

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel

www.msfa.org



Executive Committee Meeting

Water Witch Volunteer Fire Company
VFW Post 8185
520 Susquehanna River Road
Port Deposit, MD

April 22 - 23, 2017

The Mission of the Maryland State Firemen's Association is to Serve, Promote, Advocate and Represent the Interests of the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services of Maryland.

The Maryland State Firemen's Association Executive Committee Meeting was called to order at 0900 by Chairman Doug Simpkins.

The Invocation was given by MSFA Chief Chaplain John Long; the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Chairman Simpkins welcomed President Bill Dill of the Water Witch VFC who welcomed everyone; Mayor Wayne Tome welcomed everyone.

EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESENT: Doug Simpkins, Charles Simpson, Jim Seavey, Richard Smith, Chuck Walker, PP Johnie Roth, Tim Dayton, Wayne Tome, John Fisher, Mike Faust;

OFFICERS PRESENT: President Mike Davis, 1st VP Mark Bilger, 2nd VP Rick Blair, Secretary Doyle Cox PP, Treasurer Ron Siarnicki, Mitch Vocke Financial Secretary; Chief Chaplain John Long, Chaplain Harry Hetz, Chaplain Marvin Jackson; Assistant Secretaries Shirley Copado, Diana Gunther, Nancy Cox; Assistant Financial Secretary Bobbi Aaron; Trustees: Dan Carpenter, Ben Kurtz.

PRESIDENT LAMFA BARBARA SUE NELSON introduced her officers and Past Presidents in attendance. Thanked all for the festivities.

PRESIDENT MIKE DAVIS welcomed everyone and commented on the reception at the Carriage House, Port Deposit.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT RICK BLAIR introduced Past Presidents and Guests in attendance. Bart Kennedy gave remarks.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT MARK BILGER thanked Port Deposit and Water Witch VFC for hosting the weekend. Thanked the Legislative Committee for all the hard work.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT RICK BLAIR commented on the weekend and thanked everyone.

SECRETARY DOYLE COX PP:

- Minutes from last meeting is 200 pages (total transcription) please review and make comments to Shirley or myself.
- Approximately 100 companies registered out of 364. Only one statistical report will be filed this year.
- One Bylaw to be voted on at the Convention, the change will be mailed to each company.
- Skip Mahan – a lot of complaints on the report. The Strategic Planning Committee

BESSIE MARSHALL COMMITTEE Martha Neal and Kitty Oliver (absent) see report

- 19 cases paid at \$900. Each for a total of \$17,100
- Receipts of \$6,828 (decreased)

FIRE PREVENTION AMBASSADOR Sierra Underwood and 1st Runner Up Emily Reaver – see reports

BOARD OF TRUSTEES DAN CARPENTER II

- Meeting this morning – 1 claim closed; reopened a closed claim due to new surgery
- Widows – 30; children – 1; 1 child in education; 3 LODI; 1 LODD

Chair Simpkins: all reports for convention must be mailed by tomorrow; email:
gwhite231@aol.com

BRANCH REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE JOE ANTOSZEWSKI, DIRECTOR

VCAF: no meeting since last Ex. Comm. meeting; the next meeting will be Sunday, July 30th at Hollywood.

AWARDS – DOYLE COX PP, CHAIR: nominations are coming in for the awards. New presentation this year for active members who are over 90 years of age.

INFORMATION/TECHNOLOGY MIKE FAUST, DIRECTOR

No reports from committees: Data Systems, Statistical, Credentials, Public Address System Group

A radio show with President Mike Davis on CBS Radio, 105.7 to talk about Recruitment Day which is tomorrow. (Played the show)

TRAINING & SAFETY BRANCH KINGSLEY POOLE, DIRECTOR

TRAINING – see report. MFRI is having a problem getting books returned or paid for. It possible will come to the student not getting a grade unless paid for or returned.

HIGH SCHOOL CAREER TECH – this needs to be revived.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BILL HILDEBRAND, DIRECTOR – see reports

SEARCH & RESCUE Todd “Scuba” Johnson, Chair – see report. Continuing to collect information for the SW/F assets, totaling 11 Type III Swiftwater/Flood Teams. The current project will be a “soft touch” with anticipation of a more specific typing and credentialing process in the future. A document has been sent to Director Strickland at MEMA for his review and comment. No requests for services received from MEMA since last report for SEOC/ESF#9.

MARYLAND EMERGENCY SERVICES RESOURCE: in the 4 years this committee has been in existence the mission and name have changed and there has not been a vision of what the committee is to do. 1st VP Mark Bilger and I have discussed this and next year this committee will no longer be.

MEMA FIRE SERVICE PERSONNEL GROUP

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH STEVE COX PP, DIRECTOR – see reports

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT Bob Cumberland PP, Chair – see report. This report is extensive, but should be read by all; some very good information on present bills in Congress. March 14th the 2016 AFG grant monies went out. H.R. 1720 was reintroduced.

17 STATE CIRCLE – glazing windows to be done. Richard Smith – confirmation obtained to sprinkle the building, will start the process.

FIRE LAWS BOOK – now purchasing 300 copies, they have been distributed. Copies here for the Committee.

LEGISLATIVE – session started January 11 and ended April 10th. Following several pieces. 1801 hours put in by personnel. Ongoing reports are posted. Monitored 45 major bills. Senator Amoss went to \$15 million. Richard Smith – session over, but committee work is not. Have a Delegate that will submit legislation to add the volunteers to the \$15,000 tax deduction. Also putting in an age limit around 55 to 60 so the \$15,000 won't have to be met.

OUT OF STATE EVENTS – see report

PP Roth – the Rescue services are exempt from the SAFER grant and should be included. Will take back to get this worked on.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE BRANCH JIM SEAVEY, DIRECTOR

STRATEGIC PLANNING STEERING Skip Mahan, Chairman

- Recruiting is now on the website, separate from MSFA website.
- Critical information will be on this website
- Next year the Chair will be replaced and PP Mike Davis will come on as well
- It is up to the Branch Director to have the Chairman of each committee sit at the table; no one is restricted from speaking

MARKETING Mike Faust, Chairman

- Need members need to upload their information on the website, need information by May 15th
- Counties that have their own SAFER Grant, please still get your information to the website

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY Mike Farlow (absent) PP Roger Powell reporting

- False soliciting within the state is a problem – “Volunteer Firefighter Alliance, Inc.” calling for donations that should be for the volunteers in Maryland.

MD DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES/FORESTRY Monte Mitchell -see report

- VFA grants have been received and distribution list will be sent out in May. Application is on line and open to all eligible volunteer fire departments.
- Training is available and can be found on website

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL Brian Geraci – see report

- Three sworn vacancies and 5 civilian vacancies
- Fire fatalities to date 2017 is 31
- Community Risk Reduction weekend is May 6/7. Get out in your communities
- Arson Awareness Week of May 7th
- Complete report of Fire Fatalities in 2016 submitted

MD FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION Harve Woods reporting

MD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY Terry Thompson PP reporting – see report

- Governor declared a state of emergency in MD in the opioid/heroin epidemic. This will bring EM into the picture.
- See report for Grant information

MEMBER BENEFITS BRANCH DIRECTOR CHARLES SIMPSON – see reports of 6 committees

RECRUITMENT/RETENTION Joe Chornock, Chairman – see report

- 47 departments signed up for National day tomorrow, last year we had 161. Not as much advertising as last year.
- Need funding to offset food for training seminars
- R&R Award – working on changing the criteria. Working to make 2 categories: 1st – for the Association that does the most for recruitment; 2nd – for the department that commits the most efforts toward R&R for the year.

Stu Carter – College student reimbursement grant program under the SAFER Grant: have 3 members that submitted paperwork and have not heard anything, should have been by March 1st. Joe – first round reimbursements for 2014, 2015 and 1st quarter of 2016 were sent out; very overwhelming. \$152,000 were sent out, which P. G. and Montgomery Counties got the bulk of the funding because their chiefs worked with the student to get the paperwork in. We changed the policy (which is allowed) and will award \$1000 per semester versus \$2000 per semester; new student applications will be considered first before any previous students; and a more diverse geographical area has been set up. Cannot answer why monies have not been sent to all recipients. Justin Towles will be in tomorrow.

WILLS FOR HEROS PP Roger Powel – no requests for wills for this year

INCENTIVES (LOSAP) Stu Carter, Chairman – see report

- County LOSAP programs need to be submitted to Stu Carter
- MD Tax Incentive will increase this year to \$4250.

NVFC Jim Seavey, Chairman / Dave Lewis – see report

- First National Fire Service Cancer Symposium will be held on September 7th and 8th in Phoenix, Arizona.
- Health/Safety Initiatives Dave Lewis PP – authored one of the chapters in the upcoming handbook, “The Fire Service Culture: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow”. He has also developed a training module to coincide with the handbook. Training will be part of the NVFC Training Seminar on June 9-10, 2017, in Myrtle Beach, SC.

PP Johnie Roth – have not received membership cards, but getting dues notices when dues have been paid.

CANCER SUPPORT NETWORK Johnie Roth PP reporting – bags were distributed to representatives for each county, contact your rep if you know of someone in need. Will need the name of the person, name of department and type of cancer. This is for accountability only. The cancer walk will be May 14th in Annapolis.

50-50 Sandi Lutz: \$203 – 4498445(not present) 4496892 Diana Gunther

Rev. Marvin Jackson gave the benediction

Meeting adjourned until 0900 4/23/2017

Sunday, April 23, 2017

The Maryland State Firemen's Association Executive Committee Meeting was called to order at 0900 hours by Chairman Doug Simpkins.

CHIEF CHAPLAIN JOHN LONG did opening prayer and lead the pledge

1st VP MARK BILGER INTRODUCED ALL PAST PRESIDENTS AND GUESTS

LAMSFA INTRODUCED HER OFFICERS PRESENT

FINANCE BRANCH RON SIARNICKI DIRECTOR – see reports

FINANCE Ron Siarnicki –

- Jim Seavey questioned the Profit/Loss, credit card fees – monthly fee for the bank and the credit card company that does the transaction, rental of machines.
- All 1099s and W2Gs have been mailed.
- Tax return is in process and financial review is underway. 990 has to be filed in May.
- All reports and records for the Appropriations and Relief Fund have been submitted to the MD Military Dept.; 12 months of records. No questions have been received.
- Need to have an increase to the Appropriations Fund; continues to be tight.
- Anniversary Fund – 5-years ago funds were allocated for all activities and has sustained itself
- SAFER Grant – all expenditures continue to be tracked and documents filed appropriately. Checks are not cut unless required paperwork is submitted.

PP Johnie Roth – member got a reimbursement check and did not go to the training; checks should not be cut unless receipts are turned in. Justin Towles – this will be reviewed and find the breakdown and correct the issue. Hopefully an isolated incident.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY Mitch Vocke

- Dues – 296 invoices mailed 12/15/16; 2/15/17 mailed 28 reminder invoices; 4/4/17 mailed 9 reminder invoices; as of today have 6 companies outstanding: AA County Alarms, Delta Cardiff, Earleigh Heights, Howard County Vol. Firemen's Assoc., PG County Marine Unit, Powellville VFC.
- Assets are up to date

BUDGET/REVENUE Steve Cox PP

- Appropriations – \$200K received from Governor’s budget. This could go away at any time. An increase should be asked for. The lottery tickets need to be sold to subsidize the budget, 52% of companies did not sell their tickets. Penalties have been discussed for those companies. MSFA does not have the monies to keep moving ahead.
- Budgets must be submitted by May 15th; if your committee does not need money please submit paperwork regardless.
- Food requests for committee meetings – committees approved for food: Executive Comm., Legislative, Convention and Out of State. The Executive Comm. approved this.

WAYS & MEANS Lou Jonske, Chairman - Mitch Vocke reporting – see report

- So far raffle has produced \$14,878 which is \$802 behind last year. 120,000 tickets have been distributed to member companies and auxiliaries. The next large event for the committee is Springfest in Ocean City May 4 – 7, 2017. All tickets and monies that are returned by mail need to be received by June 15th.
- Annual report for convention has been sent in.

TRANSPORATION BRANCH MITCH VOCKE DIRECTOR – see reports

TRANSPORATION Mitch Vocke reporting

- Preparing the data base for the 2018 5-year Recertification of member companies.
- Tags for incoming Presidents will be distributed at the convention

PRESIDENT’S VEHICLE Mitch Vocke reporting

- Recommendation to the Executive Comm. not to purchase a new vehicle this year as regular maintenance to all vehicles has been.
- At convention the President will move to the vehicle marked “MSFA”; 1st VP will move to vehicle marked “MSFA 1”; 2nd VP will move to vehicle marked “MSFA 2”.

CONVENTION/CONFERENCE RON SIARNICKI DIRECTOR – see report

- Convention Center expansion project has been approved to start in 2018, \$34 million. It will impact parking
- 2nd mail out has been sent out, also placed on website
- Several activities in OC same time as convention
- **Audio lost for 8 minutes**

PRODUCTION Tom Mattingly

- Need all reports immediately

Mike Faust requested the R&R booth be in a good spot – no problem

EMS BRANCH DIRECTOR WAYNE TOME – see report

EMS COMMITTEE Richard Udell reporting – see report

- 2017 Protocol changes have rolled out
- Opioid State of Emergency was declared by Governor Hogan. Opioid hotline: 1-800-422-0009
- Still searching for a new Executive Director at MIEMSS
- SEMSAC is finalizing a report on EMS provider roles for Mobile Integrated Health Working Group (MIH). Currently there is not funding for MIH programs, but there are opportunities to cost share with the hospitals. NREMT Training/Testing discussions are still ongoing. The amount of hours online and in class rooms.
- **ALS Sub Committee** – Marianne Warehime is still working on “Paramedic is a Paramedic” issue; requesting information from jurisdictions on how ALS providers affiliated.
- **BLS Sub Committee** – Chris St. John provided a white paper re his discussions with several different counties on NREMT testing process. Also said there is an approximate \$700 million cut in FEMA state and local grants; he will keep everyone apprised.

FIRE PREVENTION & LIFE SAFETY DIRECTOR TERESA CRISMAN – see report

FIRE PREVENTION & LIFE SAFETY Teresa Crisman – see expensive report

- NFPA 1035 Public Life Safety Educator – a group of educators to review this for MFRI. On Chapter 10, the goal is to be done by the end of May.
- Would like to order some smoke alarms and other promotional materials from the Fire Act Grant, to be done under new business
- MD Statewide Community Risk Reduction will be May 20-21, 2017 and October 21-22, 2017. Save the Date and extend to your communities that having a working smoke alarm is very important.

PUBLIC INFORMATION BRANCH DIRECTOR MIKE DIXON

VOLUNTEER TRUMPET – next edition will be April. Need more participation from the Executive Committee to put in articles.

PARTNERS

MFRI STEVE EDWARDS, DIRECTOR – see report

- A student has to sign a release of information in order for MFRI to send their information to MSFA R&R Committee.
- MFRI received a grant of \$500,000 AFG, MD is the only state to receive the maximum grant 4 years in a row.
- EMT Course Status – “more teaching and less testing” is the basic premise. Five EMT pilot classes are using the newly developed syllabus that we think will enhance the learning environment and better prepare the student’s for the NREMT examination as well as field practice.
- Un-returned books – turn in the book back to MFRI, or pay for the book. \$48,818 is still owed to MFRI. If the book is not paid for or returned the student will not get his/her grade.
- Recertification is set by MIEMSS
- A very long discussion on the students getting their NREMT and MD license, but do not recert their NREMT – MSFA wants tracking on these students

MIEMSS DR. ALCORTA see report

- MD Substance Use Disorder Crisis Hotline 1-800-422-0009
- Carfenentayl – 10,000 more potent than morphine, 5000 times more than heroin. This is a CRISIS! Working on a card to pass out with information and phone number. Safe Stations are being established so a person can walk in and get help. Tracking naloxone use within the state.
- MEMSOF will be solvent through 2023
- SB269 / HB 218 allows emergency responders to treat animals without civil liability.
- The EMD Committee is working with the Cardiac Arrest Steering Committee to produce a “High Performance CPR for Call Takers”
- MIEMSS Communications system upgrade – a RFP to upgrade the system has been released.
- During the 2016 MD legislative session enacted legislation to establish a process for acute care general hospitals seeking to convert to a freestanding medical facility.

OLD BUSINESS –

- SAFER Grant: Stu Carter – scholarship money, when are the monies going out. Justin Towles – checks were either cut or will be cut; everyone that applied was awarded a scholarship. Ron – checks will be cut when paperwork is received. Justin – miscommunication in the date, it is July 31st. everything is moving forward now. Next semester monies may be less.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Richard Smith & Chuck Walker have been charged with the Sprinkler issue. Two counties and one municipality have offered a tax subtraction; would like to recognize them for what they have done for the residential sprinkler issue in Maryland; Dorchester, City of Frostburg, Allegany and any other county that has done the same.

MOTION BY MIKE FAUST, 2ND BY TIM DAYTON TO PRESENT AWARDS TO ALLEGANY COUNTY, CITY OF FROSTBURG, DORCHESTER COUNTY AND ANY ADDITIONAL AREAS DISCOVERED IN PARTICIPATION IN THE RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER BILL. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Davis presented a picture from Flash Max (Mike Furman of LaPlata VFD) of a challenge coin that he would like to use the MSFA name on it. PP Roger Powell – our name is copywrited.

MOTION BY JIM SEAVEY, 2ND BY CHARLIE SIMPSON TO ALLOW MIKE FURMAN (FLASH MAX) THE USE OF MSFA NAME FOR A CHALLENGE COIN TO SELL; “ONE DOLLAR AND OTHER GOOD AND VALUABLE CONSIDERATION OF USE”. NOTED THAT THE ARTWORK IS NOT OFFICIAL MSFA ARTWORK, JUST THE NAME. PASSED WITH ONE OBSTENTION-JUSTIN TOWLES.

MOTION BY PP JOHNIE ROTH, 2ND BY CHUCK WALKER TO ALL IN-KIND HOURS BE ALLOWED FOR THE MATCH IN THE FIRE ACT GRANT; NO MONIES WILL BE NEEDED...PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Teresa Crisman advised that 40 departments will be supported through the grant.

PP Roger Powell – once again there is a company soliciting in MD and referring the monies will benefit MD volunteer firefighters. Permission to file suit against them to recoup monies plus attorney’s fees.

MOTION BY CHARLIE SIMPSON, 2ND BY JIM SEAVEY TO ALLOW THE ATTORNEY TO FILE SUIT AGAINST *VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER ALLIANCE, INC.* MSFA ON ITS OWN BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF JARRETTSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY AND OTHERS SIMILARLY SITUATED VS (WHOMEVER)...PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION BY JIM SEAVEY, 2ND BY RICHARD SMITH TO

NATIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS FUND RON SIARNICKI

- Federal funding process, grants have to go through congress, waiting. In a few days will not have a budget. Waiting process. Holding off on several things due to no budget.
- Fund raising is a big concern, appreciate all departments work in assistance.
- National Fire Service Occupational Cancer Symposium to be held in Phoenix, Arizona on Sept. 5-7, 2017 in support of the National Fire Service Cancer Alliance.
- PSOB has approved over 68 Post 911 World Trade Center Illness cases for the federal death benefit.
- Pre-1981 Section of the Walk of Honor – work ongoing. Commitments from MSFA, MFRI/MD Prof Qualifications Board, MFCA AND MIEMSS to date.

MOTION BY JIM SEAVEY, 2ND BY RICHARD SMITH TO SUPPORT THE CONGRESSIONAL BILLS RELATING TO: AFG, FIRE SERVICE CANCER REGISTRY, REAUTHORIZATIONS OF THE US FIRE ADMINISTRATION...UNANMIOUSLY.

PP ROGER POWELL – MD HAS RECONIZED CANCER FOR FIREFIGHTERS. RON – 35 STATES HAVE SOMETHING IN PLACE FOR FF CANCERS.

MOTION BYPP JOHNIE ROTH, 2ND BY CHUCK WALKER TO PURCHASE A BRICK FOR \$100 ON THE MD MEMORIAL IN ANNAPOLIS IN MEMORIUM OF GOVERNOR HOGAN’S FATHER...PASSED UNANMIOUSLY

Chuck Walker – challenge coins are being sold by MD Fire Chiefs. These coins were purchased by MSFA to give away, not sold at MD Weekend. PP Steve Cox – 50% of coins left over should have gone to MFCA and MSFA. How R&R got the coins to sell no one knows. The monies should go back to the General Fund. Money has been turned into the Financial Secretary.

Water Witch VFC & Auxiliary 50-50, \$190.50 4497926 – winner is Mike Dixon.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tim Dayton – Allegany/Garrett. June 3rd is convention in Laconning. Frostburg Ambulance is no longer able to function, will become county run. Major issue keeping EMS afloat. Solicitation received will send to PP Roger Powell. Outstanding year of celebration. Jim Seavey – asked if Frostburg asked MSFA for assistance – no was the answer. This could be just the start of a larger problem.

Wayne Tome – Harford/Cecil. Rob Burchett just passed away. Thank to Tom Mattingly and Ron Siarnicki for the weekend plans. Thanks to Richard Brooks for being emcee.

John Fisher – Somerset/Wicomico/Worcester. Salisbury station 1 volunteers are relocating. EMS service is much needed in the counties.

Mike Faust – Kent/Caroline/Queen Anne's. Candidacy for 2nd VP MSFA – thank you to Robyn for the peanut butter cake. Queen Anne's LOSAP was approved to increase monies. Thank you for hosting.

Justin Towles – Anna Arundel. New LOSAP law for additional funding.

Charlie Simpson – Carroll/Howard. April 30th at 2pm will dedicate the 911 Memorial in front of the Training Center – 14' piece of steel. CCVESA Convention at Union Bridge on May 20th. Thank you to Water Witch, what a tremendous display.

Jim Seavey – Montgomery. Thank you to all for a wonderful weekend. Burtonsville VFD has a career member pass away at the Firehouse from acute MI.

Richard Smith – Talbot/Dorchester. May 21st meeting/memorial service at Oxford, Golf tournament July 8th, Nov 4th 60th anniversary of Linkwood/Salem, both counties waiting for budget approval for LOSAP and increase in Dorchester's

Shirley Copado – Southern MD. Convention next weekend at Huntingtown VFD, meeting and awards on Saturday, parade and games on Sunday.

Chuck Walker – Prince George’s County. Thank you for everything. Fund raiser may 21st at Branchville will have a money bingo, change in County Fire Chief, Marc Bashoor retired, Chief Deputy is acting.

PP Johnie Roth – thank you to all for the wonderful weekend. Cancer Support Walk on May 14th in Annapolis.

Doug Simpkins – Baltimore County. Budget was increased by \$100,000. Thank you to all for the weekend.

Next meeting will be in Ocean City, June 18th at 0930, Sunday at the Convention Center.

President Mike Davis – need president of Water Witch; present a check for \$500 and a plaque for hosting the festivities. VFW member was presented with a plaque. Thank you so much. Issue that happened in Salisbury, they have in their by-laws to possess a fire engine. Everyone should read their by-laws and make corrections accordingly – there are no Class A pumpers.

1st VP Mark Bilger – still need donations for the bingo in OC, thanks to all for the weekend

Chief Chaplain John Long gave benediction.

MOTION BY JIM SEAVEY 2ND BY TIM DAYTON TO ADJOURN AT 1232.

Respectively submitted,

Shirley Copado
Assistant Secretary