

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services
Personnel
www.msfa.org*



Executive Committee Meeting
Ocean City
June 19, 2014 @ 0900

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Charles Abrecht at 0900 at the Convention Center, Ocean City, MD.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Opening prayer was given by Chaplain Emeritus Rev. Harvey Dixon

President Dave Keller:

- Thanks to everyone for their support
- Passed out a draft committee list, anyone wanting to serve on a committee please sign up on line or let me know
- Need a Public Address Chair
- We all need to move forward with the Association
- The April 18/19, 2015 Executive Comm. Meeting will be in Urbana

1st Vice President Johnie Roth:

- We all need to work together
- We to work on getting the youth in our service involved

2nd Vice President Mike Davis:

- Introduced all the Past Presidents in attendance
- Introduced guests

Secretary Doyle Cox:

- All new committee chairs need to contact me for pocket badge

Trustees: Doug Alexander

- Will meet Tuesday afternoon
- LODD in March at Hagerstown
- LODI in Ocean Pines from May
- Landsdowne will be submitting a LODD

- Officers are
 - ☞ Chair – Danny Carpenter
 - ☞ Vice Chair – Doug Alexander
 - ☞ Secretary – Jeff Thompson. Need a laptop for the secretary ASAP
- Death benefits up to and including \$10,000 effective 1-1-2014
- Will not be raising monthly benefits
- The State is only funding \$300,000 this year v \$310,000
- Need to review the guidelines
- Cobrum Cup – the hosting company wants to change the rules to only persons from their area
- LODD and LODI – will not accept requests if more than 6 months old

LA MSFA President Ann Price-Davis introduced her new officers and the LAMSFA Past Presidents in attendance.

Miss Fire Prevention Stacey Holden and 1st Runner Up Brittany Hill – report submitted and said to call if any company needed them to come to an event.

Chairman Abrecht made a presentation to Dennis Skinner and PP Jackie Olson

Financial Team – Ron Siarnicki:

- The full transition with PNC bank has been done effective 1-1-2014
- Fine tuning the Fixed Assets
- Plans for SAFR Grant
- For expenses see Robert Jacobs and turn in your forms
- A big thank you to the team for a job well done

Mitch Vocke

- Two departments have not paid their dues: Powellville VFC and Montgomery F&R Assoc. the committee was advised that Montgomery F&R Assoc. has sent theirs in.
- Please mail to Mitch Vocke at P.O. Box 401 and not the old address.

Steve Cox – Budget:

- Only 40% of the member companies sell their raffle tickets ---SHAMEFUL!
- See budget report
- Team needs flexibility to move monies when necessary
- Mark Bilger – laptop request for Trustees is covered.

Convention Committee Ron Siarnicki:

- Exhaust issues and noise
- Banquet at the Clarion was very nice
- Attendance: Memorial – 1700, OC less than 1200, Jolly Roger – 1854. No-shows for the Hands-on-Training is a problem
- Convention next year is June 20 – 26, 2015
- The critique will be in Odenton

Jim Seavey – good job on the convention considering all the construction going on. One concern was the trophies given out after the parade, was supposed to be at 1730 hours but started at 1700 hours, which caused a lot of people to miss a lot. The schedule is always subject to change. PP Paul Sterling apologized. Justin Towles said the app was useful and was linked to social media.
Parliamentarian Richard Brooks said Tyler Patton is a new committee member.

Executive Committee:

- Tim Dayton, Western MD
- Dan Stevens, Southern MD – Bob Petrash passed away, he was the oldest active CRT in state.
- Justin Towles, Anne Arundle
- Richard Smith, Talbot/Dorchester
- Chuck Walker, Prince George's
- Mark Bilger, Carroll/Howard – discussed the ballot that was used and how confusing it was to some voters.
- Jim Seavey, Montgomery – greetings from President Goodloe. We need to establish a Protocol Committee
- Jackie Olson PP
- John Fisher, Worcester/Wicomico/Somerset
- Ben Kurtz, Harford/Cecil – announced he would be running for Trustee in 2015
- Mike Faust, Kent/Queen Anne's/Caroline
- Doug Simpkins, Baltimore County
- Charles Abrecht, Chairman. Appreciates the past service of Gene Worthington

Memorial Committee Gene Worthington

- Still have challenge coins available – 6.
- GALA is September 27th in Hagerstown

Ways & Means Lou Jonske

- Raffle this year was \$52,317, \$8000 from counter sales, LAMSFA sold \$13,417. Please buy the tickets sent to your company.

MD Fire Chiefs Terry Thompson, president

- Changes are being made
- We all need to work together

NVFC Jim Seavey

- Heather Schafer made a presentation
- There is a meeting scheduled in July with Jackie, Doyle and other officers to have a NVFC link off the MSFA website.
- All State Membership funded by MSFA of \$25,000 for our members to join

EMS Committee Bill Dousa

- Governor's Assailant Work Group – document passed out. All comments are

due to MIEMSS by 7/7/14. Question from M. Bilger – a critique is not mentioned in the plan?

FF Room Frank Underwood

- The room is ready, it will be available for meetings with restrictions on food and drink

PIO Ron Watkins

- A lot of pictures were taken
- Pictures will be taken at Williamsport

Harve Woods had trophies from the convention to pass out

LOSAP Stu Carter

- Missing SSNs, comptroller's office will not accept forms without SSNs
- For those who do not submit their SSNs, they will have to file an amended return with MD

Carol Hayden PP LAMSFA presented a \$500 check to the MSFA Scholarship program.

VCAF Joseph Antoszewski, vice chairman

- The on line process has been streamlined
- The increase from \$250,000 to \$500,000 per year is under discussion, the down payment of 25% request to drop to 15% has to go to Legislation. The committee will need the Executive Committee's blessing on this.

Trustees

- The requested laptop has been received as there was money in the budget.

Data Systems Richard Snader

- Had more than 450 app users at convention
- There is a process to post on the website, do not spend money

Second Vice President Johnie Roth

- The 2015 convention will see charges in Wi-Fi usage
- Charge for exhibitors – not for MSFA
- Meeting with MML and MACo

Past President Jackie Olson

- SAFR Grant received \$2,524,670
- MSFA and MD Fire Chiefs
 - Forming a Task Force
 - Planning Committee
 - Retreat Committee

ACTION ITEMS:

To take the VCAF motion off the table from the last meeting – MOTION BY B. KURTZ, 2ND BY R. SMITH TO INCREASE THE GRANT MONIES ALLOWED FROM \$250 THOUSAND TO \$500 THOUSAND...MOTION PASSED. R. SIARNICKI ADVISED EVERYONE TO BE CAUTIOUS AS THE GRANT MONIES DO

NOT COME BACK TO THE ACCOUNT.
There was a lengthy discussion on this subject.

MOTION BY M. FAUST, 2ND BY J. FISHER TO SUPPORT THE VCAF COMMITTEE'S REQUEST TO GO TO LEGISLATION TO REDUCE GRANT MATCH FROM 30% TO 25%...MOTION PASSED.

MOTION BY B. KURTZ, 2ND BY D. SIMPKINS TO APPROVE THE CURRENT TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY AS RECEIVED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE...MOTION PASSED

MOTION BY C. WALKER, 2ND BY R. SMITH TO APPROVE THE CURRENT CORRECTED BUDGET PRESENTED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE...MOTION PASSED

DISCUSSION:

- **Mark Bilger** – there was an issue with the ballots; it was confusing to the voters as it was printed. We need to make the balloting easier.
- **Secretary Cox** – the third candidate was added at the convention. Teresa Crisman will go back to the old way of balloting.
- **Jim Seavey** – we should have a summary to explain the reason for the Questions to be voted on.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Robyn Sheldon-Hahn congratulated the new officers and thanks to all for support
- Jim Blair from Washington County will be a candidate for the office of 2nd Vice President in 2015
- Phil Hurlock – John Meems from Pleasant Valley VFD and Past Trustee is very sick
- Dan Stevens – concerns about the new NREMT testing; the cost for the 2nd testing is \$70..to the tester or the County? Sites have limited seating – this needs to be watched. President Keller will address this with MIEMSS. Dan stated that each training center could be used as a testing site.
- Justin Towels – SAFR grant, looking forward to moving forward on this.
- President Keller – the directory is a draft
 - The Sunday meeting will accept a \$5 donation as no tie is needed
 - Make reservations at the Sleep Inn (\$57) in Clear Spring

Blessing by Assistant Chaplain Bowen

MOTION BY M. BILGER, 2ND BY D. SIMPKINS TO ADJOURN...MOTION PASSED

THE CONVENTION APP HAD 532 USERS

Respectively submitted,

Shirley L. Copado
Assistant Secretary