

**MINUTES**  
**Allegany Garrett County Fire & Rescue Association**  
**Baltimore Pike Volunteer Fire Company**  
**April 6, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association was held Sunday, April 6, 2014 and hosted by Baltimore Pike Vol. Fire Company. President Gene Kidwell called the meeting to order at 14:00 hours and led the flag salute.

The Invocation was given by Chaplain Calvin Walbert and read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm in memory of  
Nina Callas, Deer Park Auxiliary and Nancy Stark, LaVale Auxiliary.

**WELCOME:** Gary Carpenter, President, representing the host company welcomed everyone to Baltimore Pike. He invited everyone to tour the new addition recently completed to house their equipment.

President Kidwell said it was a pleasure to be at Baltimore Pike.

**ROLL CALL OF DEPARTMENTS:** Roll call of Departments showed 17 companies in attendance. Those not represented were: Bedford Road; Bittinger; Bloomington; Clarysville; Corriganville; Deep Creek; Deer Park; Eastern Garrett; Ellerslie Ambulance; Flintstone; Frostburg Ambulance; Good will; Gorman; Grantsville; Kitzmiller; Mt. Savage; Oakland; Rawlings; Tri – Towns Rescue and Southern Garrett Rescue.

Companies present were: Accident; Baltimore Pike; Barton Hose; Bedford; Bowling Green; Cresaptown; Cumberland Hose; District 16; Ellerslie; George's Creek; Luke; Midland; Mt. Savage; Northern Garrett; Oldtown and Orleans.

All officers were in attendance with the exception of the Vice President.

**RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS:**

President Kidwell recognized the following 12 Past Presidents in attendance: Robert E. Knippenburg; James F. Decker; Ron Grabenstein; Calvin 'Pete' Walbert; Dennis Bonner; Gerard Mc Gann; Rodney W. Bowser; Patricia A. Bowser; Janet M. Elbin; Michael A. Simmons; Denny R. Mallery and Barbara A. Knippenburg.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Guests present and recognized by President Kidwell were: Mary Carr, PP LA AGCVFRA; Donna Struntz PP LA AGCVFRA; Dick DeVore, Allegany Co. Emergency Services; Leslie Cassady Guard AGCVFRA; Sherry Soper PP LAMSFA; Pam Kyle President AGCVFRA; Miss Shelby Simmons, AGCVFRA Miss Fire Prevention; Bill Valentine and Mike McKay Allegany Co. Commissioners; Jonnie Roth 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President MSFA; Dave Kline, Walkersville; Jake Shade and Mark Widmeyer, Candidates for Allegany Co. Commissioner.

**OFFICER'S REPORT**

**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.

**Communications** – None

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Shuhart reported the following fund balances: Savings Certificates: General Fund - \$14,044.09; Plaque Fund CD - \$2,928.34; Plaque Fund Cash \$94.00; Checking Account \$4,266.73; Prime Saver \$2,457.54; and Fire Prevention Scholarship Fund \$675.79.

Bills on hand were read: Mailroom (Bulletin) \$221.27; FP \$100.00 (Knip was last night's winner); totaling \$321.27. It was motioned by Gerard McGann and seconded by Mike Simmons to pay the bills. Motion passed.

**Agency Reports –**

**MFRI – Todd Dyche – The following report was received:**

**Class Update in Allegany / Garrett County**

**Notes:**

Class	Log Number	Location	Start Date	Days	# of Students	Status	Class Closes
Firefighter I (requires medical clearance)	-	WMRTC	1/19/14	-	29	Active	Closed
EMT	-	WMRTC	1/25/14	-	14	Active	Closed
Firefighter I (requires medical clearance)	-	Oakland VFD	2/11/14	-	18	Active	Closed
Instructor I	-	WMRTC	3/3/14	-	9	Completed	Closed
EMR	-	Baltimore Pike	3/4/14	-	13	State Testing	Closed
Pump Operator	-	Shaft	3/16/14	-	20	Completed	Closed
Haz Mat Technician	-	Garrett College	3/20/14	-	12	Active	Closed
EMT Refresher	EMS-203-S074-2014	Garrett College	4/12/14	Sa/Su	13	Completed	Closed
Rescue Tech: Rope	RES-205-S007-2014	Garrett College	4/12/14	Sat	(10)	Canceled	Closed
EMR Refresher	EMS-207-S011-2014	Orleans	4/13/14	Sun	(8)	Canceled	Closed
Pump Operator	FIRE-113-S030-2014	Deer Park	4/22/14	Tu/Th	(3)	Canceled	Closed
Instructor II	MGMT-210-S021-2014	WMRTC	4/24/14	M/Th	10	Active	Closed
<b><i>EVO</i></b>	<b><i>FIRE-130-S075-2014</i></b>	<b><i>Bedford Road</i></b>	<b><i>4/12/14</i></b>	<b><i>Sat</i></b>	<b><i>(5)</i></b>	<b><i>Canceled</i></b>	<b><i>Closed</i></b>
Online EVO Skills	FIRS-112-S015-2014	TBD	5/10/14	Sat	(7)	Open/Active	5/5/14
<b><i>*EMT Skills</i></b>	<b><i>EMS-202-S057-2014</i></b>	<b><i>WMRTC</i></b>	<b><i>6/1/14</i></b>	<b><i>Sa/Su</i></b>	<b><i>(9)</i></b>	<b><i>Open</i></b>	<b><i>5/10/14</i></b>
EMT Refresher	EMS-203-S072-2014	WMRTC	6/14/14	Sa	(13)	Open	5/23/14

1. Numbers in parentheses indicates total pre-registered students
2. \*Red color, bold, and italicized font indicates additional enrollment needed for class to start

The Fall Course Schedule is out. Visit [www.mfri.org](http://www.mfri.org).

**Pre-register online at <http://www.mfri.org/cgi-bin/schedule.cgi?S=Online> for the following training opportunities:**

- **EMT Refresher (12 hours) – June 1**
- **EVOC – June 15**

**Garrett County Assn. –** The next meeting will be held May 28<sup>th</sup> at Friendsville at 7:30 p.m.

**Christian Firefighters –** Chaplain Walbert reported the A. Mike Walter's Chapter of Christian Firefighters met at Friendsville on April 5th. Vice President Pam Kyle presided. The Invocation and Blessing was given by Chaplain Walbert. The pledge was led by Pam Kyle.

Joys and Concerns were given by Chaplain Walbert. The speaker was Pastor Phil Smith who gave his meditation through various songs. He message was how Firefighter and Christian's duties coincided while doing the same thing – Saving souls. Mary Carr read the

minutes of the previous meeting. Birthdays were recognized. The Sunshine committee sent out seven get well and one sympathy Card. Friendsville donated the proceeds from the breakfast back to the Chapter. The breakfast closed with a circle of prayer

The next Prayer Breakfast will be held at Oldtown on May 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 8:30 am. All are welcome to attend.

**Allegany County Emergency Services** – Dick DeVore reported. He said they were trying to recover from the virus that penetrated the Allconet web server. They are looking at a new location for Barton Power as they continue the tower project.

**VCAF** – Pat reported on her most recent meeting where three (3) applications were approved. Two from this area: Eastern Garrett for breathing apparatus and Orleans for a used engine. Sharpsburg was also approved for new facilities.

As has been our custom of having Executive Committee approval by conference call, she said she was disappointed that it did not occur this time – thus a loss of approximately two weeks before the paperwork was forwarded to DMIL for processing. She noted that when time is of the essence, that a two-week time period is a long time. Our goal is to have the applications receive Bd. Of Public Works approval within 4-5 wks. So this is unacceptable...

She noted that progress has been made to automate the VCAF Application process on-line. Training has been accomplished by conference call and gotomeeting.com. We discuss and see the software application at work on the screen as we work through the process. Each Board member will receive a training disk when the process is complete and it is hoped to roll out the program to the VCAF Board on their next scheduled meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>. After the VCAF Board is comfortable with the software it is hoped to have a roll-out of the on-line version at the MSFA Convention.

The VCAF Board has asked and is requesting approval for increasing the term of various loans to include up to 15 years for engines / tankers; 20 years for ladders / squads; and ambulances up to 7 years. Currently there is a \$2.5 Million cap on Real Estate (construction) loans – that means new facilities and additions. The only thing that VCAF will not fund is the purchase of property.

We will once again attempt to decrease the interest rate to 1% as well as allowing progress payments on real estate loans. Due to the requests of Delegates Malone and Conway, it is hoped the Executive Committee will approve an increase in grant monies that are set aside each year. We currently allocate up to \$250,000 / year. This will be a topic of discussion at the OC Convention in June. As always, help and assistance is available. Her contact information is: [therbrowsers@verizon.net](mailto:therbrowsers@verizon.net) Phone(s): 301.746.5576 (H) or 301.616.5576 (C).

**MIEMSS** – No Report.

**MSFA** – VP Johnie Roth said the 2014 Legislative Session is winding down. It was good that the 508 Funds has been maintained and with the same distribution as in the past. The Income Tax Incentive has been increased to \$5,000, which will increase by \$500.00 each year through 2017. (The increased deduction will be \$4000.00 – 2015; \$4500.00 – 2016; and \$5000.00 in TY'2017.

Changing the EMSOF bill met an unfavorable vote thus protecting the fund.

Will be traveling to Ocean City to inspect the Convention Center as construction continues and progress is made. A schematic of the hall is available. The Tentative Convention agenda has been set. Seminars will be in the classrooms once again. The Tuesday luncheon was discontinued. Monday night Bingo is still questionable. Please remember the awards – a synopsis for each is available on-line. The Golf Tournament will be held on Friday.

VP Keller continues to compile his committee list. The Chief's Seminar will be held April 26 / 27<sup>th</sup>.

Candidates are looking for your support in Ocean City. He said he has enjoyed this association's support. Donna Struntz moved to endorse Johnie for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Pete seconded and the motion passed.

The upcoming Executive Committee meeting will be held April 12<sup>th</sup> at Mechanicsville. This will be a one-day meeting.

**FIRE POLICE** – Gerard said they were available. Call if you need them.

**Dept. of Emergency Services** – Dick DeVore reported that the accountability study is out on bid. A pre-bid conference will be held at the County Office building at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday.

The Barton Tower Site is progressing. Continuation of the phone installation of the 911 phone system is underway. Training for the dispatchers has started.

Appropriations will be out soon. Make sure all your paperwork has been submitted.

There were 215 in attendance at the Miltenberger Seminar held this weekend. The Night of Stars was held Friday evening with 1 group of each county recognized. Planning begins for the 2015 Seminar.

Dick said he's still seeking information from companies for the Fund raising booklet to benefit the scholarship fund. He noted the Hooley plunge netted \$115,000 – his team netted \$5,300.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**By-Laws** – Nothing to report.

**Convention** – Chris Cage noted that plans are coming along. Any questions call: 301.697.7024. He noted that April 18<sup>th</sup> was the dead line for pages in the Convention booklet. Patron ads are still available for \$1.00 per line. Transportation to and from the church has been arranged. The prayer breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Dinner will be held from 17:00 – 19:00 hrs. at the community building. The parade will begin at 18:00 hrs.

**Fire Prevention/Education** – Fire Prevention Booklets were due today. Booklets were received from Potomac, Orleans, and from Shelby Simmons.

**Note: Fire Prevention & Education Committee's Monthly Safety Fact # 93 to be included within the minutes and "The Bulletin".**

### **Home Safety Tips for Springtime Mowing**

Ah, springtime. That glorious time of year when you suddenly realize the lawn needs mowing, the garden needs weeding and the house could use a fresh coat of paint. But with many families' budgets a little tighter this year, buying new spring-cleaning tools isn't always possible.

Using last season's tools is a good idea, provided they're in good condition and can be used safely. The last thing you want to do is take a trip to the emergency room. Yet that's exactly where more than 350,000 people end up every year, thanks to injuries from improperly used ladders, lawn mowers and power garden tools. So before you get too ambitious, take a few precautions to help keep your family safer.

- If you're reusing last season's lawn and garden power tools, inspect them for frayed power cords and cracked or broken casings. If the item is damaged, have it repaired by a qualified technician or replace it.
- Never carry a power tool by the cord or yank a power cord from a receptacle. When disconnecting the cord, always grasp the plug, not the wire. Keep cords away from heat, oil and sharp edges.

- When pulling out the lawn mower for the first time this year, refresh your memory by reading the owner's manual. Be sure you know how to stop the machine in case of an emergency.
- If you have a gasoline-powered mower, store the gas in a UL Classified safety can.
- Always start your mower outdoors. Never operate it where carbon monoxide can collect, such as in a closed garage, storage shed or basement.
- Don't operate an electric or gas-powered lawn mower on wet grass.
- When you're through with power tools and garden appliances, store them away from water sources to avoid electric shock. Never use them in the rain.
- If you purchase new tools this spring, look for the UL Mark, which means representative samples of the product have been tested against stringent safety standards for fire, electric shock and other safety hazards.

**Insurance/Benefits** – John Shuhart reported that since the last meeting Relief Fund payments were made for Nina Callis, Deer Park Auxiliary. 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. They were due February 15<sup>th</sup>. There are still some companies that are due including: Clarysville; Corriganville, Deep Creek; George's Creek Ambulance; Midland and Auxiliary. Please read the instructions and do what they say. It will pay off in the long run with beneficiary changes.

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

**Special Ops – No Report.**

**Past Presidents – No report.**

**Special Awards** – A reminder was for all departments to send in their nominations for the awards at this year's annual convention. As departments hold their annual banquets, so send in your nominees for any of the awards.

**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.

**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** – John – Please turn the statistics into John after you file them on-line. Print a copy for his files. A total of 26 companies have sent reports to John; four from out of the association. Reports from Allegany County companies must be in to receive the April appropriation.

**Career Center & 5-10 Year** – No report from either committee.

**Ways & Means** – A raffle 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 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Special Awards** – Get your nominations in for the various awards. Most of the deadlines are next meeting including the Shimer Award.

**UNFISHED BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS: None**

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

John Shuhart reported the Corporation papers have been received and are due by April 16<sup>th</sup>. Make sure your company's paperwork get submitted.

Barb Knippenburg reported that the two companies still need to submit addresses for smoke alarms installed. Bowman's Addition and Cresaptown still need to get their information in. Thanks to Clarysville for sending in their listing.

It was reminded to all that there are a lot of awards given in Ocean City at Convention. Rules are on-line at MSFA.org.

All MSFA registrations are now required to be sent in electronically. There are no more hard copies. The registrations are to be sent to MSFA Secretary Doyle Cox on-line.

Don't forget the Wills for Hero's program. Forms are available.

The next meeting will be held at Eastern Garrett May 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

The next Prayer Breakfast will be held in Oldtown May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Chaplain Walbert gave the benediction and the blessing of the meal at 15:10 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

*Rodney W. Bowser*

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Secretary