

# MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel*

## MSFA Weekly Report for County Associations and Partners Week ending 3.4.2022

- **Reminder: MSFA March Executive Committee Meeting March 19-20**  
President Joel McCrea has scheduled his next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Maryland State Firemen's Association for Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20, 2022. The meeting will be held at the Community Volunteer Fire Department of Bowley's Quarter, 900 Bowley's Quarter Road, Middle River, MD. The meeting will be called to order at 10:00 a.m.  
There will be a welcome reception for all to attend on Friday evening at the White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company from 1800-2000 hrs.
- **MSFA Proposed Name Change \*UPDATED TO INCLUDE SECOND PROPOSAL**  
As many of you know, an request for a by-law change was submitted and approved by the Executive Committee in January to update the name of the Maryland State Firemen's Association to the Maryland State Firefighter's Association in an effort to allow the MSFA to fall in line with over 70% of all other state associations that have embraced this change, including, most recently, the Firefighter's Association of the State of New York, as well as the Virginia State Firefighter's Association, and many more.  
  
\*\*There has also been an additional by-law change proposal submitted by another member department to change the name of the Maryland State Firemen's Association to the Maryland State *Fire & EMS* Association. The member company feels "that this change should reflect the clinicians of Emergency Medical Services as these responses are now the bulk of the emergency services workload."  
  
We continue to share this information with the intent to have every member company aware of the proposed name changes so equal opportunity is afforded to everyone to vote on such an important endeavor in June. If you or your Association have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any of the Presidents or Chairman of the Legislative Committee, Bob Phillips.
- **VCAF Application Opens**  
The VCAF online application period will open on April 01, 2022. No new VCAF applications will be opened after June 25, 2022. All applications opened between April 1st and June 25th must be finalized and submitted by July 23, 2022. The next VCAF committee meeting (in person) will be held on August 07, 2022. We do not have a meeting location at this time. If your company would like to host our meeting, please let Chairman Joe Antoszewski know by the beginning of April 2022.

Please let your area companies know the dates of our upcoming VCAF application period. Encourage companies who are thinking of applying to do so before the June 25th deadline. Also, be sure to tell companies that all local government funding letters must be dated on or after July 1, 2022.

- **Sparky turns 71 on March 18th 2022!**

The MSFA Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee is asking all the departments to share a special Fire Prevention Happy Birthday message that we can send to the NFPA. Sparky's birthday will also mark a new website and design for [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org) so please go and visit the site for additional information.

This June, committee chair Teresa Crisman will be in Boston for the 126th Annual Conference for the NFPA and wishes to share the messages.

Please send your photos and happy birthday messages to [teresa.crisman@maryland.gov](mailto:teresa.crisman@maryland.gov)

- **MSFA 2022 Convention and Conference**

**PLEASE NOTE WHAT'S NEW FOR THIS YEAR:**

-Exhibit Hall times will be:

Sunday, June 19th 11am – 3pm

Monday, June 20th 9am – 4pm

Tuesday, June 21st 9am – 3pm

-There will be no Basket Bingo on Monday night.

-There will be no golf tournament this year.

-Jolly Roger Family Night is Monday June 20. See pricing and buy tickets on convention website under "Events"

-Discounts will be available for Splash Mountain and the Inlet Amusement Park

-LAMSFA will hold their Business Meetings in "D" Hall

-Voting will begin on Monday immediately following the Nominations Session

-With multiple candidates for office, a second voting ballot may be needed.

-Flea Market tables will be available in the PAC Lobby on Sunday

-Fire and EMS Apparatus Parking during Convention week will be at the Jolly Roger parking lot and not at the Convention Center

\*\*All Educational Seminars are now listed on the convention website under "Education". Please encourage participation among your members. There are over 55 classes to choose from in all categories.

**REMINDERS:**

***Reminder to Departments:*** Please be sure to get your online credentialing completed for the 2022 Convention. Emails for both the President of the Department as well as the Delegate Chair will now be a required field on the form to ensure that we have the correct information for the emailing of ballots for the online voting process. Submit your credentials at: <https://convention.msfa.org/registration/department-credentials/>

**Reminder to Departments:** Please be sure to take the opportunity to submit your Program Book Ads! Convention Program Book Ads are a great way to showcase your department's milestones or achievements, new apparatus, or even to thank your members for their dedication and hard work! Submissions can be made online at: <https://convention.msfa.org/sponsors/advertising-opportunities/>

**Reminder to Businesses and Partners:** Please be sure to register for booth space early! They are filling up fast! Please note the following changes:

--Registration and Move in for booth vendors will be **SATURDAY 8am-11am**

--Registration and Move in for apparatus will be 11am – completion

This will allow for the exhibits to open on **SUNDAY from 11am-3pm** to capture the increased weekend traffic through the Convention Center.

\*\*For those vendors who cannot get into Ocean City until Saturday evening or early Sunday morning, we will have additional move in times available from 7am-1100am on Sunday morning prior to opening the exhibit hall.

--Move out would then be moved to **Tuesday at 3pm** at the close of the Exhibit Halls.

Prices for Early Bird submission are through \*May 1st and with the expansion of the Convention Center, you won't want to miss the opportunity to be one of the first vendors in the updated exhibit space! Spaces are filling up so register today at:

<https://convention.msfa.org/registration/exhibitors/>

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW ANY PARKING OF APPARATUS IN THE CONVENTION CENTER PARKING LOT(S) DURING CONVENTION WEEK, INCLUDING OVERNIGHT PARKING.**

Please be sure to visit the convention website, [www.convention.msfa.org](http://www.convention.msfa.org), often for up-to-date info on the MSFA 2022 Convention! If you or someone you know would like to join the Convention Committee, please contact Chairman Ron Siarnicki at [rsiarnicki@aol.com](mailto:rsiarnicki@aol.com).

- **MSFA Statewide Mental Health Awareness Training**

The newly-appointed Mental Health Awareness Taskforce, put in place by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ben Kurtz, has held several meetings to discuss the need for statewide training on Mental Health and resources that are available to first responders. It is the taskforce's intent to hold this training in each region in the months of April, May, and early June. If your department is willing to host a session, please contact Executive Director Loveless to be placed on the calendar and a member of the taskforce will get in touch with you to coordinate.

- **Reminder: MSFA Recruitment Boot Camp**

--The MSFA SAFER Program Manager and Recruitment and Retention Committee are excited to announce the planning of the **2022 Recruitment and Retention Boot Camp that will be held at Branchville VFD (Prince George's County) on March 26 -27<sup>th</sup>!**

This interactive two-day workshop is open to all County and Department R and R personnel and those wishing to learn more about recruiting and retention. We are excited to bring you the most recent tools and resources as well as strategic lessons from R and R experts! Recruiters can register to attend here:

<https://www.marylandvolunteer.org/2022-maryland-recruitment-retention-boot-camp/>

- **Reminder: Statewide Volunteer Recruitment/Open House Weekend**  
**--PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE: Due to the Easter holiday, the date for the 2022 Statewide Recruitment/Open House Weekend has been changed to **April 23th and 24th****, which closes out National Volunteer Week! If your department plans on holding a recruitment Open House, please send your information to MSFA SAFER Program Manager Heather Gorski at [hgorski@msfa.org](mailto:hgorski@msfa.org) to be announced on MSFA's social media platforms and the marylandvolunteer.org website. We would also love to highlight your open houses and events in our publication, the "Volunteer Trumpet," so please send any photos and write-up to Editor Jonathan Dayton at [jonathan.m.dayton@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.m.dayton@gmail.com).

**Please be sure to reach out to your county's respective Executive Committee member/representative if you have any further questions.**