

MINUTES
Allegany Garrett County Fire & Rescue Association
Northern Garret County Rescue Squad
July 13, 2014

The regular meeting of the Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association was held Sunday, July 13, 2014 and hosted by Northern Garrett Rescue. President Clarence Broadwater called the meeting to order at 14:00 hours

The Invocation was given by Chaplain Calvin Walbert who then read the 23rd Psalm in memory of James R. Getson, Corriganville; Ronald Shipway, Flintstone; Mary Kelley, Grantsville Auxiliary; Patricia Wright, Bedford Road Auxiliary; and Thomas Lillard Jr, Frostburg.

Vice President Dick DeVore led the flag salute.

WELCOME: Pat Bowser, representing the host company welcomed everyone to Northern Garrett. President Broadwater said it was a pleasure to be at Northern Rescue today.

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTMENTS: Roll call of Departments showed 21 companies in attendance. Those not represented were: Baltimore Pike; Bittering; Bloomington; Corriganville; Deep Creek; Deer Park; Ellerslie Ambulance; Frostburg Ambulance; Gorman; Grantsville; Kitzmiller; Mt Savage; Oakland; Rawlings; Tri – Towns Rescue and Southern Garrett Rescue.

Companies present were: Accident; Barton Hose; Bedford Road; Bowling Green; Bowman's Addition; Clarysville; Cresaptown; Cumberland Hose; District 16; Eastern Garrett; Ellerslie; Flintstone; Friendsville; George's Creek; Good Will; Luke; Midland; Northern Garrett; Orleans; Oldtown and Potomac.

All officers were in attendance with the exception of Editor Dennis Mallery

RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS:

President Broadwater recognized the following 12 Past Presidents in attendance: Robert E. Knippenburg; Calvin 'Pete' Walbert; Dennis Bonner; Rodney W. Bowser; David Kyle; Patricia A. Bowser; Janet M. Elbin; Michael A. Simmons; Timothy F. Dayton; Clarence B. Broadwater and Barbara A. Knippenburg.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Guests present and recognized by President Broadwater were: Mary Carr, PP LA AGCVFRA; Dick DeVore, Allegany Co. Emergency Services; Betty Grabenstein PP LA AGCVFRA; Pam Kyle, Past President AGCVFRA; Miss Shelby Simmons, AGCVFRA Miss Fire Prevention; Johnie Roth, MSFA 1st Vice President; Ben Kurtz MSFA Executive Committee member and Candidate for MSFA Trustee; Mark Bilger MSFA Executive Committee member and Candidate for MSFA 2nd Vice President; Sherry Soper, Past President LAMSFA; Dave Kline, Walkersville; Shirley Walbert, P.P. AGCVFRA; Kingsley Poole, Chairman MSFA Training Committee; Rick Blair MFCA P.P. and Candidate for MSFA 2nd Vice President noted the 1st Annual Clay Shoot will be held on August 9th in support of Shock Trauma; Rev. Rick Bower, Chaplain, MFCA who said they have a vision to develop a Chaplain's Corp. He is a delegate to the Maryland Association of the Federation of Fire Chaplain's Program which will be meeting in Annapolis, Md. this year; Dwayne Kitis, Regional Coordinator, MIEMSS; and Chief John Herath, Allegany County EMS.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

PP Pam Kyle, noted that the men's meeting was adjourned prior to the ladies meeting this year at Convention, and the Ladies made a donation to the Association's Bulletin and Scholarship Funds: \$100.00 for the Bulletin and \$140.00 for the Scholarship.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

All Officers gave a report of their activities since the last meeting.

Secretary's Report – Secretary Bowser made available copies of minutes for the day's meeting and e-mailed them to all companies and executive committee members. The May minutes were approved at the 102nd Annual Convention.

Communications – None

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Shuhart reported the following fund balances: Savings Certificates: General Fund - \$14,102.92; Plaque Fund CD - \$2,928.34; Plaque Fund Cash \$94.00; Checking Account \$3,025.14 Prime Saver \$2,460.32; and Fire Prevention Scholarship Fund \$676.22.

Bills on hand were read: Denny Mallery (Mailing Envelopes) \$94.75; Bessie Marshall Fund (Memory of Past President Frank Clark) \$50.00; and Sincell Publishing (meeting cards) \$47.25 totaling \$192.00. It was motioned by Bob Knippenburg and seconded by Tim Dayton to pay the bills. Motion passed.

Agency Reports –

MFRI – Todd Dyche – The following report was received for Class Update in Allegany / Garrett County. See the attached report submitted.

Garrett County Assn. – The next meeting will be held August 13 at Gorman starting at 7:30 p.m.

Allegany County Emergency Services – Dick DeVore reported.

The ESB will meet August 12th at 6:00 p.m.

An appeal was sent to MEMA and it was denied. The office will continue to work to assist those companies experiencing a loss.

The Financial Accountability Study results were completed from Turnbull and Kale. They have identified the President and Treasurer of each company and they should have received a questionnaire. This will assist companies on how to improve their accounting practices.

Dick said he continues to seek information from companies for the Fund raising booklet to benefit the scholarship fund.

The 700 mhz. radio system is about ready for rollout. It will reach up to 95 % of Allegany County. A tower upgrade will be made at Big Savage and Barton and eventually at Dan's Mt.

Work continues on the Allegany/Garrett/Washington Incident Management Team that will forge an organizational structure for use at the Deep Creek 2014 Whitewater trials at ASCI.

Allegany County EMS – John Herath reported. He noted the fail rate of ambulance responses has increased by 6.5 % and the call volume is down. Providers must do EMEDS for all 1 & 2 priority patients at the hospital. Protocol books are out. Fire companies still have not picked them up.

VCAF – Pat reported that the VCAF Board made great strides at this year's annual convention. She noted that the interest rate is now set at 1%. She thanked Ben Kurtz and Mark Bilger and our representative on the Executive Committee Tim Dayton for working to advance the VCAF goals as I've outlined the last while. We are working to lowering the matching funds for apparatus and construction loans. This will greatly assist those companies who cannot afford to take two loans – one for their matching funds and the other as a interim loan until the project is completed and they receive their loan funds. Pat noted the grant funding has been increased by the Executive Committee as well. Funds available for grants will be up to \$500,000 / year. However, this does not guarantee that we will provide those funds each. Grant funds are based only on need.

Applications are available on-line. There is a link on the MSFA website. Follow the prompts to set up an account to sign in to begin the application process. It can be worked on and saved until it's complete.

MIEMSS – Dwayne Kitis reported. He wanted to thank Pat for all her work in getting the paperwork in for Eastern Garrett.

Protocol updates should have been done. They were due by July 1st.

Ambulance inspections will be held the first week in October.

MSFA –MSFA 1st Vice President Johnie Roth noted the following: The MSFA along with the Md. Fire Chief Association was awarded a \$2.2 million grant for Recruitment / Retention. The event took place at the Rosedale VFC in Baltimore with Senator Mikulski. The Senator spoke with the Officers of both organizations about the different factions within Maryland. She was also there to recognize Baltimore County that received a \$2 million grant for the purchase of SCBA's. The details of the grant will be distributed in the very near future. MSP Trooper 2 will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday August 5th at 1 p.m. at Fed Ex Field; the 122nd Annual MSFA Convention was recently completed and it's hoped everyone had a productive and fun week. The Conv. Committee will be holding a critique on Mon. July 21st at Odenton. All are welcome. The MSFA Officers are in the planning stages of setting up meetings with our partners as well as attending numerous out of state conventions within the next few months. Firehouse Expo is coming to Baltimore July 17, 18, and 19 and you can get discounted tickets on-line. MFRI is accepting registrations for The Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference to be held Sept. 23, 2014 at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Laurel. For those who like to plan ahead, The National Fallen Firefighter weekend will be held October 11 and 12th, which is a week later this year, in Emmittsburg. Vol. Co. Leadership & Administration classes are scheduled August 15 & 16th in Southern Maryland; September 13 & 14th in North Central (Frederick); October 11 & 12th in the Upper Eastern Shore; and November 22 & 23rd in the Northeast Region. Maryland weekend will be at the National Fire Academy on February 14 & 15th this year. The Executive Committee will be meeting on August 23 & 24th hosted by Williamsport Fire & Rescue; For the long range planner the 123rd MSFA Convention will be held on June 20 – 26, 2015 in Ocean City; President Roth said finally he wanted to thank all for their continued support and look forward to a very productive year within the MSFA;

FIRE POLICE – Rodger said they were available. They've had a busy summer already. There were three on the truck fire last evening and 7 were at the fair. Call if you need them.

Christian Firefighters – Pete reported the A. Mike Walter's Chapter of Christian Firefighter's met at Bloomington on July 12th.

The welcome was given and the response given by Paul Wilson, Chaplain of Bloomington. Vice President Pam Kyle read two poems. The invocation and the blessing of the meal were given by Chaplain Walbert. Breakfast was served.

The pledge was led by VP Pam Kyle. Joys and Concerns were given by Rodger Long. Rev. Rick gave the morning meditation.

During the business meeting, the minutes were read and the treasurer's report given. The Sunshine committee noted they sent 3 Get Well and 4 Sympathy cards.

The prayer breakfast adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

The next prayer breakfast will be held at Eastern Garrett on August 2nd starting at 8:30 am. Everyone is invited to attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

By-Laws – Nothing to report.

Convention – President Broadwater reported that after the convention where no one company wished to host the convention, Westernport said they would take it on again. However, Bowman's Addition has now agreed to host it in 2015. Westernport has withdrawn their request since there's a company interested.

Fire Prevention/Education –

Note: Fire Prevention & Education Committee's Monthly Safety Fact # 96 to be included within the minutes and "The Bulletin".

Fire safety: House and business address numbers

When you need the fire, police or EMS department, you want to be found quickly. Emergency response is about speed. Many public safety entities sell for a small fee these address markers to be used to assist in locating the address's easily, day or night.

To assist emergency workers in finding your location in a timely manner, please do the following:

- ✓ On houses, the numbers should be a minimum 3 inches high.
- ✓ Businesses numbers should be sized so that they can be easily visible from the fire department access road.
- ✓ Use a contrasting color and assure they're reflective.
- ✓ Place numbers at the end of long driveways.
- ✓ Assure that bushes or grasses do not impede the view of the address number.

Insurance/Benefits – John Shuhart reported that since the last meeting Relief Fund payments were made for Clark Mallow from Flintstone. If any company belonging to the Relief Fund and has a member die, please give me a call so that I may send out the check.

I have received the Relief fund payments from most companies. They were due February 15th. Still need Deep Creek.

Public Relations – Please continue to send election results from your companies to be published in *The Bulletin*.

Special Ops – There was no report given.

Past Presidents – Next meeting August 9th at the Accident Community Park. This will be the annual picnic all Past Presidents and officers are invited. Chicken and potato salad will be provided. All attendees were to bring a covered dish.

Auditing – Nothing.

Special Awards – Nothing.

Training – Registration is changing. After the first of the year, one must register on-line at the MFRI website. In Allegany County requests go to Tim Dayton and for Garrett County, send them to Jean Tressler. Go to the MFRI website for instructions and follow the prompts.

Recruitment/Retention – Nothing new to report.

Public Relations – Any company having information, please forward to the editor for inclusion into the *'The Bulletin'*.

Sprinklers – Nothing new.

Statistics – Since the convention, John reported he received reports from Gorman and Northern Garrett Rescue which makes Garrett County 100%. Allegany County still needs Ellerslie Ambulance to make everything reporting. I would like to thank each company for assisting in getting this completed. We are in the top fire percent of counties reporting for the state.

Career Center & 5 / 10 Year Planning – There was no report given from either committee.

Ways & Means – A raffle for a \$250.00 meat certificate from B&B Meats and a \$100.00 gas card will be held at the Allegany County Fair. It was also suggested to hold the raffle until after the Garrett County Fair which will conclude August 2nd. Dave Kyle will now chair the committee.

Dave said they will put together a basket for Christmas to raffle off.

UNFISHISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Don't forget the Wills for Hero's program. Forms are available on-line at msfa.org

The 50/50 was drawn.

The next Assn. meeting will be held at Friendsville on Sunday, September 7th at 2:00 p.m.

The next Prayer Breakfast will be held during at Bedford Road on September 6th at 8:30 a.m.

Chaplain Walbert gave the benediction and the blessing of the meal at 15:40 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Rodney W. Bowser

Rodney W. Bowser
Secretary