discussed the Cingular Wireless Company that is on the Long & Foster list and this might conflict with the NEXTEL contract. Cingular is the only cellular vendor out of Maryland. Most of the rest of the vendors on the list are from Virginia, with only a few in the Baltimore area. He said that NEXTEL was non-exclusive. L. Sachs discussed the vendors and that he understands that we can veto any of the vendors we do not want listed. Roger did not remember this veto power for the MSFA. President Worthington discussed the FF Advantage program and our plan to sell Individual Memberships at the convention this week, which was a failure. We now need to come up with a new strategy. He proposed we waiver the \$20 membership fee, and make it free (for one year) so we can bring in new members. They will only receive a membership card saying they are an Individual Member of the MSFA. We need to better promote the program. R. Powell discussed the lack of marketing material for the Individual Membership. The convention was the kickoff of the program, but Roger said he never saw any marketing material to approve. J. Long said he did

give all marketing material to R. Powell. Roger said he received only one questionable page. W. Donaldson discussed the Long & Foster promise for space at the convention, but they did not live up to it. He said he had more problems with Long & Foster than any of the other vendors. He said we do need to sit down with Long & Foster and get things worked out. President Worthington asked everyone to think about this, and we will discuss it again at the August meeting. J. Mattingly said we have a new Membership Chairman this year and we should let him come back to the August meeting with a new plan. L. King said whether we have a fee or not, we have to have something to offer before we will get people to sign up for the membership. President Worthington said

Motion: To authorize our attorney to send a letter to MBNA expressing our displeasure with their actions concerning marketing of the MSFA and their failure to participate in our convention this year.

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R. Powell said two company's (Kent Island and Fairmount) do not qualify for the low interest loan, and they do need to be notified of this. G. Curfman said he will notify them in writing.

Low Interest Loan Chair G. Curfman reported the company's that did not receive a loan, have all been notified in writing. He will also contact Kent Island and Fairmount on their Charter problems. He read the schedule (first is 19 September) of their future committee meetings. The Executive Committee does still desire the information (application, etc) of those company's that do, and do not receive a loan, and why. He said they did put a flyer in the convention packets saying they will be open for applications from 1 July thru the end of August. Decisions on the loans will be made in October, and they will then have them ready for the Executive Committee at least one week before the November meeting.

R. Powell discussed loan settlement costs and recommended that the Company, not the MSFA pay that cost. G. Curfman said they have addressed these issues and asked if anyone on the Executive Committee knows an attorney in their area that would be willing to handle the settlements for us, please let him know. They would like several attorney's across the state to take care of this for the Company's in their area. This would make it easier on the Company and our attorney too. At the May meeting the committee voted that in the future, all Company's obtaining the loan, will pay the closing costs. President Worthington said this will be brought back here at the August meeting for action.

Budget S. Cox reported that all Bills previously submitted have been funded under the previous committees. He reminded everyone not to incur any expenses until they have been to the Budget Committee and ask for funds not already approved. Even then, they must be approved by the Executive Committee. They will mail out copies of the Budget approved today, to the Executive Committee.

August Meeting President Worthington said the recommended motel for the meeting in August is the Comfort Inn in Edgewater Maryland. Everyone is asked to make their own reservations.

Ways and Means J. Means reported on the Raffle saying the profit is estimated to be about \$27,500. This will probably be the largest profit we have made yet. He thanked everyone for their support this and these past years. He recommended we obtain a new squirrel cage as the old one is now too small. He read the winners of the Raffle as:

Recruitment & Retention Chair J. Denver gave out a guideline manual to the Executive Committee, and they hope to get at least one copy to each Company in the MSFA in the very near future.

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Memorial Chair D. Moonie reported on the success of the Pin sales and the Pass The Boot Drive in the parade. He said there is a State-wide Boot Drive planned for later this year (headed up by the State Fire Marshal) and he asked for a coordinator from each county. He plans to market the Memorial throughout the state at many other activities. He explained the money collected during the parade and it being split with the National FF Memorial Foundation. He said that R. Siarnicki did 99.9 percent of the work on the parade function. He thanked those who walked the route and collected the money. Everyone is asked to wear their Memorial Pin as well as their Bessie Marshall Pin to the Executive Committee meeting in August (on Sunday).

Data Systems Chair R. Snader reported the committee did video record most of the convention this week. He said that during Registration they flagged most of the Company's that had not reported their Credentials yet this year, and they were the ones that had to fill out the survey. He discussed the Incident Reporting System and the problems people are having with it. He said the format is on the website for most of the new committees. Most of the committees have yet to give him a description of their committee so he can get it on the website too. Please get it to him ASAP.

R. Knippenburg said they have 36+ lithographs, so contact him if needed. President Worthington said they have many lithographs, but half of them are damaged and will be repaired soon.

Basket Bingo Chair M. Bilger reported the success of the Basket Bingo that raised \$5400 for the Association. He thanked those that helped with the affair, and P. Gordy for getting the baskets, etc. at a good cost. He recommended we hold another Basket Bingo next year and that P. Gordy be in charge of the activity. He thanked the committee for their efforts in making the activity so successful.

Board of Review J. Baer reported they will not review any applications before the August Executive Committee meeting. The officers of the committee will remain the same this year. They have reviewed a draft for an application instruction form, and made some changes to it. When it is completed, copies will be given to the Executive Committee. He needs the applications in-hand by 31 August. He will have copies of the applications to the Executive Committee to

review before the Executive Committee meetings. He said they plan to post the application forms on the website. He said they are pursuing the use of the program engines, as now pumpers are the only items available.

EMS Chair C. Wills reported their next meeting will be on 21 July at the Hollywood VFD firehouse.

Scholarships Chair B. Olsen thanked everyone for the favorable vote on the Amendment to increase the Scholarship Fund.

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Dr. Newman (Guidance & Career Facilitator for Cecil County School of Technology) discussed the program called SkillsUSA-VICA. It is a leadership program that allows young people the chance to demonstrate their skills (specifically Fire Science and EMT). They are requesting the establishment of a SkillsUSA-VICA competition in the Fire Science and EMT areas. They want it to start at the local level and progress to the regional and state competition during school year 2002-2003. They hope the competition will be a positive way of reorganizing student skill development and give recognition to a much needed program. He is asking the MSFA to consider this program and talk to our elected officials to promote the program. He handed out a packet to the Executive Committee and asked for any comments on the program. S. Cox said MFRI is a partner to this program in Cecil County.

Fire Marshal Bob Thomas, reporting for the Fire Marshal, –said the reporting deadline for the Incident Reporting is 10 July for the 2001 data to be turned in. He said there will be no paper reports turned in after 1 January 2003. To receive

Old Business—None.

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Motion: To send a letter to each of those department's listed above, that they are suspended from the 2003 MSFA Convention Parade. Motion was approved by all.

Law Suit: E. Huttonloch said that there is no law suit being made against the MSFA, as she has heard. She discussed what prompted the rumors, but said they are not suing anyone.

Comments—Thank you's made by the Executive Committee chairman and members. J. Mattingly thanked those members of the Executive Committee of last year for their help and cooperation this past year.

Closing Prayer – given by Chaplain H. Hetz;

Respectfully submitted,

Office of the Secretary

ary

J. Edward Cross

Joseph A. Cooper

Ronald E. Watkins

Jacqueline Olson

Louise Dell