

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 7.1.2022

The MSFA congratulates the newly elected

2022 MSFA Officers

President Ben Kurtz

1st Vice President Eric Smothers

2nd Vice President W. Newton "Skip" Carey, Jr.

Secretary Doyle Cox

2022 LAMSFA Officers

President Malea Daughton

Senior Vice President Jean Main

Junior Vice President Shari Steffen

We also congratulate the following individuals who begin their new terms:

Executive Committee

Ron Block, Anne Arundel County

Theresa Collins; Howard/Carroll Counties

Doug Simpkins; Baltimore County

PP Roger Steger; Wicomico/Worchester/Somerset Counties

Stanley "Buddy" Sutton; Montgomery County

Timothy Dayton; Allegany/Garrett Counties

Randy Smith; Calvert/Charles/St. Mary's Counties

Robert Phillips; Talbot/Dorchester Counties

Robbie Blackiston; Kent/Queen Anne's/Caroline Counties

Lee Lutz; Prince George's County

Clarence "Chip" Jewell, Vice Chairman; Frederick/Washington Counties

PP Steve Cox, Chairman; Harford/Cecil Counties

Trustee

PP Terry Thompson

Chief Chaplain

Chaplain John F. Long, Jr.

We wish them all well in the coming year!

The MSFA would like to thank all of everyone who attended the 2022 Ocean City Convention and Conference last week. We were excited to see you all there and hope that you enjoyed your time at the beach as we did. There were over 125 vendors represented in the newly designed exhibit halls and we received positive feedback regarding the new hours that included Sunday. Our class instructors provided over 50 classes this year and we were excited to offer subjects that are pertinent to today's fire service. Our meetings and events were delivered flawlessly under the direction of the Convention Committee and we congratulate them on a job well done!

We send heartfelt appreciation to Mayor Meehan and Ocean City for extending a warm welcome to us. We appreciate their support and partnership every year!

We thank each member company that sent delegates to participate in the elections and appreciate the patience and feedback regarding the process that was new to all of us, not only with multiple candidates and amendment proposals, but in an in-person setting as well.

President Kurtz acknowledged the name-change vote and thanks each member company for their opinion and vote on the matter. Although the vote did not favor a name change at this time, President Kurtz looks forward to bringing the proposal back to the member departments for further discussion throughout the next few months. With 41% of departments in favor of a much – needed change, while keeping to the traditions of the MSFA, President Kurtz is hopeful that these discussions will bring further positivity that the official name of the MSFA can and will reflect the fire service diversity that we take pride in.

As we move into this new year, the MSFA looks forward to the release of the new Statewide Mentorship Program and online customizable marketing materials that will be available to all member companies through the SAFER grant. The regional coordinators are ready to assist any member department that are looking for new ideas, guidance, or feedback on their recruitment and retention efforts. Please reach out to SAFER Program Manager Heather Gorski at hgorski@msfa.org with any questions.

Finally, as mental health awareness for First Responders continues to expand across many agencies, President Kurtz will push forward his campaign to provide training classes and mental health awareness seminars to our member companies in an effort to crush the stigma surrounding mental health in the fire service. Please contact Teresa Crisman at tacrisman@hotmail.com to get more information regarding awareness training that can be provided to your departments.

