

**MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 25-26, 2003
Cambridge, Maryland**

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MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 25 & 26, 2003
Cambridge, Maryland

The MSFA Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President Terry E. Thompson at 0845 hours, at the American Legion Hall in Cambridge Maryland. Chaplain H. Dixon gave the opening prayer and led the Pledge to the Flag. Chair Doug Alexander recognized our sponsors here today as POK Fire Equipment, Jess Jr Towing, and ISG Insurance. Juanita Webber of the Rescue Fire Company welcomed the MSFA to Cambridge. Chair Alexander thanked Calvin Stack for putting this weekend together for us. President Thompson welcomed everyone to Cambridge. He introduced the following: PAST PRESIDENTS here today: C. Riley (83-84), L. King (85-86), C. Carpenter (86-87), J. Robison (89-90), T. Mattingly (90-91), P. Hurlock (93-94), R. Yinger (94-95), F. Cross (95-96), D. Davis (97-98), R. Knippenburg (98-99), R. Steger (00-01), C. Mattingly (01-02). The President also introduced other guests in attendance including President Clara Mae Buckmaster of the Ladies Auxiliary. Chair Alexander started with reports of the officers.

PRESIDENT Thompson presented and discussed his written report. He expressed his sympathies in the passing of Bob Shimer, and his condolences to the Shimer family, and the families of F. Cross and G. Curfman on the loss of their loved ones. He reiterated this year will be a team effort, and the officers were given no goals, but charged them with coming up with their own goals. In July the Presidents met with Governor Ehrlich and key people of his staff. They discussed Homeland Security Funds, Right to Volunteer, and maintaining our present funding. The Governor's response and his commitment to the Emergency Services was very favorable. He thanked the Shock Trauma Team for being a part of our team, and congratulated Major Lewis on the celebration of MSP Aviation's 100,000th patient flight. He thanked the teams at MIEMSS, MFRI and R. Siarnicki, B. Barnard, B. Clark and S. Carter for their efforts as facilitators of the FF Memorial weekend at Emmitsburg. He discussed his meeting with MACO and asked V.P. Jacobs to include it in next year's budget. He submitted his Budget for this year with no increase over last year. He has asked the Legislative Committee to devise a new format for weekly reports to the membership. He discussed the recent Hurricane Isabel, and thanked those persons that assisted at MEMA Headquarters that week. He discussed the many Grants received around the state and said the Governor's Office has offered to assist us in any way with obtaining Grants. He attends a meeting in Montgomery County in reference to a Bill on how their fire service was to operate. We need to assist our members in defeating this Bill.

Vice President R. Jacobs presented and discussed his written report. He thanked everyone for their contribution to the Association. He discussed the meeting on 8 July with the Governor as they presented our needs for the upcoming legislative sessions. He extended his sympathies to the families of the recently deceased members and those that have been hospitalized. The Presidents continue to meet with the various committees and they rely on those members to bring the information forward for the benefit of everyone. He discussed attendance at the Cumberland Valley Vol. Firemen's Association convention in Taneytown. He also attended the LAMSFA Fall Conference on 4 October 2003 at North Beach VFD. He congratulated Pres. Buckmaster and

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the LAMSFA for their meeting regardless of Hurricane Isabel. He congratulated R. Siarnicki on the successful tribute to our Fallen Firefighters at Emmitsburg. He congratulated Carroll Manor Fire Company on their 50th Anniversary. He commended the Emergency Services for their contributions to public safety and welfare during the recent Hurricane. He again expressed the loss to the MSFA in the loss of Bob Shimer.

Vice President L. Sachs presented and discussed his written report. He expressed his appreciation to Terry and Bob. He expressed his sympathy in the loss of Bob Shimer and the condolences to his family, and to all who have lost loved ones recently. The major task in front of us today, is the work to guarantee the Right To Volunteer throughout the state. We also need to keep an eye on the legislature pursuant to SB-479, and educating them as well as the newly elective Executive Team, to the specifics of what we do and need. Also maintaining and improving communications between the leadership of the MSFA and its members, including associations, companies and individual members. We need to continue to work with our partners in the Emergency Services System to achieve what is best for all of us without compromising our specific objectives.

SECRETARY L. King presented and discussed his written report. He is working with the Data Systems Committee to ensure that all interested parties are signed up with the broadcast@msfa.org system of relaying information in the state. The Minutes of the June Executive Committee meeting has been transcribed and distributed by means of the website and the broadcast system. All other correspondence has been properly received and the appropriate action taken. The Standards Committee has the application for membership from the Dentsville EMS. Two member departments have changed their corporate names as: “Cowenton VFC” (Baltimore County) changed to “White Marsh VFC” and “Volunteer Fire Department of Mt. Rainer” (P G County) changed to “Bunker Hill VFD”. A mass mailing to all members departments and organizations will be prepared covering the Annual Dues notice, Annual Credentials forms, Memorial forms, Convention and Conference Events and notices of Awards and their closing dates for the convention. This information will also be posted on the website with the capabilities of responding via the web with some of the annual forms that are required. If any committee has items for distribution to all member organizations, they are to get them to the Secretary’s Office as soon as possible. Another mailing will go out in March 2004. Please return Credential forms to the Secretary’s Office, the annual Dues payment to the Financial Secretary (Fred Cross), and the Memorial forms to Chaplain Harry Hetz. He included with his report, the notes taken at the 2003 Retreat held at the St. Mary’s College in St. Mary’s City on 18 and 19 July 2003. Registration for the 2004 Convention at Ocean City, will start on Sunday morning. To aid in that effort, we ask that all departments forward their Credentials Forms as soon as possible, preferably by the website. Departments celebrating their 25, 50, 75 or 100th Anniversary, along with other special occasions and individual special recognition awards, should be brought to the attention of one of the Presidents or the Secretary’s Office so a fitting certificate can be presented and presented. The 2003 Convention Proceedings Book is still being put together and will probably be in hand shortly. He thanked his Assistant Secretary’s and other

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individuals for their continued fine assistance and services to the Secretary's Office and the MSFA.

TREASURER G. Curfman and J. Shuhart presented and discussed their written report. John discussed his audited report for the period 1 July 2002 through 30 June 2003. He discussed the Balance Sheet showing the Assets, Liabilities, and Equity's. He also included in his report the specific information on all MSFA accounts for the same period. He asked the Association if he can purchase his computer? After discussion, the following motion was made by D. Cox and 2nd by C. Abrecht:

MOTION: To authorize John Shuhart to make a donation for his previously used equipment. Motion was approved by all.

John reported that Bob Saville has been diagnosed with cancer. His phone number is 972-369-0352, Cell 469-667-8520, and his e-mail is bcsaville@comcast.net. Treasurer Curfman thanked John and Bob Saville for their help with the transition. He presented and discussed his written report. He noted the Raffle money that has not yet been transferred, but will be soon. He asked about the transfer of convention funds for tags that has not yet been done. L. King said the motion was to be from the convention time forward. Gene said anything that comes in for tags, is being put in the General Fund now. His report contains the Balance, Profit and Loss, and Transaction Detail by Date, for the Relief Fund, Low Interest Loan, Convention, Scholarship, and Appropriations accounts, for the period 1 July through 22 October 2003.

CHAPLAIN H. Dixon presented and discussed his report. He attended the 2003 Retreat at St. Mary's College. Chaplain Hetz is in the process of developing a Chaplains Manual to support and guide the Chaplains, and asked the assistance of the Executive Committee with his questionnaire and any other information available. He recommended John Long (Anne-Arundel County) be appointed as a MSFA Chaplain to replace former Chaplain George Grimm. He has contacted Funeral Director Gary Fellows to pay for the funeral booklet we give out at our Convention Memorial Service.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES C. Riley and P. Hurlock presented and discussed their attached report. C. Riley discussed the loss of their Chair Bob Shimer and the impact on the Trustees. They will meet this weekend regarding a replacement Trustee and changes to their officers for the balance of the year. He expressed his sympathies to the family of Doug Thomas (who was critically injured in 2001). P. Hurlock read a short synopsis on the life and work of Bob Shimer and just how much he will be missed by the family and the MSFA. P. Hurlock has been working with the company officers to get the necessary paperwork completed. They have been notified of two widows receiving benefits, Mrs. Genevieve Stinchcomb (wife of Carl Thomas), has passed on: and Mrs. Cindy Humphrey, wife of Bob Humphrey, has remarried). Benefit payments have been stopped to both parties'. He thanked Treasurer G. Curfman for his support and look forward to working with him this year. Chaplain Dixon asked everyone to pause at this time for a remembrance and prayer for Bob Shimer and Doug Thomas and their families.

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY F. Cross presented and discussed his written report, regarding deposits made and checks written for the 2003-2004 period. He discussed the non-payment of MSFA Annual Dues by three member companies. Apparently all or part of these departments no longer exist. He included a list of the Revolving Low Interest Loans and the payments made and not made. Regarding the non-payment of Dues, L. King said Hillside was gone last year, Armiger is no longer a fire department, and Harwood-Lothian is no longer a volunteer department.

BESSIE MARSHALL FUND Chair J. Thorne and Co Chair B. Radisch presented and discussed their attached report. Their lottery tickets have been sent to all member auxiliaries and fire departments. The first drawing was on 4 October and the next will be at the Fall Conference and Convention. Since the June convention they have received \$8,725.00 in lottery sales and have already paid out \$8,100.00 in cases. They have received responses from 77 fire companies and asked everyone to encourage their company to support this cause. Since 15 June 2003 they have received \$12,531.00 and paid out 10 cases. She included with their report, a brochure on the Bessie Marshall Fund. They still have Susan pins available.

ATTORNEY R. Powell and Curt Downey presented and discussed their written report. He said three By-Laws Change proposals have been received for the Foundation, and he asked the Executive Committee to review these and decide which are to be adopted. He discussed the Exempt Certification filing process (1023) that requires we submit our Charter and the By-Laws. He said the MBNA is still giving us returns as they just received the quarterly payment from them, This gives us about \$3000 per year. He said we get no marketing support from MBNA but we still receive checks. He received Katy Ferguson's files and Curt will review them. He has received a request from the Chaplain's Office for an opinion on the issue of confidential information received by Assistants not ordained. He will have that opinion for them soon. He received a contract from NEXTEL (renewal proposal) and discussed the highlights of it. The phones have not yet been received. The new contract has a renewal clause (the old one did not). Use and approval for the use of our logo is listed in the contract as it required our Attorney to review the uses of the logo before they can use it. They are giving us \$1500 with ads in the Trumpet, and they will have a presence for us to support. This contract is now exclusive (the old one was not). They will give us 15 phones at the convention and 7 to the officers. He said the contract looks ok, if we think we are getting enough. The renewal provisions usually have an increase, but we will work on that. He said that Odenton and Ellicott City are scheduled for settlement this week on their loan applications. W. Donaldson said R. Powell sent a letter to one of our vendors this past summer, that stiffed us of money (about \$1100 for space rented but not used). Roger said they received no response and he needs directions from the Executive Committee before he can go forward with this. He said we should go after our money. President Thompson presented R. Powell with his MSFA medal for his being awarded the Gladhill-Thompson Award in June 2003.

HOMELAND SECURITY Maryland Director Dennis Schrader discussed the Maryland Homeland Security Office and their objectives, actions and his staff. Governor Ehrlich has

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transferred the Homeland Security Office to his Staff because it is so important and he wanted to make sure the visibility was in his office. He wanted us to know the Governor is very focused on this office. Discussed the recent hurricane and the approach of the Office to include all hazards. He discussed the priorities of the Homeland Security as: 1) Make sure they have focus in the office and across state government. 2) They are organizing an Analysis and Organization Center in Calverton which is under the auspices of the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council, and President Thompson is a member of that Council. This group is led by the Assistant US Attorney and designed to bring together Federal, State and local officials to look at terrorism. 3) Having accountability and program oversight of the Federal money coming into the State. 4) They are in the process of shaping MEMA to support his office and it is regional in operation. 5) The Measurable Foundation Initiatives and Operability as: Senior leadership communications; State and local interoperability; and Streamline and improve their Advisory Groups (there were too many groups working on the same things). GMAC will be the Central Advisory Body around these different Advisory Groups. The American Terrorism Forum will be downgraded to come under the GMAC. Chair Alexander asked about the Regional Divisions? He said they have yet to be determined but they should be the five (north, south, east, west, and central) areas of the State. C. Moe asked about the Federal funding not reaching the local municipalities and First Responders in the State. The counties are using that money on other projects. He agreed. President Thompson complimented Dennis on his help and work, and he has been good to work with by the MSFA. We might not get all we ask for, but they do sit down and talk to us.

MISS FIRE PREVENTION Runner Up Jennifer Gardner presented and discussed her written report. She discussed the many events and fire department functions (1515 miles traveled) throughout the state since the June convention at Ocean City. She has been working with Sarah Blackowicz on their first Queen Seminar planned for 27 March 2004 at MFRI in College Park. They are inviting all of the girls that will be participating in the contest in June, so they can address their questions and concerns about the contest.

WAYS AND MEANS Chair Jonske presented and discussed his written report. He said they sold 64,585 Raffle Tickets for a total of \$53,821.00 giving the MSFA a profit of \$39,804.00. He listed the returns by county with Hartford County turning in \$11,437.00, the MSFA turned in \$4,190.00, and J. Mattingly was the highest sales person with \$2,500.00. He asked that each member of the MSFA sell (or buy) at least one ticket this year. If they did, we would exceed last year's sale. At this time they only have \$4,846.00 turned in. He discussed the different events they attended and sold tickets at this past year, and he said Harford County has challenged the other counties to match their sales this year. The members of the Executive Committee will take all tickets not yet handed out, back to the counties.

MFRI Director Edwards presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the MFRI FY2003 Program Statistics showing 1763 Emergency Service Programs and 34,714 students trained. This is the largest amount of students trained in the history of MFRI. He discussed the Capitol Improvement Projects saying the flammable liquids prop at Headquarters is being converted to propane gas simulation of flammable liquids. They have signed an agreement with

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High Temperature Linings (HTL) to retrofit the 3rd floor of the burn building at Headquarters with high temperature tile linings. The Terrorism Emergency Response Training Program has and is, conducting several local equipment specific classes. He said the IFSAC has approved the accreditation for the FFI and II, Fire Officer I and II, Fire Inspector I and II, and Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations and Technician programs. Maryland fire/rescue students can not receive both the NPQB and IFSAC certifications for the accreditation inspection visit. He said MFRI now has six new on-line distance education opportunities for the fall semester. They hope to have the EVOC on line sometime this year. They are working on this as well as the CDL license group with R. Steger. On 16/17 September 2003, MFRI hosted the ACE/CREDIT site team to review a total of 35 courses offered through the Institute. All reviewed courses were re-approved for a five year period. He discussed eleven new fire and rescue courses and three ALS courses that were reviewed this year. He listed the upcoming MFRI Seminars scheduled for the rest of the year. V.P. Sachs asked about MFRI making a profit (or not) on the charge for their Cadet courses taught throughout the state? S. Edwards said the rates we pay are half that of the regular rate for everyone else. He said the cost is \$20 for the instructor and this is only part of the cost to MFRI. Their rate is the same the University approved and is used for Federal contracts, In Field Programs the cost is zero, but in Special Programs it cost them the overhead cost.

TRAINING Chair D. Stevens presented and discussed his written report. The committee has two goals this year; to continue and finalize the State Fast Track Program for the Cadet Program, and the updating of the Ten Year Plan. The committee has met twice since the convention at Ocean City, and they have begun the process of updating the MSFA Ten Year Training Plan. He included with his report, a copy of the Ten Year Education and Training Plan for FY02-FY12, and he asked the Executive Committee to read the report and make comments back to the committee. Their next meeting is scheduled for 14 November at the Western Maryland Regional Training Center in Cresaptown. The committee continues to pursue the Statewide Cadet Program, and they met with the State Board of Education in August to answer questions about the program. They met with MFRI to answer questions on accreditations and instructor qualifications. Chairman Stevens has been working with the Calvert County Fire Service to get a program started there. D. Moonie asked about money in the Budget for the 10 Year Plan? Chair Stevens said for the publication of the Plan, he will check on this and report back. J. Long asked about credits for the students of the FFI, etc. classes. Dan said they are working on this and the result will probably be a county decision. D. Alexander asked about the MFRI Tech mission. Dan said with the loss of Bob Shimer, this has set them back, but they will get on it soon. They would like to do more with the Minimum Standards Committee to get it moving forward. They are open for suggestion. This also ties in with the CDL Committee.

FIRE MARSHAL Bill Barnard presented and discussed his written report. The OSFM presently has 12 vacancies and 7 are Deputy State Fire Marshal positions. They have begun the process of hiring as many Fire Marshals' as the Budget will allow. They are also seeking to fill 4 vacant Fire Safety Inspector positions, and 2 essential contractual positions. He reported with the passage of HB-193, the OSFM has initiated changes in their licensing and regulation procedures

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related to explosives. Effective 1 October 2003, the OSFM started conducting criminal record checks of those persons desiring to be licensed by the Agency to sell, possess, manufacture or use certain explosives in Maryland. He congratulated everyone for keeping the fire related death rate at 44 through 30 September 2003 in Maryland. He said that Montgomery County recently passed residential fire sprinkler legislation effective 15 October 2003. Installation in all new construction of single family homes in the county is effective 1 January 2004. Prince George's County and Washington D.C. have formed an Arson Task Force which consists of 10 federal, state and local agencies. The NASFM will be sponsoring a Juvenile Fire-Setters Conference in Maryland in February or March 2004. The NASFM has partnered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms – Fire Research Laboratory. They want to work closely with the fire service to ensure their research activities can better serve the entire fire service community. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has initiated a nationwide study involving home products and materials as to their affect on home fires. The OSFM has joined with PARADE to help improve the delivery of fire and life safety code enforcement nationwide. A conference is scheduled for 21-25 November 2003 at Emmitsburg. He thanked MSFA for their sponsorship of the 2003 Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference held on 30 September 2003. They have again partnered with the MDT with the "Change Your Clock – Change Your Battery" message on the overhead road signs in Maryland. This month they are co-sponsoring Fire Safety Days with local fire services and McDonalds Restaurant in Baltimore.

SHOCK TRAUMA J. Spearman and Brenda Fosler presented and discussed their written report. John discussed actions at the Trauma Center as: Patient Admissions of FY2004 vs 2003 (FY04 YTD of 1911 patients) and FY03 YTD of 2048 patients (variance of 137 patients); FY2004 Actual vs Budget; FY2004 vs FY2003 Beds occupied by month; FY2004 vs FY2003 OR cases; FY2002 – FY2004 Patient Diversions; FY04 September Admissions, Type of Admissions and Length of Stay in hours. Brenda said this is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and she discussed the Team formed to educate the Care Providers jointly with the University Of Maryland School Of Medicine. She discussed the program presented and the people involved. She discussed the Shock Trauma Education Programs and the Pre-Hospital Educational Activity for FY2004. The first quarter had 13 Tour Groups, ALS Skills Lab had 1 session with 13 EMS providers, and they did one Airway Lab over the summer. In the Observation Program, Paramedic students begin rotations in October, and they had 17 On-Site Clinical Programs. She discussed their partnership with MFRI and the Programs located and conducted throughout the state. These programs are designed to meet the educational requirements for all ALS providers, both Volunteer and Career. John said they have a connection with Cumberland Memorial Hospital where they do a Tele-Medicine Link of Continuing Education that is offered in Baltimore.

MIEMSS Dr. Bass presented and discussed his written report. He said that SB-479 (Legislative review of the EMS system, funding, fire funding, helicopter program, etc) is underway, and they have had two hearings on this to date. The Joint Legislative Committee first met in September, then again on 15 October, and the next meeting is scheduled for 19 November 2003. He discussed a 21 October 2003 hearing on Inter-Facility Helicopter Transports hosted by Public

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Safety, Transportation and Environmental sub-committee of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. Recent statistics indicate that in Maryland, 92% of the inter-facility helicopter transports are provided by commercial helicopter services and 8% are provided by the MSP Aviation Division.

He said the EMS Board and MIEMSS strongly support the MSP Aviation Division in their role as the primary provider of scene Medevac services in Maryland. The EMS Board is considering regulations for the licensure of specialty care transport ambulance services. He said the newest version of FRED (2.0) is nearing the final phases of development. The enhanced version will be much more flexible in the data points being collected, and allow regional as well as statewide alerts. It will also include test paging and the Resource Directory currently being managed by the Maryland Fire Chief's Association. As soon as this testing phase is complete, MIEMSS will prepare a training package and begin a round of "Train the Trainer" sessions. He said regarding HIPAA, the EMS Board has adopted (and published in the 5 September 2003 Maryland Register) quality assurance regulations permitting follow up communication between EMS providers and the trauma centers. They are expected to become effective in December 2003. MIEMSS continues to work with the stakeholders and partners to implement the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Health and Medical Response Plan. They just completed a Maryland Hospital survey with a 100% response rate. Preliminary analysis shows that, over all, disaster preparedness has not improved dramatically and has degraded in several important areas. There are 310 approved laypersons on the lay AED Program in Maryland with 664 AED sites. Yellow Alerts have been pretty quiet, but are still being monitored. MIEMSS continues to work with Washington County regarding EMAIS training. They will next move to an EMAIS pilot program in Cecil County. He said MIEMSS has delayed implementation of the Stroke Care system for Maryland. They have found a hospital committee that certifies hospitals called JAYCO who is piloting a process for this, so MIEMSS will look at that before any more action is taken. The Small Pox Vaccinations for emergency providers is still being worked on. On 29 August 2003, the Attorney General issued an opinion that it is likely that public safety personnel who receive smallpox vaccinations in order to perform their public safety functions, would be covered by Maryland's Worker Compensation Act. He said they appear to be backing off the concept of doing smallpox immunizations for everybody in the health and public safety community. They are rather more interested in limiting those immunizations to creating state and regional teams that would in time of need, go out and vaccinate all those who have exposure. This is based on the current perceived risk of a smallpox attack at this time. The Vaccination against influenza is recommended for all pre-hospital care providers due to the likely conditions of coming in contact with persons having the influenza.

EMS Chair Tome presented and discussed his written report. Their last meeting was held on 5 October at Water Witch VFC, and he discussed the highlights of that meeting as: MSP tail rotor recall (which is now over) the fleet up to full speed; MIEMSS Stroke Center designations; EMTALA Law modifications; Smallpox vaccine covered under Worker' Comp for volunteers; EMAIS with Washington County/Cecil County initial test jurisdictions; a new Refusal Form is multifaceted with copy for the patient/family and the draft is out for review now; CHATS – Alerts revisions – Entire policy to be overhauled by SEMSAC; SARS is expected to return; get

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flu shots and wear HEPPA filters; Acoustic monitor for brainwaves in head injuries and suspected CVA patients being tested by MSP Aviation and Baltimore City EMS; During Hurricane Isabel, main problems were radio communication interoperability and hospital evacuation logistics and decision criteria; Equipment Return Network Task Force will work on efficiency of EMS equipment return from referral centers; Designation of Stroke referral centers finalized in 2004 and implementation in 2005; one year grace period EMT-B recertification and no full test, just complete the 24 hour refresher; Protocol revisions are being finalized in October or November, and discussed the need for fiscal/logistical impacts early by local jurisdictions and MSFA. Also stressed the review process for draft by the field to help correct errors; ALS providers having standing orders to pronounce and stop CPR initiated by someone when obvious signs of death and the patient meets criteria for PDOA status; ALS/BLS response into other states as the first due company. MIEMSS Attorney's opinion is in order to run first due and primary responder into another state; you must hold individual provider licensure/certification with that state. This Mid-Atlantic agreement was effective in 1993, but further clarification will be pursued; Need to standardize criteria for designation of Paramedic Instructor credentialing as it is not the same throughout the state. Pink sheets are a jurisdiction for tracking the providers skills; The need for ALS Scholarship money up front for the students will be discussed with the Scholarship Committee; RAC Shock Trauma is researching a fibrin type bandage to assist with bleeding control; Need to educate legislators regarding the inclusion of Fire/Rescue and EMS when providing Grants and drafting legislation proposals; On-Line written exams for certification/licensure; Need for EMS providers to have a support network for guidance should they face disciplinary action; discussed EMS provider and EMS Officer certifications being available through the MFSPQB. The committee goals are:

1. Monitor EMSOF Task Force operations and protect the EMS funding, delivery and structure concerns.
2. EMT-B Refresher options and develop types of training. No more than 24 hours, but shift structure due to 18 hour skills for one cycle.
3. Scholarship Committee interface for paramedic education funding.
4. On-Line ALS exams for registry and State Licensure.
5. Legislative education on inclusion of EMS.

He included with his report, a list of the sub-committee members and their representation. Their next meeting is scheduled for 23 November 2003 at Liberty Road Volunteers.

MEMA Director Keldson had no written report. During the recent Hurricane they had to use the Emergency Management Assistance Compac with other states to assist in the water rescue events. He commended President Thompson for his assistance and manning of the emergency desk at MEMA during the Isabel disaster. MEMA learned just what assets were available in the state during the hurricane. He said they are in a reassessment and strategic planning stage and each local jurisdiction is involved in that process. They encourage any municipal leaders to touch base with them and make sure they are involved with their county's efforts. The Governor has provided funding for them to go 24-7 operation. This provides those means to react faster in situations calling for a state response to help out a local jurisdiction. They will be incorporating the Maryland Emergency Incident Reporting System for local jurisdictions reporting to MEMA

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regarding certain situations, Hazmat spills, fire requiring additional assets, and those kinds of issues. This information is consolidated and passed back to the local jurisdictions, so they know what is happening, not just in their area. The Governor has approved funding to improve the Emergency Alert System, the connection between the local emergency operations center, the Emergency Manager and the broadcasters to get the word out as soon as possible.

MSP AVIATION Major Lewis had no written report. He said SB-479 (Fire EMS Joint Study Bill) needs to be monitored as it takes into account all of the fire and EMS needs in Maryland. The helicopter tail rotor issue has been resolved and all MSP helicopters have been inspected and approved for unrestricted flight status. They are available for your department demos if called upon. They are adding an additional Aerial Rescue Team in the western part of the state. The Cumberland VFD is now signed on as an official partner, and they began training with them last week. He thanked the MSFA for their support with the MSP celebration of the 100,000 patient transports. The event was very successful with lots of media attention.

DNR Monte Mitchell presented and discussed his written report. He said DNR Forest Service responded to 109 wildfires so far this year. The fire burned 1131 acres of forest, marsh and fields which was broken into regions of the state. During the 2003 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant application period, 53 applications were received from 39 Volunteer Fire Departments in fourteen counties. 52 of the 53 applications were accepted (the one denied was for apparatus and therefore did not qualify). A total of \$127,581 is being distributed in this 50/50 matching Grant Program. The funds will be distributed after the proper documentation has been submitted (no later than 15 November 2003). He said Dry Hydrant applications were received from 21 Volunteer Fire Departments for 41 dry hydrant locations in 11 counties. Grant awards of \$44,900 were distributed to 19 departments for installation of 32 dry hydrants in 10 counties. The funds will be distributed on a 100% reimbursable basis for actual cost incurred by the fire department, up to the Grant award amount. Departments have until 5 March 2004 to complete the installations, and documentation must be submitted by 15 March 2004. Two additional dry hydrants have been installed as part of the Potomac Watershed Partnership project. Seventeen students completed the Basic Wildland FF S130/S190 training course. A S290 Intermediate Fire Behavior course is scheduled for next week in Dorchester County at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. He said that five and one half 20-person fire crews and fifteen individual resources from Maryland were dispatched to assist with the fire situation out west this year. The USDA Forest Service completed a review of the State Fire Management program in Maryland. They looked at current organization, staffing, and federal grants management. D. Moonie asked if these people on these crews are covered under the US Forest Service. He said they are Short-Term Hire Federal Employees and paid at the Federal AED rate and paid directly by the US Forest Service, and they are covered by the Federal Worker's Comp program. Don asked about the death benefit for these people, as he read they are not covered. Monte will check on this.

ARCHIVES and MUSEUM Chair Spiker and F. Underwood presented and discussed their written report. Frank reported the room is going through a complete rework. with new ceiling tile and room dividers. He was told by the Marriott Corporation that new carpet and wall covering

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will be installed over the Christmas holidays. They will clean out the room while the work is being done. New groups will be from each group associated with the MSFA (MFRI, Fire Chief's, Ladies, MSP, etc). John reported on their meeting of 24 August 2003 (13 members present). He said they need to change the Mission Statement as it now states "Ambulance Service" and needs to be changed to read "EMS". Chair Alexander asked them to take this to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. They want to get shelving to display items. He has given two boxes of History books to the Presidents for distribution, and two boxes to Laura Woods to sell. He received some pictures from R. Watkins for 2001 and he is getting more put together for him. Their next meeting is scheduled for 16 November 2003 at Orchid Beach VFC. L. King asked about the books he gave away. They were the 100th Anniversary books. Leonard said the ones sold are to sell for the full price of \$20 each. John said he apparently some books was sold for less than \$20.00. They said this was put on EBAY with no takers. C. Moe asked about scanning old records and putting them on a disk? He said this has been discussed. All records are now in a sprinkled building and in boxes.

MEMA FIRE SERVICE PERSONNEL Chair R. Steger presented and discussed his written report. He said the committee has not met, but was involved with the operations at MEMA Center during Hurricane Isabel. A meeting will be scheduled for November to discuss concerns that will allow them to better represent our fire, rescue and EMS services during an emergency. They are looking for more representatives from the fire service around the state to provide input with the operations, procedures and manning.

GEMAC & SERC R. Steger presented and discussed his written report. They have not had a meeting wince 5 June 2003. They had a meeting scheduled for September, but it was cancelled and not rescheduled. There may be a meeting in December. He said the GEMAC/SERC Committee has an important role in providing information relayed by our committees to MEMA with regard to the safety of our citizens and our responders.

CDL Chair R. Steger presented and discussed his written report. They have not had a meeting, but have been communicating by email and telephone with MVA, MFRI, Metro Chief's, and the Professional FF's of Maryland, on the draft regulations and operators card. The COMAR regulations were published in the Maryland Register on 22 August 2003. They have been forwarded to MDOT for final action, and should be published in the October 2003 issue of the Maryland Register, and become effective on 10 November 2003. They will be scheduling a meeting with MVA to discuss a plan to educate everyone on the procedures, records, training requirements and dates that affect this program. The MFRETC is discussing the training requirements that will be approved to meet the regulation on Emergency Vehicle Operator Courses. He has been asked who authorizes the card, and he can only say in his jurisdiction, it will be each one of the Fire Chief's. The committee and the MSFA feel that whoever has been authorizing the members to drive the apparatus, should be the same one that will do it for the new card. He submitted a draft of the Emergency Vehicle Operator's Card with his report. This card will be carried along with your driver's license. The card will show what class of vehicle (Class A or B) you are qualified to operate. R. Balta asked if the EVOC will still be required for

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those with CDL licenses to drive the apparatus. Roger did not have the definite answer (he thinks the answer is yes) but according to the regulation you will be required to have the EVOC card unless you are grandfathered because of your driving before the 1 October 2003.

PRESIDENT'S VEHICLE Chair Leftwich presented and discussed his written report. He said with the changes requested by President Thompson, the new vehicle will go to the incoming President instead of the new 2nd Vice President. They are preparing to get the advertisement ready for the sale of this year's vehicle. Pictures of the car have been taken and he will have flyers ready for distribution at the December Executive Committee meeting. They plan to do as last year and open bids on Sunday morning at Ocean City prior to the Executive Committee meeting.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND BOARD OF REVIEW Chair Moltrup presented and discussed his written report. The committee met on 12 October 2003 at Ewell VFC. The initial Fund balance for FY2004 is \$589,090.61 (includes a carryover from FY2003 of \$60,346.61) before approval of any applications. Two applications were presented at the meeting. Application 04-01 from Mt. Vernon VFC in Somerset County, for a grant of \$112,001.00 to complete the Sprinkler System installation in their new engine bays. The original project (still under construction) was funded with a combination grant from the Board of Review, a loan from the Low-Interest Loan Board, and a block grant obtained by the fire department. However, there was insufficient funding in FY03 to fund the completion of the Sprinkler System, and they were advised they could apply later for the additional money as a separate project. The additional funding is for a fire pump, tank, pump house, fire alarm system, re-circulating pump for the tank, plumbing and electrical work to tie it into the structure and the associated site work and foundations. The Board approved a grant of \$102,800.00 to Mt. Vernon VFC with a matching grant of \$5,000 to be procured from Somerset County. The \$5,000 matching grant required, however, was not approved by the County because they gave this to them last year and considered this the same project. The Board recommended we still go forward and approve this loan and submit it to the State. He said the Executive Committee might want to consider adding \$5,000 to the grant to make the loan for \$107,800, which would make up for the \$5,000 they had taken out in anticipation the county would make the grant to them. R. Yinger said the \$5,000 grant stipulation was put in there by the Governor not by the MSFA. W. Donaldson said if this stipulation is not in the law, it should be considered on a case by case basis. If the \$5,000 is a requirement, let the Board of Public Works tell us so after we send the application to them. Donald presented the second Application 04-02 from the Ewell VFC in Somerset County for a grant of \$19,000 for the purchase of 3,000 feet of large diameter hose and associated fittings. They have no hydrants and their only water source is from draft, and they need about 3,500 feet of hose to reach from the drafting location to any point in the community. It was also noted that a \$5,000 matching grant is required from Somerset County. They approved the grant of \$16,066 with the stipulation they obtain the \$5,000 grant from the county. The county, however, did not approve the grant saying that money is tight and they don't have it. Again the Board recommends the MSFA request the state rescind the current requirement for a \$5,000 matching grant. President Thompson said it is not in the law, but in the past the Board of

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Public Works did require the matching grant of \$5,000. The following motion was made by W. Donaldson and seconded by C. Abrecht:

MOTION: To approve the two recommended grants (except the \$5,000) for Application 04-01 for \$112,001 to the Mt. Vernon VFC and for Application 04-02 for \$21,066 to the Ewell VFC. The grants are to include the denial letters from Somerset County, and sent to the State Board of Public Works. After much discussion on the motion, the motion and second was withdrawn

The following motion was made by D. Moonie and seconded by D. Cox:

MOTION: To approve the grant (Application 04-01) to the Mt. Vernon VFC for \$102,800. After discussion, Motion was made by D. Cox and second by W. Donaldson to Table the motion. Motion to Table was approved by all.

AUDITING Chair J. Robison presented and discussed his written report. He said the records of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary offices were reviewed and the checking accounts, savings accounts, investments and bank statements were reconciled. All records were in good order and found to be accurately reported and recorded. There is a need for a Form 990 to be completed (in the past, the Independent Auditor has completed this task). The Audit allowed for the orderly transfer of all records and monies from Past Treasurer John Shuhart to Treasurer Eugene Curfman. The Auditing Committee made the following recommendations for the Financial Secretary, and he has agreed to them:

1. Add "Year to Date" column on Deposit XL Program.
2. Get Raffle Deposit slips & include with the Financial Secretary Report.
3. Loan Amortization Schedule for Low Interest Revolving Loans be sent to companies involved.
4. Include Categories on report.
5. Include calculator tape with deposit slips.

The committee also included with their report, the Financial Report that tracks the closing balances of the MSFA from 1998 to 2003.

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION L. King discussed the Memorial event at Emmitsburg. He said that 105 families were honored at the service. He thanked everyone (especially Margaret Gouty, Charlie Abrecht and Jacque Olsen) for their help and service for and at the Memorial Services.

BOARD OF REVIEW Chair Moltrup again discussed the applications for grants from Mt. Vernon VFC and Ewell VFC. He said the committee has just met and are ready to recommend to the Executive Committee approval for Application 04-01 to Mt. Vernon VFC for \$107,800 and Application 04-02 to Ewell VFC for \$21,066. The following motion was made by W. Donaldson and seconded by C. Stack as:

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MOTION: To take the previously Tabled Motion off the table. Motion approved by all. The motion made by D. Moonie and second by D. Cox was withdrawn

After discussion, the following motion was made by C. Abrecht and seconded by B. Kurtz:

MOTION: To approved the committee's recommendation to approve Grant Application 04-01 to Mt. Vernon VFC for \$107,800 and Grant Application 04-02 to Ewell VFC for \$21,066. Motion was approved by all.

MARKETING & INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP Chair Underwood presented his written report and discussed the committee's accomplishments since the meeting at Ocean City in June 2003. A status meeting was held at Arbutus VFD in August with the following results: a) Long & Foster will print out the cards and will send them with a package of benefits. b) A list of applications would be sent to Long & Foster for processing. c) A decision was made to start signing up the Ladies Auxiliary Members. The Committee approved placing the FF Advantage links to the MSFA website. The website was brought up, however, it is only linked to the Long & Foster Real Estate Insurance and the Dell Computer sites. A meeting was held on 22 October 2003 to discuss our dissatisfaction with Long & Foster on how they have handled our request to the above mentioned items. They have now been assured that Long & Foster will pay more attention to our growing concerns. They were given until our December meeting to produce for us, or we think we should tell them to "hit the road". R. Powell discussed a request by Long & Foster to sign a Partnership Agreement. He said it is against Federal law to do this as it is kickback (in exchange for business). It has therefore, not been signed (for that reason).

AWARDS Chair Graf had no written report but did present a color depiction of the many (9) MSFA Award medals and ribbons, and the cost of each. They discussed the medals/ribbons and said they will be ordering them. They now have an Order Form for a qualified person to fill out to obtain the medal and/or ribbon. They are taking orders now for the already awarded recipients. They will be handing out the medals and ribbons next year for the new recipients of the award at Ocean City. The tenth medal/ribbon not on the list is the one for the Past Presidents. President Thompson presented medals to D. Stevens and Ben Kurtz for the awards they received at Ocean City in June.

CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS Chair Skinner presented and discussed his written report. He said the By-Laws as amended at Ocean City in June 2003, were updated and delivered to the Secretary and the Chair of the Data Systems Committee on 27 June 2003. The committee met on 18 October 2003 at Sykesville- Freedom District VFC and the following items were acted upon:
1) Housekeeping needed in Sections 7, 8 and 9 of Article IV as a result of the amendments approved in June 2003. 2) There is a lack of consistency regarding reimbursement of expenses for Assistant Officers. To correct this, the Committee recommended the following:
a) "The Executive Committee shall establish an amount of reimbursement for an Assistant Officer as part of the appointment of the Assistant Officer". Or

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b) “The Officer who is requesting an Assistant Officer shall include an amount for reimbursement of expenses in their Annual Budget submittal”

c) Since these are a change in content, an Amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws would be required. 3) The Committee said Article I was due to expire in June 2004 unless action is taken. The Committee recommends to the EMS Committee and the Executive Committee, that this Article is made permanent. This will require an Amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 10 January 2004 in Cambridge.

DATA SYSTEMS Chair Snader had no written report. He said he has received almost nothing since June for the MSFA Website. He discussed what will be put on the website soon. The items for sale here will be put on the website soon for MSFA items. The Individual Membership logos are now on the website. He said they have been dealing with Dell and get a discount from them (on their off the shelf items). However, for something very special we can't get this discount from Dell. The discount is basically an employee discount. He discussed problems from our Server, and what he plans to do now is monitor our website and note the amount of time they are not available to us. He discussed documents being put on disks as storage and he told J. Spiker to poll his committee having computers, and he will buy the scanners for them to do that. It takes about 5 minutes per document. He will work with the committee to get this done.

CONVENTION & CONFERENCE Chair King presented and discussed his written report. He said the committee has all but completed all aspects of the 2003 Convention and Conference. Input has been received from all aspects in preparing the Agenda for the 2004 Convention and Conference. He discussed the most positive aspects of the 2003 Convention (Opening Ceremonies, Memorial Service and Reception, Food Vendor, Joint Installation of Officers, Beach Party, Picnic, Corporate Partnership Program, Use of the Control Center, Joint Awards Session, Educational and Training Sessions, Parade, Golf Tournament, and the food and catering service). The areas of most concern to everyone were the lack of attendance during the sessions, and the breaks in the main floor program. He said the audio portion of the Convention was no good again this year. The Steering Committee will meet soon to set the final time lines and dates for the various events (Basket Bingo, Parade, and Exhibits hours, etc). They are talking with President Thompson about the Officers Banquet and the possibility of bringing it back to the Convention Hall. The Corporate Partnerships Program brings in additional funding and participation, and provides the attendees with another look of the Convention and Conference. They receive greater recognition, free publicity, tremendous exposure, and get to meet the individual Convention attendees on a one-on-one basis. He gave the dates of the Convention and Conference for the next five years (12-18 June 2004, 18-24 June 2005, 17-23 June 2006, 16-22 June 2007, 14-20 June 2008). The Bank Card Machine is now working at the Convention Center. T. Mattingly (Program Book Committee) said they are about to start on the 2004 Book. He asked when your packet is received, please take out your Ad and send it with the COPY READY information as soon as possible. R. Watkins will take pictures at the February Executive Meeting so there will be no blank spots in the book. All committee Chairs and Officers are reminded to have their reports in as soon as possible, but absolutely no later than the April Executive Committee meeting. He asked if anyone has any suggestions for the Book; let him know as soon

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as possible. He said they do still need someone who lives in the area to solicit Ads in Ocean City, as they receive no Ads from Ocean City merchants. W. Donaldson (Exhibits Committee) has started to work on the 2004 exhibits. These packets will be going out to the perspective vendors by the first of 2004. Special exhibits pricing and spacing will be made available to member departments that wish to raffle cars, boats, etc. or sell their commemorative items. You must contact Wylie (don't go to the Convention Center people) as we rent the whole Center and everything must go thru the committee. L. King expressed his (our) appreciation to Mayor Mathias and the different people and facilities in Ocean City. and the cooperation and assistance from other services in the state from the Governor's Office, etc... Arrangement has been made at the new Grand Hotel and the Francis Scott Key on Rt 50, and some others. R. Snader said he is looking for people with digital video cameras. He wants to tape each of the Convention Seminars and put them on the website. He asks that interested people send their names to him.

FIRE LAWS BOOKS Chair Bilger presented his written report and discussed the committee meeting of 16 October 2003. They feel the function of the committee is to review legislation that affects the emergency services in Maryland, and review and update the content of the Fire Laws of Maryland Book to make sure it is current and up-to-date. They also feel the committee needs to identify and report on any new technology that can be beneficial to the MSFA and its member companies. The Goals of the committee were set as: a) they are trying to obtain copies of all current legislation concerning automatic sprinklers for single-family dwellings. They will be retained by the committee so the information can be shared with any company or jurisdiction that may be looking at their own ordinance. b) Track advances in Life Safety and Fire Suppression Technology and provide the information to this committee and its member companies. c) Monitor legislative activities in Annapolis to insure that any approved legislation that affects the Emergency Services in Maryland is placed in the next edition of the Fire Laws of Maryland Book. The committee asks the MSFA to consider printing the Fire Laws Book this year instead of waiting another year. The Public Safety Article took effect this month, and the committee feels the information is important and needs to be provided to the MSFA and its member companies. They also ask the MSFA to consider moving forward on developing a statewide automatic fire suppression sprinkler requirement for single family dwellings. The committee feels the time is right to get this passed in Annapolis. B. Kurtz said regarding the printing of the Book this year, is something to be looked at by the Budget Committee.

FIRE PREVENTION Chair B. Collins presented and discussed his written report. He discussed their meetings of 3 August 2003 at St. Leonard VFC and 19 October 2003 at District 16 VFD in Cumberland. They have given the information to R. Snader for the website. He discussed the six projects planned and their funding for the coming year. They are purchasing a Display Board (similar to the one used by the Safety Committee) and hope to have it displayed at the December Executive Committee meeting. Emmons Horner continues to distribute Hearing Impaired Smoke Alarms on the Eastern Shore. The Risk Watch Program has started in Charles County. Tom Collins discussed the Billboards and their locations. There are three on the Eastern Shore and at least one is planned in the North East region and in Southern Maryland. The cost of the signs depend on where they are displayed. They are going to the rural areas where they are needed and

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the cost is less than the metro areas. J. Spiker will have the Place Mats for distribution at the next committee meeting. B. Stone discussed the guidelines for the Fire Prevention Grant as the Federal guidelines have finally been put out. They are looking for a \$150,000 grant, but it is a matching grant and we must have 30 percent (\$45k) of the amount when it is received. The application period is open now until 14 November 2003. The application is from the MSFA so the 30 percent must also come from the MSFA. Chair Alexander said we should meet with other committees and see if we could find that 30 percent from them. The amount and the 30 percent can be less, if necessary. The next committee meeting will be on 15 February 2004 at Gamber VFD at 11:00 am.

HAZMAT Chair Ray's written was presented and discussed by R. Brooks. He discussed the success of the MSFA Hazmat Guidebook and thanked MFRI for their printing services and the MSFA for disseminating the guidebook in the Convention packs. They are planning to publish a regular newsletter dealing with Hazmat, terrorism and Homeland Security issues. Their goal is to have this newsletter placed on the web along with links to allow the visitor to research and obtain information on their own. They will also continue to monitor the training issues. MFRI is working to make the CD-based Hazmat Operations training a viable alternative to the lecture-based version. The responsibility of Homeland Security issues is the responsibility of R. Brooks and the WMD Sub-committee. He discussed Mass De-contamination (white powder, etc issues). which is an issue that we may have to be faced regarding type, location, etc. They are monitoring trends, training and funding issues, and will keep the membership current through the newsletter. Their next meeting will be in November with the time and location to be determined.

NEXTEL Mike Walker discussed finding a solution to public safety Radio Interference. He discussed Nextel, Public Safety, B/ILT and the Cellular carriers that share the 800 MHz band. He said high-site PS systems do not co-exist well with the low-site CMRS systems. He said that 10% of Public Service radio systems at 800 MHz have been affected by interference. He discussed a "Consensus Plan" before the FCC to resolve interference between 800 MHz commercial cellular systems and 800 MHz Public Safety systems. This plan realigns the 800 MHz spectrum to separate high-site, high-power uses from low-site, low-power use. Nextel will contribute up to \$850 million (fully fund the plan) to relocate affected Public Safety and private wireless licenses. He included a list of supporters on record supporting this Consensus Plan. He said they "believe the only effective solution lies in realignment of the 800 MHz spectrum". He asked the MSFA to support this Plan by writing the FCC and the law makers we make contact with, expressing our support of the Plan.

HONOR GUARD Chair Hawley presented and discussed his written report. He said they held their first meeting in August. A packet was given to each member in attendance that included several e-mails and a list of members, addresses and phone numbers. Their goals for this year are to improve the Honor Guard Competition at Ocean City in June, and to hold regular meetings. These goals are already being done by the committee. There are changes in the Registration Form (number of team members in competition, inspection points, casket watch and funeral detail. He discussed a safety issue regarding the current platform for the Funeral Detail as not

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being wide enough. This will be worked out at their next meeting The Team Leaders meeting this year at Ocean City; will be held at 0830 Sunday morning prior to the practice time for the teams. They are looking at holding a seminar for new Honor Guards that are not ready to compete. They plan to contact the web-master about getting the Honor Guard on the MSFA website. Next meeting of the committee will be on 8 November 2003 at the Montgomery County Safety Training Academy.

INCENTIVES PROGRAMS Chair Joan Robison presented and discussed her written report. She said there is no new activity with the LOSAP these past few months. On the Tax Incentive Program, a list of all of the qualifying members was sent to the MSFA Secretary as required by law. There was a total of 11,043 Volunteers qualified for the Subtraction in Tax Year 2002. This is an increase of 1350 over last year. She included with her report, a chart showing the qualifying members number of years of service and the corresponding number per county. She also included a chart showing the number of qualified members each year since 1996 for each county. The Length of Service required to be eligible for the subtraction, reduces to 36 months this Tax Year (2003). This will be the last reduction authorized by the current law.

LEGISLATIVE Chair Davis presented and discussed his written report. On 8 July 2003 the committee and MSFA Presidents met with Governor Ehrlich and several members of his staff. The Governor expressed his interest in the Right to Volunteer issue. He appeared to be willing to work with us during his term of office. The Committee met on 21 September 2003 at the Mt. Airy VFC. A request was made that when the Legislative Committee requests support for or against a Bill, a reason be given. President Thompson requested weekly updates be e-mailed to those who have e-mail addresses, or mailed to those that do not. Regarding the Gaming issue, those present expressed support of a certain percentage of the income going to the Senator Amos Fund. He discussed meeting of the Task Force on 17 September 2003, where two of our major funds (quick rise in the 508 funding, and the lack of accountability being the key areas) were attacked. Senator Pipken used the wording "Program expansions". Danny said the MSFA will be invited to appear before the Task Force to answer the concerns and questions raised by this hearing. They (the Presidents, J. Robison, P. Hurlock, C. Wills, and D. Davis) met with the Joint Legislative Task Force on 15 October 2003, and President Thompson presented our testimony. The issue of privatization of the Med-A-Vac helicopters was raised by Senator Pippin. He is definitely not one of our supports. The Annual Legislation Reception will be held on 2 February 2004. Invitations will be sent to the Senators and Delegates in December. In the past the reception was funded by Paul Fabiszak. With the passing of Paul, the Committee is requesting a supplement budget of \$1,000 to cover the cost of the reception. President Thompson and D. Cox are working several avenues to cover this cost. He said 17 State Circle office suffered no damage from Hurricane Isabel. It did, however, lose electricity for several days. They will be sending out a Fundraising Questionnaire to all member departments in November, and ask its return in December. The questionnaire will determine the status of fundraising in the state and the effects that neighboring state gambling has on our fundraising efforts. He discussed the attached point paper with his report. The Legislative Committee made and approved the following Resolution:

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That the Executive Committee authorizes the President, First Vice President, Second Vice president, and the Chairman of the Legislative Committee. to negotiate with the elected officials in Annapolis to secure 1% to 5% of the revenue generated by the legalizing of slot machines and/or casinos. By this Resolution, we would lean our support to the proposed legislation on gambling, if the MSFA is suitably compensated.

LOW INTEREST REVOLVING LOAN FUND Chair Joe Robison presented and discussed his written report. He said the Committee and Presidents attended the Joint Legislative Committee meeting in Annapolis on 15 October 2003, where it was confirmed that the MSFA Low Interest Revolving Loan Fund Committee will receive the \$6 Million, to loan out this year. He said the Committee Vice Chair is L. D'Camera, Secretary is D. Stevens, and J. McCrea was appointed the Legislative Representative in Annapolis. He said F. Cross is an integral part of this committee as the MSFA Financial Secretary. President Thompson replaced outgoing G. Curfman on the committee with Richard Baker Jr. He said, as authorized by the Executive Committee in Ocean City, they did reduce the interest rate charged to member companies, from 3% to 2%. This is effective 1 January 2004, and will also be granted for any company that already has a loan through this program after the same date. The committee is now accepting loan applications from all companies. Applications are available at the MSFA website or from their local representative. All loan applications must go through their local representatives who will review it for completeness and forward it to Secretary D. Stevens, who will duplicate it and send a copy to each member of the Committee. They must now be sent to the coordinator and D. Stevens by 8 November 2003. These applications will be acted on by the Committee and presented to the Executive Committee at their December 2003 meeting. Their next committee meeting is scheduled for 18 November 2003 in Laurel.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT Chair Joe Robison presented and discussed his written report. He said the Fire Grant Program has been moved from the U.S. Fire Administration, to the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP). The Volunteer Fire Community objected vigorously to this move. Although Maryland appears to have been slighted this year in Fire Grants, they still feel it is a very good program and MSFA members should continue to apply as soon as the program goes on line. Funding for FY 2004 will again be \$750 Million and for the first year, the current administrative practices will continue for the Fire Grant. Congressman Curt Weldon had the FY 2004 Defense Authorization Act amended to authorize the U.S. Fire Administration to award \$7.6 Billion over seven years in annual grants. This award is for the purpose of hiring, recruiting and retaining career and Volunteer firefighters, to help communities meet industry's minimum standards and retain 24-hour staffing. It is unknown if these funds will make it down to our level.

TRUSTEES – President Thompson said the candidates for the vacant Trustee's position will be interviewed tomorrow morning by the Executive Committee.

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ADJOURNMENT at 1606 hours. MEETING RECALLED TO ORDER at 0845 hours. OPENING PRAYER given by H. Hetz. He then led the group in the Pledge to the Flag. He reported the passing of the mother-in-law of Steve Hales. WELCOME to Cambridge given by Mayor Cleveland Rippons who apologized for not being here yesterday. President Thompson introduced the following Past Presidents – R. Dempsey (80-81), C. Riley (83-84), L. King (85-86), C. Carpenter (86-87), J. Robison (89-90), P. Hurlock (93-94), R. Yinger (94-95), F. Cross (95-96), S. Cox (96-97), D. Davis (97-98), R. Knippenburg (98-99), R. Steger (00-01). He also introduced the other guests in attendance.

CONNECTIV Dick Werk discussed and applauded the efforts of the MSFA and its members during the Hurricane Isabel storm. He discussed the havoc of the storm and the challenges met by Connectiv as well as the MSFA and its members. He discussed electrical problems in the storm and said they never take circuits out of service unless they feel it is a hazard to the public. On behalf of Connectiv, he thanked the MSFA.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY Chair Alexander presented and discussed his written report. He said the committee met on 15 September 2003 at the Mt. Airy VFC. He said their goals for this year are “Awareness and Practice”. They plan to place a Rural Water Supply reminder tip in each issue of the Trumpet. They will help any requests for information on rural water supply apparatus, procedures, equipment, or installations. They will also work with the Training, Safety, and Grants Committee to get the word out on anything applying to rural water supply. They discussed preparations for the 28 September 2003 rural water supply relay in Carroll County. The drill is open to all companies in Maryland and has been posted on the website (this drill has now taken place). The committee has been asked to assist in 2004, with a Rural Water Supply Symposium in Baltimore. The committee’s next meeting is scheduled for 2 December 2003.

WATERCRAFT – Chair Ludwig presented and discussed his written report. He said their goals are the completion of standards proposed last year, and surveying water rescue resources statewide. The committee met on 23 August 2003 at the Junior VFC in Frederick. They are developing the survey instrument for mailing it to all member companies and affiliated organizations. They are seeking additional assistance with this project and asked anyone interested to contact him. He plans to contact the Standards Committee to follow up on the status of the standards for the watercraft proposed in June 2003.

The following motion was made by C. Moe and seconded by C. Stack:

MOTION – To adjourn this meeting long enough for the Executive Committee to interview the candidates applying for the vacancy left by Bob Shimer on the Board of Trustees. Motion was approved by all.

ADJOURNMENT – of meeting at 0900 hours. MEETING recalled to order by Chair Alexander at 0920 hours.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Chair Alexander stated the two candidates for the vacancy on the Board of Trustees were Bob Knippenburg and Jason Baer. Both candidates have been interviewed, and as a result, the following motion was made by G. Blanco and seconded by C. Stack as:

MOTION: To fill the vacancy made by Bob Shimer on the Board of Trustees, with Bob Knippenburg, to serve until the 2004 MSFA Convention. Motion was approved by all.

The position is now filled by Bob Knippenburg who was installed on the Board of Trustees and B. Press was installed on the Parliamentarian Committee, by Past President R. Steger

PUBLIC RELATIONS & BULLETIN Chair Watkins presented and discussed his written report. The latest edition of the Trumpet has been mailed after a delay made by Hurricane Isabel. The next issue should be delivered the first week in December, and he needs items to be submitted by 10 November 2003. The goals of the committee this year are to get a quality newsletter out to our members and to cover many of the events that our companies are involved in. There have been comments regarding recent photos and those taken during some of the Past Presidents time in office, and they are working on these. They still need a mailing list from the Individual Membership Committee. He wants to know if the Data Processing Committee is working on the pictures for the 2004 Convention Book, or is he supposed to take care of this as in the past?

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION Chair Goodloe presented and discussed her written report. She said they met on 25 September 2003 at MIEMSS in Baltimore. One of their goals this year is to develop a Manual to provide information on how to deal with the media to promote recruitment of volunteers, how to develop and improve the recruitment websites, and how to welcome and encourage new members. Once the manual is developed, they will put it on the MSFA website. The manual will be the basis for their workshop for the 2004 MSFA Convention. They have secured the 1-800-FIRE-LINE promotion video featuring Governor Ehrlich. Copies will be made available for members for their own areas. They are going to redo the message on the 800 Line and do plan to continue to use it for a while yet. They are still planning to work with State Highway for putting up signs (promoting the 1-800-FIRE-LINE) along the different roads in Maryland. They had no takers in the past and are now designing their own signs and will again contact State Highway for their help. They will then monitor the effects of the signs thru the 800 line. They are pursuing the Recruitment & Retention Award this year and the Kensington VFD would like to sponsor the award. They are now working on a formal request to present to the MSFA Awards Committee. They are planning for a simple Application and Questionnaire to assist members in applying for the award. Their next meeting is scheduled for 25 November 2003, place to be determined. B. Wagner discussed the Fire Line and where to put it so it can be monitored 24 hours a day. D. Cox and L. Sachs said it was already approved to have the line transferred to the Secretary's phone and is being worked on now by the Secretary.

RESCUE Chair R. Knippenburg presented and discussed his written report. He said the committee met on 14 October 2003 at Williamsport A&RC. He discussed the goals of the

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committee and said their prime mission should be to further study and collect information from all fire, rescue, EMS departments in Maryland, as well as data from MIEMSS, MFRI and MEMA, to ensure that a comprehensive data base of resources exists. This information should be easily updated and stored at a convenient location for use during situations where an incident has escalated beyond local capabilities. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 13 January 2004 at Williamsport.

SAFETY Chair J. Olsen presented and discussed her written report. The committee met on 17 August at Anne Arundel County and 19 October 2003 in Frederick County. The committee will meet the third Sunday of each month at 10:00 am (with the exception of December and April). The committee has come up with four topics they plan to promote, develop and distribute a safety message to all member companies. The Topics are: Location and handling of air bag safety restraints; Proper use of Chainsaws and Rescue Tools; Power Line Safety (working with SMECO to display the consequences of improper safety procedures around power lines); and promoting the SMART class conducted by MFRI. They will continue to promote awareness of the dangers involved with Hybrid Vehicles, highway incident safety, heart attacks among our members, continue to display safety topics at meetings and generate the message of Safety First to our volunteer fire, rescue and EMS personnel. She said they have been meeting with the Statistical Committee regarding a survey of Heart Attacks in the Line of Duty and making contact with hepatitis on calls. These two questions will be put on the MSFA questionnaire.

SCHOLARSHIP Chair R. Siarnicki presented and discussed his written report. He reported on the recommendation to bestow the title of Chairman Emeritus of the Scholarship Committee to Bill Olsen for the many years he has provided to the Committee. The following motion was made by D. Cox and seconded by W. Donaldson:

MOTION: To grant the title of Chairman Emeritus of the Scholarship Committee to William Olsen for his many years of service to this committee. Motion approved by all

Ron reported the next meeting of the committee will be on 13 November 2003 at the College Park Fire Station at 1900 hours. He said all of the Bills have been taken care of relating to the University of Maryland (Baltimore campus) and Warwick Community College. They have forwarded payment requests of \$10,500 in payments to the MSFA Treasurer. They have been reaching out to Corporate Sponsors that supply scholarships in addition to our own, and they will be doing request letters to make sure we have enough funds to cover all of the scholarship requests received. They will meet with the Marketing Committee to advertise the Scholarship Program, and possibly put some articles in the Trumpet.

STANDARDS Chair Huttenloch presented and discussed his written report. The committee inspected the new Dentsville Volunteer EMS/Auxiliary Station on 17 October 2003. They have met all of the requirements as far as the standards go. They recommend they be admitted to the MSFA as a Regular Member. The state has inspected their ambulance and they received a seal of excellence for the unit. He said the NFPA Technical Committee Report Sessions will be held on

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19 November 2003 in Reno. One of the workshops is “Special Operations Protective Clothing and Equipment” and “Marine Firefighting Vessels”, and “Technical Rescue”. He said all of these reports should be reviewed by the committee. He has not been able to check on these Standards and/or Changes because the annual renewal has not yet been done. He presented the renewal paperwork to the Treasurer for his action. He included with his report, a copy of the Minimum Standards for Marine Units. They have not received any comments or requests for changes, so he would like to present these for a By-Laws addition to the Standards for Marine Vessels. He said the fire departments do not have a standard for lights on a fire-boat. They will recommend an Amber Light Strobe for the Fire-Boat and hopefully also get this enacted as a state law too. He discussed the Memorial Service at the MSFA Convention and they would like to give an American Flag for Line of Duty Death to the family, with the name and date. If a Past President dies give a Maryland Flag to the family.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR Chair Gatton presented and discussed his written report. He said the committee has not met since June. They plan a meeting in December to review the package they sent to the departments last year. They had a good response last year but they feel it should have been more and hope for more this year. The committee asks the officers and Executive Committee to promote the different awards as they travel around the state. He presented the Firefighter of the Year Chairman Emeritus plaque and jacket to Mickey Harris. for the many hours and years he gave to the Committee and the MSFA. Mickey thanked everyone for this honor.

STATISTICAL Chair Gilroy presented and discussed his written report. He said the committee is still trying to obtain the reports from several member companies for Calendar Year 2002. There are still many companies outstanding in this response. To date they have received 247 reports of the 368 member companies for a 67% return. The Form is still on the website for the companies to use to submit their reports electronically. He said as of today, Prince George’s County is 100 percent. Hooray, now Seven Companies are 100 percent complete. He said they have been tasked by President Thompson with the maintenance of the FRED data base for apparatus and equipment. This requires more work by the committee and they will contact the Data Systems Application Team for help to incorporate this into their present data applications. He asks help from anyone to get the delinquent companies to fill out the forms and turn them in.

GRANTS Chair Stone presented her written report but did not discuss it. The report stated that Maryland Fire Departments have received a total of \$2,274,426 as of 23 October 2003. She listed the names of the departments, the category of the Grant, and the amount of each grant.

SURPLUS PROPERTY Chair Massey presented and discussed his written report. The committee met on 4 October 2003 at the DNR Forestry Office in Cedarville. He said the vehicles that were frozen are not able to obtain due to the lack of transportation. Hoby Howell suggested he is given ample notice; he may be able to obtain a rollback to pick up these vehicles. Once they are picked up, they have to be returned to Cedarville to be processed. They have some surplus booster tanks for any department looking into building a brush truck. They also have two

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portable pumps available. He discussed the Trailer and the maintenance it needs. The Savage VFD will be picking up one of the 3kw generators about 29 October 2003. They have obtained shelving material from the warehouse, but it needs to be assembled, and they need nuts and bolts for the job. He said State Farm has 14 desks available at their Clinton Office.

TRANSPORTATION Chair Flint presented and discussed his written report. The committee met in September at Sudlersville VFD and decided to send all delinquent companies a letter giving them a date, as well consequences that could occur if information and fees were not received. This was done with over 100 letters sent out with a copy to the County Coordinator assigned to each. As a result of these efforts, they now have only 34 companies still outstanding. The fees collected and remitted to the Treasurer to date are \$33,682.00. This figure is down from the recertification of 1998, due largely to departments going to their own license plates. He included with his report, a list of the delinquent companies, and a list of the new County Coordinators. He said two Coordinators have been replaced as they had not done anything and moved out of the county without notifying the committee. The committee asked for guidance for the remaining companies still outstanding. They would like to maybe cancel those companies convention privileges (parade, etc) until they are caught up. They still have the problems with individuals still having the black and white tags. Some of the Companies just don't care and aren't interested. The Committee has gone to MVA to have the tags flagged, but they will not pull the tags, but will not sell them renewal tags. L. King suggested asking one of the delinquent names on the list to be the department coordinator for that department. D. Cox asked each member of the Executive Committee to take the list and as they travel around the state, try to get with the departments that have delinquent members, to work on the problem. C. Moe said some departments will not come around and we need to somehow send out a signal. F. Underwood said we need some kind of punishment for those who will not cooperate. The following motion was made by C. Moe and seconded by C. Stack:

MOTION: To authorize the MSFA Transportation Committee have the Black and White tags flagged by MVA as they attempt to be renewed. Motion was approved by all.

NVFC Chairman Bill Stittleburg and Asst. Craig Sharman discussed the NVFC, its background and their legislative actions. They gave four handouts of sample legislation to the Executive Committee (1- Form for a listing a legislative Bill with a list of Findings to be made; 2- Short membership manual to enable them to play an active, aggressive role in educating Congress of fire service issues; 3- NVFC Update on Two-Hatter Issue; 4- NVFC Legislative Priorities for the 108th Congress). W. Donaldson asked how the union people can incite their people to action where the volunteer does not seem to have that luxury. Why can't we have a national group that would meet nationally to have our voice hear and to work out the problems that confront the volunteer. Stittleburg said the problem is the diversity of the fire service nationwide. It is very difficult to mobilize the states to get anything done. In Maryland it is critical, but in many states it is in its infancy and people do not recognize it. Another problem is that many of the State Associations that belong to the NVFC are a combination of both paid and volunteer members. He said it is very hard to get 800,000 people (Firefighters) interested in an issue. The vast

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majority is only interested in their department, and only a few are actually interested in the issues. D. Cox asked why the NVFC can't help the departments in their Recruitment and Retention of volunteer members. Stittleburg said they are doing a number of things now to be more proactive (instead of reactive) and send out letters to each of the 49 states asking they take these legislative examples to their departments and legislative delegates of their state. V.P. Sachs asked what the NVFC actually does for the MSFA and its members to make it worth our while to remain a member of the NVFC. P. Sterling said the biggest problem facing us today is the Two-Hatter which does not help, but rather is killing us. The NVFC appears to be taking no aggressive action against this problem. He answered the push for volunteerism is not easy to accomplish across the country. The Safer Bill (Bill to provide federal funds to hire 75,000 career firefighters) is a career Bill that helps the paid side only. He said they have been successful in getting language put in that Bill that requires some of the money be dedicated to Recruitment and Retention for volunteers. He discussed the monies they have obtained for the MSFA and the \$400 we spend on dues to the NVFC. He asked don't we get our \$400 worth from the NVFC? It was pointed out we spend a lot more than the \$400 in TAD and transportation expenses to attend the meetings of the NVFC. He discussed several ways the NVFC got monies back to the NVFC through safety, etc projects. He discussed the Fire Act which has paid large dollars back to the fire service, including 57 % of which goes to Volunteer Fire departments via grants. They also set the priorities of the Fire Act and decide what will be funded each year. Sharman said the Safer Bill includes language to protect the firefighter's right to volunteer if hired by way of the grants of the Fire Act. President Thompson said the NVFC still does not mention legislation for the right to volunteer other than through certain grants. The problem is here and is getting worse. It is spreading throughout the Maryland and the other states as well. We need to keep the right to volunteer or shortly we will no longer exist. He said that career people should not be sitting on the NVFC Board as they now do. W. Donaldson said the Two Hatter issue is spreading and it is getting help to do so. We need an organization at the national level to fight it and get the correct information to the Grass Roots people before all at once we are stuck with heavy tax Bills to pay for the career people because the volunteer is gone. VP Sachs said there is a big lack of understanding here, as not being allowed to volunteer if you want to also be a union member. We are asking the NVFC to help us and attack this issue, and not fight us. Stittleburg said they feel that their legislation does address our desires. If it does not, they will be glad to redraft it so it does say so. P. Sterling said we hear the promises, but nothing is happening and the problem is getting worse. C. Moe asked where the NVFC will be in five years. Stittleburg said they see a more limited time for people to volunteer as the many others outside interests to the individual is growing at a very fast rate, and there will be more ways to occupy the individual's time. The NVFC will take the lead in taking advantage of the people who cannot volunteer in the fire service, and educating the members to think outside the box. C. Moe said the NVFC is not thinking like a volunteer organization. There are a lot of things the NVFC could be (and should be) doing for the volunteer. R. Steger discussed the injuries of the career and volunteers regarding the NVFC Newsletter he received which does not address the issue. Injuries occur more to the off duty career firefighter who does not volunteer, than the one who does. We need something that says the Federal Government grants a lot of the money to the IAFF. The wording needs to be changed from the Federal Government on down to show if the Federal money is

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received, wording should be included to say the Firefighter also has the right to volunteer. The NVFC said the IAFF is a private organization and cannot be told what language to use with regard to their By-Laws, etc. Chief Jim Seavey (President Eastern Division IAFC) said the NVFC is here today because of the past inactivity of the NVFC and the two hat issue. He said the NVFC said the IAFC have done nothing, but rather they have done 10 times more than the NVFC. Something should have been done 5 years ago when this all started. Stittleburg said he write a letter to the IAFF and IAFC asking to work with both organizations. He said the IAFC is financially more able to fight this problem, than does the NVFC. President Thompson thanked the NVFC for their attendance here today, but said we still have an uphill battle to fight.

FIRE PREVENTION QUEEN Miss Fire Prevention Sarah Blackowicz presented and discussed her written report. She reported on the many events (32) and mileage (2146 miles) and performed 306 hours of community service, since June at Ocean City. President Thompson thanked Sarah for the many hours they have put into our fire service functions. She mentioned her upcoming events and said they are planning a first Queen Workshop on 27 March 2004 at MFRI. There will be two, one hour seminars presented. Everyone asked to call her if you have a function. They can only do what we asked them to do.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS SYSTEM BOARD/9-1-1 P.Hurlock presented and discussed his written report. He said the Board has met in Executive Session and a General Session, as well as e-mails and phone calls regarding issues and concerns of the Board. House Bill 780 (Emergency Telephone System – Wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 Service) was passed by the Legislature, signed by the Governor on 22 May, and enacted on 1 October 2003. This Bill alters the membership of the Board; increases the fee of the 9-1-1 Service on the state fee from 10 to 25 cents per month and increases the maximum monthly charge that can be assessed by a county, from 50 to 75 cents, and establishes guidelines and a plan to implement wireless enhanced service. House Bill 780 will also change the membership of the Board by two (increases to fifteen members and adds a member that represents the MD Chapter of the National Emergency Numbers Association and the General public). The Board currently has vacancies in the MSP, Telephone Company, Career Fire Service, and a certain percentage of the population. During their meeting on 23 October 2003, County Projects were approved for Hartford (phone system and mapping), Montgomery (phone system), Kent (phone system and mapping), Calvert (emergency generator) and Queen Anne's (mapping) Counties. Several other projects are waiting funding. On 17 September 2003 the Board recognized one employee from each 9-1-1 Center. Kent, Somerset, and Worcester did not participate. He said he will not be seeking re-appointment to the Board in June 2004.

MEMORIAL Chair Mooney presented and discussed his written report. He showed a drawing of the Memorial and the modification made to it. The brick company is sending forms so we can supply the data for the bricks. They will be setting a deadline soon for the first group of bricks. Anyone still wanting a brick had better apply very soon. They will have information next meeting on the 8x8 brick that will sell for \$500. They are still planning on a dedication in the spring of 2005. The signs announcing the construction of the Memorial will be erected this coming Wednesday morning. They still need about \$200,000 more to reach their goal. The

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biggest area they are lacking in now is corporations. If anyone has any contacts in a corporate company, please contact the committee. The next committee meeting is scheduled for 6 November 2003 at Anne Arundel Heights in Millersville at 1900 hours.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND - F. Cross presented and discussed his written report on the status of the loans. He presented a list of those departments current (and not current) with their loan payments. Letters have now been sent to those three departments that are behind in their payments advising them of same. He said they send out the letters because they are the ones that receive the monies.

BUDGET & REVIEW Chair Kesner presented and discussed his written report. The committee met on 24 October 2003 to discuss items that are the foundation of the committee as: 1) developed a revised Budget Request Form and asked the Executive Committee to approve it for immediate use for budget adjustments for the 2004 fiscal year, and initial requests for 2005. If approved, the Budget Request Form and directions will be handed out at the December 2003 meeting to all Chairs to be filled out and returned by 31 March 2004. 2) A new budget format has been adopted with the 2004 Budget has been converted to the new form. This form will allow improved viewing of the accounts and the amounts approved. 3) A Budget Report has been developed that will be updated prior to each Executive Committee meeting to provide committees with an up to date analysis of their expenditures and the balance (if any) remaining. The Executive committee asked to receive this (by e-mail) a week before the meeting, and was told yes it will be done. He said two budget requests have already been submitted as: 1) Legislative Committee submitted a request on 14 September 2003 for \$1,000 to cover costs associated with the Annual Legislative Reception in Annapolis. This expense has been financed previously by a private individual, who is now deceased. The request will be further reviewed and presented at the next meeting. The committee recommended they move \$1,000 from the NVFC account to cover this item. 2) The Standards Committee submitted a request on 23 October 2003 for \$895.50 for the annual subscription to the NFPA National Fire Codes. This amount was inadvertently omitted from the committee's original request. The committee felt since the Fire Codes are located in each county and the Fire Marshal's Office, as well as in most departments, this item be stricken and this request be denied. 3) The Fire Prevention Committee for \$45,000 for a matching grant. They have \$27,000 in State Appropriations for the Fire Prevention and after talking to the Safety Committee, they will take \$10,000 from the Safety Committee for this year, contingent on the approval of the grant if the grant does not go through, the funds will stay as they are now. The following motion was made by P. Sterling and seconded by C. Stack:

MOTION: To authorize the transfer of \$1,000 from the NVFC account to the Legislative Committee for the 2004 Legislation Reception. Motion was approved by all.

The following motion was made by C. Moe and seconded by B. Kurtz:

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MOTION: To authorize the transfer of \$10,000 from the Safety Committee account to the Fire Prevention account contingent on the acceptance of the Grant applied for by the committee. Motion was approved by all.

The following motion was made by C. Moe and seconded by W. Donaldson:

MOTION: To deny the request for \$895.50 for the NFPA Fire Codes and have the committee follows up on the further review of the payment. Motion was approved by all.

President Thompson thanked C. Stack and the ladies for the great hospitality and food this weekend, and presented them with \$1418. He also thanked the American Legion for their hospitality this weekend.

FIVE YEAR PLANNING Committee Chair Dulina presented and discussed his written report. The committee met in Laurel on 27 September 2003 to review the proposed reorganization of the MSFA that came out of the Retreat on 18 & 19 July 2003 at St. Mary's College in St. Mary's County. He gave a power point presentation on the MSFA Retreat and discussed the Objective (to improve local service to our members), Concerns, How (modify the organization of the MSFA), Proposed Organization (President, 1st V.P., 2nd V.P., seven Regional V.P.'s and seven Appointed Representatives), Organizational Chart (seven regions), Benefits, Timeline, Development Team Timeline (finalized with vote in June 2004) and the names of the Development Team. D. Cox and W. Donaldson said it is up to the Executive Committee to sell this concept to the membership. W. Donaldson asked about seniority of the elected V.P. and appointed Representative? The present intent is they are equal but the elected one speaks for the region. D. Moonie asked about the development committee and who writes the job descriptions, rules, election process, etc? The Development Team will be the responsible body to make those determinations. The Five Year Planning Committee would oversee the plan and come back with their recommendations. President Thompson explained the reason he recommended this concept be seriously considered. It is for the better continuity for the organization. He said we are big business, a multimillion dollar a year corporation with the money we manage for the state. He asked the Executive Committee to approve the concept today so it can be taken out on the road toward a positive vote next June. L. Gilroy asked about the costs, materials, etc analysis for the V.P.'s? He asked if a cost analysis should be done before we vote on this concept. L. King asked about the number of regions in the state. This concept would add just two more members to the Executive Committee. President Thompson said we should have less travel expenses as we will have representatives all over the state who have a shorter distance to travel. D. Moonie asked if the timetable is too fast, and why do we appoint some and elect others? D. Cox said this gives the region the power to elect one representative and the President also has the power to appoint one for each region. It gives a better representation back to the counties. After much discussion on how the concept would work, the following motion was made by D. Moonie and seconded by C. Abrecht:

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MOTION: To approve and proceed with the reorganization concept of the MSFA as recommended by the Five Year Planning Committee. Motion was approved by all.

D. Cox said the membership needs to be made aware of what is being done with this new concept. The website will be used to get this message to the membership.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY M. Goodloe, M. Harris, R. Watkins and Chief Seavey gave a power point presentation on their objection to Montgomery County Bill 3603 that pertains to the fire and rescue service reorganization in Montgomery County. It concerns the partnership of the fire departments and the local government. They want to take away the Fire Administration and have the Fire and Rescue Commission the body that makes the policies and procedures. They want to put the Fire Administrator in a position to develop and implement the fire service procedures. (training, dispatch, response, and every issue that comes up before the county), will have the say so. The Chief of Division of Fire and Rescue Service will be the operation authority over all personnel in Montgomery County (including the local Fire and Rescue Departments) and the Chief of Division of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service will be the Administrative authority over those departments for day to day operations. They are going from the District Chief concept to the Battalion Chief concept. They now have a policy for the transfer of non-emergency apparatus, that if a department owns its own apparatus, they are under no obligation to have that apparatus moved to another department unless they do desire to do so. Under the new legislation, whether it is owned, purchased, paid for by the local fire and rescue department, with no tax monies whatsoever, or if it is county government, it will be moved automatically at the will of the Chief of the Division of Fire and Rescue Services. There is now going to be a new Division of Fire and Rescue Operations and this Chief will be the Chief of Montgomery County. They are also redoing the LOSAP thru a new study. After three and one half years all that was recommended was not done. They have now offered an agreement that is really a contract that specifies what, where, when, and how you are supposed to do everything. If you do not sign the agreement you cannot provide service to your community. If you do sign the contract, you are liable for every one of the agreements including the right of the Fire Administrator to come in and take our own buildings and apparatus and equipment if he thinks we have violated any part of that contract. They are asking the MSFA to support the fight against the proposals made by the County Council of Montgomery County to change their Fire and Rescue Service.. A public hearing is scheduled for 13 November 2003 and they ask President Thompson to attend this meeting. President Thompson said this is a union driven Bill. The following motion was made by D. Mooney and seconded by P. Sterling:

MOTION: To authorize President Thompson to pursue any avenue he may deem necessary to support this group to defeat the fire and EMS services proposal by Montgomery County. Motion was approved by all.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Chair C. Riley welcomed B. Knippenburg to the Board. He said they have met and chose their new officers as: Chairman C. Riley, Vice Chairman C. Carpenter, and Secretary P. Hurlock.

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MFRETC S. Cox asked for support for him in filling the chair left vacant with the death of B. Shimer. He said he has talked to the Vice Chair (Mike Clemens) who said he did not want to move up to Chairman. The members voiced their support of Steve to the Chair position. After discussion, the following motion was made by B. Kurtz and seconded by C. Stack:

MOTION: To support Steve Cox to fill the vacancy left by B. Shimer, as the Chairman of the MFRETC. Discussion: President Thompson said we need to talk to more people to see if any other interest does exist in this position. A motion to Table this motion, was made by P. Sterling. There was no second made, so the motion died. **Original motion was approved by all.**

ACTION ITEMS: The following motion was made by D. Mooney and seconded by C. Abrecht:

MOTION: To appoint John Long as a Chaplain of the MSFA. Motion was approved by all,

The following motion was made by C. Abrecht and seconded by C. Stack:

MOTION: To approve the application of the Dentsville EMS for Active Membership in the MSFA. Motion was approved by all.

The following motion was made by W. Donaldson and seconded by C. Abrecht:

MOTION: To have our Attorney proceed to take action to collect owed money (\$1100) from a vendor who did not pay for his reserved space at the 2003 MSFA Convention. Motion was approved by all.

The following motion to Table was made by C. Moe and seconded by D. Cox:

MOTION: To approve the Tabling of the proposed MSFA Foundation By-Laws proposals. The motion to Table was approved by all.

The following motion was made by D. Moonie and seconded by W. Donaldson:

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the committee to continue issuing the new vehicle to the President (until the reorganization proposal made by the Five Year Planning Committee is placed into effect). Motion was approved by all.

NEXTEL Endorsement proposal to support their Consensus Plan to move the frequency. President Thompson said this is a public safety issue. R. Steger said they do back the legislation to provide two more spectrums to public safety, and to allow better 800 radio reception not interfered by cellular phone use. Chief Seavey discussed the interference issue and the plan to move public safety down to 700 MHz. The cellular phone companies would fund the modification of the radios for the safety cluster. The following motion was made by C. Abrecht and seconded by D. Mooney:

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MOTION: To support the Consensus Plan proposed by Nextel. Motion was approved by majority vote (one no vote).

LEGISLATION ON GAMING issue discussed by President Thompson. to work out some kind of agreement that we get some of the dedicated funds from the slots or gambling revenue to go towards the Fire Service. It would be distributed by this body to ALL of the fire service. We want this but do not want to tie it to the Senator Amos Fund. The Executive Committee agreed a motion is not needed to allow the President and the Legislative Committee pursue obtaining part of the Gambling Funds in Maryland.

NVFC Membership – The following motion was made by P. Sterling and seconded by G. Blanco:

MOTION: That the MSFA terminate our membership with the NVFC and the MSFA President is directed to: a) Notify the NVFC of this action in writing, highlighting the reason. b) Notify in writing, neighboring and other state volunteer fire service organizations of this action. c) Issue a press release announcing MSFA resignation from the NVFC. Motion was approved by all.

NFPA FIRE CODES – C. Moe discussed the recommended denial to pay the NFPA \$895.50 Bill for the Fire Codes. B. Huttenloch said the Standards Committee needs and uses the Fire Codes as part of their work. Chair Alexander referred this back to the Budget and Review Committee for their action.

The following motion was made by C. Stack and seconded by C. Abrecht:

MOTION: To accept and approve the Marine Standards as presented. Motion was approved by all. A copy will be sent to the By-Laws Committee.

NEXTEL AGREEMENT: D. Cox discussed the Nextel Agreement between Nextel and the MSFA regarding the benefits we are to receive from them. It is the authorization for us to receive these benefits. The following motion was made by D. Cox and seconded by C. Abrecht:

MOTION: To approve and authorize the President to sign the Nextel Agreement as presented. Motion was approved by all.

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CHAPLAIN OFFICE: John Long was sworn in as a MSFA Chaplain by R. Steger.

There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1600 hours with a benediction by Chaplain Long.

Respectfully Submitted

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

MOTION SUMMARY

MOTION: To authorize John Shuhart to make a donation for his previously used equipment. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To approve the two recommended grants (except the \$5,000) for Application 04-01 for \$112,001 to the Mt. Vernon VFC and for Application 04-02 for \$21,066 to the Ewell VFC. The grants are to include the denial letters from Somerset County, and sent to the State Board of Public Works. Motion withdrawn.

MOTION: To approve the grant (Application 04-01) to the Mt. Vernon VFC for \$102,800. Motion to table was approved by all.

MOTION: To take the previously tabled motion off the table. Motion approved.

MOTION: To approve the committee's recommendation to approve Grant Application 04-01 to Mt. Vernon VFC for \$107,800 and Grant Application 04-02 to Ewell VFC for \$21,066. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To adjourn this meeting long enough for the Executive Committee to interview the candidates applying for the vacancy left by Bob Shimer on the Board of Trustees. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To fill the vacancy made by Bob Shimer on the Board of Trustees, with Bob Knippenburg, to serve until the 2004 MSFA Convention. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To grant the title of Chairman Emeritus of the Scholarship Committee to William Olson for his many years of service to this committee. Motion approved by all.

MOTION: To authorize the MSFA Transportation Committee have the black and white tags flagged by MVA as they attempt to be renewed. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To authorize the transfer of \$1,000 from the NVFC account to the Legislative Committee for the 2004 Legislation Reception. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To authorize the transfer of \$10,000 from the Safety Committee account to the Fire Prevention account contingent on the acceptance of the grant applied for by the committee.

MOTION: To deny the request for \$895.50 for the NFPA Fire Codes and have the committee follow up on the further review of the payment. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To approve and proceed with the reorganization concept of the MSFA as recommended by the Five Year Planning Committee. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To authorize President Thompson to pursue any avenue he may deem necessary to support this group to defeat the fire and EMS services proposal by Montgomery County. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To support Steve Cox to fill the vacancy left by B. Shimer, as the Chairman of the MFRETC. President Thompson said we need to talk to more people to see if any other interest does exist in this position. A motion to table this motion, was made, but no second made. Original motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To appoint John Long as a Chaplain of the MSFA. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To approve the application of the Dentsville EMS for Active Membership in the MSFA. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To have our attorney proceed to take action to collect owed money (\$1,100) from a vendor who did not pay for his reserved space at the 2003 MSFA Convention. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To approve the tabling of the proposed MSFA Foundation By-Laws proposals. The motion to table was approved by all.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the committee to continue issuing the new vehicle to the President (until the reorganization proposal made by the Five Year Planning Committee is placed into effect). Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To support the Consensus Plan proposed by Nextel. Motion was approved by majority vote with one no vote.

MOTION: That the MSFA terminate our membership with the NVFC and the MSFA President be directed to: a0 Notify the NVFC of this action in writing, highlighting the reason, b0 Notify in writing, neighboring and other state volunteer fire service organizations of this action, c) Issue a press release announcing MSFA resignation from the NVFC. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To accept and approve the Marine Standards as presented. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION: To approve and authorize the President to sign the NEXTEL Agreement as presented. Motion was approved by all.