Executive Committee Minutes

Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company

December 6 7, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Chair Abrecht Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 0940 in Pocomoke City, MD. There were computer recording problems with the Secretary’s computer so the meeting was late getting started.

Opening prayer and inspirational words by Chaplain Hetz

All were welcomed by president of Pocomoke VFD Kevin Long. Meeting was held at the Community Center.

Chair Abrecht advised all to put cell phone on vibrate or pay Bessie Marshal, identify yourself when speaking. Can wear favorite sport’s jersey on Sunday if you pay $10 to Bessie Marshal. Lunch will be $5.

2nd VP Mike Davis introduced the Past Presidents in attendance; SFM Geraci; MFRI Larry Preston, MIEMSS new Director Dr. Seaman, Dr Alcorta, Mike Decker and other guests.

- Senior VP Darby Byrd read a note from President Ann Price-Davis who was unable to attend due to pregnancy. Ms. Byrd introduced the LAMSFA Officers in attendance.

President Dave Keller (see report)
- Bessie Marshal fund raiser
- NVFC, met and will get things moving
- Fire Chaplain’s conference, was a great thing done by Chaplain John Long

1st VP Johnie Roth (see report)
- Attended many county association meetings
- SAFR grant timeline
- NREMT class
• Chief Chaplain John Long was selected Chaplain of the Year
• Members lost
• Congratulations to all that celebrated milestones, OSFM for 50 years
• If you want to serve on a committee please sign up
• Send corrections to the directory to me ASAP so we can get the info together.

2nd VP Mike Davis (see report)
• Reviewing committees, if you want to serve please do so

Secretary (see report)
• Action item to approve the minutes from August
• Received a copy of the 1st mail out for the convention
• Received the application for Brentwood VFD, recommend approval
• Any person or department celebrating a milestone in years, let us know so a proclamation can be done
• Directory corrections in to Shirley
• Committee Chairs had problems submitting their reports electronically, problem has been corrected

Jim Seavey – please put the Brentwood VFD application on the Action Item list tomorrow. The representative from Brentwood VFD is here today and will not be here tomorrow. Steven King president spoke some history of the happenings which brought about the change. Chuck Walker spoke

Motion by Chuck Walker, 2nd Justin Towles to accept the application from Brentwood VFD for membership to the MSFA…PASSED

Board of Trustees Dan Carpenter (see report)
• The applications for the Cobrum Cup award need to be mailed to Jeffrey Thompson, 202 Oriole Road, Chestertown, MD 21620. Gene Worthington has stepped down as Secretary after 9 years.
• $300K budget, requested for an increase of $75,000
• Claims:
  o LODI from Susquenna Hose, member went back to work – case closed
  o LODI from West Lanham Hills 2013, a continuation claim needs to be in every 6 months, just received it
  o Education – one child paid; Chase Clapp has a scholarship for the first 2 years, we will pick up after that
  o LODI from Howard County (2) claims open

Chief Chaplain John Long
• 228 in attendance at conference, thanked those that contributed
• Training for next year being worked on
• Five special presentations to be done at convention

Bessie Marshall Fund Elaine Huttenloch
• Paid to date 17 cases for $13,800., lottery tickets coming back
• Please support this fund
Fire Prevention Ambassadors Stacey Holden (see report)

Approval of minutes from Williamsport meeting – MOTION BY Ben Kurtz, 2nd by Tim Dayton to approve the minutes from the last Executive Committee meeting from August…PASSED.

President Keller introduced representatives from California Casualty: Sandra Clemons Butler, Michelle Harris, Roxanne Dean and Mike Farlow MSFA lawyer. Company celebrated 100 years, Jim Seavey – what can MSFA do to get the word out about your company, all insurers are very satisfied? Just having us at events to show our commitment.

Motion by Jim Seavey, 2nd by Mike Faust to approve the renewal of the contract with California Casualty…PASSED

Presentation by PP Olson to California Casualty

Convention/Conference Committee Tom Mattingly PP (see report)

- A meeting is scheduled with Firehouse Expo in Baltimore to co-promote the two conventions
- 2015 officers banquet will be held at the Clarion Hotel again
- Changes in the program and the memorial service are being looked for improvements
- 125th Anniversary update for 2017
  - Saint Mary’s City has agreed to be one of the sites
  - Baltimore City through Firehouse Expo
  - Frederick with meeting at the Junior Fire Company
  - Last site TBD
- Thanks to the LAMSFA for their financial support of $5,000

NFFF Jackie Olson PP (see report)

- 2014 National Memorial Service went very well:
  - 5000 plus in attendance
  - 3587 names now on the wall
  - Over 600 next of kin family members attended
- Increased fund raising to support the weekend
- The Foundation has implemented a growth plan to increase staff for fund development and marketing
- 2015 NFFF Survivors Conference will be held in Annapolis through the first week of July

National Fire Rescue Memorial Foundation Gene Worthington

- The Gala was successful, approx. 230 attended, thanks to all that helped
- Washington County will host in 2015
- Got maintenance contract from Walnut Hill, they do a good job
- Still selling bricks for placement at the memorial
- Get your Challenge coin
- Need pictures of any LODD
- Thanks to Teresa Crisman for the Facebook page
- March 4th is next meeting
Office of the Attorney Mike Farlow
- A couple checks returned because of insufficient funds:
  - Heidi Cohen – rented two booth spaces for $800, 2 checks bounced, demand letter sent, still not paid
  - David Gan from California for $450 – a stop payment was done by him.

Recommend to proceed with law suit against them both and criminal charges on Mr. Gan for the stop payment. Request up to $200 for filing/service fees not in budget.

MFRI Larry Preston (see report)
- Mark Bilger – can MFRI provide a list county by county of number of members at each level of training. Can do by course
- 1st VP Roth asked about non issue of cards; students can print transcripts from website same size as card
- Jim Seavey – NVFC meeting each spring in Alexandria, they are interested in having a one day series of meetings at MFRI campus; will send you the dates. Larry will look into this. 2. Discontinue use of the flume for Swift Water training; looking at alternate sites for this training.

MFRETC Lynn Gilroy (see report)
- The rules for the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance Rescue Squad Member Scholarship program were presented and adopted on November 24, 2014 (copy attached to report). Applications may be submitted beginning January 1st for full time students (12 credits or more per semester) or part-time students (6-11 credits). Awards shall be at least 50% of student’s actual annual tuition and mandatory fees, not to exceed the highest cost tuition and mandatory fees at a four-year public institution within the U of M system. There will be a “gap” in funding to those students in the 2014-2015 academic year.
- Request the President direct the Legislative Committee to secure the proposed legislation and seek out a sponsor so that this “gap” funding issue can be repaired.

President Keller introduced Liz Shaw and Betty (mother); presentation on texting and driving. A video was shown. Jim Seavey thanked them for the presentation. Ben Kurtz asked if we could get copies to show at schools around the state.

Chaplain Dixon gave blessing for lunch.

Training Committee C. Kingsley Poole (see report)
- 200 mugs for $1,300 to be given out at the MD Weekend
- Meetings – teleconference would be great as some members cannot attend the meetings. Available for use, contact Richard Snader he can set it up.

R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center Tara Carlson (see report)

MSP Aviation Lt Walter Kerr (see report)
MIEMSS Director Kevin Seaman, Dr Alcorta (see report)

- Justin Towles asked to look at the EMT course and if it could be changed to on line as well as class room training. Response that it is being looked at. Dan Stevens said the instructors are asking for a break after the class; they are teaming the classes. Asked for a bridge from EMR to EMT. Dr. Seaman responded on the request, asked for time to talk to reps and come up with some solutions. Mark Bilger concerned about the NREMT testing; number of sites and number of students allowed in each testing.

- Dr. Alcorta spoke about the flu season – there are several different strains, the shot will help reduce the effects of the flu. Get the flu shot.

EMS Committee Bill Dousa/Rick O’Dell (see report)

MD DNR Forestry Monte Mitchell (see report)

- Email addresses have changed:
  - Monte Mitchell – monte.mitchell@maryland.gov
  - Ric Lillard – ric.lillard@maryland.gov
  - Chris Robertson – chris.robertson@maryland.gov
  - Dave Robbins – david.robbins1@maryland.gov
  - Lance Carroll – lance.carroll@maryland.gov

- Smokey Bear pocket calendars on Secretary’s table

State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci (see report)

- Fire and Life Safety Educator Spring Seminar – Saturday, March 28 at MFRI in College Park
- Delmarva Power has donated 1200 residential smoke alarms to the OSFM for distribution throughout Eastern Shore and Cecil County.
- PEPCO donated 1000 to PG County and batteries
- Reports have increased from departments, still posted every Friday.
- Jim Seavey – please check if Laurel VFD has turned in their INFRS report

Fire Prevention Teresa Crisman (see report)

- Need help getting out the Smoke Alarms out
- Domino’s Pizza had a program; offered a free pizza to homes that had a working smoke alarm
- Thank you to PEPCO and Delmarva for their donations of smoke alarms
- It is important to give back to the community by putting up the smoke alarms in less fortunate families
- Thank you to Barry for the assistance on the TIP sheets on the website
- Robyn Hahn reported on the Junior Miss Fire Prevention – new application will be posted on the website.
- Ambassador training – will be opened to all at the Hagerstown Children’s Village, date TBA
- There will be new questions for the contest, will be presented to the committee

Jim Seavey asked Robyn for data over the past years for the Junior Miss Ambassadors.
CANCER SUPPORT NETWORK Flo Collins Co-Chair (see report)
- The word of our committee is not getting out, don’t know what else to do
- Asked all Chaplains to notify the committee if known of any cancer patients
- Now on Facebook – Lucy Helwig
- Received three generous donations today: Jim Seavey, Mark Bilger and Flo Collins
- Mike Faust – please come to a Marketing Comm. Meeting to put the work out
- Having hats made to put in the bags

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY Chip Jewel (see report)
- The State system 700 MHz is operational on the Eastern Shore
- Need a new person to serve on the state committee, is a Governor’s appointment
- National Broadband Maryland is moving forward, specific for Public Safety use

RISK MANAGEMENT Chip Jewel (see report)
- President’s vehicle is back in service from the deer that his him
- WC issues, nothing much we can do about the issue

SAFETY COMMITTEE Dave Meaders (see report)
- Need fire ground accountability
- Traffic Management – all about protecting personnel
- Health / Wellness Programs needed in all departments

POLITICAL AWARENESS Justin Towels
- Conference call in October to discuss in the upcoming election
- Will be sending a welcome letter to all elected officials, discussed a day of awareness to bring equipment and put price tags on each piece. Need some outreach to Annapolis.

PUBLIC RELATIONS Ron Watkins (see report)
- Will be taking pictures of all committee chairs and officers for the books

MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS Rick Blair

50-50 - $201.00  103396 won by Frank Underwood, half donated to MSFA FP Comm. and half to PG County FP Comm.

Chaplain Dixon – meeting adjourned until 0930 Sunday.
Sunday, December 7, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Chair Abrecht

Chief Chaplain John Long read a passage from Isaiah, the pledge was said

2nd VP Mike Davis introduced the PP and guests present

Jim Seavey – Lighthouse Uniform Program (LUP), takes slightly used or new uniforms to give to those who pass away and can no longer fit in their old uniforms or for any reason don’t have one. The uniforms are shipped to LUP where they store them, when needed just ship your company patch, etc. to them and they will put on it and ship to you, all you have to pay is the shipping. We will have a format presentation at the February meeting.

VCAF Joe Antoszewski (see report) – six loans to have approved:

- Balance as of November 16, 2014 $19,912,604.76
- Deal Island/Chance VFC – request a grant for $139,813 to purchase a 2015 All-POLY PT2 2000 pumper-tanker. Chief Don Ford and Asst. Chief Webster are present and spoke to the committee. Discussion ensued; Jim Seavey. **MOTION BY DAN STEVENS, 2ND BY BEN KURTZ TO APPROVE THE GRANT TO DEAL ISLAND/CHANCE FOR $139,813...PASSED**
- Singerly Fire Company – request a loan for $300,000 to purchase a 2015 Pierce Velocity Heavy Duty Rescue. 1st VP David Meaders represented the company. **MOTION BY BEN KURTZ, 2ND BY CHUCK WALKER TO APPROVE THE LOAN TO SINGERLY VFC FOR $300,000...PASSED**
- Hancock Rescue Squad, Inc. – request a grant for $22,400 to purchase a new emergency back-up generator for the station; Chief Steven Barker represented the company. **MOTION BY JIM SEAVERY, 2ND BY DOUG SIMPKINS TO APPROVE THE GRANT OF $22,400 ON THE CONTINGENCY THAT OTHER GRANT RESOURCES CANNOT BE FOUND. RECOMMEND THE ASSISTANCE FROM DAVE LEWIS PP TO ASSIST THEM. MOTION PASSED**
- St. Michaels Fire Department – request a loan of $400,000 to replace their 1987 ladder truck with a 2014 Pierce 105-foot ladder truck in February 2014 with delivery scheduled for December 2014/January 2015. **MOTION BY JUSTIN TOWLES, 2ND BY MARK BILGER TO APPROVE THE LOAN OF $400,000 TO ST. MICHAELS VFD...PASSED WITH ONE (1) NO VOTE BY JIM SEAVERY**
- Williamsport VF-EMS, INC. – request a loan of $384,000 to replace their 1995 pumper with a 2015 Pierce Saber Engine. **MOTION BY JUSTIN TOWLES, 2ND BY BEN KURTZ TO APPROVE THE LOAN OF $384,000 TO WILLIAMSPORT VF-EMS, INC....PASSED WITH ONE (1) NO VOTE BY JIM SEAVERY.**
- Volunteer Fire Company Number One of Laurel Maryland, Inc. – request a loan of $565,000 to replace their 1994 platform with a new 2015 Seagrave Marauder 105’ ladder tower. **MOTION BY DAN STEVENS, 2ND BY CHUCK WALKER TO APPROVE THE LOAN OF $565,000 TO VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NUMBER ONE OF LAUREL MARYLAND, INC....PASSED. NOTE: this was not the lowest bid; however, this truck fit PG County’s requirements.**

SEARCH AND RESCUE Jim Seavey (see report)

- Discuss MFRI usually used the Dickerson Power plant because of the flume, no longer available.
- Site near Cabin John to be used. Garrett Community College
- No requests for activity at State EOC
- Monitored WebEOC
MARKETING COMMITTEE Mike Faust (see report) and John Denver PP

- Will host a booth at MACo
- Winterfest in Tilghman Island EMS conference; 3 or 4 that we will attend
- California Casualty contract renewal
- Justin Towles suggested marketing internally, John responded that was being done
- Mike Faust – need table covers; Calif. Casualty will pay for the skirts. **MOTION BY BEN KURTZ TO LET CALIFORNIA CASUALTY PURCHASE THE TABLE SKIRTS, 2ND BY TIM DAYTON...PASSED.**

DISCUSSION – 4 FOR MSFA (WILL HAVE CUSTODY).

- Johnie Roth stated that printing for information to give out to the legislators can be done in Annapolis. Mike Faust making changes to the brochure to pass out in Annapolis.

FINANCE TEAM Steve Cox, Bobby Jacobs, Mitch Vocke

- Financial report given out to committee
- Federal tax underway, some things that need to be addressed on the tax exempt status
- Yearend report for the Widows/Orphans Fund has been completed and sent to MD Military Dept. as required
- Received the annual allotment for the Widows/Orphans fund.
- A request has been sent to the Governor’s office asking for an increase of $75,000 for the Widows/Orphans Fund in the FY’16 Budget
- 2014/15 loaded in QuikBooks
- Direct deposits have begun to Widows/Orphans Fund recipients.
- Credit Cards at PNC Bank have been activated with all points earned linked to the master account
- 2nd CC ordered for the Legislative Committee
- The Office of the Treasurer supports the purchase two (2) new computers for the Legislative Office

BUDGET Steve Cox pointed out some corrections to committee and explained others. Please use my [msfa96@gmail.com](mailto:msfa96@gmail.com) account.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE Steve Cox

- We have a lot of work to do with all the changes from the last election. Will be spending a lot of time there.
- CAPWIZ through NVFC, will be learning a lot about it and will start to use it this coming year.
- Forwarded the document from Catherine Kelley outlining the AMOS guidelines and power point
- Mike Jones emailed information about grants for generators in fire, EMS stations.
- Got ID badges for Annapolis
- February 10th is Legislative reception
- Frank Underwood and team are going into 17 State Circle to paint, new carpet, and spruce it up

Jim Seavey suggested a Fire Caucus in Annapolis

PRESIDENTS VEHICLE Steve Cox
• The new Ford Interceptor 2015 has been delivered to the President. Has already had an encounter with a deer. The old vehicle has been delivered to Jarrettsville and they are very happy about all that was left inside.
• Discussion on the sale of vehicles being sold “As Is”. Recommend on the paperwork that buyer must inspect. Law does not define, so it will be part of the contract.
• 1st VP vehicle had tire replacement
• Received a 2015 for the 2014 as previously ordered.
• A GPS is requested for the President’s vehicles
• 2nd VP asked to look at different vehicles, looking into this and will report next year.
• New vehicle cost $24,594

Ben Kurtz requested deer whistles on all vehicles. Also wants to continue with the bid process in selling the vehicles. Mike Farlow; “As Is” is at the time of sale.

MOTION BY BEN KURTZ, 2 ND MY MIKE FAUST TO PURCHASE THE NEW PRESIDENT’S VEHICLE AT THE COST OF $24,594…PASSED.

WAYS AND MEANS Mitch Vocke (see report)
• The committee has been busy selling tickets, so far in 2014 the total sold is $17,702

RECRUITMENT / RETENTION COMMITTEE Joseph Chornock Chair
• Discussed the use of the grant money and how it should be divided up
• Need to boost our social media presence, encourage use of twitter and facebook
• Discussed the funding for committee members reimbursement for meals: Jim Seavey supported the idea. 1st VP Roth spoke on subject. Steve Cox (budget) spoke of a previous discussion on this subject that meals would not be funded for committee meetings. MSFA has a tight budget and cannot afford to fund meals for all committees. Dave Lewis PP stated the paying of meals for the Convention Committee. Ben Kurtz…….
• FROG is scheduled for December 12 th – 14 th at the Frederick County Public Safety Training Academy.
• Statewide Recruitment Day is April 12, 2015
• Maryland State Fair – working on sponsorship & recruitment table for the week, August 28 th – September 7 th
• Next meeting Wednesday, January 28 th

GRANTS Dave Lewis (see report)
• Participated in series of workshops
• Applications are in the waiting mode
• Received very few requests for support in filling applications out
• SAFR oversight committee met with the presidents and treasurer; prepared and discussed a set of operating guidelines forwarded to others with 3 dates to meet with no response. MD Fire Chiefs don’t want to play. Chair Abrecht stated to not let the money get away. Do have things in motion.
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL Jim Seavey, Dave Lewis (see report)

- All State Membership in the NVFC – program is ready to roll out statewide, is funded by MSFA. Asst Secretary Gunther will handle the membership rosters with the staff of the NVFC. There will be a mass mailing hopefully within the next two months to all Member Companies announcing the program and offering membership in NVFC. Dues are $15.
- ACTION ITEM: asking MSFA leadership to put forth a funding plan at the February 2015 Executive Committee meeting that will fund this cost share program for the NVFC.
- ACTION ITEM: NVFC Representatives are recommending that the MSFA enter into a formal contractual agreement participating in the “All State Membership” program of the NVFC, as stipulated in the written contract and to be signed by both parties.

MOTION: Jim Seavey that the Executive Committee approve the MSFA entering into a formal contractual agreement participating in the “All State Membership” Program with the NVFC as stipulated in said written contract to be signed by both parties, with the understanding, the only financial encumbrance in the contract is the amount of $7.50 per member who joins; 2nd by Justin Towles...PASSED

- CapWiz/Engage – President Keller has instructed NVFC delegates and the Legislative Team to meet with NVFC Government Affairs Director and representatives from Engage. Then a legislative bulletin explaining the program will be sent out
- Member Benefits Summit – the meeting for 2015 will be held February 14th – 18th in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The expenses are not in the budget, but it would be prudent to send at least one or two representatives.
- ACTION ITEM: recommend that one of the two NVFC representatives and a member of the Incentives Committee be funded to attend the Summit in 2015. Jim Seavey will be attending
- NVFC approved a budget of over 3 million for FY’15

DATA SYSTEMS Richard Snader – Barry unable to attend, keep him in your prayers.

STATISTICAL COMMITTEE Jim Seavey for Barry Johnson

- Still time to get reports in; out of 368 departments have only 168 reports turned in. On the website you can check if reports have turned in reports. 11,504,566 hours of volunteer service from roughly half of the departments, imagine if all reports were turned in.
- Justin Towles – AUDIO LOST

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – AUDIO LOST

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM – AUDIO LOST

SERGEANT AT ARMS – AUDIO LOST

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMENTS – AUDIO LOST

Steve Cox talked about selling the raffle tickets, this is a problem.

CLOSING PRAYER BY Chaplain Hetz
Motion to adjourn by Ben Kurtz, 2nd by Mike Faust…passed

Respectively submitted,

Shirley L. Copado
Assistant Secretary