

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 10-11, 2007
Huntingtown, Maryland

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|---|----|
| President | 1 | Memorial Committee | 11 |
| First Vice President | 2 | MEMA Fire Service Personnel Group | 11 |
| Second Vice President | 2 | Honor Guard Committee | 12 |
| Secretary | 3 | NFFF | 12 |
| Financial Secretary | 3 | MEMA | 12 |
| Treasurer | 3 | MSP Aviation | 13 |
| Chaplain | 4 | Incentives Programs Committee | 13 |
| Trustees | 4 | Legislative Committee | 13 |
| Miss Fire Prevention | 5 | Federal Legislative Oversight Committee | 13 |
| Bessie Marshall Fund | 5 | Audit Committee | 14 |
| Attorney | 5 | Volunteer Company Assistance Board | 14 |
| MFRI | 5 | Firefighter of the Year Committee | 14 |
| Training Committee | 5 | Red Light Committee | 14 |
| MIEMSS | 6 | Volunteer Trumpet Committee | 14 |
| EMS Committee | 6 | President's Vehicle Committee | 14 |
| State Fire Marshal | 7 | Inventory Committee | 15 |
| State Fire Prevention Commission | 7 | Recruitment & Retention Committee | 15 |
| HAZMAT Committee | 7 | Residential Sprinklers Committee | 15 |
| Convention Committee | 7 | Rural Water Supply Committee | 15 |
| Risk Management Committee | 8 | Safety Committee | 15 |
| Water Craft Committee | 8 | Scholarship Committee | 16 |
| MSP | 8 | 17 State Circle Committee | 16 |
| Data Systems Committee | 8 | Special Activities Committee | 16 |
| Grants Committee | 8 | State Audit Group | 16 |
| DNR | 8 | Management Assistant Review Group | 16 |
| Shock Trauma | 9 | Standards/NFPA Committee | 17 |
| Awards Committee | 9 | NVFC | 17 |
| Budget Committee | 9 | Surplus Property Committee | 17 |
| Constitution and By Laws Committee | 9 | Transportation Committee | 17 |
| Eastern Division IAFC | 10 | Ways and Means Committee | 17 |
| Fire Laws Books Committee | 11 | Gun Raffle | 18 |
| Fire Prevention Committee | 11 | Action Items | 18 |
| Planning Committee | 11 | Minutes Summary | 19 |
| Historical and Archives Committee | 11 | | |

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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The Executive Committee Meeting was called to order by President Paul R. "Bobby" Balta, Jr., at 0900 hours. President Balta welcomed everyone and called upon Parliamentarian Richard Brooks who asked for the opportunity to introduce his life long friend, President Skip Farrell of the Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department, who in turn welcomed everyone to Huntingtown. President Jeff Williams of the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association also welcomed everyone. The opening prayer was offered by Chaplain Jackson, who also led the pledge to the flag. Vice President Underwood introduced the following Past Presidents who were in attendance: L. King (85-86); C. Carpenter (86-87); T. Mattingly (90-91); B. Smith (91-92); P. Hurlock (93-94); R. Yinger (94-95); F. Cross (95-96); D. Davis (97-98); R. Steger (00-01); G. Worthington (02-03); T. Thompson (03-04); R. Jacobs (04-05); and L. Sachs (05-06). Ladies Auxiliary President P. Deamond was introduced along with other guests in attendance. President Balta turned the meeting over to Executive Committee Chair Doyle Cox who started with the reports.

PRESIDENT BALTA – President Balta presented and discussed his written report. He expressed his sympathies to the families of LODD Edward Wilburn (Deep Creek VFD), Margaret King (wife of Secretary L. King), PP Bill Fleshman, and Austin Smith (Oxford). He reported that the three Presidents continue to attend the ATAC Executive and Planning meetings. He discussed the Safe Cigarette Legislation that is rolling thru the legislature at a rapid pace. There is a lot happening at the National Heritage Center, but there are still a few steps to be taken to get the Emmitsburg Ambulance building. Once this is done, they can help in getting the facility renovated for the combined Museum and Fire History Repository. C. Jewell and W. Powell are working on this now. He said the MSFA needs a major transfusion to continue without bouncing funding from one account to another in order to cover our expenses. He thanked the Executive Committee for their action in getting the new MSFA website started. He said the new Trumpet is one we can be proud of and he thanked A. Reamy and her staff in getting it back on the street. On 4 December 2006 the MSFA Presidents, Secretary, and Legislative Committee chairs met with Governor Elect O'Malley's staff to get acquainted and discuss our areas of interest for the MSFA and the Governor. The staff was very receptive to our requests and promised an open door policy with the MSFA. They will also schedule a meeting with the Governor after he is settled in his office. The Audit of the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund is now complete, and they have met with the Department of Public Works and MEMA to satisfy the requirements set down by the auditors. An email received from Sheila McDonald informed us that the loan applications approved by the Executive Committee will be reviewed at the BPW meeting on 14 February 2007. He attended a community meeting in Kent County (at their request) concerning a problem with a local newspaper causing delays in the construction of their new towers. He also sent a letter to the Department of Public Works expressing our support of the construction of the emergency service communication towers. He discussed the Fire Caucus meeting on 30 January 2007, attended by our Presidents and the Legislative Committee, to discuss our priorities for this year. The MSP was also there to give their status of the MSP Helicopter Replacement Program. Delegate Morhaim (Baltimore County) expressed his desire to replace MSP Aviation with a private system. President Balta said we need to have our members call, write letters, or fax their representatives with our concerns and desires, in order to get this done. He also asked the Executive Committee to carry this message back to their respective jurisdictions. He discussed the Legislative Reception this year, and said it only lacked the attendance of the new Governor. He thanked the 17 State Circle ladies (R. Davis, and S. Worthington) for organizing the event and providing the snacks. He also thanked D. Cox and the Carroll County members for providing refreshments. He

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes February 10-11, 2007 – Page 2

discussed his meeting with Colonel Hutchins on 7 February 2007 and D. Stevens gave a pitch for bringing the Deputy Fire Marshals into pay parity with their counterparts in other jurisdictions. R. Steger discussed getting the statute changed to conform with NFPA on the use of amber and green lights. Col. Hutchins has no problem with the lights issue, but said we have to be careful when dealing with the pay issue.

V.P. STERLING – Presented and discussed his written report. He also expressed his condolences with the recent loss of our fellow members and family members. He discussed the meeting on 4 January with the Governor's staff and the request to the Governor-elect to maintain our current level of state funding for the Trustees, Volunteer Company Assistance, Senator William Amoss and appropriation accounts. Thus far, the Governor has recommended funding in his Budget for each of these accounts at last years level. The MSFA will host a booth again this year at the Summer Conference of the Maryland Association of Counties in Ocean City. Our theme and emphasis will be on Residential Sprinklers and possibly Carbon Monoxide detectors. He thanked the Fire Marshal for inviting the MSFA to the Media Advisory on 31 January in Landover, where he announced the 18% decline in fire deaths since 2005. He said the priorities of the MSFA in Annapolis include maintaining our current level of state funding in all accounts, the support of SB701 (Public Safety use of Appropriations), the support of SB361 (Cigarette Safety and Fire Fighter Protection Act), and support of HB17 Public School Construction – Funding – Video Lottery Terminals (5% of the proceeds from this fund dedicated to the Senator W. Amoss Grant Funding). He said that HB125 proposes the creation of a State Task Force to take an in depth look at statewide charitable gaming. Contact has been made with Delegate Cardin and Delegate Kaiser to see if we can have a Task Force to Study Charitable and Commercial Gaming Activities in Maryland, and also secure a seat for the MSFA on this Task Force. Delegate Cardin said he would support our request. A meeting is pending with Delegate Kaiser. He said increasing MSFA Revenue in the future, needs to be our top priority in the coming months. He said the Fire Prevention Committee will not be receiving a Fire Acts Grant this year. It appears there was no follow-up after the 24 October 2006 meeting with the Grants Office, and the Grant request was never submitted. Hopefully we can submit for a Grant in September 2007. On 5 December 2006 the MSFA leadership met with Treasurer Siarnicki regarding concerns over the low cash flow in the MSFA General Fund. It was agreed to try and get the use of the State Appropriations Funds expanded, (that is now proposed in SB701). Additionally, it was agreed the MSFA should adopt a single Billing system and the Financial Secretary will be responsible for all Billing and collection of monies due to the MSFA. He discussed the pilot project being administered by the Federal Government regarding credentialing (Federal ID cards for Mutual Aid Firefighter response). It was reported that Volunteers would not be permitted to participate in this project and that photo ID's would not be issued to volunteers. He said we have been in contact with IAFC-VCOS, and the NVFC and other organizations and partners to voice our outrage. While there has not been any final resolution, they feel it will be resolved in our favor. He asked every Executive Committee member and officer to submit at least one name for each award this year. He discussed the three car collision he was involved in on 2 January with the MSFA vehicle. A vehicle ran a red light and hit him and another vehicle. He said there was approximately \$10,000 damage to the MSFA car and our insurance company has been notified with all appropriate reports filed. He thanked L. King for his assistance. He thanked the many Departments for their invitations and hospitality shown him around the state. He and VP Underwood are in the process of forming committee appointments for the 2007-2008 year.

VP UNDERWOOD – Presented and discussed his written report. He expressed his condolences with the recent loss of our fellow members and family members. He thanked the Legislative Committee and office staff for their long hours at 17 State Circle and the State House. He said our priorities are still Fire Safe Cigarettes, Sprinklers, Hearing Impaired Smoke Detectors, and changing the wording in our funding. He

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

February 10-11, 2007 – Page 3

said we are also watching the Slot Bills with hope of getting our 5%. We are also supporting other Agencies with their Bills (including the MSP Helicopter Replacement Program, and the Fire Marshal's Office with their pay parity. He discussed the issue with the back up of patients in the Emergency Rooms across the state. He said the problem stems from the Insurance Companies to the Doctors themselves. Our job is to deliver, not wait.

SECRETARY – L. King presented and discussed his written report. He has been working with Data Systems to get his computer back up with a new computer. Everyone is advised to have a good anti-virus program on your computer. He said the minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting have been transcribed, distributed and posted on the website. All official correspondence has been properly received and the appropriate actions taken. A mass mailing was made covering the Annual Dues Notice, Annual Credential Forms, Memorial Forms, and notices of all awards and their closing dates for the convention and other items. Another mailing will be made around the end of March. He reminded everyone to return the Credentials Form to the Secretary's Office, the Annual Dues payment to Financial Secretary Fred Cross, and the Memorial Forms to Chaplain Hetz. He encouraged everyone to urge their own departments to submit a nomination for at least one of the awards being offered this year. The required Application Forms can be downloaded from the website. Registration for the 2007 Convention and Conference will start on Sunday morning (17 June) again by computer. Balloting will be on Tuesday morning (19 June) starting at 0800 hours. They will again be using the scan-tron machines for this year's voting. Assistant Secretary J. Cooper will be in charge of the registration and balloting process. Departments that will be celebrating anniversaries (25, 50, 75, and 100 years), along with other special occasions, and individual special recognition awards should be brought to the attention of one of the President's or the Secretary's Office. He reported that the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association has applied for Associate Membership with the MSFA. The application will be acted on later during this meeting. He reminded each MSFA officer, committee chair, and organization representative that they need to send their reports to the Secretary electronically in a timely manner so that the Officers and Executive Committee can have time to review them prior to the meetings. If you have additional information not in your submitted report, please bring 15 additional copies of your revised report to the meeting. President Balta and Chair D. Cox have requested that each Committee and Organization make a report to the Executive Committee.

Leonard and his family thanked the entire Emergency Services family for their outpouring of sympathy and total support to him and his family since May, and especially since Margaret's passing. Margaret loved to work for the Emergency Services events and organizations. Leonard thanked his Assistant Secretaries and other individuals for their continued fine assistance and many services provided for the betterment of the MSFA.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - F. Cross presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the dues and said it will be put on the website. R. Snader is going to set him up with the capability of putting the late Dues Notice on the Broadcast and that way everyone gets a copy of it. He discussed the Revolving Loan Fund, and said everyone's loan payments are current as of today. He said that Barton Hose Company has paid three checks, but the Assistant Financial Secretary has no contract so she does not know exactly what the checks are for. The Attorney will get it to her ASAP. He said Laurel VRS made one payment to us, and then they were paying MEMA, and as of last Friday, we now have another check from them. He said we don't know what to do with it, but will get it worked out. He received a letter from Lineboro saying they made an interest payment of \$1,150, plus their payment for their low interest loan. They now want us to resend it, but they will get it worked out.

TREASURER - R. Siarnicki presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the MSFA Financial Status Report (Balance Sheet and the Profits and Loss) itemized to date. It shows a significant drop in our current assets from the November report. He stressed again the need to find a new way to get

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10-11, 2007 – Page 4

additional revenue to the MSFA. They are working on one credit card issue with the transfer from the old bank to the new bank accounts. He said the swipe card machine account has been transferred to the new bank. He has the one bank account still open from the old system (Fidelity Bank). It cannot be closed until all of the credit cards are transferred to the new bank account. He also discussed the interest collected to date on the Low Interest Loans. L. Sachs and J. Lau asked about the interest on the accounts and can we keep the interest (or do they?). Lee said the interest is supposed to stay in the Fund, but we don't get it directly, we do need to get that legislation clarified. The Audit Review was discussed by Ron and said their recommendations are helping our book work. They have not yet had their review with the Audit Committee. He discussed the Inventory that is being turned in by those with outstanding items belonging to the MSFA.

The new address for the Treasurers Office is Ronald J. Siarnicki, Treasurer MSFA; 2151 Priest Bridge Drive, Suite 25, Crofton, Maryland 21114. The Class Codes in the Budget will be redone per the requirements of the Quick Books.

D. Cox discussed the incoming checks and how long they take to clear the bank. Ron said all deposits go thru the Financial Secretary, but they can only be deposited when they are received by the Financial Secretary.

CHAPLAIN – J. Long presented and discussed his written report. They have been busy visiting the ill or hospitalized and conducting or attending funerals for members and their family. He attended the NFFF class L.A.S.T that is conducted to organize and train personnel from each state on how to handle a Line of Duty Death (LODD). Those that attended the class, will be developing a plan to put together a team to assist Maryland Companies in the event of LODD. He discussed the Memorial Service for the convention and their status to date. He reminded everyone they need the Convention Memorial forms and pictures ASAP.

TRUSTEES – Chair S. Hales reported a LODD since our last meeting, from Deep Creek VFD. The Committee is restructuring their present Procedurals Guide. The manual will reflect the increase in the funding they issue to the beneficiaries. This was approved today by the Trustees. He discussed the Trustee's Budget and this year's Budget did not include any additional funding. They want to continue providing additional benefits to our people. He asked that they be included (G. Worthington or S. Hales) in any consultation with the Governor's Office to consider an ongoing increase in funding. Next year they plan to ask for a Budget that was recommended to them at about \$1,000. He said the committee has approved increasing the Disability Recipient benefit from \$400 to \$500 per month, and the dependent child benefit from \$275 to \$300 per month. This change will be shown in the new manual. He discussed the injury claim for Brenda Shrou, who has now gone back to work (as of 1 January 2007). They are still waiting for the paperwork from Deep Creek VFD, but it is slow coming. When they get the paperwork, they will see that the claim is approved and the claim gets to the proper recipient. The committee discussed the proposed By-Law change about the Trustees pertaining to Districts from Western Maryland. The general consensus of the Trustees is they do not support this change. They feel the Trustees do now represent the entire State.

Executive Committee Chair D. Cox discussed actions taken by the Executive Committee regarding the electronic polls taken for actions needed in a timely manner, and could not wait for the scheduled meeting.

1 – Authorization to purchase the new President's Car from Hertrich Ford, in Delaware for \$21,337.00 on a state contract.

2 - Authorization for the MSFA Treasurer to return all Volunteer Company Assistance Funds that have been collected to MEMA as requested by BPW Executive Secretary Sheila McDonald.

3 – Authorization for the MSFA to enter into a contract with Firehouse Solutions as the primary host of the MSFA website.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10-11, 2007 – Page 5

After no further discussion, the following motion was made by D. Alexander and seconded by L. Sachs:

MOTION – To concur with and approve the actions stated above regarding the Presidents Car, the Website, and Low Interest Loan Funds. Motion was approved by all.

MISS FIRE PREVENTION – Erin Drumheller discussed their many activities since the last Executive Committee meeting. They are still putting their Miss Fire Prevention workshop together for the convention and conference. She reminded everyone she is available for open houses, parades, and other events, just let them know.

BESSIE MARSHALL FUND – P. Deamond presented and discussed the report from N. Ryan. N. Ryan thanked everyone for their cards, thoughts and prayers during her surgery and recovery. She reported they have paid 12 more cases since the last Executive Committee meeting, making a total of 37 cases paid to date.

ATTORNEY – R. Powell and M. Farlow had no written report, but discussed their activities since the last Executive meeting. He discussed the Credit Card status and said we are down \$320 for 2006 compared to previous years. The Chaplains Manual was reviewed by him and noted it was well done. He discussed the issue of Billing and said he was asked to draft a procedure for billing. This has been done and sent to the President. He also made drafts on Misconduct, and a Crisis Team for emergencies that might arise, and they have been sent to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. He has met on many occasions over the Volunteer Assistance Fund Group and BPW Sheila McDonald, and has drafted with P.P. Sachs, some information for the President to give to Delegate Conway. This has been done. Now Delegate Conway can work on corrective legislation. Since 2003 there was a wholesale combination of the Emergency Assistance Trust Fund and the Low Interest Loan Fund. A lot of the sections in the Loan Fund were discarded and other sections were used which created problems with the administration of the Funds for us, and we have been working to get that corrected. There have been no settlements since the last Executive meeting as everything is on hold. He said Fire House Solutions is our new website host, and he has reviewed the paperwork on that and the signed contract will be turned over to them (Mr. Raley) today. We still have the law suit pending against the woman that owes us money wrongfully received, and she was served papers last month (January). He still has a problem as to where she really lives. He will meet with the Trustees today to finalize the revision of the Trustees Manual.

MFRI – P. Marlett presented and discussed the written MFRI report for S. Edwards. He said they have six (6) seminars scheduled throughout the state using a training program developed by the Dept of Homeland Security Office of Grants and Training. He discussed the success of the High School Cadet Program that now has over 200 students registered this year. John Hogle retired from the State Government on 31 January 2007, but he will be working part time for MFRI. The Maryland Chief Officers Seminar will be conducted on 3-4 March 2007 at the University at Shady Grove Center in Rockville. The MFRI National Fire Service Staff and Command Course will be conducted on 21-28 March 2007 at the Clarion Hotel In Ocean City. He discussed the upcoming Seminars throughout the state.

TRAINING – JJ Lynott's written report was received and he reported the committee is still in the process of holding Regional meetings to update the Ten Year Training Plan. He asked for all inputs to the Plan be forwarded to him as soon as possible.

D. Stevens discussed the High School Cadet Program and its success to date. Recruitment, however, is still the major problem with any program. We need to look at our program and do something to increase the number of our recruits around the state. They are also very active with the Advisory Committee. He discussed the success of the Cadet Program in St. Mary's County. They are moving ahead with plans for a Fire Station at the Tech Center and the Diesel program is rebuilding the Pumper donated by Bay District VFD. They also have a commitment for a donation of an Ambulance. The committee has begun dialogue

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes February 10-11, 2007 – Page 6

with an individual in Garrett County and will try to meet with them on 16 February 2007. He said they stand ready to help any group or organization in any way to get this program started your area. He reported that he has been invited, and accepted a spot on the National Conference in Charlotte North Carolina next month to speak about the High School Cadet Programs.

MIEMSS - Dr. Bass presented and discussed his written report. He was asked about HB1048 (Department changes and Transfer of MIEMSS to DHMH) which is still new to them. The Basic Life Support Committee is preparing to deliver the EMT-Basic Instructor Skills Session (focus on spinal immobilization) throughout February and March 2007. The National Registry started computer testing on 1 January 2007. The Pass rate seems to be about the same as with the old written test. The regulation regarding lay-person AED's went into effect on 15 December 2006. He said Burn Patients under 15 years of age are transported to Johns Hopkins Pediatric Burn Center at the Childrens Center on 600 Wolfe Street. The Adult Burn Patients should continue to be transported to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. Under Health General (Article 19-3A) DHMH will be licensing freestanding emergency medical facilities. He said FICEMS is designed to bring the various federal agencies that deal in some fashion with EMS, together to ensure coordination of activities. There will be a National EMS Advisory Council formed to advise FICEMS. C. Wills is interested in this program and Dr. Bass said he will endorse him for the position on the Advisory. Dr. Bass will be the only non-federal person serving on the FICEMS. The Yellow Alerts increased during the holidays, but have since decreased for the time being. It has been a relatively mild flu season this time. He discussed the issue of over crowding Emergency Rooms and the various causes of the backups. Hospitals are trying to alleviate the problem in many different ways. Currently there are 746 approved layperson AED facilities in Maryland with a total of 1862 sites. During the last session of the General Assembly, a law was passed that requires all High Schools in Maryland to have AED's and individuals trained in CPR/AED use. MIEMSS has a Bill to amend their AED statute to strengthen the liability protection for facilities users and physicians that provide oversight. He discussed SB718 (To look at occupational HIV exposure when patients refuse to consent to blood testing) They have a pilot underway to collect information and see how they can move forward in the future and keep getting accurate documentation to identify the solutions to the problem. The consultant report on the Helicopters should be out soon. EMAIS continues to grow in the state. They are looking for a coordinator for EMAIS (MIEMSS employee) to help service the interface between the field and EMAIS. He said the EPINS are looking to expand the implementation of EPINS (Electronic Provider Identification Number System). The nursing home guidelines are thru the present and will start being used for training. They have begun verifying Stroke Centers, and hope to have this completed within the next twelve months. EMS Week 2007 is 20-26 May 2007. He included applications for the Star of Life Award with his report. L. Sachs asked about a level about the same as the old CRT? Dr. Bass said there are still 268 (181 are in the City) old CRT's in Maryland. He said they are still working on this and there will be an Advanced EMT coming out in the near future. J. Seavey said the Germantown Emergency Care Center has been a good arrangement, but it has become so popular that the population has put a strain on the local Ambulance Departments. The volume was obviously more than anticipated. Dr. Bass agreed this could happen and if it does become burdensome, then the Freestanding must make sure those patients are transported in an expeditiously way.

EMS – C. Wills presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the first segment of the on-going project to update Maryland's cadre of EMS Instructors with skills development. The Skills Document will be unveiled during a series of EMT-B Instructor Skills Workshops. The Workshops are designed to promote consistency in the method by which skills are taught by personnel across the state. At the completion of the workshop, instructors will receive a CD with a series of skill sheets and detailed photographs, depicting most commonly accepted methods (not just one) for performing the skills. He included the dates of the Workshops presently scheduled across the state. He discussed the National

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10-11, 2007 – Page 7

EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) and asked for a letter of endorsement for his desired position on the Council. The next EMS Committee meeting will be 18 (or 25) March at 1300. After discussion, the following motion was made by D. Alexander, seconded by J. Lau:

MOTION - To support the nomination of C. Wills for a seat on the National EMS Advisory Council. Motion was approved by all.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL – B. Barnard presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the progress of Residential Sprinklers in Maryland and included with his report a full listing of communities with fire sprinkler requirements for one and two family dwellings. The new State Fire Prevention Code (NFP-1 and 101) went into effect on 1 January 2007. He reported the fire deaths in Maryland went down to a record low of 60 deaths for 2006. He discussed The Cigarette Safety Performance Standard (SB361) and asked everyone to call their legislators and express your concern with the Safe Cigarette Bill. They are also endorsing a Bill requiring Carbon Monoxide Alarms. He said the MFIRS web based data input program is finished testing and has been moved to production and is ready for use. He said HB785 is a companion Bill to SB361.

STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION – R. Brooks had no written report. He discussed the status of the Commission and some of their accomplishments this past year. He discussed the Fee Schedule that affects the Fire Marshal's Office and the local municipalities. He thanked that sub-committee for working out those fees. He said the Commission meets this week (Thursday). The Safe Cigarette is a big issue with the Commission and they are pushing its legislation.

HAZMAT – R. Brooks had no written report. They have had no meetings since the last MSFA meeting. He discussed HazMat responses that are mostly a career dominated field in this state. This is why we should keep a hand in this area. He discussed the Terrorism Sub-Committee and the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 18 came out this week and discussed medical consequences that will be watched closely. It will probably create a section under Homeland Security to create a medical side to look at such items as Push Packs, etc. He discussed the Russian Spy Case that is something to keep an eye on. Europeans look at Terrorism different than we do, it is all radiological to them. He discussed the (HB564) Unattended Fuel sources for Marinas. The present legislature prohibits them now from having self service. This Bill allows a pilot program for this kind of service.

CONVENTION – L. King presented and discussed his written report. T. Mattingly reported on the Program Book. He said most of the mailing has been sent out. The final date to receive items for the Book is the April MSFA meeting. They are trying to pick up more advertising from Ocean City this year. He said the rates are the same for advertising, with no increases. L. Sachs discussed the Exhibits and said the mailing has been sent out and have already received a lot of responses. Leonard said the Registration is on schedule with J. Cooper and his committee. They will still need help with stuffing the packets on Sunday morning at 0800 hours. Items for the packets must be 8-1/2 x 11 or smaller. R. Siarnicki discussed the Main Floor Program and Seminars. There are two main programs scheduled for the Monday sessions (one in morning and another in the p. m.). He will still work with the Presidents on these two programs.

The Officer's Banquet will again be held on Saturday evening at the Convention Center starting at 1800 hours. The Memorial Service is being worked on by Chaplain Long, his staff, and the Convention Committee, and will occur on Sunday evening at 1900 hours. The Monday Night Party and Family Picnic events are still in the works with a new theme and new menu items. The fireworks have problems with the cost increase for the barges, and this may prevent having the fireworks this year. Leonard discussed the Corporate Partnership Program. The convention packets will go out to each department in early April. He thanked the different organizations and departments for their continued help and cooperation in the past. He discussed the buses for us during the Convention, and said it is resolved and we will pay \$1 in our Convention Center Contract for the city bus service.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10-11, 2007 – Page 8

He discussed recent meetings they have held with business leaders and city officials in Ocean City reference the ever increasing prices in Ocean City during the convention and conference. They even stated to these individuals the possibility of the MSFA not holding their convention in Ocean City in the future if prices continue to soar. He said March has the most fiscal impact on Ocean City, and even so, we are still the largest single convention or event in Ocean City each year. He said they are still trying to eliminate the 18% fee we are charged for all food at the convention center. He distributed a list of about 20 hotels/motels with rooms available at Ocean City for anyone interested. He said we have apparently made them pay attention to us and hopefully the prices will come down on some items. The Parade Awards will again be given out behind the Convention Center but with a better PA system. L. King said the Honor Guard will hold demonstrations, but no competition this year. There will be a worship service on Sunday morning this year.

RISK MANAGEMENT – C. Jewell had no written report. He discussed their effort to find an agent for possible health insurance, but it might take a legislative change to do it. They will also review other types of insurance coverage for the MSFA and the members. They are working on how to count membership for the companies and counties that have injured workers insurance fund. Some areas have apparently used LOSAP and Incentives, and this will be looked at further. They also assisted with advice to VP Sterling when he had his accident. They need again to look at the inventories and insurance for the MSFA.

WATER CRAFT - S. Johnson presented and discussed his written report. He said their work continues on development of resources statewide for the swift water/flooding incidents. With the organizational support of MEMA, the meetings have been held at various locations statewide to address such issues as Training, Command and Control, Logistics, and Finance. Vice Chair Berna is working on revisions to the White Paper (as requested by MEMA) based on the input from various participants with the final draft due out soon. The National Emergency Responder Credentialing System has set a high bar for inclusion as a resource in WebEOC. Some volunteer (or non-fire/EMS) agencies may have difficulty reaching the bar, while career systems may already have access to funds and resources to meet the requirements. The committee will continue to work towards a resolution of this politically charged situation in hopes that the original goal of having solid resources listed in WebEOC, and the continued development of additional resources can be realized. They welcome any input from the MSFA officers in this matter.

MSP – Col. Hutchins discussed the MSP and its cooperative association with the MSFA. He discussed the Helicopter Replacement Program and the other happenings around the state with the MSP.

DATA SYSTEMS – R. Snader had no written report. He thanked those involved with getting thru the signing of Fire House Solutions. He discussed his work with L. King on his computer system and what had to be done to get it back up. Apparently the service was lost because of a power surge, virus, etc. He discussed computer virus's that can attack your computer system. He introduced Ron Raley from Fire House Solutions, who discussed several features of the proposed new website, its advantages and how it will work.

GRANTS – B. Stone presented and discussed her written report. She introduced the four members of Team Maryland. She discussed the Grants and those that have received them to date. Discussed the success rate of the Grant Committees, etc. They are getting ready to start the new Grant Workshops very soon. They discussed the new changes to the work shops scheduled this year. They discussed the cuts made to the Grant Program (Safer and Fire Act) and just what funding is now available.

DNR – M. Mitchell presented and discussed his written report. Wildfire responses for 2006 was above average with the Forest Service responding to 753 wildfires burning 6,074 acres statewide. During the first month of 2007, the Forest Service responded to 19 fires burning 954 acres. Jennifer Mangin has been hired as full time Contractual Fire Specialist for the Central Region, and stationed at the Madonna Ranger Station in Harford County. Tom Palmer is the new Seasonal firefighter for the Western Region. The

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10-11, 2007 – Page 9

Training Officer/Fire Programs Coordinator position remains vacant. HB102 / SB237 changes some provisions of NR 5-720 (Open air burning limitations). The purpose of this legislation is to allow commanding officers of fire departments the ability to have direct control and supervision of burns during a ban. Currently this can only be done by qualified instructors. The 2006 VFA Grant reimbursement has been completed to all 41 Departments that were awarded and received \$87,332 in funding and completed \$202,166 in projects to enhance wildland fire protection in their communities. The Wildfire Management Staff has scheduled the Spring Basic Fire Courses for April 23-27 at the MFRI Upper Shore Regional Training Center. The Wildland Fire Camp is scheduled for May 18-19 at the Broad Creek Scout Reservation in Harford County.

SHOCK TRAUMA - Jeff Radcliff presented and discussed his written report. From the Shock Trauma Center, he expressed their condolences for the LODD loss of the Baltimore City Firefighter yesterday. He said the Patient Admissions for FY07 is up by only 16 over FY06. The Actual vs Budget for FY07 varied is behind by 93. He discussed the FY07-FY06 Beds occupied by month were down at just below 85. He said the OR Cases remain high. Since they last reported the Capacities, the only month they went on Alert was December 2006. They no longer report the FlyBy and Trauma ByPass, since in the last four years they only used it one time. The STC Gala is scheduled for 28 April 2007 at the Baltimore Convention Center. The theme this year is "A Night For Heroes". The STC Gala Awards go to Anne Arundel Stations 26, 30, and 33, Trooper 1. The other Award goes to Cecil County – Singerly VFD, Cecil County DES, and Trooper 1. He said Education is their foremost mission and in FY07 they had 26 Group Tours, with 378 High School Students for the Minds Of The Future. The Case Reviews were done quarterly. The ALS Skills Lab had 6 sessions with 70 EMS providers. The Observation Program had 114 EMS Providers in the TRU, and 97 EMS Providers in the Critical Care Units so far this Fall. They had 12 on-site Clinical Programs. They have been involved with a Live Broadcast of the Evening Educational Programs (Grand Rounds, EMS Education, and EMS, Nursing, Physician). They are working with the Learning Management System (Content on Demand, Online Courses, and Packaged Content). In the Spring they have Dr. David Tarantino doing their Educational Program on the 21st of February 2007. They plan to link that to the Cumberland Memorial Hospital, TRMC, Shore Help to Cecil County Dept. of Emergency Services, and the Shock Trauma Center.

AWARDS – R. Graf presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the mailing that was done for the Awards, and he thanked those that helped him with it. He asked that everyone consider writing up an individual for an Award this year.

BUDGET - S. Kesner presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the finances we have and don't have, but need to obtain. He discussed the format of his report (Income and Expenses and how the funds are received and expended) He questioned some of the Budgeted Income items that show no such income. Also the Scholarship donations that are slow coming in. He said the Past Presidents Scholarship donations shows \$8,000 but at least one Department has paid multiple years. Therefore, several Department Presidents are not paying their share. These areas need to be touched on. He discussed the Fire Laws Book/CD Budget and the Actual is a multiple year funding. This is not an over Budgeted item. He said some of the Committees will have to be reclassified. The only other request is the \$750 that came thru the Executive Committee for the website. He needs to have all Budget Requests in by the April Executive meeting. L. Sachs said Steve's format is very helpful in letting us see the overall picture of our funds, but it is not helpful in seeing how the operating fund is working (Convention, Scholarship, etc) and he asked Steve to try to do that (classifying by programs). Lee and S. Kesner will work with Ron on the Quick Books format.

CONSTITUTION & BY- LAWS – D. Skinner presented and discussed his written report. He said the committee met on 13 January 2007 at Fallston VFD. VP Sterling and Underwood were present and recommended the implementation of the recommendations from the Retreat at Piney Point. it appears that

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10-11, 2007 – Page 10**

many of the recommendations will require further study and no amendments will be needed to implement these recommendations at this time. The committee has asked the committee to review the “Discipline of MSFA members” and “the involved Company Assistance Teams”. The committee feels this can be handled by a Procedure instead of a By-Laws Amendment. The Procedure should be written and approved by the Executive Committee. The recommended Amendment is

Attachment A, Amendment #2 of his report.

Article 1, Section 2: Delete the following paragraph:

“Member Companies and Members of the MSFA shall conduct themselves in an ethical manner and fashion, which will be a credit to the MSFA. Any Member Company or Member, which by its conduct demeans the MSFA, will, upon review by the Executive Committee, be subject to sanctions, including suspension, if appropriate.”

Article 1, Section 12: Insert the following section:

“Member Companies of the MSFA and members of those companies shall conduct them-selves in a manner, which will be a credit to the MSFA. Any Member Company or members of those companies who are accused of misconduct as defined in the Constitution of the MSFA or otherwise violating the Constitution and By-Laws of the MSFA shall be subject to a hearing by the Executive Committee.

Misconduct shall be defined as acting in such a manner and fashion so as to expose the MSFA or the Maryland Volunteer Emergency Services to negative publicity and ridicule by failing to act to remedy an event of misconduct by a member(s) of its company. The Executive Committee shall conduct a formal hearing on the misconduct and or Constitution and By-Laws violations. The accused shall be accorded due process during the hearing and shall have the right to be heard. After the formal hearing the Executive Committee may dismiss the charges, suspend membership privileges, fine, or expel the member. The local Association shall be invited to participate in the formal hearing, when appropriate.”

After discussion the following motion was made by D. Alexander and seconded by B. Kurtz:

MOTION – To approve the proposed Constitution & By-Laws Amendment as presented as “Attachment A, Amendment #2” as written above. After no further discussion the motion was approved by all.

Eastern Division IAFC – P. Mellows had no written report. He discussed what the Fire Chiefs are working on. They met at MFRI in January regarding the State of Maryland Inter-State Mutual Aid Program that is funded (for one year) by the IAFC. The IAFC launched a new legislative website as an information gathering website. If you are a member you can go on the website. Discussed the Firefighter Credentialing issue saying it is critical for it to be participated in by both Volunteer and Career. The pilot program included only the Career people. Montgomery County will be the first group of Volunteers that will be credentialed. He does not know about the other counties at this time. L. Sachs said he were told by the Baltimore County Fire Chief, that this is not a Credentialing Program, it is a commercial business effort to hook up with Homeland Security and these (one or two) outside companies came in and said we will do this. It is a photo ID card only (names, address, and affiliation). There is no training, no certification, and is not an official program of the federal government, but is strictly an ID Card that this commercial company is trying to promote. Pete said it is a Department of Homeland Security funded program (therefore, it is a federally funded program). J. Seavey further discussed the Credential Card issue. He said they further plan to do the stations that ring the D.C. border currently as a first phase and they will credential the Volunteers in those departments, and finger print those volunteers. That will then give them a baseline clearance when they do a back ground. They should have more information on this at the April Executive meeting.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10-11, 2007 – Page 11

FIRE LAWS BOOK – M. Bilger presented and discussed his written report. The Books and CD's have been distributed and he has extra's if needed. They continue to work on distributing the 2006 edition of the Fire Laws of Maryland. He thanked those members that assisted with the distribution process.

FIRE PREVENTION – B. Collins presented and discussed his written report. The committee last met on 21 January at Manchester VFD in Carroll County. He said the Fire Marshal announced the fire deaths for 2006 was 59, the lowest ever recorded. He said population has grown, but technology has improved with smoke alarms and sprinklers. He said Miss Fire Prevention Erin Drumheller and First Runner up Brandy LaPole are reviewing the rules for the Miss Fire Prevention contest for any changes or updates. He is selling the vinyl FP signs for \$70 each. They have place mats that are not to be used at banquets or association meetings, but rather at something that will be seen by the public. He discussed a publication that shows packages that sell public bus wraps, and parts there of for fire prevention advertisements. He doesn't know the costs but will check to see which is the cheapest way for them to advertise Fire Prevention. He also has car tags for sale at \$7 each with the fire prevention logo on them. He said they now have about \$9,000 for hearing impaired detectors, but need more funding to cover everyone. The next committee meeting is scheduled for 25 March at Silver Spring VFD.

PLANNING – C. Moe presented and discussed his written report. They have met twice since the November MSFA meeting. They have completed the review of the Operational Plan, and will be going over the Retreat Information at their next meeting later this month. He attached to his report, a copy of the Agenda, notes from their two meetings, and the updated Operational Plan, for the Executive Committee to review and comment on. He asked the members to send their comments to him.

HISTORICAL & ARCHIVES – H. Owens, F. Underwood, and C. Jewell presented and discussed their written report. They met in November to continue with the inventory. As of today, they have inventoried 368 pieces of history, dating from 1857 to 1990. Once the inventory is complete, they will compile it into a book form and assure that everyone sees what history is available. They thanked F. Underwood and Gene and Bobbie Aaron for the use of their personal laptops for the inventory. Chip talked about a possible museum building in Emmitsburg and said it is coming together. F. Underwood discussed the FF Room and said the rehab has begun. All MSFA items have been stored with F. Underwood. Once the rehab is complete, Marriott will contact B. Seibel to refinish the room with the historical items. All items have been removed from the room for construction. When it is over they should have twice as much storage and show space as before. If anyone has items they wish to give away we can use them in the room. Their next meetings will be on 25 February and 11 March 2007.

MEMORIAL – D. Mooney presented and discussed his written report. The Annual Memorial Service is scheduled for June 10, 2007, and headed by Ray Devilbliss, and the Gala is scheduled for 29 September 2007 at the Sheraton Hotel in Annapolis, and headed by Dennis Beard. G. Worthington is still on top of any problems at the Memorial and has the lights problem fixed (we hope). Don said the latest Brick order was shipped this week and all of the name plates are on hand, and Gene has approved the plaque for Rodney. They are in the early stages of planning with the Architect and Landscaper for the second phase of the project. They have problems now with the parking and they are still looking for ideas and suggestions. The next meeting will be 7 March 2007 at Arundel FD Head- quarters. They have a problem with DGS and are also working on the protocols for the raising and lowering of the flag.

MEMA FIRE SERVICE PERSONNEL GROUP – D. Beard presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the Fire Desk and its status, and reported on the need to have someone at the Desk in the time of need. The Desk has been quiet, several state-wide phone conference calls were conducted and the appropriate personnel were notified. MEMA has been working on a training program for SECO representatives and alternates. In preparation for the Hurricane and Snow seasons, the first module was conducted this date at MEMA, and the SEOC orientation and ICS 700 were covered. The next training will be on 22 February at which time WebEOC Management Course will be covered and 6 more modules

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes February 10-11, 2007 – Page 12

will follow between now and July 2007. MEMA is sponsoring a state-wide functional exercise on 26 April that will involve opening the SEOC. It is MEMA's intent to have everyone working at the SEOC, trained in NIMS.

HONOR GUARD – F. Hawley presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the actions planned this year at the convention in June. He discussed the suggestion made by Captain Dement that instead of holding the competition this year, they consider having the Honor Guards perform for evaluators and hold a critique during the Tuesday seminar. Each Honor Guard that participates would receive a participation plaque in place of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, etc. which might get more participation from other Honor Guards. Everyone felt this suggestion would be the best way to go this year. Captain Dement also suggested the forming of a combined Honor Guard for the MSFA. The committee was also asked to review the Honor Guard portion of the new Chaplain's Manual, and make suggestions back to the Chaplains. It turns out the Book was printed the next day, so any suggestions would not be included in the new Manual. L. King said there was to be no Honor Guard competition this year, only a demonstration by the Honor Guards.

NFFF – R. Siarnicki discussed the scheduling dates of the Foundation functions. The 2007 Memorial weekend will be 4,5,6,7 October 2007. He said the Department of Justice is (funding) putting a Response Team in every State to go in and help the Department when a LODD occurs, if that Department wishes the help. It is a volunteer program and they are looking for people to get engaged in that activity in Maryland. He discussed a whistle stop Bus Tour starting in California (ending in Boston Mass), to promote the Life Safety Initiatives and Fire Safety events. The program is sponsored (funded) by Dunkin Donuts, Baskin Robbins, and Tuggo Subs. There will be a Baskins Robbins night on 2 May all across the county, with the proceeds of the 31 cents per scoop ice cream, going to the NFFF. That night Fire Departments can go to their Baskin Robbins and use this event for a fund raising event. He said there are no longer security guards at the NFFF front gate. The security status was downgraded when the threat requirements changed. There are still security guards on campus. The chapel work is done, the renovations are done, and the Memorial has been renovated. He discussed upcoming plans to further improve the Memorial site. He said the Crofton office has moved. They have a project underway to create a section at the Memorial to honor all firefighters who died before 1981. He thanked everyone who contributed (over \$3,000) to the foundation in the name of Margaret King. They will have a section in the Walk Of Honor in Margaret's memory. The foundation now has the Honor Bear for sale with proceeds going to the Foundation.

The meeting was recessed for the day at 1540 hours. The meeting was reconvened at 0900 hours on February 11 by Chair D. Cox who continued with the reports.

MEMA – J. Dronburg presented and discussed his written report. The MJOC is providing 24 hour notification and is the single contact number for requesting a fire investigator to all regions, and for K9 or EOD teams from the Office of the State Fire Marshal. NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private sector and non-governmental organizations, to work together during domestic incidents. He discussed the Federal Grants and said the Presidents Grant Program for FY08 significantly reduced the amount of funding available under the Homeland Security Grant Programs. The Presidents Budget also significantly decreases the Assistance To Firefighters Program. NIMS training is completed for Maryland State Departments and Agencies. They are developing and planning training for SEOC Representatives and Alternates. The intent is to establish a baseline of understanding and increase the comfort level for them. Training on WebEOC has been completed in each region for the local jurisdictions. He said they continue to coordinate but are close to ending the travel trailer program. They have obtained GPS units for the Agency Fleet. Also new Plume Data has been added to EMMA for 25 specific hazardous sites, including Calvert Cliffs and Peach Bottom nuclear power plants. They are still working with FEMA regarding the equipment being distributed in pre-position trailers and pods, they

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10-11, 2007 – Page 13**

hope to obtain. He said MEMA looks forward to working with the MSFA in the future with their funds from the State that will now pass through MEMA. D. Alexander asked about possible funds to build shelters for the command units? John said basically, no. They are trying to loosen the federal funds to allow such items as this.

MSP AVIATION – Major McAndrew presented and discussed his written report. He has replaced Major Hock and looks forward to working with the MSFA. He discussed the close association between the MSP Aviation and the MSFA and its members throughout the state. He discussed the MSP helicopter replacement study and program. He discussed their Missions comparing the stats of 2006 with 2005 and 2004. He said the Aviation Command strives to attain a benchmark of 95% compliance to the Golden Hour delivery which they do at 94%+. He discussed the MSP Aviation Cadet Program and they are now actively recruiting young men and women between the ages of 18-20.

INCENTIVES – Joan Robison presented and discussed her written report. She said Diane Sears is the new Incentives Coordinator for Frederick County. She said they were invited (and did attend) to Garrett County to oversee or discuss the LOSAP they are considering for their county, but have not heard any results of that meeting. J. Guntow asked about property tax incentives for qualified members? She said this was tried several years ago but never got off the ground. She said Garrett County is stressing more on their running members rather than administrative members.

LEGISLATIVE – D. Davis presented and discussed his written report. The 2007 Maryland Legislative Session began on 10 January 2007 and will conclude on 9 April 2007. As of 9 February 2007, there were 1,100 House Bills and over 1,000 Senate Bills introduced. Of these MSFA is currently watching at least 42 Bills. He discussed the different Bills already submitted and the ones we are interested in and watching for the sake of the MSFA and its members. They are asking for support of Senate Bill SB361 (Cigarette Fire Safety Performance Standard and Protection Act). Everyone is asked to contact the Finance Committee (Southern Maryland contact Senator Middleton) and express your support of this Bill. They are also asking support and passage of HB17 (Public School Construction and Funding). If passed, this legislation will give 5% of the Slots proceeds to the Senator Amoss Fund. HB260 (Maryland Gaming Commission Act of 2007) was introduced again this year, and they want support to have this Bill killed. On 5 February 2007 the MSFA Legislative Reception was held with very good attendance of 180 plus. The committee passed out packets (containing the Fire Laws Book CD, MSFA Book on what the MSFA Does, and our Legislative Agenda) to the Maryland Governor and the Maryland Congress. He thanked B. McWilliams and P. Webb for putting the packets together and, S. Edwards and MFRI for printing the Book at no cost to the MSFA.

He thanked R. Davis and S. Worthington for the food, and Carroll County and D. Cox for obtaining and serving the refreshments, G. Worthington and J. Brown for the displays, and the Ladies of 17 State Circle for their assistance in greeting the guests. He said there is to be an Amendment to put the MSFA on as a member of the Task Force. He said the seat will be for the President or his designee. J. Lau recommended we move our reception next year to one of the renovated multi-purpose rooms in the House. Danny said they certainly will take this for consideration.

R. Yinger discussed Dr. Morhein (Baltimore County FD Doctor) who is proposing the move of MIEMSS to the DHMH. After no further discussion the following motion was made by D. Alexander and seconded by J. Dulina as:

MOTION – That the MSFA oppose any move of MIEMSS to the control of DHMH. Motion was approved by all.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT – J. Robison presented and discussed his written report. He said we lost Congressman Curt Weldon from Pennsylvania, and he will be missed. Delegate Norman Conway won and is the Chair of the Appropriations Committee. He sponsored the recently passed

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10-11, 2007 – Page 14**

HB1668 that adds a \$7.50 surcharge to each moving violation, and 50% (\$3.75) goes to the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund for Low Interest Loans. President Bush signed into law the 2007 Homeland Security spending Bill that includes \$662 million in federal funding for the Assistance to the Fire-fighter Grant Program. Last year 67 awards were made to Maryland Fire Departments totaling \$10.78 million.

AUDIT – J. Robison said they were waiting to do the audit after they switched over to the new system, but that didn't happen, and now the Books are being audited by our accounting firm.

VOLUNTEER COMPANY ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND BOARD – J. Robison presented and discussed his written report. They met with Sheila McDonald (BPW) who said no additional applications will be approved by the BPW until all funds (\$1,298,815.00) being held by the MSFA, are returned to MEMA as required by law and the recent State Audit. This had to be completed by 1 February 2007. This has been done by MSFA. He said there are four (4) loans (United Community, Northern Garrett, Neck District and Grasonville) pending at the Board of Public Works to be approved. Three of the loans come out of the old Low Interest Loan Fund and the other loan is for Northern Garrett Rescue Squad that will come out of the Old Trust Fund. He hopes these four applications will be approved this Wednesday as they should be. J. Robison said the only request today is a revised application from the Potomac Valley VFD for \$265,575 for a Pumper. The following motion was made by W. Hildebrand and seconded by J. Lau:

MOTION – To approve the loan and grant request from the Potomac Valley VFD for \$265,575.00 for a Pumper. Motion was approved by all.

Members of the Potomac Valley VFD are here today and thanked the MSFA.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 3 April 2007 at Laurel VFD at 1830 hours.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR – J. Gatton had no written report. He said the Awards Packet has been mailed out to all companies. He asked everyone to get their nominations submitted and try to nominate at least one member per award.

RED LIGHT – R. Steger presented and discussed his written report. The committee has been communicating via email discussing the proposed legislative changes for use of emergency vehicle authorized lighting. He said we are authorized the use of red and/or white flashing, blinking or oscillating light(s) on fire, rescue and EMS emergency vehicles. The Green lights are presently illegal on all apparatus in Maryland. They have submitted a Draft to include the use of Green light(s) for a Command Post. D. Davis is scheduling a meeting with an MSP legislative rep for us to discuss this with and then proceed with the approval of the Executive Committee.

VOLUNTEER TRUMPET – A. Reamy's written report was presented and discussed. She discussed the success of their first issue of the Trumpet and said the next issue will be coming out the first week of March. The Deadline for the June issue is 1 May 2007. She needs stories for the June issue of the Trumpet, so keep them coming in. She is still updating the mailing list as she has had several people ask to be added to the list. Apparently there was a problem with the mailing as Carroll and Somerset Counties did not receive their copies of the Trumpet in any of the Stations across both counties. She is sending a box of Trumpets back to Carroll County with D. Alexander, and to E. Horner for Somerset County. They are still working out details with R. Smith and the Communications Committee about the mailing issue and the Billing for Ads. She turned in the Bill for the last Trumpet, but she would like to work something so the printer can send the Bill directly to R. Siarnicki instead of her. This will be done next time to avoid the delay in paying the printing Bill. She asked if anything is happening in your area that need or should be covered, please let her or one of the committee know so they can plan for someone to cover the event. She has people ready to cover your event with an article and pictures.

PRESIDENT'S VEHICLE – R. Leftwich's could not be here this weekend, but his written report was received. He said the new Crown Victoria for the incoming President has been ordered. The cost of the

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes February 10-11, 2007 – Page 15

vehicle was \$21,337.00, and we will take delivery around 1 May 2007. As reported earlier, the vehicle was ordered with the State order from Delaware. The approval of the purchase was taken care of earlier.

INVENTORY – R. Smith submitted and discussed his written report. He discussed the inventory list as presented so far and they have blank forms for other items still to be listed (ie, new computers received from R. Snader). Hopefully the inventory will be complete by Convention in June. They still have to list the MSFA vehicles.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION – J. Denver presented and discussed his written report. The committee last met on 31 January 2007. He handed out and discussed the MSFA Benefits Folder. A generic state wide brochure was developed last year, and a new more detailed document (county by county) was asked for by President Balta. To do this, survey's were distributed to each Executive Committee member. To date, responses have been received for only 8 counties. While an electronic copy could be available from the MSFA, printing, binding, distribution and storing of a booklet with 23 pages, could be prohibitive. A less expensive way to display the information is a fold out matrix. They attached a sample to their report that has a row for each county and a column for each benefit. The information can be printed as a two sided document on a legal size (8.5x14) page. They asked the Executive Committee members review the document and forward any comments or suggestions to the R&R Committee. He said they do need to add a column for LOSAP to the list. The committee is considering instead of a seminar at Ocean City in June, a Round Table discussion on Monday or Tuesday rather than Sunday. They would then ask the participants for their comments and suggestions. The committee will be meeting the last Wednesday of each month (the location to be determined).

RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS – D. Alexander presented and discussed his written report. The committee met on 3 January 2007 at Anne Arundel. Captain Ed Hideaway (Annapolis Fire Department) was present at the meeting to ask our support for a Code Change in the City of Annapolis (includes sprinklers in all new and renovated residences as part of a fire code change). Al Ryan from Perryville was also present and asked help in supporting the Perryville VFC in their efforts to enact residential sprinkler requirements in Perryville. The committee did an educational program for the Town Council, builders, firefighters and citizens on 6 January, and they will return on 13 February to speak to the Town Officials at their meeting. He said Residential Sprinkler requirements are now in effect in LaPlata, Indian Head, St. Michaels, and Charles County. Efforts are beginning in North East, Denton, Harford County, Anne Arundel County, and Caroline County. They are scheduled to speak to the Commissioners in Queen Anne County on 4 April. They will give a presentation to the Planning and Zoning people of Chesapeake City on 28 March. Cecil County Commissioner Wayne Tome said they are planning to pursue this issue in very near future for Cecil County. Denton officials have requested the committee to present their education program in February. The committee is busy talking up residential Sprinklers whenever and wherever they can. They recently sent in a resolution of support for residential sprinklers to the International Residential Code people. They are supporting the effort to get residential sprinklers as part of the code. They appreciate the continued support of the MSFA Presidents in their efforts. He included with his report a list of the Residential Ordinances in Maryland as of 10 January 2007. Their next meeting is scheduled for 7 March at Arundel County Fire Head Quarters at 1900 hours.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY – D. Alexander presented and discussed his written report. The committee has begun to plan the Spring Drill. This year's drill will be 20 May at the Pleasant Valley VFD in Carroll County. They have received letters of thanks to the Winfield Community Fire Company for an outstanding learning session. He thanked the committee members that participate and make these drills the success they are. Their next meeting is scheduled for 20 May at the Pleasant Valley Fire Station.

SAFETY – H. Howell presented and discussed his written report. They are working on the individual point 4/5 Safety Vest in conjunction with the Cumberland Valley Firemen's Association for each of the members of the Safety Committee. The Cecil County Fire Companies were to also come onboard and

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10-11, 2007 – Page 16

purchase the vest for each riding position. They hope others will follow their lead. Their next meeting is scheduled for February at the Kennedyville VFC in Kent County.

SCHOLARSHIP – D. Fishack presented and discussed his written report. He said the financial deficit back in November 2006, now shows they are now in the black. They have reviewed the progress of their currently supported students and their financial standing. He said he has visited with most of our supported students and all seem to be progressing well in their academic endeavors. He has received a larger than normal amount of requests for information on the MSFA Scholarship Program. The committee will look at where they stand in the support of the candidates for an academic tract in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Their next meeting is scheduled for 25 April 2007 at 1900 hours at the College Park Fire Station, when they will review the Scholarship applicants. J. Seavey asked about the delayed check problems reported at the last meeting. Dale said that was corrected by everyone concerned.

17 STATE CIRCLE – D. Davis reported the problems of late have been corrected.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES – M. Gouty presented and discussed her written report. She said preparations are in the works for the new products for the President's stein and mug. The sales income on the MSFA products to date this year is \$2386.50. She also turned in her product inventory of what is in the trailer (and the trailer itself). She said the trailer has still not been lettered. While it was parked, it was sprayed with yellow paint. The MSFA decal will be put on the trailer when the weather warms up a little more. She said the raffles at the Executive Committee meetings are taking in a good profit as the items costs us about \$19 to \$50 and they take in about \$200 on each. She said they do plan to get the items for sale on the MSFA website as soon as possible.

AUDIT GROUP – L. Sachs presented and discussed his written report. The Audit of the MSFA by the Office of Legislative Audits began nearly one year ago and he was appointed by President Balta to assist in responding to the demands of that process that began last year. In November 2006 they passed a number of resolutions as recommended by the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund Board, in response to the preliminary comments of the auditors. Since then, they have issued their final report, and we have submitted our formal response. Most of the issues raised during the Audit have been addressed or are "in the works", and the only major matter outstanding is whether the State, or the MSFA, as has been the practice for the last six years, will hold and disburse the allotted funds. It is going to have to be a legislative "fix", and our Presidents and D. Davis and R. Yinger and the entire legislative team are attending to that effort. If we fail, the work of the VCAF will still continue, and, although there will be some additional administrative headaches, we will certainly keep moving ahead. He thanked President Balta, VP Sterling, VP Underwood, Treasurer Siarnicki, Financial Secretary Cross, Attorney Powell, and VCAF Chair Robison for their many hours work to the project. This issue was truly a team effort and all participants are to be commended.

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT REVIEW GROUP – L. Sachs presented and discussed his written report. On the issue of MSFA hiring an employee to assist in the conduct of business of this organization. L. King, W. Donaldson, J. Lau, E. Bernard and L. Sachs were appointed to the Management Assistant Review Group. The Group met three times, had interim communications via e-mails and other contact, solicited information from other State Associations, and submitted their report to the President on 22 January 2007. The Group agrees that the MSFA should engage an employee who should be a senior level manager/leader regardless of title, and just what the incumbent of that position should be. They did not have time nor resources to complete an assessment of budget, workplace issues, salary and benefits, source of funding, and other aspects of this step. They requested they be permitted to continue the work with an expanded committee and a new target date of August 2007 for the final report. He thanked all of the members of the Group and all of the significant contributors to the information solicited, and the discussions which led to their deliberations.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes February 10-11, 2007 – Page 17

STANDARDS/NFPA – B. Huttenloch presented and discussed his written report. He said they are up for review of 28 items this year. He included with his report, a list of the different perspectives as partial revision, complete revision, new document, reconfirmation or withdrawal. He listed the number and title of several NFPA standards we should be aware of (No's. 806, 1006, 1561, 1852, 1925, 1962, 1989, and 1999). He reviewed each of these Standards and discussed their content and purpose. Bill has the Revision Booklet and if anyone has any questions, please contact him. He said they have had some trouble with the PASS DEVICE when it gets wet and fills up with water. This is under investigation and he will follow up with the outcome and report back to the MSFA. He said his county completed a 90 day survey of the safety vests and they will propose them for use by everyone.

NVFC – J. Seavey presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the Federal ID Card that was previously discussed. He said the Chief of Montgomery County T. Carr, said he would not participate in the program if it did not include the Volunteers. He noted that the IAFC, NVFC, and the MSFA all worked together on that issue. The NVFC with Fire Corps through their partnership with the Department of Homeland Security, launched the Pandemic Flu Research Center in December 2006 on the Fire Corps website. In December 2006 the NVFC hosted the Fire Caucus with discussion on how to fill vacancies in the Congressional Fire Services Caucus leadership. The NVFC has created an on-line resource center to help volunteer departments write successful narratives with their applications for the AFG and SAFER grant programs. The NVFC has been included in the review of a program on Alternative Fuels Safety Training for First Responders. The NVFC and Spartan Motors have partnered to create and promote the first National Junior Firefighter Program. This program is on the NVFC website. They discussed the causes for the downward trend in volunteers, and the benefits of a Junior Firefighter Program. On December 6, 2006, Circuit City launched the "Firedog Across America" program honoring America's firefighters for their exceptional service to their communities. It is an Essay Writing contest on how local firehouses have gone above and beyond the call of duty. There will be an Alternative Fuel Training program in D.C. next week and the NVFC was asked to attend. President Balta appointed H. Owens as our Fire Coordinator Advocate for Maryland. The NVFC Spring meeting will be 27-31 March 2007 in D.C. R. Powell asked if the NVFC is going to have a booth at the MSFA convention in June? J. Seavey said he was sure they will and he will check on it this coming Monday.

SURPLUS PROPERTY – E. Woods had no written report, as the committee has not met since the last Executive meeting. He asked for ok to dispose of some of the items they have on hand but are not usable (rope, cases). He has some items on hand (hose, hard sleeves, 10 steel breathing cylinders). He was given ok to dispose of such items as he sees fit. He has talked with the editor of the Trumpet and they will have an article in the trumpet. They are looking for turnout gear, hose, and small tools.

TRANSPORTATION – T. Flint presented and discussed his written report. They continue to work on updating the tag database. They have sent an updated list to the Data Systems Committee. Since the last Executive Committee meeting they have collected the majority of the outstanding certification forms and fees. Pending the response by one County Coordinator to their request, a certified letter may have to be sent advising he will not receive any additional certification forms until all outstanding forms and fees are turned in, and with a copy of the letter going to the County Association to advise them of the issue. They have sent the Most Frequently Asked Questions about the MSFA Tags, to A. Reamy (The Trumpet). Recently they have had to assist several members that had just purchased new vehicles, to transfer MSFA tags to the new vehicles. The selling dealers would not assist in transferring the MSFA tags. Their next committee meeting will be on 18 February 2007 at 1300 hours (location to be determined).

WAYS & MEANS – L. Jonske presented and discussed his written report. The total of all events so far has yielded \$14,858 compared to \$10,852 last year. This means that all of the expenses are now paid so whatever is turned in from now to June is profit. They have handed out 55,000 tickets to the Fire and Rescue Squads in all counties in the state. They contracted with Ocean City for the Springfest 2007 on 3-6

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10-11, 2007 – Page 18

May. They have ordered more tickets to cover future events and the Convention at Ocean City. They now have 115,000 tickets printed, of which 97,000 have already been distributed. L. King said the drum last year was full of tickets, and this year we should have more tickets with the increase in the number of tickets given out (10 for \$5). They hope to get them all in the drum this year by not folding them.

GUN RAFFLE – R. Smith discussed the upcoming Gun Raffle and would like to get raffle tickets printed. He will work with the Ways & Means Committee and get them printed.

ACTION ITEMS –

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP – L. King presented an application from the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association. After discussion, the following motion was made by J. Seavey and seconded by J. Lau:

MOTION – That the MSFA Executive Committee approves the Application for Associate Membership from the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association. Motion was approved by all.

MSFA BILLING – L. Sachs discussed the proposed policy for Billing the MSFA. After no further discussion the following motion was made by L. Sachs and seconded by B. Kurtz:

MOTION - That all Billing for monies due to the MSFA and the deposit of all monies that are the property of the MSFA shall be the responsibility of the Office of the Financial Secretary. After no further discussion, the Motion was approved by all.

HB1048 – The Bill was further discussed by R. Yinger. He said the Bill does transfer MIEMSS to the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, does away with all of the top people in MIEMSS, does away with the EMS Board, and they will have one person make all of the decisions. They plan to save about \$1million by doing this. The following motion was made by L. Sachs and seconded by D. Alexander:

MOTION - To oppose HB1048 in the form in which it was presented. Motion was approved by all.

STATISTICAL - Report was asked about by B. Hildebrand as when it will be available to be filled out by the Departments on line? President Balta said he will get with R. Snader after this meeting and discuss getting a current Form on-line.

MSFA LOGO – J. Dulina asked for an update on the MSFA logo being printed for distribution to the departments in Maryland, as was discussed at the last meeting? He was told the Logo signs are being printed now.

There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee the meeting was adjourned, after closing prayer being offered by Chaplain Hetz, at 1303 hours.

NEXT MEETING – Bay District VFD (Lexington Park Md.) April 21 & 22, 2007.

Submitted by

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

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 10-11, 2007
Huntingtown, Maryland

MINUTES SUMMARY

MOTION – To concur with and approve the actions stated above regarding the Presidents Car, the Website, and Low Interest Loan Funds. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION - To support the nomination of C. Wills for a seat on the National EMS Advisory Council. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION – To approve the proposed Constitution & By-Laws Amendment as presented as “Attachment A, Amendment #2” as written above. After no further discussion the motion was approved by all.

MOTION – That the MSFA oppose any move of MIEMSS to the control of DHMH. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION – To approve the loan and grant request from the Potomac Valley VFD for \$265,575.00 for a Pumper. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION – That the MSFA Executive Committee approves the Application for Associate Membership from the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association. Motion was approved by all.

MOTION - That all Billing for monies due to the MSFA and the deposit of all monies that are the property of the MSFA shall be the responsibility of the Office of the Financial Secretary. After no further discussion, the Motion was approved by all.

MOTION - To oppose HB1048 in the form in which it was presented. Motion was approved by all.