

# MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

-a 501(c)3 Organization

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

**Weekly Report 2/9/24**

## **2024 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule:**

April 6-7 Grantsville

**Call to Action: Please Help Reauthorize the Fire Grant Program** Earlier this week, representatives of America's fire service met on-line to discuss strategies to force Congress and the Senate to pass the reauthorization bill for AFG/SAFER/FP&S and the USFA. We have decided that the time is **NOW** to ask the fire service to unite and fill up the inboxes of Congress/Senate to address this critical issue.

-AFG and SAFER will cease to exist if they are not reauthorized by September 30, 2024.

-The Fire Grants and Safety Act (S.870/H.R.4090) is a bipartisan bill that would reauthorize the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) and Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) programs, which are critical to ensuring that fire and EMS departments have the equipment, staffing, and training they need to protect themselves and their communities.

-Without reauthorization, these programs will sunset by the end of this fiscal year.

-The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) serves as a critical voice of the fire service at the federal level. USFA provides vital training, data, analysis, education, and much more for both fire and EMS personnel, as well as the general public.

-Together, AFG, SAFER, and USFA help to improve fire and life safety across the country.

**For more information, visit [Support AFG, SAFER, and USFA: Take Action Now! - Congressional Fire Services Institute \(cfsi.org\)](#) Use this [link](#) to write a letter to your Senator and Congress representatives.**

**-David Lewis, President; Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firefighter's Association**

**Recruiter Training Announcement:** The MSFA SAFER Team is excited to present 7 regional offerings of MissionCIT's Retention and Recruitment Officer Course!

<b>March 23-24</b>	<b>Southern MD</b>	<b>MFRI LaPlata</b>
<b>April 13-14</b>	<b>Western MD</b>	<b>MFRI Allegany</b>
<b>May 18-19</b>	<b>Northeastern MD</b>	<b>Bel Air VFC</b>
<b>September 14-15</b>	<b>Upper Eastern Shore</b>	<b>MFRI Centreville</b>
<b>October 19-20</b>	<b>Lower Eastern Shore</b>	<b>MFRI Princess Anne</b>
<b>October 26-27</b>	<b>Northern MD</b>	<b>TBD Frederick County</b>
<b>November 2-3</b>	<b>Mid-State</b>	<b>TBD Anne Arundel County</b>

-This SAFER-funded two-day workshop takes a retention-first approach to help participants evaluate the type of environment they're inviting potential members into and offers keen insight and process improvement from the moment of inquiry, to application and acceptance, and through the onboarding phase.

-This immersive learning experience offers real-world experiences and solutions from leaders and subject matter experts working in your field. It shares processes and best practices that can increase your success at generating prospective volunteer interest, identifying and screening quality candidates; closing the deal on your next recruit committing themselves to serving in your Fire/EMS organization, and keeping them supported and engaged once you've got them hooked. This interactive encounter will identify and help address barriers to recruitment and retention in your volunteer agency.

**-NOTE: To ensure a personalized experience, the course will be open to a limit of 24 attendees per region (and limited to two people per department) so be sure to register early!** This course is for those that are active in their department's retention and recruitment efforts.

-Mileage will be reimbursed for all attendees traveling 50+ miles one way.

-Lodging will be reimbursed for one night up to \$175 for those traveling 75+ miles one way as well as mileage.

**Register here:** <https://missioncit.com/maryland-state-firemens-association-retention-and-recruitment-officer/>

**2024 MSFA/LAMSFA Cancer Support Walk of Hope Announced:** Sunday, April 28, 2024. This year's walk will begin at 4pm (registration at 3pm) for an "Evening Stroll Through Annapolis", ending at Stan and Joe's Restaurant. The After-Walk fundraising event at the restaurant will be held in support of the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation. Register to walk/be an event sponsor here:

<https://www.msfa.org/2024-msfala-cancer-support-walk/>

**The Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation** is selling bricks! Honor those that have made an impact in your life by buying a brick in their name to be placed at the Annapolis memorial. For more information, visit <https://www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/marylandfire/>

### **2024 Convention News:**

\*The 132nd MSFA Convention and Conference is scheduled for June 16 – 21, 2024\*

-**Registration** platforms are now OPEN! Department Credentials, Vendor Registration, Sponsorships, and Program Book Ads are all available online at <https://convention.msfa.org/>

-**Awards** Packet will be distributed to all departments shortly. You can also review all awards online at <https://www.msfa.org/awards/>. There are also opportunities to submit requests for Certificates of Recognition from the MSFA for EMS Top Responder, Fire Top Responder, Rescue Top Responder, Active Military Service, Three or More Generations in the Fire Service, Over 90 years of Age and Still Active, and the Life Saving Award. Requests can be made online here: <https://www.msfa.org/awards/recognition-certs/>

Be sure to take the time to review these lists nominate your members! Remember, recognition of a job well done is an amazing retention tool!

-**\$10,000 Raffle** The Ways & Means Committee announces that all of the \$10,000 raffle tickets have been distributed. You can either mail your check and stubs to Mitch Vocke PO Box 401 Jarrettsville, MD 21084, give your check and stubs to your executive committee representative, or bring them to the convention in June. For those companies/departments that have not participated and do not want to buy them, please consider assigning them to a member to sell at a company event that is open to the public!

### **MSFA Committee Notices:**

-*The Scholarship Committee* has announced that the Scholarship application period for 2024 is now open. There have been additional scholarship opportunities posted to the committee page so please visit <https://www.msfa.org/committees-2/scholarship/> for more information!

**\*New to the Scholarship program this year is the opportunity for individuals or departments to donate to the Scholarship fund in a loved one's name. The donation will be awarded to a deserving volunteer at the Convention in June.**

-*The VCAF Committee* has announced that the online application period is now open. If your company is in good standing with the MSFA (credentials on file) and is planning to apply for a VCAF loan, have a company representative immediately contact your regional VCAF representative to begin the application process. Click this link to find your VCAF representative: <https://www.msfa.org/committees/vcaf/> .

-*The Cancer Support Committee* would like to assist any Maryland volunteer fire, rescue, or emergency medical services personnel who are facing a battle with cancer. We would like to provide a gift card that can be utilized to help offset fuel costs or purchase needed supplies. You can submit a request through this form: <https://tinyurl.com/382scb7a> . To donate to the Cancer Support Committee program, please contact Chair Susan Hilton at [shilton2323@yahoo.com](mailto:shilton2323@yahoo.com)

-*The Volunteer Trumpet Committee* is looking for contributors! Are you a subject matter expert in Health and Wellness, Firefighter Safety, Recruitment and Retention or just have a cool story to share? Contact Chair Jonathon Dayton for more info. <https://www.msfa.org/committees-2/trumpet/>

Interested in serving on an MSFA committee? Submit your interest here:

<https://www.msfa.org/committees/interest-form/>

### **Upcoming Training:**

**-March 2-3, 2024 *John W. Hoglund Maryland Officers Seminar*** The Universities at Shady Grove  
9630 Gudelsky Drive Building II, Conference Center Rockville MD 2085

Register here: <https://www.mfri.org/course/seminars/MGTS/302/>

**-March 3, 2024 *Leadership Lessons from LODD Experience*** 0900-1600 North Beach VFD Hardesty Hall, Chesapeake Beach MD This free, one-day seminar will consist of two line of duty death case studies delivered by chief officers who functioned as the senior officer on scene or incident commander. See flyer. Register here: <https://web.event.com/event/81dd46e8-0232-4399-afad-23d57a65b33f/regProcessStep1?locale=en>

**-March 3-8, 2024 *National Fire Service Staff and Command Course***; Annapolis MD

**REGISTRATION CLOSES NEXT FRIDAY 2/16.** This course, held in cooperation with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, is a week-long high-intensity concentrated program intended to involve the student in various peer group activities. The program is designed to assist emergency service officers in modern concepts of emergency management by developing professional knowledge and technical skills

Register here: <https://www.mfri.org/register/MGTS-301-R002-2024/seminars>

**-March 18-19, 2024 *The Essentials of Chaplaincy Course***; MFRI Lower Eastern Shore Regional Training Center Princess Anne, MD. You must be present for the entire 16 hours of instruction to receive Basic Fire Chaplain Certification. This course, created by the Federation of Fire Chaplains, provides an opportunity for everyone – experienced chaplains, new chaplains, and prospective chaplains alike – to learn valuable lessons about Fire Chaplaincy. Register here: <https://www.mfri.org/course/seminars/MGTS/115/>

**-March 23, 2024; *The 2024 Public Fire & Life Safety Educator Seminar***; 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM MFRI College Park 4500 Campus Drive, College Park, MD This seminar is for Community Risk Reductions Specialists, Fire & Injury Prevention Coordinators, Safe Kids & Rick Watch Coordinators, Health and Safety Advocates, and First Responders! Helping Build Your Toolbox for Successful Educating! Networking lunch will be provided. Registration is now open at [www.mfri.org/training/seminars](http://www.mfri.org/training/seminars)

**-March 25-26, 2024 *First Responder Mental Health and Wellness Conference***; Ocean City, MD Ashore Resort & Beach Club. This training is for all First Responders, Police, Fire, Military/Veterans, Corrections, Dispatchers, Chaplains, Retired First Responders, spouses, professional staff, clinicians, and all who work in the public safety field. “1st Responder Conferences presents a multi-faceted two-day seminar and networking event for improving the mental health and wellness of our first responders.” Register here: <https://app.clearevent.com/eventPortal#event/39855908-d747-4c79-acbd-3a42509e8dbe>

\*\*To add training to this report, email the info to [KLoveless@msfa.org](mailto:KLoveless@msfa.org)

### **NVFC News**

**February 21, 2024 2pm-3pm ROUNDTABLE TALK: ENGAGING YOUTH IN THE FIRE SERVICE**

Register for free: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_DJNnyxliTyaBtaVc1nLquw#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DJNnyxliTyaBtaVc1nLquw#/registration)

Junior firefighter programs give youth the chance to learn about local fire, rescue, and emergency medical services response organizations in a safe, controlled, educational, and fun way, while providing departments with nonoperational support and a powerful recruitment mechanism. How can departments engage with local youth, schools, and other organizations to promote these youth fire service programs? What do departments need to do to ensure these programs provide sound training and leadership experiences for youth? Join us for a conversation with Quentin Cash, Jerry Presta, Ellen Yarborough, and the NVFC’s Rachel Buczynski regarding best practices and strategies for building a strong youth program in your community.

**MSFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BY COUNTY:**

Allegheny/Garrett	Tim Dayton	<a href="mailto:daytontd22@gmail.com">daytontd22@gmail.com</a>
Anne Arundel	Ron Block	<a href="mailto:blockntackle@comcast.net">blockntackle@comcast.net</a>
Baltimore	Doug Simpkins, Jr.	<a href="mailto:dougsimpkins350@gmail.com">dougsimpkins350@gmail.com</a>
Calvert/Charles/St. Mary's	Randy Smith	<a href="mailto:firehouseblues56@yahoo.com">firehouseblues56@yahoo.com</a>
Carroll/Howard	PP Mark Bilger	<a href="mailto:mbilger@miemss.org">mbilger@miemss.org</a>
Dorchester/Talbot	Bob Phillips	<a href="mailto:rfechief48@gmail.com">rfechief48@gmail.com</a>
Frederick	Chip Jewell (Chair)	<a href="mailto:cjecc171@comcast.net">cjecc171@comcast.net</a>
Harford/Cecil	PP Steve Cox	<a href="mailto:msfa96@gmail.com">msfa96@gmail.com</a>
Montgomery	Buddy Sutton	<a href="mailto:b.sutton@ldvfd.org">b.sutton@ldvfd.org</a>
Prince George's	Lee Lutz	<a href="mailto:leelutz49@gmail.com">leelutz49@gmail.com</a>
Queen Anne's/Kent/Caroline	Bill Faust	<a href="mailto:billf44@atlanticbb.net">billf44@atlanticbb.net</a>
Somerset/Wicomico/Worchester	PP Roger Steger	<a href="mailto:rsteeger21842@gmail.com">rsteeger21842@gmail.com</a>
Washington	Dale Fishack	<a href="mailto:chiefringgold@aol.com">chiefringgold@aol.com</a>



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