

**MINUTES**  
**Allegany Garrett County Fire & Rescue Association**  
**Cresaptown VFD**  
**January 5, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association was held Sunday, January 5, 2014 and hosted by Cresaptown VFD. President Gene Kidwell called the meeting to order at 14:00 hours and Vice President Clarence Broadwater led the flag salute.

The Invocation was given by Chaplain Calvin Walbert and reading of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm in memory of Mae Bonner, Bowman's Addition Auxiliary; Linda K. Van Meter, Auxiliary; Donald C. Rice, Mt. Savage; Delmar L. Yonker, Jr., Orleans; Author F. Winters, Cresaptown; and Jerry Humberson, Southern Garrett and Deep Creek.

**WELCOME: Chris Cage, President** from the host company welcomed everyone to Cresaptown. He noted there were drinks, coffee and donuts available. President Kidwell said it was a pleasure to be at Cresaptown.

**ROLL CALL OF DEPARTMENTS:** Roll call of Departments showed 18 companies in attendance. Those not represented were: Bittinger; Bloomington; Clarysville; Corriganville; Deep Creek; Deer Park; Ellerslie Ambulance; Frostburg Ambulance; George's Creek Amb.; Gorman; Grantsville; Kitzmiller; Oakland; Orleans; Potomac; Rawlings; Tri Towns and Southern Garrett Rescue.

Companies present were: Accident; Baltimore Pike; Barton Hose; Bedford Road; Bowling Green; Bowman's Addition; Cresaptown; Cumberland Hose; District16; Ellerslie; Flintstone; Friendsville; Good Will; Luke; Midland; Mt Savage; Northern Garrett; and Oldtown.

All officers were in attendance.

**RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS:**

President Kidwell recognized the following 14 Past Presidents in attendance: Robert E. Knippenburg; James F. Decker; Ron Grabenstein; Calvin 'Pete' Walbert; Aaron Winters; Dennis Bonner; Gerard McGann; Rodney W. Bowser; David L. Kyle; Patricia A. Bowser; Michael A. Simmons; Clarence B. Broadwater; Denny R. Mallery and Barbara A. Knippenburg.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Guests present and recognized by President Kidwell were: Miss Tara Holshey, MFP Runner-up; Miss Jenna Holshey, AGCVFRA Jr. Miss Fire Prevention; Dick DeVore, Allegany Co. Emergency Services; Miss Morgan Blank, Jr. Miss Western Maryland; Miss Shelby Simmons, AGCVFRA Miss Fire Prevention; Leslie Cassidy, LA AGCVFRA Guard; Johnnie Roth, MSFA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Pam Kyle, President LA AGCVFRA; Marcia Roth, LA MSFA Corresponding Secretary; Betty Grabenstein, PP LA AGCVFRA; and Mary Carr, PP LA AGCVFRA.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

All officers presented a brief report of their activities during the past month.

**Secretary's Report** – Secretary Bowser made available the December minutes for members at the day's meeting and e-mailed to all companies and executive committee members. The minutes were approved as printed by motion from Dave Kyle and seconded by Gerard McGann.

**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 \$2,656.99; Prime Saver \$2,457.14; and Fire Prevention Scholarship Fund \$675.47. Bills on hand were read: Bulletin \$397.47; FP Winner \$100.00; Go Daddy \$18.17; Post Office (stamps) \$9.20; totaling \$524.85. It was motioned by Jim Decker and seconded by Gerard McGann to pay the bills. Motion passed.

**Agency Reports –**

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

**Class Update in Allegany / Garrett County**

**Notes:**

1. **Numbers in parentheses indicates total pre-registered**
2. **\*Red color, bold, and italicized font indicates additional enrollment needed for class to start**
3. **\*\*EMT Class pre-registration deadline will probably be extended to gain more students! Please promote around your department!**

Class	Location	Start Date	# of Students	Status	Registration Closes
EMT	WMRTC	Fall 2013	27	Active	Closed
Firefighter I	WMRTC	Fall 2013	22	Active	Closed
Firefighter I (requires medical clearance)	WMRTC	Jan. 19, 2014	19	Active	Closed
<b>*EMT</b>	<b>WMRTC</b>	<b>Jan. 25, 2014</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>**Jan. 5, 2014</b>
<b>*Firefighter I (requires medical clearance)</b>	<b>Oakland VFD</b>	<b>February 4, 2014</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Jan. 15, 2014</b>
<b>*Emergency Medical Responder</b>	<b>Garrett College</b>	<b>February 8, 2014</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Jan. 19, 2014</b>
<b>*EMS Officer I</b>	<b>Garrett College</b>	<b>Feb. 12, 2014</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Jan. 23, 2014</b>
<b>*EMT Refresher</b>	<b>Eastern Garrett</b>	<b>Feb. 15, 2014</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Jan. 26, 2014</b>

**Additional Information**

Upcoming Online Training Seminars:

- o EMT 12 hour recertification
1. Spring Training Schedule is now online! Visit [www.mfri.org](http://www.mfri.org) to view the schedule.
  2. **Upcoming training opportunities include:**
    - o **Maryland Weekend at NFA – January 25 & 26 at NFA**
  3. **\*\*\*NOTE: Starting in January the WMRTC will no longer be able to accept phone or email pre-registrations by individuals! All pre-registrations will have to be completed on the online form with the appropriate signature from a department chief or training officer (see attached). The forms can then be faxed, mailed, or scanned and sent to our office but they MUST have an appropriate signature. PLEASE SHARE WITH EVERYONE IN YOUR DEPARTMENT!!!!\*\*\***

**Garrett County Assn. –** The next meeting will be held January 29<sup>th</sup> at Deer Park at 7:30 p.m.

**Christian Firefighters –** Chaplain Walbert reported the A. Mike Walter’s Chapter of Christian Firefighters met at Potomac on January 4<sup>th</sup>. The Welcome was given by Betty Grabenstein and welcomed by Vice President Clarence Broadwater. Pam Kyle read a poem about Love. The Invocation and Blessing was given by Chaplain Walbert. The pledge was led by Clarence Broadwater. The meal was sausage gravy/biscuits and home fries.

Joys and Concerns were given by Chaplain Walbert. Alonzo Clark gave the morning’s meditation: The topic was a Survivor’s Kit, which consisted of 9 items which he identified. Birthdays were recognized. The Sunshine committee sent out five Get Well and 4 Sympathy Cards. Ways and Means took in: \$9.00 for the Bus fund; \$6.00 for the general fund; \$5.00 for the flower fund; and Potomac donated \$50.00.

Installation of Officers was held. The new officers for the coming year are: Clarence Broadwater, President; Pam Kyle, Vice President; Mary Carr, Secretary; John Shuhart, Treasurer; Calvin Walbert, Chaplain; Trustees are: Jim Dawson, Ron Grabenstein and Gerard McGann.

The next Prayer Breakfast will be held at the Ellerslie on February 1<sup>st</sup> starting at 8:30 am. All are welcome to attend. All companies were reminded that the schedule for next year is being formed now. If interested let a member know your interest in hosting a prayer breakfast.

**Allegany County Emergency Services** – Dick DeVore reported... Dick DeVore the Board would be having election of officers, appointing subcommittees and electing chairs and members at large.

He noted he met with Clarysville in executive session. A topic of discussion was the budget.

Dick said he brought regrets from Commissioner Valentine for being unable to attend today.

He noted the county is in the process of preparing a packet for DMIL for the 508 reporting. For the past 2 – 3 months they have met with the MSFA and Catherine Kelly. It was noted that several counties are not complete.

**VCAF** – Pat noted the Board will meet on Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup> at Arbutus. This will be a work-session in light of no applications received. Pat noted the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and she met on December 30<sup>th</sup> with all of the players that handle VCAF loans, including John Nickerson, Director of Financial Services at DMIL; Scott Gordon; Catherine Kelly, Liaison to the DMIL; David Porter, from the Attorney General's Office; Mike Farlow, MSFA Attorney, Ron Siarnicki, MSFA Treasurer; and Wylie Donaldson, MSFA Assistant Treasurer for the VCAF Board who set up the meeting. Pat noted some changes will be taking place but wouldn't report until after the entire VCAF Board were given a report of the discussions held on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**EMS Board** – The next meeting will be held on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**MIEMSS – No report received.**

**MSFA** – MSFA Vice President Johnnie Roth brought greetings from the MSFA officers and members. He thanked the Fire Prevention Ambassadors for the job they do.

Once again, Vice President Roth thanked everyone for what they do for the MSFA and their communities. He noted that next Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup> the Legislative Session will begin. He said that Vice President David Keller is forming his committees for next year. He's looking for your help.

The MSFA Legislative Reception will be held on Tuesday January 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. in Annapolis. This is an opportunity to let the politicians know who we are.

He noted a lot of meetings coming up: The MSFA Safety Committee will meet on Sun. January 12<sup>th</sup> at Millersville. He also extended greetings from the Presidents and wished all a Happy New Year.

## **OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

The officers gave their report of activities for the past month.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**By-Laws** – Jim Decker, Chairman noted the committee will have a meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at District 16.

**Fire Police** – Gerard reported on the group's activities: assisted with a parade in Westernport; a working fire in Mt. Savage; and other events.

**Convention** – Chris Cage noted that Cresaptown has met several times and committees have been assigned their duties; the next meeting will be held on Sat. January 25<sup>th</sup> at Cresaptown at 12:00 noon. Any questions call: 301.697.7024.

**Fire Prevention/Education** –

**Note: Fire Prevention & Education Committee's Monthly Safety Fact # 90 to be included within the minutes and "The Bulletin".**

[Scald Injury Prevention Guide for Educators, PowerPoint Presentations \(English, Spanish\)](#)

(Click on the website for this interesting power point presentation above).

Burn Awareness Week, observed the *first full week in February*, is designed to provide an opportunity for burn, fire and life safety educators to unite in sharing a common burn awareness and prevention message in our communities. Burn Awareness Week, celebrated early in the year, is an excellent opportunity to "kick off" a year full of burn awareness education.



Be Burn Aware: A campaign to reduce Burn Injuries. Go to [burnawareness.org](http://burnawareness.org)

**More safety tips regarding Burn Safety will be forthcoming!! Watch for them.**

**Insurance/Benefits** – John Shuhart reported that since the last meeting a Relief Fund payment was made for Mae Bennett, Bowman’s Addition 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.

A payment for the Accident Insurance was received from District 16. Frostburg Ambulance, Clarysville, and Corriganville were rebilled. I received a letter from Frostburg Ambulance that they are dropping out of the coverage. I have not heard from Clarysville or Corriganville.

I have distributed the list for Relief Fund to all companies present today. I will mail the listings to those companies not present. You will have about 6 weeks to get them updated and returned. They are due Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Relations** – Work continues on the web site. The webmaster will continue to have only three sites, Shaft, Ridgeley, and ours. As of yesterday the cost will be \$18.17.00/year for maintenance. Changes have taken place.

**Special Ops – No Report.**

**Safety** – It was reported the Standard Operating Procedure when the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect (SEP) that meetings of the Allegany/Garrett Assn. are cancelled. Be extra careful. With the bitter cold temperatures into Tuesday this week, use caution.

It was noted that Phillip’s AED’s may fail to deliver a shock when used.

**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 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 Phil Rook.

**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 – I have passed out the 2013 Statistical Report to all companies present. Please complete those and return them to me as soon as possible. If you enter them in directly to the MSFA web site, print a copy prior to submitting them. Otherwise you will not be able to get a printed copy without contacting Barry Johnson. If you fill out this form I will enter them into the MSFA for filing. I must have a hard copy to submit to Allegany County for you.

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

**UNFISHED BUSINESS:**

It was noted that Dick DeVore continues to have a supply of smoke alarms for the asking.

President Kidwell noted the Fire Prevention survey that needs completed by each company and sent into the state.

The Western Maryland Jr. Miss Pageant will be held on Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> at Flintstone at 1:00 p.m. A workshop will be held in March at Bowling Green.

**NEW BUSINESS: None**

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

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.

John Shuhart noted that the MD. 502V forms are available. Mileage is now set at 56.5 cents per/mile of volunteer travel with your personal vehicle.

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.

It was noted that Chaplain Calvin Walbert was honored recently for his 58 years of service to Cresaptown by the dedication of their newest apparatus with a placement of a plaque commemorating the event.

***Congratulations Pete!!!***

The next meeting will be held at Frostburg Area Ambulance on Sun. February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

The next Prayer Breakfast will be held at Ellerslie on Sat. February 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Last night's Fire Prevention Raffle number was # 581. No claimants to date.

The 50/50 drawing was drawn and won by Clarence Broadwater. Congratulations!!

Chaplain Walbert gave the benediction and the blessing of the meal at 15:00 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

***Rodney W. Bowser***

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Secretary