

VOLUME XIII: ISSUE I

# VOLUNTEER TRUMPET

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION



**PRESIDENTIAL GALA**  
**COOKING WITH FIRE 2023**  
**FIRE SERVICE FIT by Amber Steiding**  
**CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS**



Dalmatian at the MSFA Annual Convention  
Ocean City, MD



VOLUME XIII: ISSUE I

# VOLUNTEER TRUMPET

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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## Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation Honors Fallen Heroes

We honored 6 Fire/EMS Maryland State Heroes Chief James P. Seavey Sr., Firefighter/EMT M. Mark Blacker, President Milton A. "Butch" Bloom III, MFRI Instructor Charles "Trey" Kelso III, Chief Neil A. Payne and EMT/Firefighter Juan M. Wilson.

## Maryland Risk Watch & Safe Kids Interactive Safety Displays at the MSFA Convention





*Thank you Past President Ben Kurtz  
for your leadership this past year!*



*Francis L. Brannigan Instructor of  
the Year Award Scott Whetsell*

*Congrats 2023 - 2024 MSFA Miss Fire  
Prevention Madeline Moore & 1st  
Runner Up Miss Ashley Nalborczyk*



Congrats to Maryland State Firemen's Association President Ben Kurtz and Ladies Auxiliary President Malea Daughton; the MSFA hosted a Presidential Gala at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Ballroom in Annapolis.





# *Training/Announcements*

## **Essential in Fire Chaplaincy Training**

August 18-19, 2023 | Lonaconing, MD

Sponsored by: The Federation of Fire Chaplains ([www.FireChaplains.org](http://www.FireChaplains.org))

And the Goodwill VFC #1 of Lonaconing & Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute

## **2023 Mid Atlantic Life Safety Conference**

11100 Johns Hopkins Rd, Laurel, MD 20723, USA

September 19, 2023 | 7:00 AM

## **Federation of Fire Chaplains Conference**

Petersburg, FL. | October 14-19, 2023

The MSFA SAFER grant is offering up to five reimbursement sponsorships for interested individuals to attend. Please contact Chaplain Long for an application.



**I LIVE IT.  
I RESPECT IT.  
I PROTECT IT.**

**Scott Cain**

*26 years firefighting*

*8 years in insurance*

[vfis.com/scott](http://vfis.com/scott)

800.233.1957





# Editor's Corner



My fifth topic is all about **being the change**. What do I mean when I say "Being the Change?" In the fire service, I've noticed several things occur just in the past few years, one of which is that the volunteer fire service is evolving and aging. All volunteer agencies now have paid drivers, medics, and firefighters. Counties that have been entirely volunteer are now combination agencies, and senior members are now beginning to retire and pass the reins over to younger and new fire officers. Often when you note these changes, there's a lot of good and bad animosity. People can waste a lot of breath talking about all the bad things happening in the fire service, or they can be a part of the change, the positive change, have a voice, and contribute to the betterment of the volunteer fire service. Not only will the department be better off the community will also be. Remember that our "jobs" are to protect life and property, and when people call 911, they expect high-quality and prompt service. At the end of the day, we need to remain hyper-focused on that mission, something that we forget about. Be the change, part of the solutions, and not the problems.

*Because this section of the newsletter is meant to share ideas and start conversations, I want to hear from the readership new topics that I should cover and ways that we can work on expanding the readership of the Trumpet. If you want me to write about an issue, please send ideas to Jonathan Dayton at [jonathan.m.dayton@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.m.dayton@gmail.com). About the Editor, Jonathan is a volunteer Firefighter/EMT serving Allegany County, MD. MSFA Committee Chairperson, Assistant Secretary, Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire Rescue Association Past President, President and Public Information Officer, Member of the Maryland Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council, and Nation Fire Service Speaker and Educator. Jonathan holds an associate's degree in Fire Science and bachelor's and master's degrees.*

*Jonathan*

## **-FIND THE STAR FISH-**

Last month, we introduced the "FIND THE \_\_\_\_ Contest" for the Trumpet. The goal is to find a specific item hidden in the pages of this book. In this issue, you are tasked with finding a **Star Fish** (to the right) in honor of the MSFA Convention in Ocean City last month. Once you find this small item hidden within the publication, you must email Stephen Jenkins ([sjenkins@msfa.org](mailto:sjenkins@msfa.org)). It can be located on ANY page EXCEPT the front and back cover! The first correct person to discover the item will win the opportunity to submit one free 1/4 page ad.





OPPORTUNITY LIKE NO OTHER?



# MARYLAND VOLUNTEER FOR A



- » Busy Urban Firefighting
- » Easy Access to Maryland All D.C. Area
- » Engine Company, I
- » PALS One

## Attention Member Departments! Do you have a profile on [marylandvolunteer.org](http://marylandvolunteer.org)?

If so, is the recruitment/station contact info up to date? Nothing deters a potential recruit more than an unanswered email or unreturned phone call; volunteers are needed now more than ever! If you don't have a profile, please consider setting one up today. It can be another valuable tool in your recruitment toolbox.

Please feel free to contact [kloveless@msfa.org](mailto:kloveless@msfa.org) or [hgorski@msfa.org](mailto:hgorski@msfa.org) with any updates and details on how to create a profile. It takes only a few minutes! [#marylandvolunteers](https://twitter.com/marylandvolunteers) [#whatsinyourtoolbox](https://twitter.com/whatsinyourtoolbox)



In Memory of The Maryland State Firemen's Association Past President Terry Thompson, (2003-2004). Terry was also currently serving on the Board of Trustees and is the father of MSFA Executive Committee Member, now Trustee Theresa Collins.



# KIDS CORNER

HEY KIDS! **Fire Dog Spotty** needs your help! The house is on fire, but he's not sure which fire hose to use!

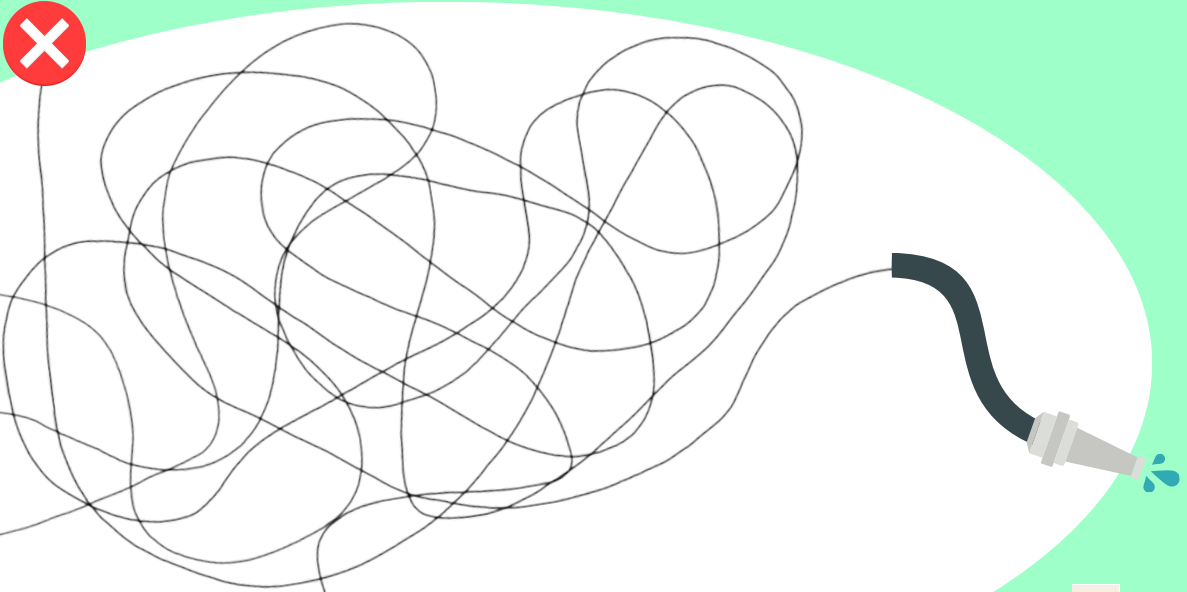
Can you help him figure out which one it is?



A.

B.

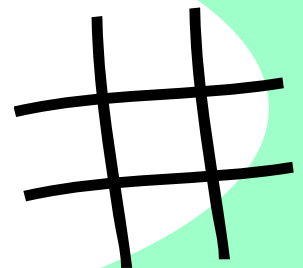
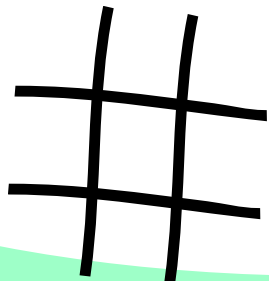
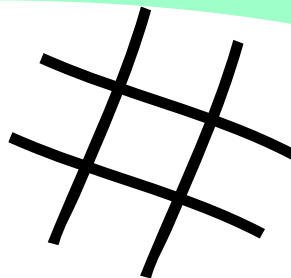
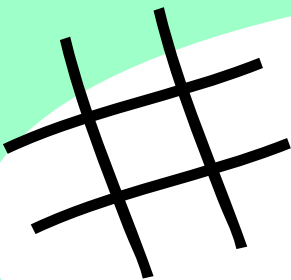
C.



Circle the hose that leads to the house!



Play with a friend in Tic-Tac-Toe!





## MSFA Sponsored Benefits

**Bobby Goninan, President**  
**Riverdale Heights Volunteer Fire Dept. & Rescue Squad, Inc.**  
**Colonial Life Sales Representative**

The importance of colonial life voluntary benefits for firefighters and their families cannot be overstated. As a firefighter, my primary concern is the safety and well-being of my fellow members, both on and off the job. One of the best ways to ensure this is by providing access to comprehensive and affordable benefits that can help protect them and their families in times of need. And the MSFA has sponsored these benefits to provide just that.

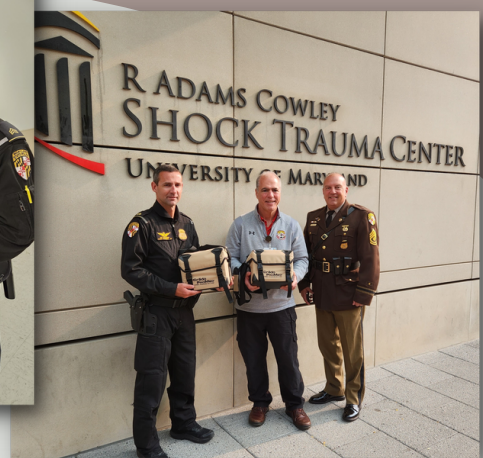
Colonial Life offers a wide range of voluntary benefits that can be tailored to meet the specific needs of firefighters and their families. These benefits include things like term life insurance, critical illness with cancer coverage, and accident coverage. Additionally, Colonial Life offers a range of other benefits that can help firefighters and their families with things like medical expenses, dental and vision care, and more. Along with cancer screenings from OneTest we provide unmatched protection.

One of the key advantages of colonial life voluntary benefits is that they are completely optional, allowing firefighters and their families to choose the coverage that is right for them.

This means that they can select the coverage they need and can afford it without having to worry about being forced into a one-size-fits-all plan, which can help to keep costs down. Another critical aspect of colonial life voluntary benefits is that they are portable, meaning that they can be taken with you if you change departments or are no longer in the service. This is particularly important for firefighters, as we often have to move around to different stations or even different states throughout our lives. With portable benefits, firefighters can rest assured that they will always have the coverage they need, no matter where their careers take them.

In conclusion, colonial life voluntary benefits are an essential component of any comprehensive benefits package for firefighters and their families. These benefits provide a range of coverage options that can help protect firefighters and their families in times of need while also providing flexibility and portability that can make all the difference in the world. As a firefighter, I strongly encourage my fellow members to take advantage of these benefits and to work with your department to make sure that they are included in your benefits package. Our team is currently reaching out to departments to schedule enrollment meetings.

If you have questions, you can reach me by email at [bgoninan@gmail.com](mailto:bgoninan@gmail.com) or by phone at 228-383-3146. Thank you.



Maryland State Firemen's Association began carrying two units of Whole Blood on two of our Maryland State Police helicopters for our patients in severe hemorrhagic shock! Services will soon expand to all seven bases to make whole blood available to all of our critical patients in need.



**Congrats to these UESRTC  
Class #21 graduates!**

These Queen Anne's County-based high school CTE program students are certified in FF1, FF2, HazMat Ops, Rescue Tech, Truck Company Fireground Ops, and Emergency Medical Responder.

**Strong work by all!**



"Mike Young, center, was honored for his contributions to Maryland EMS by Dr. Theodore Delbridge, right, MIEMSS executive director, and Clay Stamp, Talbot County Manager and former county emergency services director.

**At 81, Mike Young, a volunteer with Oxford Fire Department, is the oldest active paramedic in Maryland."**

The MSFA leadership took advantage of our time at the CFSI Symposium in Washington DC, to gather on Capitol Hill to discuss the important initiatives that have been introduced in federal legislation with the staff of Senator Cardin.

We will continue to work with our political partners to make sure that our voices are heard and that the needs of Maryland's volunteer fire service are at the forefront of their work.







**In Memory of Chief Emeritus S. Darron Long  
1949 - 2022**

Darron joined the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department in 1968. This began his love for the Fire and Rescue Service. Darron had a love of Damascus his entire life.

His great-grandfather ran a blacksmith shop across the street from the fire station location, his grandfather, Russell, worked for Woodfield Ford and then later was the Bodyshop Foreman for Damascus Motor Company, and he asked Darron to fill in for a painter that was off work, and Darron never left. Although Darron wanted to become a career Firefighter, he felt a calling to be able to stay in Damascus and help the Damascus VFD so he later became the lead painter and worked as a GM Certified Painter for Damascus Motor Company for over 41 years. Darron's father, Irvin worked for Montgomery County his entire career in the shop that managed the fleet of Montgomery County Police Cruisers.

Darron always felt he had the best of both worlds by being able to work in Damascus and still help the community and run calls for the Damascus VFD. He would go in on evenings and weekends to keep paint jobs on track when he had to take off and run calls or attend meetings. There are so many people in the area that have been wonderful citizens and looked out for the Damascus Community, and we are grateful for all, but Darron was a special part of the Damascus Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. and the town of Damascus. Darron will be greatly missed. Early on in his Fire and Rescue Career, Darron was pushed by some of the Damascus legends to get the required training and to prepare to one day be the Fire Chief. Chief Les Thompson, Chief "Chick" Shipley, Chief Joe Hawkins, and many others supported Darron in obtaining what was needed regarding Training and Education. Darron lived at the Fire Station several different times in his life, so the department helped him too.

Over the years, sometimes he frustrated people when he was like a dog with a bone and would not let something go. He could make people so mad sometimes over decisions, but then after a disagreement or discussion, the frustration would

go away because people would realize that he was really just fighting for what he believed in and that he was usually right. He was so full of common sense! Darron led the way for Damascus to get their very first Medic Unit years ago, a fight that he and many amazing paramedics supported for many years in Damascus and surrounding communities. Darron was instrumental in obtaining and acquiring countless apparatus and equipment for our department over the years and assisting with renovations and construction projects. He fought many battles in the Fire and Rescue Service to keep Damascus all

Volunteer, but when he knew Damascus needed fire and rescue protection that the Volunteers could not do by themselves, he was the first one to be in line to request the County to add Career staff to help. He was always quick to admit that we needed the MCFRS Career Personnel at Damascus and that we could never provide service without them. He helped make the Damascus VFD a place that many Career Staff desired to be detailed to because he included everyone as a family and worked together in our MCFRS combination system. He was always proud when Career Firefighters would retire and then re-join as Volunteers because they could feel that spirit and passion and wanted to be a part of it





Thankfully, that tradition is being carried on, and he was so proud. We lost count over the years of all the Letters of Support and References for jobs that he did when one of the Volunteer Firefighters wanted to start their career. He was so proud of everyone that went on to work for MCFRS, the MCPD, the State Department, and/or the Federal Government after volunteering at Damascus and that they had or are having very impressive careers. Ironically, some of the very same Chiefs he went up against on issues that affected Damascus he still talked to regularly after he retired as an active Chief and would joke with at car shows or whenever he would see them. Sometimes they would call

him and share stories. He was leading the Committee to restore the Antique Fire Engine for Damascus and was on the phone up to about an hour before he died, working on the planning for the restoration and schedule meetings to get it started. He spent the morning helping with our Annual Open House plans and preparing for his upcoming MSFA VCAF Committee Meeting. Anyone that said people either love him or hate him never truly understood him. Everyone that really knew him truly loved him and considered him their brother in the fire service, even when they were frustrated at him at one time or another. Sometimes what people would assume was ego when he would talk about things he had accomplished and "I" did this or that was not at all. It was pride. So many great men and women have served the Damascus community with that same pride over the years, and he loved working with everyone.



Darron served with dedication and selfless devotion as a Volunteer in the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service and the State of Maryland for over 54 years. He retired as the Volunteer Fire Chief of Damascus after serving in that position for over 36 years. Darron continued to serve the DVFD as a Life Member, Past Secretary of the Maryland Fire Chief's Association, Member of the Maryland State Fireman's Association, Member of the VCAF Committee for the MSFA, and a William Perry MFCA Award Winner, MSFA Hall of Fame Award Winner and Nominee for the Chief Leslie B. Thompson Award. Darron's lifetime of Fire and Rescue Service Accomplishments are listed to honor him; his proudest accomplishments were of his 3 daughters, Kim, Karen, and Katie, and his beloved wife, Terri, whom he often referred to as "the love of his life," and his amazing lifelong friends. We thank you, Darron, for your dedicated, selfless service and the life you gave to Damascus VFD.

**Rest in Peace, Darron, Chief 13 Emeritus.**



# Cooking with Fire

June 20, 2023



*Congratulations to Ryan Wittington from Ocean City Fire Department for winning the Cooking with Fire Competition with his delicious seafood dish of blackened Mahi Mahi with shrimp and mango salsa with cilantro spinach rice!*



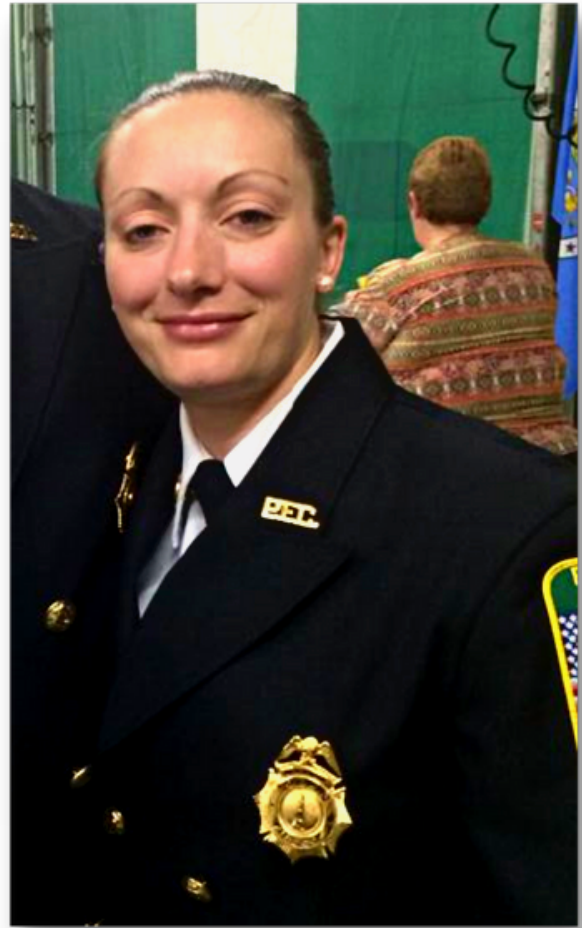
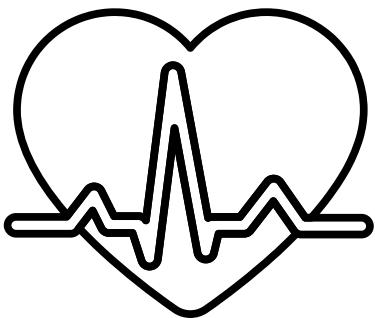
## Fire Service Fit Amber Steiding, Fitness Wellness Coach, NSCA

*Amber is a career fire department Lieutenant and Volunteer Fire Company Assistant Chief who holds tactical athlete coach certification.*

Being fire service fit requires a different approach to fitness than that of our everyday citizens. At the drop of the tones, we go from 0 to 60. No warm-up, no warning, heart pounding, adrenaline pumping and we are expected to be their calm in the storm.

Your ability to combat this stress is directly tied to your fitness level. Your ability to be resilient on the fire ground and at home is linked to your fitness level. We all know that being strong and having good cardiovascular fitness is essential; it has been preached for years. But, when you're not in shape, or your idea of nutrition is having a Diet Coke with that Big Mac, where do you start?

Training your body to handle physical stress will help you keep your wits about you when it's on, on the fire ground. Starting this process of getting fit for duty starts with making better choices. Start small; swap that pork chop for a lean chicken breast—Mac-n-cheese for roasted sweet potatoes. Fruits and veggies can taste good. Try new things. You may surprise yourself with how your taste buds change over time. Keep things within reach, and do not force yourself to do things you absolutely hate. This kind of change will not last. Start with being 1% better. If making one good choice that day is all you can do, challenge yourself to make two the next day.



Move your body. You were created to be active. Play with your kids and get involved in what they're doing. If you like to walk around the block, add a little more difficulty to what you do, and add a backpack or weight vest. If you like to lift weights, add strong compound lifts to your routine. Don't care for any of that, put your gear on, move equipment around, pull hose lines,

throw ladders. Increase your difficulty physically in progressive steps to make changes to be fitter. Being so sore you're not doing anything for several days later doesn't help you or your mentality. Add stressors to your body. You will be able to handle more. Your body adapts; it accepts change faster than our minds do.

Making positive changes each day will not turn you into the Greek God that many of us dream of being. It will make hitting the gym, at-home workouts, tactical fitness, and nutrition fundamentals, and being mentally resilient within reach.



# 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



**Fire and EMS Memorabilia Flea Market**



**MSFA Joint Memorial Service**





# Opening Ceremonies and Keynote





# Highlights from the show floor







# Family Night at Jolly Roger Amusement Park



# Sparky the Fire Dog and Friends





# Joint Officer Installation





# Special Thank You to all those behind the scenes that make the convention a huge success!



## SEE YOU NEXT AT THE 132ND MSFA ANNUAL CONVENTION & CONFERENCE JUNE 15, 2024 - JUNE 20, 2024



Congratulations NFFF Executive Director Ron Siarnicki on receiving the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 2023 James M. Shannon Advocacy Medal, which honors individuals who champion fire safety through advocacy. #FireHero #NFPAConf23





MARYLAND STATE  
FIRE MARSHAL

*We Do So Much More!*

# Now RECRUITING

## DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL I

**OCEAN CITY MSFA CONVENTION**

Sunday, June 18 10 AM Room 204

### **EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Tuesday, July 11, 2023 6:00 PM

### **HUGHESVILLE VOL FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Friday, July 14, 2023 6:00 PM

### **HAGERSTOWN MSP BARRACK**

Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 6:00 PM

### **HOWARD COUNTY TRAINING CENTER**

Monday, July 17, 2023, 6:00 PM

**FFAT Testing-** Maryland Police Training Center- Monday, August 21, 2023

**MUST ATTEND AT LEAST ONE ORIENTATION IN ORDER  
TO BE QUALIFIED FOR EMPLOYMENT**

**PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED, SCAN QR OR LOG ON TO**

**[HTTPS://MDOSFM.WIXSITE.COM/BLOG/ORIENTATION-INFORMATION](https://mdosfm.wixsite.com/blog/orientation-information)**



**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE  
1201 REISTERSTOWN ROAD PIKESVILLE, MD 21208**



## 2023 Results Of The Election

There were 349 companies in good standing, as recorded by the Secretary.

A total of 21 past presidents registered, and 21 voted.

The following officers were unopposed and elected by a single ballot cast by the office of the Secretary with the exception of the election of the office of Secretary and that ballot for that office by the President.

### Officers

- President Eric Smothers
- 1st Vice President Skip Carey
- 2nd Vice President Charles Simpson
- Financial Secretary Mitch Vocke

### Trustees

- Robbie Blackiston
- Teresa Collins

We had 5 Proposed Constitution changes.

These amendments require a 2/3 majority of votes cast for each change

1 - "Maryland State Firefighters Association" 652 for 525 against - amendment failed.

2 - "MSFA" 135 for 950 against - amendment failed.

3 - "Maryland State Volunteer Fire Rescue and EMS Association" 125 for 975 against - amendment failed.

4 - "Maryland Fire Rescue and EMS Association" 85 for 1012 against - amendment failed

5 - Split Executive Committee (Frederick/Washington Counties) 806 in favor 300 against - amendment passed.





## 2023 Annual Award Winners

**Colburn Trophy** – Was Not Awarded

**Gladhill-Thompson Award** – Daniel J. Stevens

### Hall of Fame

Jackie Carey – Ocean Pines – Worcester

Robert Thomas – White Marsh – Baltimore

Zachary Paul Reid – Clear Spring – Washington

Charles W. Walker – Chillum Adelphi – Prince George's

Thomas M. Edwards – Waldorf – Charles

Robert Keith Raley – Ridge VFD – St. Mary's

Carl B. Scully – Leonardtown VFD – St. Mary's

Russell W. Dawson – Rockville – Montgomery

Stephen Jacobs – Citizens Truck – Frederick

Mirian Nicholson – 17 State Circle – MSFA

### Special Inductees

**1: Major Michael Tagliaferri – Maryland State Police**

**Marbery F. Gates Service Cup Award** – Charles J. Simpson, Jr. –

**Firefighter of the Year** – Stacy S. Lakin – Jefferson VFC – Frederick

**Robert H. Shimer, Administrator of the Year** – Stephan D. Cox – Bel Air – Harford

**John E. "Sunny" Rose, Jr., Memorial Training Award** – Kimberly D. Kerschner – Ferndale – Anne Arundel

**Smith N. Stathem, Jr., P.P., Memorial Safety Award** – Phillip Ridgell – Ridge VFD – St. Mary's

**Edward L. Emkey, Sr., Cadet Program Award** – Williamsport Junior Program – Washington

**Josiah A. Hunt, M.D., EMS Person of the Year** – Bonny Hurley – Rocky Ridge VFC – Frederick

**Past President C. Oscar Baker Rookie of the Year** – Tucker Thomas Hedrick – Mechanicsville VFD – St. Mary's

**Senator William H. Amoss Memorial Legislative Award**

- Senator William C. Smith, Jr., District 20 Montgomery
- Delegate Benjamin S. Barnes, District 21 Baltimore, and Anne Arundel
- Robert Phillips, Rescue Fire Co. Dorchester

**Silver Spring Trophy** – Brian Geraci, Maryland State Fire Marshal

**Francis L. Brannigan Instructor of the Year** – Scott Whetsell

**Fire Marshall of the Year** – Deputy Helys Valles

**Miss Fire Prevention** – Madeline Moore

**Miss Fire Prevention 1st Runner-Up** – Ashley Nalborczyk

**LAMSFA Honey Award** – Teresa Crisman

### \$10,000 – Raffle Winners

\$10,000 Bedford Road VFC Cumberland, MD      \$ 500 Bill Hildebrand Chestertown, MD

\$ 2,500 Sandra Walsh Manchester, MD      \$ 250 Junior Fire Co #2 Frederick, MD

\$ 1,500 Joe Butt Beallsville, MD      \$ 100 Kevin Baker Dover, DE

\$ 1,000 Nancy Trego Elkton, MD      \$ 100 Bert Gulasky McKeesport, PA

\$ 750 Mike Stewart Rising Sun, MD      \$ 100 Tim Dayton Westernport, MD





# 2023 FIREFIGHTER **SAFETY** STAND DOWN



***LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES: ARE YOU READY?  
TAKING PLACE EACH YEAR DURING THE THIRD FULL WEEK OF  
JUNE, SAFETY STAND DOWN HIGHLIGHTS CRITICAL SAFETY,  
HEALTH, AND SURVIVAL ISSUES FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY  
SERVICES PERSONNEL. DEPARTMENTS ARE ASKED TO  
SUSPEND ALL NON-EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES DURING THE  
WEEK TO FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON SAFETY AND HEALTH  
EDUCATION EFFORTS. A WEEK IS PROVIDED TO ENSURE THAT  
ALL DUTY SHIFTS CAN PARTICIPATE.***

***THE 2023 SAFETY STAND DOWN TOOK PLACE ON JUNE 18-24  
AND FOCUSED ON LITHIUM-ION BATTERY RESPONSE WITH  
THE THEME "LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES: ARE YOU READY?"***





***The Volunteer Trumpet***

**A publication of the Maryland State  
Firemen's Association**

**www.msfa.org**

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**Social Media & Marketing Manager**

**Eric Smothers**

**President**

***See you next year at The Beach!***



[linktr.ee/MSFA1](https://linktr.ee/MSFA1)

**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.**