

**MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S
ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
February 21 & 22, 2009
Smithsburg VFD, Maryland**

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**MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
21-22 FEBRUARY 2009 AT SMITHSBURG VFD**

CALL TO ORDER – The regular meeting of the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA) was called to order this date by Chair C. Moe at 0900 hours at Smithsburg VFD.

WELCOME – President Frank Underwood welcomed everyone to Smithsburg this weekend. He discussed the financial status of the State, and said they are still trying to get funds from the State and Federal if possible.

OPENING PRAYER & PLEDGE – Chaplain Barnhart gave the opening prayer and led in the pledge to the flag. He asked everyone to remember in your prayers this weekend, Past President Joe Robison, Bill Huttenloch, Hugh Owens, C. Briggs and the Walden, Mills and Mondie families and anyone else he might have missed at this time.

WELCOME – Dale Fishack, Smithsburg VFD welcomed everyone to Smithsburg this weekend. We were also welcomed by Mayor M. Myers of Smithsburg, who presented a Proclamation, Commissioner Al Shire also welcomed us and Sheriff (Past Chief) Molindor. Smithsburg VFD President Glen Fishach also welcomed everyone to Smithsburg this weekend, and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the MSFA for the help and cooperation they give to Washington County.

ATTENDANCE – Roll Call attendance was taken by Vice President Doyle Cox as follows: **Past Presidents** – B. Smith (91-92), P. Hurlock (93-94), R. Yinger (94-95), F. Cross (95-96), S. Cox (96-97), D. Davis (97-98), R. Steger (00-01), G Worthington (02-03), T. Thompson (03-04), R. Jacobs (04-05), L. Sachs (05-06), R. Balta (06-07) and P. Sterling (07-08). **Trustees** – S. Hales, J. Means, G. Worthington, D. Carpenter and T. Thompson. **LA-MSFA** - Pres. L. Hetz, VP K. Knipple, VP S. Lutz, Sec. T. Crisman, Treas. S. Soper, Sec. A. Davis, (Bessie Marshall) and E. Huttenloch.

GUEST IN ATTENDANCE - State Fire Marshal Bill Barnard, Past SFM Robbie Robinson; MIEMSS Director Dr. Bass. MFRI Director Steve Edwards, MSP-AV – Major McAndrews, Miss Fire Prevention Stacie Jaret, Local Delegate Paul Starrs, U.S. Fire Administration Ken Farmer and Shock Trauma Director John Spearman.

OFFICERS REPORTS

PRESIDENT – President Underwood presented and discussed his written report. He said we need to gather around the Annapolis Statehouse and let the powers know how strong we are and what we can do. He said the Appropriations money from the State has finally been released and he thanked the Financial Team for their hard work. The Financial

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Team has also been hard at work on the Audit. The VCAF money is starting to flow again and should be available for loans soon. He said when we talked to the Governor last year, we were told that money was going to be very tight, with the only variable being the Slots Bill. Now the news seems to be that slots aren't going to be much help to the State Budget. He gave the Governor our wish list of increases, but told him that we would be satisfied with what we were allotted last year. With furloughs and layoffs being proposed, he decided we should sit back and stay under the radar. The only change might be if the Federal Stimulus money becomes available. He has attended many banquets throughout the state since our last meeting, and it is always wonderful to see so many new members and young officers taking their oath of office. They represent the future of our Fire Service. He again thanked each and every one of the MSFA for the love and support given him during his health problems. The doctor has finally released him to drive fire apparatus again.

Vice President Roger Powell presented and discussed his written report. He said he is not yet ready for some of the new Committee Appointments but is working on it. He thanks those that have helped with the VCAF.

Vice President Doyle Cox presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the upcoming MSFA Awards and asked everyone to submit the names of the people in your department that deserve to be recognized. He discussed Senate Bills 649, 650, and 764, and e-mails have been sent to the County Association Presidents and individuals requesting their support in contacting their elected officials encouraging them to vote against these Bills. He congratulated all of the newly elected officers and award winners around the state. The Award Packets have been distributed and it is time to submit your nominations for the different awards. He said the best retention tool is when we recognize individuals for their accomplishments. We continue to lose our senior members, and we need to bring them back for their knowledge, but we also need new members with their new ideas.

CHAPLAIN – J. Long presented and discussed his written report. He said time is closing to get your pictures in soon. The Memorial Service on Sunday at OC will start at 1700 instead of at 1900 hours. The Chaplain's Corps has been busy visiting those who are ill or hospitalized and attending or conducting funerals for our members. Everyone is reminded it is time to get the Memorial Forms and Pictures turned in for the 2009 Memorial Service. All forms must be in by 1 March 2009 for deaths that occurred during the 2007 calendar year. They presently have only 10 Special Presentations for the Memorial Service. He asked we keep Chaplain Coblenz in our prayers.

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SECRETARY – Secretary J. Olson presented and discussed her written report. The minutes of the December 2008 Executive Committee meeting has been transcribed and distributed to the MSFA Executive Committee for approval, and will be posted on the MSFA website upon approval at this meeting today. They are working with the Data Systems Committee to get all minutes from 2007 and 2008 up on the website. She listed the duties and responsibilities of each Assistant Secretary. If any officer or committee needs a set of mailing labels, please contact the Secretary's Office. The 2008 Proceedings Book has been completed and sent to the Convention Committee Chair, thanks to Nancy Cox. The first mailing of the 2009 Convention and Conference information packet went out the end of January, and the 2009 Awards information packet was mailed the beginning of February. She thanked her Assistant Secretaries for their continued support to the office of the Secretary.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – S. Hales discussed committee actions to date. He reminded everyone that all applications must be approved by the membership. He discussed recent claims received and those forthcoming. Kalen Briggs of Waldorf VFD was burned during a search of a residence. The claim was approved pending Waldorf submitting a company resolution. Harry J. Joyave III of Gamber & Community FC was responding to an emergency call when he suffered a stroke. He was disabled for two months, and they approved payment for the two months. Jimmy Rose of Hughesville VFD was injured while in route to an emergency call, when the apparatus was involved in an accident. He is expected to be disabled for about 6 months, for which payment has been approved. He noted that everyone involved in an apparatus accident, was wearing seat belts. He said three widows (Irene Thomas, Beatrice McGee, and Ella McKissick) have recently passed on, and their names will be dropped from the funding spreadsheet. The committee is working to increase the benefits received, as some of the recipients can hardly make it on what they now receive.

TREASURER – R. Siarnicki, presented and discussed his written report. He said the three documents (Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet, and the Budget vs Actuals) were transmitted electronically to the Executive Committee. He thanked those that are helping the Treasurer's Office lately. They are presently in the process of doing their 2008 Financial Review with the Accounting Firm of Ficke & Conner Associates. He said they did get their Appropriations and Relief monies from the State of Maryland and actually received \$127,000 more than they should have, and the President received a letter from the Maryland Department of the Army wanting their money back.

F. Cross discussed the companies that are delinquent on their loan payments, and they need to be sent in each month on time as some normally send it in every three months, etc. This will not work with the Department of the Army. They will be receiving invoices and they need to get the payment in on time, or they will be charged maybe fines or what.

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The Dues are coming in good so far. Second invoices will be sent out soon to those that have not yet paid their Dues. He thanked C. Lutz for her work on the Low Interest Loans.

ATTORNEY – M. Farlow reported the documents on Lakes & Straights regarding an issue with their department and a couple of members. He will contact them next week. They will be the first going thru the mediation process set up by R. Powell. He has been contacted by the Infinity Card Program, and will be reviewing that further to see if it is something we do want to pursue. Other than that, they are just waiting for the money to start flowing so they can engage in the loans again.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS – D. Skinner presented and discussed his written report. They are now writing the four (4) SOP's (To define the SOP process, SOP for Officer reimbursement, Sop for travel reimbursement, and SOP for the President's vehicles) and asked for approval to put the Amendments on the Ballot this June. The following motion was made by D. Alexander and 2nd by D. Fishack:

MOTION – To approve putting the presented four (4) Amendments on the June 2009 Ballot. Motion was approved by all.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT SYSTEM (ESF-9) – T. Johnson presented and the Search & Rescue Group discussed the written report by P. Sterling, and M. Berna on the criteria and the proposed changes to the proposed draft on ESF-9. Their comments on the proposal was presented with their report. T. Johnson said the MSFA needs to be represented in all future discussions and development, and that the established FEMA Resource Typing and associated Credentialing standards be the basis for all of the EMAC deployments and that all typical Rescue Providers in the State be given an ongoing opportunity to demonstrate that they meet those criteria for inclusion in WEBEOC. P. Sterling discussed the letter from President Underwood to MEMA Director R. Muth regarding the ESF-9 document and the changes proposed in the Draft. He said this is a very important document that we have been excluded from participating in. As a result of the letter from President Underwood, they were invited to attend a meeting on 27 October 2008 at MEMA. They expressed their concern that there was no representation from the Fire Service on the Work Group. They were told the exclusion of the Fire Service was an oversight on their part. They were told by Chair Mel Blizzard that the draft will be cleaned up and sent out to the Group for their review. They did develop their comments and a copy given the Executive Committee. Paul said they met with the MSP two weeks ago and was told by Col. Sheridan they were upset because they never saw the document, and thought they were being blind sided by MSFA and the Maryland Fire Chief's. Paul said the document and our letter went to Director MUTH on 14 December 2008. Our group did review the document with the changes were noted on the document. The

biggest concern is the MSP being the lead agency, and we would be better served if MEMA were the lead agency. He discussed Credentialing and Typing and said they have

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learned that MEMA has a group that has been working on Resource Typing, and there is no fire service representation on that committee. M. Berna discussed the issue and said we are not a government group, but we should be a support agency. He discussed several of the points they submitted and agreed with (or not) on. Scuba further discussed the white paper already discussed as from a work group that came out of the MSFA to the Water Craft Committee. J. Seavey questioned what the negative effect of this could have on the Maryland Fire and EMS? R. Brooks discussed the ESF-9 and what is already in place (or not) and who is in position (or not). He said Credentialing and Typing is already in place but we are not on board with it. He said somewhere down the road, there is funding for ESF-9. He agreed this program does not belong under the MSP. S. Carter suggested we ask every County Association President to write a letter voicing concern of this issue. The following motion was made by S. Carter and 2nd by W. Donaldson:

MOTION – To draft a sample letter and send it to all County Association Presidents stating our position, as a guideline, to send in reference to the ESF-9 issue. Motion was approved by all.

The following motion was made by J. Seavey and 2nd by S. Carter:

MOTION – To have President Underwood send a letter to Director Muth (copy to General Adkins) stating our opposition to the ESF-9 Draft. Motion was approved by all.

The following motion was made by J. Seavey and 2nd by P. Sterling:

MOTION – To have the President of the MSFA appoint a Credentialing/Resource Typing Task Force immediately following this Executive Committee Meeting. Motion was approved by all.

MFRETC - D. Stevens presented and discussed his written report. They have been working on the consensus standard for live fire burning and at the summit in January 2009, the full commission did accept the draft. It goes to the MFSQPB to have a certification for a Safety Officer and a Burn Officer for acquired structures. The Council of Academies is working on an amendment to the MFRI six (6) hour live fire class.

TRAINING – S. Mahan presented and discussed their written report. They plan to have a two hour live fire training session this year at the Convention in Ocean City. He also discussed the Zembower Training Award and said the deadline for the award is 15 April. He discussed the instructors of the training classes and how much experience is enough.

They will meet again between now and the convention in June, and will be discussing the qualifications of the instructors for live fire burning. .

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AWARDS – D. Cox and E. Graf presented and discussed their written report. She thanked the Secretary's office for sending out the awards changes in the convention packets. They also included with their report, a copy of the guidelines, rules, entry deadlines, and regulations for the 19 Awards for this year. They noted the deadline changes made to some of the Awards this year. The changes have also been posted on the MSFA website.

NFFF – R. Siarnicki (no written report) discussed the present issues on the economy and their fund raising relation to the NFFF. They will have the Firefighter Nascar Race event at Dover Race Track again this year. Please visit their website if you haven't already, as Harley Davidson and Pierce have put up a new HD Motorcycle to be raffled (sweepstakes) off at \$10 each. The Stop Drop and Roll is being initiated again this year. They will have 50 golf tournaments this year nationally. A Survivors Conference will be held this year in California, and the Foundation received a donation thru TYCO for the families travel. Plans are hot and heavy for the Memorial Weekend on October 3,4,and 5 at Emittsburg. Ron was asked about the video Legends, and Ron said it will be included in the Resource Kits (Kit 4) in production now, and will be mailed to every fire department in America.

CONVENTION & CONFERENCE – R. Siarnicki presented and discussed his written report. He said the Convention Packets have been distributed with all of the Credentials, Registration Forms, Golf Tournament, and the Program Book Ads, and the Exhibit Package. He presented a list of the restructured Steering Committee that consists of five Sectors with five co-chairs and vice chairs of the convention committee. L. Sachs discussed the reorganization of the convention committees. W. Donaldson discussed the convention Exhibits Committee. L. Sachs discussed the financial committees, and the possible reduction of the 2009 convention vendors, etc. Of the 360 flyers were mailed out and has received only twenty of them back. It's too early to compare with previous years. He said our biggest vendor last year is now out of business, so we have a lot to make up there. He said each year they do send out surveys for the vendors that were here before. The one's with bad comments, are contacted if possible, and they try to resolve the problem. R. Siarnicki said the Conference Hotel this year is the Quality Inn (\$159.00) at Ocean City. They have been contacting organizations from last year to again assist us this year. He discussed the construction changes being done this year to the Convention Center and how it will affect our activities. A position letter has been sent to Ocean City of our concerns with the proposed changes. They will meet next week with the Ocean City Council regarding these changes. L. Sachs said Ocean City is pricing themselves out of the family vacation spot. The following motion was made by J. Seavey and 2nd by S. Carter:

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MOTION – To have our Convention Committee attend the Ocean City Town Council meeting next week, and direct our attendees at the meeting to reiterate our views to the Council, on the new construction and modifications to the Convention Center. Motion was approved by all.

MEMA – R. Muth presented and discussed his written report. He said that Aaron Eastern is the new representative that will be handling the loan applications coming to MEMA. ESF-9 was discussed regarding MEMA's position on this issue. C. Moe asked that we all be invited to the table regardless of our opinions, etc. J. Seavey discussed the apparent conflict between the MSFA and MEMA regarding the ESF-9. The inclusion of the MSP was questioned and discussed by R. Muth. He said MEMA is not the lead on the ESF-9. They are only a Coordinating Agency. He said the ESF's have to come under a State Agency, and the MSFA is not a State Agency. He said MEMA will definitely be in the future and they will solicit our input for all happenings with the ESF's, and the MSFA will be listed as a Support Agency from now on.

SAFETY – H. Howell presented and discussed his written report. Committee last met on 19 January at Fallston VFC. They reviewed the Parade Rules and would like to make one more rule for the convention parade. Chair Moe advised him to take the recommendation to the Convention Parade Chairman (R. Steger) first, and he will then come back to the Executive Committee with the recommendation. D. Alexander also suggested two other safety belt requirements that should be made. R. Steger discussed proposed changes and asked that any suggestions be made in writing to him.

WAYS & MEANS – L. Jonske presented and discussed his written report. So far for the 2008-2009 period to date, the committee has collected \$13,655.00. They have distributed over 130,000 tickets so far to the member companies and auxiliaries. If anyone needs more tickets, please contact Mitch or Lou. The next large event they plan to attend is Spring Fest at Ocean City on 7-10 May 2009.

HISTORICAL & ARCHIVES – H. Owens presented and discussed his written report. He thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers in his wife's illness and death. He presented a check for \$500 to President Underwood from BK Home Improvement from Mt. Airey as a sponsor of the Hospitality House. He said we need to get the older members with the history of the fire service in Maryland, and get that information from them. When the museum opens, they want to have a video of the Maryland Fire Service that will play constantly. Chip Jewell discussed the museum and said they hope to have a

signed lease in the next 60-90 days. Chip said that on 8&9 August in down town Frederick, they will invite anyone with a hand operated fire apparatus for a get together for the Harper's Ferry and the John Brown event of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War.

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PRESENTATION - President Underwood presented an Easton 200 Year Anniversary Book to J. Jarboe, H. Owens, and C. Jewell. Chip said the committee will be meeting quarterly (instead of monthly) due to the increase in gas prices. All members are urged to interview their own senior members and gather history from their own areas for input into the MSFA Historical & Archives inventory. At their Spring meeting, they will continue with the inventory, and choose additional photographs for reproductions for sale at the convention. The photographs purchased at the convention have been reproduced and will be sent to their purchasers. \$100 was collected on the photo sales (J. Spiker donated the reproduction costs).

STATE INTEROPERABILITY – C. Jewell presented and discussed his written report. The group continues to meet to review issues regarding statewide communications. The allocation of 700mhz frequencies is being reviewed at the APCO Region 20 meetings. In coordination with the PSIC Grant, the committee has requested 700mhz frequencies for the Phase III build out. The statewide 700mhz system proposals are still under vendor review and will take place for at least another 5 months. As part of the efforts for interoperability, the state is also in the process of implementing a CAD/RMS request for proposals. It was pointed out the CAD for law enforcement and the CAD variations for fire/rescue are dramatically different.

RISK MANAGEMENT – C Jewell presented and discussed his written report. Chip said an automobile claim involving the President's vehicle was reported and coordinated with President Underwood. The claimant's insurance company accepted liability and the claim was handled accordingly. He reported that a "functional replacement cost" on the building at 17 State Circle was received and processed accordingly. The committee recommends the Office of the Attorney contact the appropriate state agency to assure the contract requirements will be satisfied with the "functional replacement cost" of the structure. VFIS estimate is \$74,969.00 for an additional premium of \$11 annual. The committee recommends the immediate increase be approved. He said this does not include any historical, architectural, or civic value. Chip introduced Katherine Emanuel, Director of Strategic Business for IWIF (Injured Workers Insurance Fund). She gave a quick overview of a program that would provide competitive rating for preferred accounts and an administrative fee to the MSFA. It is recommended she be allowed to make a presentation to the Executive Committee. The Risk Management Committee is charged with getting and reviewing the proposal, and report back to the Executive Committee at the April 2009 meeting. Chair Moe asked the committee to proceed with this and report back.

FIRE MARSHALL – B. Barnard presented and discussed his written report. He said they have 8 full time vacant positions, however, budget restrictions will not permit filling any of them. The fire death total for 2008 was 60. There are 13 fatalities already for 2009. He said several fire departments and/or counties are not submitting MFIRS reports to the OSFM in a timely manner. He said on 19 December 2008, the International Code Council

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(ICC) Board of Directors voted unanimously to reject an appeal by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). He discussed the Fire Investigations and Arrests this month in Maryland. J. Seavey asked if there is something we could do thru legislature, instead of our trying to do something reactive. B. Barnard said this is already in code in Maryland as the Maryland Building Performance Standards.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION – R. Brooks said R. Yinger has now joined as one of the four new Commissioners. R. Brooks had no written report. He discussed the commissioners and just what their job is. They are working with the Chief Fire Protection Engineer on the Life Safety Code review. They are still working on the Hose Connection interoperability. They are also working on an appeal from an Eastern Shore owner with regard to egress. He said the Commission is now up to full strength.

HAZMAT – R. Brooks had no written report. He discussed the Cecil County Hazmat team. He is helping MFRI in rewriting the Hazmat program. He discussed Hazmat seminar's coming out in the new future. Discussed Terrorism updates. He discussed the mass transit on the roads during the Inauguration week. J. Long said your By-Laws must say your members are involved in Hazmat events and if not mentioned, you might not be paid or reimbursed for your actions. This was news to many in the attendance today. The International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference is 27-31 May at Hunt Valley Maryland. He is working with MFRI in rewriting the Hazmat Tech Program. The EPA Region Spills Conference will be held 15-18 November 2009 in Baltimore. He discussed the actions with the State of Emergency in Maryland for the President's train trip in Maryland.

PARLIMENTARIAN – R. Brooks reported on the election cycle, and he has received several calls asking for guidance. All questions narrowed to they all wanted to make last minute changes to orchestrate an election. This is not the time to make a By-Laws change, not now and not immediately after an election.

FIRE PREVENTION – R. Collins presented and discussed his written report. At OC this year they will be setting up more displays than usual. He discussed the Silver Spring Award that is for an individual and they would like to see more than just two applications for the award this year. FP Books must be turned in by 30 April to be judged this year. If anyone needs a hearing impaired smoke alarm, contact Peggy Webb. T. Collins reported we still have a billboard on Rt. 50 (east) going into Ocean City that reads "Smoke Alarms, don't stay home without one". The committee has agreed to put up another

billboard outside Cambridge going west, that reads “Warm up to Fire Safety with portable heaters”. J. Spiker is working with Wal-Mart, Giant, and Safeway about putting a safety message on their bags. John is also working on Posters with life safety messages to be put in public places. Their next Fire Prevention meeting is scheduled for 29 March 2009 at Libertytown VFD.

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MISS FIRE PREVENTION – K. Gable presented and discussed her written report. She discussed the upcoming FP events in 2009. S. Jaret presented her written report and discussed her activities since the June 2008 convention. She thanked D. Alexander for his help and cooperation and taking her to a Sprinkler System meeting and the Legislative Reception. She also thanked B. Barnard for the tour of the State Fire Marshal’s Office. She congratulated C. Frances and the other Queens for their successful year. She thanked everyone in the MSFA for their donations for the Polar Bear Dunking. She has exceeded her goal and raised over \$500 for the Special Olympics at Deep Creek. She also did a Fire Prevention Radio interview with Station WTTR, that airs tomorrow. K. Gable discussed the Miss Fire Prevention Program, and said the Junior Miss Fire Prevention has been held throughout February and is going well. She discussed the different contests being conducted around the state. She thanked the Regional Coordinators and the Judges and everyone else that has helped promote the contests. She said they are looking for previous winners of the Miss Fire Prevention to help celebrate 30 years of MSFA Miss Fire Prevention. She has applications today for the Miss MSFA contest, and if more forms are needed contact her for the application and details.

RISK WATCH – T. Crisman presented and discussed her written report. There are now 12 communities working with Risk Watch materials for 2008-2009 school, after school, day care, and department programs. Curriculum and Risky Business Boxes are available to new communities as new coalitions are developed. The Training Kit for new companies remains available through the MIEMSS EMS for children and Region V office partnership. She said planning has already started for the convention in June 2009 with expanded Focus On Life Safety programs.

LEGISLATIVE – D. Davis and R. Yinger presented and discussed his written report. Danny discussed the Legislative Reception this year. The regular session of the Maryland General Assembly opened on 14 January 2009. There are 1307 House and 915 Senate Bills. Of these, the MSFA is currently monitoring 68. Three very important bills were introduced by Senators Pipkin and Astle, and they are SWB649, SB650, and SB764. These three bills will greatly impact the current MED-A-VAC system and Emergency Services in Maryland. These bills will change the makeup of the Helicopter Fleet by dividing it into two separate divisions with different helicopters and would contract out the MED-A-VAC portion. He has sent out an urgent message to all on “our” e-mail list asking them to contact the Budget & Taxation and Finance Committees urging them to vote against these bills. He said the annual MSFA Legislative Reception was held on 9 February 2009 in the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. There were 233

individuals that signed in (and about 40 more that did not) for the event. He thanked S. Worthington for preparing and serving the food. He thanked R. Davis for ordering and delivering the stuffed ham and shrimp, and the Carroll County group for tending the bar. He thanked the Legislative Committee Ladies for insuring everyone sign in to the event. He thanked R. Snader for replacing the computer that failed at 17 State Circle. He

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discussed several of the other bills they have been tracking this year and noted their support or opposition of the bills. There will be a rally at Lawyer Square on 4 March 2009 and they are encouraging everyone that can make it, be there in Fire/EMS Uniform. .

MEMORIAL – G. Worthington presented and discussed his written report. He said the State Grant check for \$75,000 has been received, and was deposited in the MLGIP to offset our withdraws from the enhancement construction. All six of the Benches have been sold, and name plates will be mounted on the benches showing the recognition of the purchasers. He said a maintenance contract has been signed by him for the year 2009 with the Walnut Hill Landscape Company. The highway signs on Rt-50 have been installed by the State Highway Department. The Memorial sign at the site is awaiting the approval of the City of Annapolis. They filed for a permit and have verbal approval, but nothing yet in writing. The Red Knights Motorcycle Partners will have their annual bike ride this year, and will be doing their annual cleanup of the Memorial figures. The annual ceremony will be held this year on 7 June to honor our LODD's from the past. He is urging everyone to attend the event. The Gala this year will be held on 26 September at Solomons. During the MSFA Legislative Reception, they were able to get additional signatures for Senator Dyson's bill depicting the first Sunday in June as the day for the recognition of our Fallen Firefighters each year. The bill was introduced in the House by Delegate Malone. He said they are still selling Bricks, Pictures, and DVD's.

OUT OF STATE – G. Worthington presented and discussed his written report. He reported the following scheduled Association Meeting dates for this year:

18 April 2009 – President's Council at Branchville VFC.

29 July – 1 August 2009 – Cumberland Valley VFA at Newark Delaware.

12-14 August 2009 – Va. State FF Association in Hampton Virginia.

20-22 August 2009 – West Va. State FF Assn. in Vienna West Va.

14-19 September 2009 – Delaware VFA in Dover Delaware.

23-26 September 2009 – FF Assn. of Pennsylvania at Valley Forge Pennsylvania.

PUBLIC INFORMATION – R. Watkins presented and discussed his written report. The committee has not met since the last Executive Committee meeting. He has heard nothing from any of the organization's officers or committees requesting help. The committee will try to help anyone requesting assistance. He has handled several requests for photo's of Committee Chairs and/or Officers. He is presently preparing the press release for the upcoming convention, and as he gets the material, they will be sent out shortly after 1 May 2009.

NVFC – L. Sachs presented and discussed his written report. He reported that because of the Budget situation, they haven't pursued the Executive Director funding and are not going to it this year. It was not part of the Budget the Governor offered, and we understand why. The next 45 days are important regarding a resolution regarding paid (IAFF) Fire & Ems personnel being able to volunteer in their off duty hours. He said we

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will be there to see just what does happen and we are aware of it. He said the New York State Association has published a statement (the first one from a State Organization), but the IFC just spoke to the right volunteer, and did not address or mention the IAFF. He said yesterday's the New York version did. He said for the April meeting, he will write a draft (toned down from the last one) and hope it will be adopted.

He said the chair last year tried to change the way the membership of the NVFC is constituted. He said the Spring meeting of the NVFC Board of Directors will be held in April 2009 in Alexandria Virginia. He urged everyone to visit the NVFC website (www.nvfc.org) to see the wealth of information available on such matters as Recruitment & Retention, Safety, Health Issues, EMS positions, and many other areas of interest

BESSIE MARSHALL – E. Huttenloch presented and discussed her written report. She thanked the MSFA and its member companies for their support with their projects. They have collected (with their lottery) so far this year \$9,296.00, and the fire departments have sent in additional donations of \$1,640.00. They have paid out 24 cases for a total of \$17,850.00. They have distributed the annual lottery tickets to all of the fire departments and auxiliaries. Many have not returned their tickets, and it is not too late, as they have many more drawings to come at the Spring Conference and the Convention. They will also have the Convention 50-50 again this year. The winner of last year's drawing won over \$2700.00. She reminded each Chief and President to be sure to fill out the forms completely before mailing them. Not signing the form only delays the payment getting to the needed fireman. She said they still have the Susan Pins for sale. She again thanked everyone for their support and looks forward to helping any fireman who is in need of assistance.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION – J. Denver presented and discussed his written report. They will pursue the promotion of the 1-800 fireline. It has been underutilized over the years for a number of reasons. J. Brown is going to contact a Baltimore TV Station personality who has shown interest in the past of the fire service. They also plan to work with a pre-employment testing firm to develop a test for prospective new volunteers. The main purpose of the test is to identify those applicants who are most likely to remain active in the Volunteer fire service for extended periods. The testing could be available over the internet, and would be quite inexpensive compared to costs associated with high turnover. The testing also measures teamwork, integrity, adaptability, and all traits important to the fire service. A schedule of meetings for the remainder of 2009 should be available by the middle of next month.

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RURAL WATER – D. Alexander presented and discussed his written report. The committee has not met since the last Executive Committee meeting. Preparations have begun for the Spring 2009 drill to be held on 25 April 2009 at the Marlboro VFC. Pre-registration is preferred, but not required. All companies are invited to attend the drill and participate. A flyer with all pertinent details will be out shortly.

RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS – D. Alexander presented and discussed his written report. The committee has not met since the last Executive Committee meeting. A meeting is planned for 18 February 2009. The committee attended the Mayor and Council of Westernport meeting at their request on 20 January 2009, where a residential sprinkler ordinance for the town was proposed. The Council voted to forward the ordinance to a final vote which occurred on 17 February 2009. The ordinance failed for lack of a 2nd. The committee was represented at the Anne Arundel County Council meeting on 5 January 2009 where the final vote took place. The Anne Arundel County Fire Service did an excellent job in rounding up support and the ordinance was approved for residential sprinklers in all new one and two family dwellings. The ordinance becomes effective on 20 February 2009. The committee has been working with the Carroll County Building Officials in adding provisions to their ordinance for renovations and rebuilds. This will clarify when a home under major renovation will be required to add residential sprinklers. The public hearing was held on 22 January 2009, and a final vote was scheduled for 12 February 2009, but was postponed. The outlook was not good, as it was brought to the Commissioners from the Building Officials and will be defeated by a 3-0 vote. On 12 February 2009 the committee visited the newly appointed Residential Sprinkler Committee for the Washington County Volunteer Firemen's Association for an educational program on residential sprinklers at the request of Chair Jay Grimes. The meeting went well, and now the committee is putting together a plan of action to get requirements in place for residential sprinklers in one and two family homes in Washington County. They will hear more on this in the near future. Calvert County has an ordinance drafted by their attorney, and it may be introduced in March. At this time they have no upcoming meetings or dates scheduled.

CADET PROGRAM – D. Stevens presented and discussed his written report. The committee continues to monitor the programs throughout the state, and they are ready to assist in any way they can. They encourage county representatives to communicate issues and challenges to them. Richard Smith (Talbot County) asked about the failure rate in other counties, and specifically which classes the students are failing? The general opinion is that EMT is the class that is most problematic. They also have problems with

FF1 and HazMat Operations as well. They are working on a questionnaire to be sent to the coordinators to better refine the answer to the failure question. He said a major factor with any of the programs is recruitment. The counties that invest time at this stage of the program, and aggressively recruit, have very successful programs.

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17 STATE CIRCLE – F. Underwood talked to Chuck who said everything is up to speed at this time. He has some Christmas decorations to put away. The air conditioner has been added and ready for this summer.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM - B. Huttenloch said the broken microphones being repaired, are still out.

SURPLUS PROPERTY – E. Woods presented and discussed his written report. They have received a request from Pittsville VFD for equipment to outfit a Ladder Truck and they are working on this now. They ask any company to consider donating any small tools, appliances, hose, power tools, etc. that may be surplus to your operations. Contact Ed if you can help. An inventory has been made of the small trailer at Cedarville, and a copy was included with his report. They did find a couple small leaks in the roof of the trailer, and repairs will be made when the weather warms up.

TRANSPORTATION – T. Flint presented and discussed his written report. He said the recertification packages have now all been provided to all County Tag Coordinators. For those coordinators that have not yet received them, they are asked to contact the companies and request the completion and return of the recertification documents. The committee has held three working meetings since the end of November. Data input and new tag data input is being conducted on a regular basis as the information is received by the committee. They have received so far \$1,770.00 in fees. They have received \$21,410.00 in recertification fees from the period March 2008 to February 12, 2009.

WATERCRAFT – S. Johnson presented and discussed his written report. Aside from the ESF-9, the committee is meeting at Kingsville on 14 March 2009, to discuss agencies that operate watercraft (particularly on non-navigable waters) and use inflatables that may be deflated, are having a hard time meeting the regulations for display of registration on the side of the craft, and the registration on board with you, etc. There are exemptions, however, in the Code for certain vessels. The other side is the requirement for boater safety training for those born after a certain date (1971).

EMERGENCY VEHICLES – R. Steger presented and discussed his written report. They continue to receive calls in reference to the type of driver's license needed to operate emergency vehicles. He said if you have a CDL, you do not need the CDL endorsement for driving a tanker fire truck. These drivers may however, need a CDL license with the Tanker endorsement if they are licensed in another state other than Maryland. You also do not need a DOT Physical card if you have a CDL while driving an

emergency vehicle. He said the use of red lights on private vehicles, information can be found in the Maryland Fire Laws “TR 22-218 (3) Audible and Visual Signals on Vehicles”

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INCENTIVES – S. Carter presented and discussed Joan Robison’s written report. He said questions and confusion have come up regarding the Income Tax Incentive and the number of points required for the tax year (must have qualified three of the last ten years with 50 or more points, and one of those years must be during the tax year, or last year. If you have 25 or more qualified years, then it does not have to be during the tax year), or last year. It can be any three years of the last 10 years. This is apparently confusing for some of the members. B. Schweers questioned the 25 years and being active and the way this is being interpreted by the state and the reader. He will get with Joan for this misunderstanding. The county tax list is due by 1 May 2009 to the MSFA

FIRST DAY ADJOURNMENT - meeting adjourned at 1500 hours.

SECOND DAY RECALL TO ORDER – Meeting recalled to order this 2nd day at 22 February 2009 at 0900 by Chair C. Moe. Additional prayers asked for the Mills, Walden and Mondie families, K.. Briggs, Jeremy Rhodes, Margaret Gouty and Bill. Huttenloch. Chair Moe read e-mail from Joe Robison’s daughter saying he is doing better, but still in the hospital awaiting tests and results.

OPENING PRAYER & PLEDGE – Chaplain Coblenz gave the opening prayer and led us in the pledge to the flag.

WELCOME – President Underwood welcomed everyone back to the 2nd day of the meeting at Smithsburg.

ATTENDANCE – Additional guests in attendance today: **MFRI** S. Edwards, and **DNR** M. Mitchell.

PLANNING – D. Keller presented and discussed his written report. The committee last met on 4 February 2009. Their guests at the meeting was the MSFA VP’s, and reps from the Safety, Technical Support, and Training committees. They looked at what each of these committees are doing, and their planning for next year, to make sure they are moving in the best interest of the MSFA. Other committee chairs have called since this meeting and they assured them they are not trying to run their committee, but make sure what they are doing is a positive for the future of the MSFA. They also discussed the website and what is needed to keep moving in a positive direction.

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VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE FUND BOARD– D. Lewis presented and discussed Joe Robison’s written report. The committee last met on 15 February 2009 at Odenton. They reviewed the three (3) pending Loan Applications (Glen Dale, Cresaptown, and Branchville) approved last time by the Executive Committee, and they will go before the Dept. of Public Works on 4 March 2009. They have a new member to the Board, Pete Lott of Caroline, Kent & Queen Anne’s Counties. They presented and recommended approval of three (3) new loan applications for Jarrettsville VFC (\$504,745.00 for Rescue Engine), United Communities VFD (\$135,031 for a Rescue Boat), and Parsonsburg VFD (\$1,000,000 for a building). L. Sachs discussed the financial status of the committee, and the loans and the funds available (or not) and the findings of the Audit. On 18 March 2009 the committee is going back to the Board of Public Works regarding the lowering of the interest rate for the loans. He said they have recently had very good support from the Department of the Army. He said the Audit is not technically of the MSFA, but of our funds that are now in the control of the Military. The following motion was made by W. Donaldson and 2nd by R. Thompson:

MOTION – To approve the loan applications for Jarrettsville VFC (\$504,745 for a Rescue Engine in 10 years monthly payments) United Communities VFD (\$135,031 for a Boat in 5 years annual payment) and Parsonsburg VFD (\$1,000,000 for a Building in 30 years monthly payments) for a total of \$1,639,776.00 as presented and recommended by the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund Board. Representatives of each department was present at this meeting today and expressed their thanks to the Board and the MSFA. Motion was approved by all.

MFRI – S. Edwards presented and discussed his written report. Buddy discussed the training facility in Baltimore and an issue with the insurance that was pulled and reworked to a higher amount. They will self insure it but only the Baltimore units can use it. S. Edwards explained the situation and said there definitely is an impact and it is being worked on now to correct the situation. L. Sachs further discussed the situation and said it is being worked on now.

MFRI – S. Edwards presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the latest on the construction of a new MFRI North East Regional Training Center. The funding and construction of the center has been an evolving issue involving the UMCP Architectural and Engineering Services as well as the State Department of Budget and Management. Their plan was to start construction in 2009. Regrettably the funds were not placed in the FY 2010 Budget, and has now been moved to 2011. The major concern is

the Tank Test Track that is currently under construction, and MFRI students cannot cross the track to get to the training center to attend classes. He signed a MOI with the Aberdeen Proving Grounds that they will contribute \$750,000 toward this project if we get the construction this year. The State should not pass this opportunity up when they can receive federal funding for the project. He has talked to Delegate Norm Conway

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about this situation, and said he feels he can get the issue worked out. He said they are opposed to Senate Bill 764 because it would remove MFRI from the University of Maryland. He discussed what would be lost and would have to be replaced (at cost of about \$2.4M) if they were required to move to the Department of Emergency Services. He said MFRI is now offering a new on-line learning course that provides EMT-B students the opportunity to complete the 12 hour continuing education requirements for recertification in an on-line learning format. He reported the Maryland weekend at the Fire Academy this year was the 25th Anniversary of the event. They had about 180 students signed up for the program. The Chief Officer's Seminar will be held this coming weekend at UOM Shady Grove with about 200 signed up. He said the Assistance to Firefighters Act Grant Workshops are out now and coordinated by D. Lewis. They will receive a Grant from the Homeland Security of \$5,000 per state to assist the Fire Training Agencies to be able to deliver additional Fire Act Training Grants. He and L. Sachs discussed the Baltimore Training issue question about insurance, and the students outside of Baltimore County cannot attend classes there. The only classes affected by this is the Practical and affected only a few students. The classes were (and are being) moved to other fire houses. The problem is the lease between the owner of the property and Baltimore County.

DNR – M. Mitchell presented and discussed his written report. The Forest Service responded to 62 wildfires burning 2,931 acres thru 11 February 2009. In 2008 they completed 25 prescribed burns on 537 acres, mostly for hazard fuel reduction projects. It has been dryer than normal, and we are behind last years rainfall this year by 2-4 inches. The Spring Basic Wildland Fire Courses is scheduled for 20-24 April 2009 at the Upper Eastern Shore Regional Training Center in Centreville. Registration deadline is 10 April 2009. The 2009 Wildland Fire Camp is scheduled for 16-17 May 2009. You can do 32 of the 40 hours training on-line and the remaining 8 hours of actual field trials at MFRI in Centreville. The proposed FY10 State Budget submitted in January includes a reduction of sixteen additional positions for the Department of Natural Resources. The seasonal firefighter for the Central Region at the Madonna Ranger Station (Harford County) will be back on contract starting 4 March 2009, and will run through December 2009. Maryland has not yet received the fiscal notice from the US Forest Service of Grants for FY10. They anticipate \$90,000 in funding and the maximum grant award will remain at \$3,000 per department with the 50/50 match requirement. He asked of any Dry Hydrants not listed in the DNR book, please let him know.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR – J. Gatton presented and discussed his written report. The committee is accepting applications for the 2008 Firefighter of the Year Award to be presented at the convention in June at Ocean City. They urge everyone to have their Department as well as each Executive Committee member nominate someone.

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MIEMSS - R. Bass presented and discussed his written report. He said MIEMSS is mandating that all EMT-B's, CRT's, and EMT-P's successfully complete the 28 minute presentation on the protocol change and trauma category review by 1 March 2009. They have been doing training with three Certified Flight Communicator (CFC) classes recently held for MSP Aviation Command personnel and MIEMSS Communication Operators. As of January 2009, SYSCOM is 100% staffed by Aviation Communications Specialists. A total of 35 MIEMSS and MSP personnel now hold CFC credentials. The NTSB held a 4 day public hearing on the safety of Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) in early February 2009. Their findings should be available in the near future. They formed an Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Committee to address Emergency Medical Dispatch issues throughout the State. The SEMSAC BLS Committee is in the process of developing the curriculum for the revised EMT-B refresher course. He said MIEMSS is implementing a Learning Management System (LMS) for on-line education enabling instructors to share resources. The total number of current Maryland EMS Providers is 30,045 as of 11 February 2009. MIEMSS, in collaboration with the Atlantic EMS Council, has completed the review of the new web-based test generator to be used for all certification and licensure examinations in Maryland. The educational guidelines for the EMR have been finalized and are available on-line. National EMS Week is 17-23 May 2009 with the theme "EMS – A Proud Partner In Your Community". The Star of Life Awards will be given out this year on 17 May 2009 in Annapolis. The Infection Control Committee was mandated to work on the issue of bloodborne pathogen exposures among EMS providers and other health care providers. They gave a drafted regulation to the EMS Board in December 2008 for informational and feedback purposes. Discussed the Yellow Alerts this past year and said the Flu is beginning to peak now, and it is not too late to get your Flu Shot. Currently there are 1037 approved AED programs in Maryland with a total of 2521 sites. He discussed changes made to the Public Access Defibrillation Program as a result of Senate Bill 570. It streamlines the process, eliminates the fee, and Physicians and Dentists are no longer required to register with MIEMSS. The Cardiac Centers are temporarily on hold, but will be picked up again in the Spring. They are looking ahead at the next generation of EMAIS with a Grant they received for analysis of the Maryland EMS Data Collection System, and recommendations for the future EMAIS 3.0. Currently 18 jurisdictions are utilizing EMAIS along with 7 Operational Programs statewide. He said MIEMSS continues to work with system stakeholders to improve acute stroke care in Maryland. The number of designated Primary Stroke Centers statewide remains at 31. Three additional hospitals have applied and will have site surveys in early 2009. MIEMSS is scheduling reviews of approximately 20 EMS Base Stations. Dr. Bass discussed the protocols and said they are watching the requests that come in and the disposition of the requests. Issues that come

up are looked at very promptly, and they try to get back to the jurisdiction (or wherever they have concerns) very soon thereafter. He discussed the decline in the requests after the crash of Trooper 2 and the many rumors that arose as to what happened and what will

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happen now. D. Stevens discussed the Trooper 2 crash and the inclusion of the investigation with the Waldorf VFD. He discussed the delay in getting the helicopter off the ground from the scene and the delay in getting it to the scene, etc. Dr. Bass said we all need to use good judgement of the new Codes and it is falling into place and they are watching it and asked that any problems be reported to him so it can be corrected. He discussed events this past week on the protocols and recommendations regarding getting accreditation that is becoming the standard around the country. The final comprehensive report will be coming out this coming week, and they anticipate they will be what they expect. A second study is underway by Smart Associates, on the Basing Study and how much coverage and response time do you have vs population and area of the state. This is all in the effort to reduce the helo fleet, or not. March 4 is the big date in Annapolis for the EMS Helicopter issue.

EMS – C. Wills presented and discussed his written report. The committee did not meet last month, and their next meeting is scheduled for 8 March 2009 at Kensington VFD. They will be discussing the EMAIS Reporting Rules. They are looking to make a time line deadline on when you have to turn in your EMAIS Reports. He said Bills SB650 and SB764 will greatly change the current Med-A-Vac system.

MSP-AV – Maj. McAndrew presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the crash of Trooper 2, and asked everyone to keep all of the victims and their families in your thoughts and prayers. He apologized to Chief Stevens, and the MSFA for the remark made by his duty officer that night, that it was Waldorf and they always want to fly and not drive to the hospital. He said the remark was inaccurate and please accept his apology. He discussed what is happening in Annapolis regarding the Aviation Command, and they are fighting for their life. He said Senate Bill 650 would have the MSP-AV bid against private medavac companies, and of course, the Aviation Command does not support this Bill. D. Stevens thanked the Major and his staff for their support back at the Crash of Trooper 2.

PRESENTATION - President Underwood presented a plaque of appreciation to MFRI Steve Edwards for his help and cooperation now and in his past 25 years of service.

STANDARDS – B. Huttenloch presented and discussed his written report. He thanked everyone for their cards and thoughts during his recent stay in the hospital. He discussed the rules on the Safety Vest and who and when the vest is to be worn. It says if you are in the operations of the fire (flames showing) or Hazmat suits are being worn, you do not have to wear the vest. Anyone else on the scene in the highway must be

wearing the vest. If you are not wearing the vest when you should, the police can remove you from the highway. NFPA is creating a 30 member committee to take 3-4 years to create new ambulance standards and design. They apparently want to do away with the small ambulances out there now. They want the high industrial type fire fighting ambulance on the market, because the smaller units tend to roll over when they get hit.

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He discussed NFPA Standards, Type and Title they are looking at now. The new 2009 edition of the NFPA 1901 Standard is now available for anyone interested..

SCHOLARSHIP – D. Fishack presented and discussed his written report. The committee has not met since the last Executive Committee meeting. He has received a larger than normal amount of requests for information this year on our scholarships. He has updated the application for this year and it will be posted on the website. They also plan a blurb that will be on the main page. He reminded everyone the deadline for applications to be submitted, is 15 April 2009. F. Underwood discussed tuition reimbursement. The funding appears to still be there, but they are back logged in PG County, and still considering how the remaining funds will be disbursed.

SHOCK TRAUMA – J. Spearman presented and discussed his written report. He discussed the 2009 Patient admissions which were 133 lower than the budgeted number. He discussed the OR Cases that showed FY09 slightly lower than FY08. The Night For Heroes event will be held on 25 April 2009 at the Baltimore Convention Center. The STC Gala has two cases this year with the Suburban Case being Anne Arundel County FD Stations 3&7, and MSP Trooper 2, (Bicycle vs Pole 42 year old male). The Rural Case was Baltimore County Stations 40, 41 and EMS 8, and Trooper 1 (MVC 17 year old male). Their Education Mission for FY2009 included 17 Tours, 8 per year Evening Educational Programs, 4 ALS Skills Lab with 64 providers. The Observation Program had 124 TRU EMS Providers, 55 EMS Providers with Critical Care, and 9 On-Site Clinical Programs.

MEMA – The written report from D. Beard reported on the Fire Desk. He has participated on numerous statewide conference calls and forwarded the information to the Officers of the MSFA. He said those individuals that have received WebEOC training should log on the system daily to observe what is going on thru out the state.

HONOR GUARD – The written report from J. Hawley reported on the plan for a combined Color Guard this year. The Opening Ceremony will have the County Flags pre-posted on the stage. The committee now has a casket that was donated by the MSFA for the Honor Guard training.

FIRE LAWS BOOK – Written report received from M. Bilger saying the committee has not met since the December 2008 meeting, but they are monitoring the Bills now being

considered by the current Maryland Session in Annapolis. He has placed the order with the publisher for 850 copies of the 2008 edition of the Maryland Fire Laws.

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GRANTS – D. Lewis and B. Kennedy presented and discussed the committee's report. They have completed four of their workshops so far this year, and three more will be held this week. So far 30 Maryland Departments have received Grants totaling over \$3M from the 2008 Program, from 205 Applications. The Safer Program will continue from the 2008 Program into 2009. The Fire Prevention and Safety 2008 period is currently open from early February until 6 March 2009. They will insure the MSFA application for the Smoke Alarm Program will be re-filed this year and will correct the problems of last year. Bart discussed the Stimulus Bill \$210M for fire station construction nationally, and how it might play out at this point. It is emergency critical infrastructure funding only.

STATISTICAL – R. Balta presented and discussed his written report. He said they have a data base on-line now, and an input sheet under Statistical to get the data in. They are not yet where they want to be and hope eventually to be where the companies can go in and update their own information. He asks every company to get on the Statistical page and be sure to fill it out completely before you go on-line, because you will not be able to go back to it and get information back out. He will send letters out to the companies explaining what they are being asked to do.

MINUTES – The following motion was made by J, Seavey and 2nd by S. Carter:

MOTION – To approve the Minutes of the 6-7 December 2008 Executive Committee meeting, as presented and distributed. Motion was approved by all.

GOOD OF MSFA – Round table discussion by each member of the Executive Committee regarding happenings in their area of the state.

12 CORE GOALS – B. Hildebrand presented and discussed a written copy to the Executive Committee of the 12 Core Goals of Governor O'Malley for the state of Maryland. To see where the State stands in regards to these Goals, Sub-committees have been formed to deal with each of the Goals. He discussed Core Goal 4 that is for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for First Responders. The Sub-committee has developed a Survey for Fire/EMS to identify what the departments have and to identify any gaps. He asks the Survey be completed and returned to them no later that 31 March 2009.

IRS - Bill said in addition to the Incentives report earlier, Joan Robison has found an IRS Code 139B reported last Fall for LOSAP recipients, that authorizes a \$30 per month (\$360 max per year) deduction off your Federal Income Taxes. She cautions that the IRS

did not make available on the 1040 Form, a place to note this amount, and they suggest you deduct it off the gross. It will not of course, match the 1099 that was issued to the tax payer, so beware of possibly raising a red flag.

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SMITHSBURG VFD – D. Fishack and the MSFA Executive Committee thanked the Smithsburg VFD and their kitchen staff for their delicious meals and hospitality this weekend.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES - M. Gouty reported she had \$945 worth of sales this weekend.

CLOSING PRAYER – The closing prayer was given by Chaplain Coblentz.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1140 hours.

NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of the MSFA Executive Committee is scheduled for Chestertown VFC on 25-26 April 2009.

Submitted by,

Jacqueline Olson, Secretary
Leonard T. King, Sr, Secretary Emeritus
Joseph A. Cooper, Asst. Secretary
Ronald T. Watkins, Asst. Secretary
Kristi Gable, Asst. Secretary
Richard A. Snader, Asst. Secretary