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THE BULLETIN

Official monthly publication of the
Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

Volume IX Issue 3 Dennis R Mallery, Editor

March 2014

Inside this Issue:

- Association Meeting Notes, Update From MSFA
- Humidifiers Recalled By GEA
- March is Red Cross Month - Have You Gave Blood Lately?
- MSFA/MSFMO Grant Program Open
- Activities from around the area



Upcoming Meetings

Maryland State Firemen's Association

April 12: Mechanicsville VFD

Allegany-Garrett Co. Vol. Fire & Rescue Association

April 6: Baltimore Pike

Allegany-Garrett Co. Vol. Fire & Rescue Assoc. L.A.

March 9: GoodWill VFC

Garrett County Association

March 26: Eastern Garrett

Mike Walters Fellowship of Christian Firefighters

April 5: Friendsville

Ellerslie VFD Hosts Meeting, Update From MSFA Heard



The March meeting of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

was held at the Ellerslie VFD with President Gene Kidwell presiding. Chaplain Pete Walbert offered the invocation followed by a brief memorial service.

Roll Call showed 18 (49%) departments attending with the following not represented: Bedford, Bittinger, Bloomington, Bowman's Addition, Clarysville, Corriganville, Deep Creek, Deer Park, Ellerslie Ambulance, Flintstone, Friendsville, Frostburg Ambulance, Gorman, Grantsville, Kitzmiller, Mt. Savage, Oakland, Orleans, Rawlings, Southern Garrett, and Tri Towns EMS. Past Presidents attending included Bob Knippenburg, Jim Decker, Ron Grabenstein, Pete Walbert, Mike Simmons, Tim Dayton, Clarence Broadwater, Dennis Mallery and Barbara Knippenburg.

Guests attending included Doug Alexander, MSFA Trustee; Mike Davis, candidate for MSFA 2nd Vice-president; Bill Valentine, Allegany County Commissioner; Dick DeVore, Allegany County Dept. of Emergency Services; Dwayne

Kitis, MIEMSS; Betty Grabenstein, Past President LAMSFA; Morgan Blank, MSFA W. Maryland Jr. Miss Fire Prevention; Shelby Simmons, Miss Fire Prevention; and Mark Widmyer, Allegany County Commissioner candidate.



Doug Alexander, MSFA Executive Committee, extended greetings from President Olsen and Vice-presidents

Keller and Roth. Members from the MSFA have been in Annapolis beating several brush fires, looking out for the volunteer services in Maryland. The Senator Amoss Fund has went in our direction so far, making it out of committee without the amendment offered by the Metro Chiefs. The Income Tax Incentive is currently \$3,500; however, if legislation passes, it will increase to \$7,000 over a five year period. So far it appears headed for passage. The Trustees have asked for an additional \$75,000 in the budget due to an increase in LODD. Currently the Trustees are about \$50,000 over budget. Originally there was no funds allocated for the MSFA in the budget bill except for the \$275,000 from the MEMSOF. Work is being done to get fund-

ing added back in the budget. Most forms necessary for a LODD or LODI are available on the MSFA website, www.msfa.org, under the Trustee's link. Currently the Association has 33 widows receiving monthly payments and five orphans and six LODI's as well as pending applications. Doug also thanked the Association and praised the monthly newsletter as it helps keep him informed of what's going on in Allegany and Garrett Counties. If any department has any claims, contact one of the Trustees within 10 days of the date of injury and have the completed paperwork submitted within 30 days. For LODD's, please notify one of the Trustees within 10 days and the completed forms need submitted within 90 days. It's important to communicate with the Trustees. The next Executive Committee meeting is being held at Mechanicsburg VFD.



Tim Dayton reviewed highlights of the last MSFA Executive Committee held at Cordova VFD. The Metro Chief

Officer's Seminar will be conducted this year on April 26-27th at the University of Mary-

(Continued on page 2)

Ellerslie VFD Hosts Meeting, Update From MSFA Heard (continued)

land Shady Grove Conference Center. The audience for this seminar is personnel having emergency services line or staff officer responsibilities. An announcement has been distributed and registration closes on April 18th. The Fire Marshal's Office reported that Deputy Chief Michael Mulligan, Regional Commander of the Lower Eastern Shore, and Deputy Fire Marshal Ryan Chapman of the Western Regional Office are both retiring from the agency (Ryan's last day was February 28th). Thanks were extended to them for their many years of dedicated service and well wishes for their future. With the departure of Deputy Chief Mulligan, Chief Deputy Flanagan has transferred to the Lower Eastern Shore Regional Office where he will assume the duties as the regional commander. Tim suggested if you think you may need a Fire Marshal on an incident, to make your request early on in the incident as they may have to travel a distance to your scene. The Fire Marshal also spoke on hoarding issues in the State. One fire death already this year was the result of hoarding. Currently, at the time of the meeting, the State fire death rate was at 10 for 2014. Additional information from the Executive Committee meeting can be found on the MSFA website, www.msfa.org under the 'Document Library' tab. Mike Davis, Odenton, introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his background in emergency services and what he hopes to accomplish if

elected to the office of 2nd Vice-president at the MSFA Convention. Mike also reminded everyone to make an effort to submit nominations to the State awards committee for the upcoming annual awards.



Dwayne Kitis, **MIEMSS**, reported on the number of various emergency medical providers within Region I. He

noted there are currently 178 Emergency Medical Responders, down 22 from last year. EMT's number 575, down 30 providers; CRT currently number 22, down three from last year and there are currently 79 EMT-P's, down nine. Open slots in classes for the Miltenberger Trauma Seminar were filling fast and Dwayne urged those who wished to attend, do pre-register as soon as possible. The next meeting of the Region I EMS Council will be held on April 17th at Eastern Garrett VFRD beginning at 7:00 p.m.



Tim Dayton, **Allegany County Emergency Service Board**, reminded departments to

submit nominations for the Robert H. Shimer Award that is given at our convention in June. Paperwork for the April round of appropriations is coming due.

Pete Walbert, **Fellowship of Christian Firefighters**, re-



ported on the breakfast meeting held at Midland VFD on March 1. Leah Youngblood welcomed

members to the breakfast. Pam Kyle read the poem "Springs Around the Corner." Pete offered the invocation and Blessing of the meal. Following breakfast, Pete offered a Prayer of Joys & Concerns. The Rev. Tom Morgan of the Lonaconing Presbyterian Church offered the meditation. During the business session, the Sunshine Committee reported sending seven get well and one sympathy card. The next Prayer Breakfast will be held at the Friendsville VFRD on Saturday, April 5 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Pete also reported for the **Convention Liaison**, noting the convention plans are coming along. Patron ads are available for \$1.00 per line. The ads are beginning to come in and vendors have been contacted. The Prayer Breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m., Lunch at 12:00 p.m. and Dinner at 5:00 p.m. The parade will begin at 6:00 p.m. with lineup in the area of Cresaptown Elementary and will move down Rt. 220 to Weber Field where festivities will continue following the parade.



Dennis Mallery, **Fire Prevention**, reminded members that entries for the James E. Lamberson

Fire Prevention Award need to be submitted no later than the April meeting at Baltimore Pike.

Donna Struntz, Regional Coordinator for MSFA Jr. Miss Fire Prevention, gave a report on the upcoming events.

Donna also took suggestions as to what to do with gowns that had been donated for pageant contestants as she was no longer able to store them at her home. Was suggested she work with Shelby Simmons in placing them on consignment at a shop in Accident.



John Shuhart, **Insurance** reported making a Relief Fund payment for

Wayne Connor of Corriganville. Remember, if you have a member of your department/squad pass away, notify John so payment can be made on their behalf, if they belong to the Relief Fund. John also noted he had received payment from Corriganville for the accident insurance and the policy has been paid in full. Relief Fund payments are still due, at the time of the meeting, from Barton Auxiliary, Bedford Road and Auxiliary, Clarysville and Auxiliary, Corriganville, Deep Creek, Deer Park Auxiliary, Flintstone and Auxiliary, George's Creek Rescue, Northern Garrett Rescue, Midland and Auxiliary, and Orleans. Please read the instructions and do as they state. It will pay off in the end with beneficiary changes.

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Ellerslie VFD Hosts Meeting, Update From MSFA Heard (continued)

John also reported he has received a few returns for the 2013 **Statistical Reports**. He stated he has not contacted Barry Johnson to see if he has received any forms from Allegheny or Garrett County. So far he has 26 companies who have not responded from the Association and four from out of the Association.



Gene Kidwell, **Safety**, offered the following report on Firefighters and Cancer that was posted on the

MSFA website

Why firefighters need to be extra cautious and remind their doctors of the work they did: Due to occupational exposures, firefighters have a 100% higher risk of developing cancer. Firefighter cancer risks are greater than the general population. In a study released by the University of Cincinnati, it determined that firefighters are at a greater risk of developing four different types of cancer. The report, conducted by the University's Environmental Health Department, found that

firefighters are twice as likely to develop testicular cancer and have higher rates of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and prostate cancer. It also highlighted the fact that firefighters are at a greater risk for multiple myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow, a disease with no treatment or cure. Grace LeMasters, PhD professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at UC, states "we believe there's a direct correlation between the chemical exposures firefighters experience on the job and their increased risk for cancer." She adds "firefighters work in an inherently dangerous occupation on a daily basis," as public servants, they need - and deserve - additional protective measures that will ensure they aren't at an increased cancer risk.

Key findings found that firefighters have:

- 100% higher risk of developing testicular cancer
 - 50% higher risk for multiple myeloma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
 - 28% higher risk of prostate cancer
- * compared with non-firefighters.

Researchers found that fire-

fighters that are exposed to many carcinogenic compounds including benzene, diesel engine exhaust, chloroform, soot, styrene and formaldehyde, which are substances that are inhaled or absorbed through the skin and are typically found at both the scene of a fire and in the firehouse (where idling diesel fire trucks produce exhaust).

The risk of cancer in firefighters is so severe that in 2010, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA), commissioned a study to examine the potential for an increased risk of cancer among firefighters due to exposures from smoke, soot, and other contaminants in the line of duty. The multi-year study will include over 30,000 current and retired career firefighters and will improve upon previously published studies by significantly increasing the number of individuals for whose health data will be analyzed.

Under old business, President Kidwell announced discussion on the Ways & Means raffle was being postponed until the April meeting. Dick DeVore

reported the funds from the Warrior Run grant had been depleted. Warrior Run was being; contacted about possibly continuing the grant. Barbara Knippenburg stated she still needed reports for the smoke alarms received through the MSFA, from a DHMH grant, from Clarysville, Bowman's Addition and Cresaptown.

Past President Clarence Broadwater reported there would be no meeting of the Past Presidents in March. Mike Simmons reminded departments to make their nominations for the Association's awards at Convention by the May meeting.

John Shuhart reminded departments that the Maryland Personal Property Tax forms were due by April 15th to maintain your non-profit status.



ACTIVE MILITARY PHOTOS SOUGHT

The Maryland State Fireman's Association is looking to complete a tribute to members serving in the military at the convention this June. They are looking for photos of members that are currently serving our country so that they can be included. Being accepted are photos of members in their military uniforms and if they have sent any, photos from their duty stations as well.

For more information or to email photos, contact Teresa Crisman at tacrisman@co.pg.md.us or tacrisman@hotmail.com

Deadline to submit photos is June 1st

Midland VFD

Spring Gun Bash

Saturday, May 31st

Doors open 12:00 p.m.

Drawings 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Tickets \$20.00/person

GRAND PRIZE - \$3,000

Tickets available at the Midland Tavern or from any Midland VFD member

350K dehumidifiers recalled for fire hazard

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has received 16 reports involving the humidifiers, including five reports of fires resulting in about \$430,000 in property damage

The Associated Press
January 31, 2014

WASHINGTON — Gree Electric Appliances is recalling an additional 350,000 dehumidifiers because of a risk that they could overheat, smoke or catch fire. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has received 16 reports involving the humidifiers, including five reports of fires resulting in about \$430,000 in property damage. No injuries have been reported.

The dehumidifiers are light gray plastic with the GE brand name and come in 30-, 40-, 50- and 65-pint sizes. They were sold at Sam's Club, Walmart, Amazon.com, Ebay.com and other outlets from April 2008 to December 2011 for \$180 to \$270.

The CPSC says consumers should turn off and unplug the dehumidifiers and contact Gree to receive a refund at 866-853-2802 or <http://www.greeusa.com>.

Reprinted from FireRescue1.com, January 31, 2014.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TYPES

Characteristics, Operational Strategies,
Tactics and Considerations

New Market VFD

76 W. Main Street

New Market, MD

May 31 - June 1

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$190/person

This program will introduce students to features and firefighting operations in the five types of building construction.

It will consist of classroom sessions focusing on building construction, fire behavior considerations, and firefighting strategies and tactics specific to each type of building class. Presentation and critique of previous fires in each type of building classification and of local area construction is presented in order to discuss real issues involving these structures.

Chief, Company Officer, and firefighter considerations will be discussed and coordinated. Students will be faced with interactive live fire exercises.

To register, email: training@taskforce1.net

For additional information, contact Christopher Moe, Deputy Fire Chief at come@FrederickCountyMD.gov

West Virginia Public Safety Expo

Charleston Civic Center

Charleston, WV

May 7-10, 2014

Featured courses include:

Company Officer Academy

Warrior Mindset for Law Enforcement

Defensive Edge Weapons

The Art of Reading Smoke

Ten Families of Risk

Dispatcher Judo - Power Phone

....and many more

The WV Public Safety Expo is an annual event in Charleston that gives public safety officials an opportunity to network, obtain training, and enhance their skills in a centralized location with some of the best resources in the country.

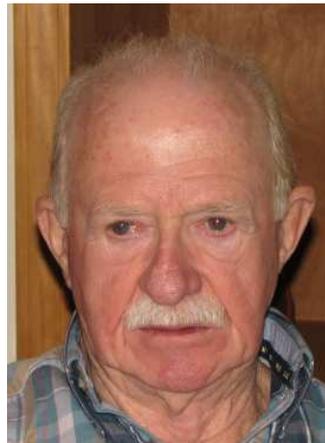
Registration: \$125/person

For more information, visit wvsafetyexpo.com

Past Presidents Gather at Penn Alps

The Past Presidents of the Association and Ladies Auxiliary gathered at Penn Alps in February for a joint dinner meeting. A good time was had by those attending as evidenced in the photos below.

(Photos courtesy Barbara Knippenburg)



2014 Chief Officers Seminar

April 26-27

University of Maryland
Shady Grove Conference Center
9640 Gudelsky Drive
Rockville, MD

Audience: Personnel having emergency services line or staff officer responsibilities

Registration is required and closes Friday, April 18th. Admissions limited to 300 with priority given to Maryland residents. Out-of-state applicants are welcome on an 'space-available' basis.

For more information, contact MFRI at (301) 226-9900 or (800) ASK-MFRI or go to www.mfri.org/seminars





**MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM**



In order to support the fire and life safety educational efforts of local fire companies, the MSFA in partnership with the Office of the State Fire Marshal is continuing the Public Fire and Life Safety Education Grant Program. This program is designed to provide assistance to MSFA member companies by providing funding assistance in the form of fire prevention publications and supplies for the development, continuation and/or enhancement of local public fire and life safety education efforts. It is recognized that effective public and life safety programs are one of the best ways to protect citizens and firefighters from injury and death caused by fire or other traumatic incidents.

Under the Public Fire and Life Safety Education Grant Program, MSFA member companies will be able to receive this funding support for the purchase of printed materials and other approved educational resource materials. Funding support will be awarded on a complete basis. **Purchases made prior to being awarded funding will not be considered as part of the grant process. Purchases of products are to be made after monies are provided through the MSFA.**

The amount of funding available for 2014 is \$67,000. The maximum funding support available to each member company's application request is: \$500.00. Only one application per company will be accepted. The application is located on the MSFA website. Applications must be received via e-mail at fpgrants@msfa.org no later than midnight, April 11, 2014. Grant awards will be announced at the MSFA Convention in June 2014 and emails will be sent to email contact lists created from applications received. **A 20% Match is required to facilitate the grant process. In order to take full advantage of the \$500.00, please show the amount being spent is a minimum of \$600.00.**

Checks provided from the MSFA will be provided 'one time only' to the selected departments. If the check provided is misplaced and/or lost, a new check will not be re-issued. It is the sole responsibility of the department representatives to maintain control of funds provided.

Upcoming Training

EMT Refresher
Apr 12 Garrett College
0830 hrs Sat/Sun

June 14 WMRTC
0830 hrs Sat/Sun

EMT Skills
June 1 WMRTC
0830 hrs Sat/Sun

EMR Refresher
Apr 13 Orleans
0830 hrs Sunday

NIMS for EMS
Apr. 14th Garrett College
1830 hrs Mon/Wed

Pump Operations
Apr. 22 Deer Park
1830 hrs Tue/Thurs

Rescue Tech - Trench Rescue
Apr. 5 WMRTC
0830 hrs Sat/Sun

Rescue Tech - Tech. Rope Rescue
Apr. 12 Garrett College
0830 hrs Saturdays

Emergency Vehicle Operator
Apr. 19 Bedford Road
0830 hrs Saturdays

Instructor II
Apr. 24 WMRTC
1830 hrs Mon/Thurs

Online Programs:
EVO April 15

Upcoming Seminars:
F/F Skills WMRTC
April 12th

Rural Water Supply 5/10-11
Grantsville VFD

Always check the MFRI website for up-to-date classes and changes at www.mfri.org

**Orleans VFC
Upcoming Events**

April 20: BBQ Chicken & Ribs
includes 2 sides

April 27: BBQ Chicken & Ribs
includes 2 sides

May 3: Cash Drawing

For more information, contact any member of the Orleans VFC



**District 16 VFD
Fish Fry**

Friday, April 18th

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

\$8.00/person

Dinner includes baked or fried fish, salmon, macaroni & cheese, scalloped potatoes, stewed tomatoes, coleslaw, roll and drink

Cookbooks also available - \$9.50



IN MEMORY

Wayne Connor, Corriganville VFD

And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.
John 6:39-40

<p>*** FREE ***</p> <p>Dry Cleaning & Shirt Salon 1313 National Hwy LaVale, MD 21502 (or any of their branches)</p> <p>Offering Free Dry Cleaning of Class A Uniforms or Uniform Shirts</p>	<p>Oldtown VFD Auxiliary</p> <p>Meat Loaf Dinner April 13th 12:00 pm Carry-outs available</p>	<p>Spaghetti Dinner</p> <p>Good Will Fire Company First Friday of each month 4pm-6pm Fireman's Armory in Lonaconing</p> 	<p>Eastern Garrett Co. V.F.R.D.</p> <p>Spaghetti Dinners</p> <p>2nd Saturday each month 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Adults: \$7.00 Children: \$3.50</p>
<p>MIDLAND VFD 501 DRAWING</p> <p>April 19th 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Tickets: \$5/person Includes food, drink and a chance for \$500!!</p> <p>Tickets available from members or at the Bar</p>	<p>Chicken BBQ Is Back!!! Corriganville VFD</p> <p>March 28-29th 11:00 am - 7:00 pm (or until sold out)</p> <p>\$7.00 gets you a half chicken, two sides and roll.</p> <p>We Deliver!! Just call (301) 722-7418</p> <p>Benefits New Equipment Fund</p>	<p>GoodWill VFC Craft Show</p> <p>Saturday, May 3 9:00 am - 3:00 pm</p> <p>Free Admission Refreshments Available</p> 	<p>Turkey Dinners</p> <p>4th Sunday of: March April September</p> 
<p>Send Us Your Information!!</p>	<p><i>The Bulletin</i> is the official newsletter of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association who's business address is P.O. Box 252 Barton, MD 21521-0252. Information for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to the Editor at P.O. Box 142 Oldtown, MD 21555-0142 or emailed to drm21555@yahoo.com</p>		

Blood donors are everyday heroes who help save lives. March is Red Cross Month and a time to thank these heroes and encourage others to join their ranks.



March was first proclaimed Red Cross Month in 1943 by former President Franklin Roosevelt. Since then, every president has called on people across America to support the organization's humanitarian mission in March. The Red Cross has been helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies for more than 130 years. Since World War II, the Red Cross has met the needs of patients throughout the U.S. and today partners with nearly 2,700 hospitals and transfusion centers, providing blood products and specialized laboratory services. From cancer patients to accident victims to premature babies, someone needs blood every two seconds. To make an appointment to give blood and become an everyday hero, [click](#) or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Red Cross needs Weekend Warriors Donate Platelets Friday through Monday and Be Rewarded

Timing is everything when it comes to platelet donations. Platelets are used for patients every day, but there is currently a greater need for platelet donors Friday through Monday. That's where you come in. We need current platelet donors to become Weekend Warriors. When you do, you'll be rewarded!

Pledge to donate platelets Friday through Monday three times between March 1, 2014, and May 31, 2014, and you'll be a Weekend Warrior. When you pledge, you'll receive a silicone wristband. We'll automatically track your donations and when you complete your pledge, you'll receive a picnic cooler tote.

Becoming a Weekend Warrior is easy – just ask at your next platelet donation or call 1-800-542-5663 extension 2637 to sign up today.

www.agcvtra.org

Visit us on the web!!

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Dennis R. Mallery, Editor

The Bulletin

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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