



1912-2014

# THE BULLETIN

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

Volume IX Issue 1 Dennis R Mallery, Editor

January 2014

## Inside this Issue:

- U.S. Treasury: Volunteers Exempt
- MDFRETC Hears Reports
- Military Photos Wanted
- Bedford Road, Flintstone Awards
- Highway Safety Seminar Planned
- Association Notes

## Upcoming Meetings

Maryland State Firemen's Association

Feb. 22-23: Cordova VFA

Allegany-Garrett Co. Vol. Fire & Rescue Association

Feb. 2: Frostburg Area Amb.

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

March 9: GoodWill VFC

Garrett County Association

Jan. 29: Deer Park VFD

Mike Walters Fellowship of Christian Firefighters

Feb. 1: Eilerslie VFD

U.S. Treasury Department Issues Statement:

## Volunteer Firefighters Exempt From A.C.A. Provisions

The following article is from *Fire Engineering*, 01/13/2014 edition.

Statement issued Friday from U.S. Treasury Department: Treasury ensures fair treatment for volunteer firefighters and emergency responders under the Affordable Care Act  
*By: Mark J. Mazur, Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy*

The Affordable Care Act [a.k.a. Obamacare] requires that an employer with 50 or more full-time employees offer affordable and adequate health care coverage to its employees. For this purpose, full time means 30 hours or more per week on average, with the hours of employees working less than that aggregated into full-time equivalents. Employers that do not fulfill this obligation may be required to make a payment in lieu of meeting their responsibilities, which are described in what are called the employer shared responsibility provisions. An important question arises about how the hours of volunteer firefighters and other volunteer emergency responders should be taken into account in determining whether they are full-time employees and for counting toward the 50-employee threshold. Treasury is acting to ensure that emergency volunteer service is accorded appropriate treatment under the Affordable Care Act.

Treasury and the IRS issued proposed regulations on the employer shared responsibility provisions (Section 4980H of the Tax Code) in December 2012 and invited public comments. Numerous comments were received from individuals and local fire and Emergency Medical Service departments that rely on volunteers. The comments generally suggested that the employer responsibility rules should not count volunteer hours of nominally compensated volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel in determining full-time employees (or full-time equivalents). In addition, Treasury heard from numerous members of Congress who expressed these same concerns on behalf of the volunteer emergency responders in their states and districts.

Treasury and the IRS carefully reviewed these comments and spoke with representatives of volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency personnel to gain a better understanding of their specific situations. Treasury and the IRS also reviewed various rules that apply to such volunteer personnel under other laws. These include the statutory provisions that apply to bona fide volunteers under Section 457(e)(11) of the Tax Code (relating to deferred compensation plans of state and local governments and tax-exempt organizations) and rules gov-

erning the treatment of volunteers for purposes of the Federal wage and hour laws. As a result of that review and analysis, the forthcoming final regulations relating to employer shared responsibility generally will not require volunteer hours of bona fide volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency medical personnel at governmental or tax-exempt organizations to be counted when determining full-time employees (or full-time equivalents).

These final regulations, which we expect to issue shortly, are intended to provide timely guidance for the volunteer emergency responder community. We think this guidance strikes the appropriate balance in the treatment provided to traditional full-time emergency responder employees, bona fide volunteers, and to our Nation's first responder units, many of which heavily rely on volunteers.

*Mark J. Mazur is the Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy at the United States Department of the Treasury.*



## Cresaptown V.F.D. Hosts Association Meeting



President Gene Kidwell called the January meeting of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association to order at the Cresaptown V.F.D. Chaplain Pete Walbert offered the invocation and the 23rd Psalm was read in memory of those who passed away since our last meeting.

Roll Call of departments showed 18 (48%) in attendance with the following not having a representative present: Bittinger, Bloomington, Clarysville, Corriganville, Deep Creek, Deer Park, Eastern Garrett, ELLERSLIE Ambulance, Frostburg Ambulance, George's Creek Rescue, Gorman, Grantsville, Kitzmiller, Oakland, Orleans, Potomac, Rawlings, Southern Garrett Rescue and Tri-Towns Rescue. Fourteen Past Presidents answered roll call including Bob Knippenburg, Jim Decker, Ron Grabenstein, Pete Walbert, Aaron Winters, Denny Bonner, Gerard McGann, Rod Bowser, Dave Kyle, Pat Bowser, Mike Simmons, Clarence Broadwater, Dennis Mallery and Barbara Knippenburg.

Guests in attendance included Johnnie Roth, MSFA 2nd Vice-president; Marcia Roth, LAMSFA Correspondence Secretary; Eric Roth; Pam Kyle, president AGCVFRALA; Leslie Cassidy, AGCVFRALA guard; Betty Grabenstein, Past President AGCVFRALA; Morgan Blank, MSFA Western Region Jr. Miss Fire Prevention; Shelby Simmons, Miss Fire Prevention; Tara Holshey,

Miss Fire Prevention Runner-up; Jenna Holshey, Jr. Miss Fire Prevention; and Dick DeVore, Director-Allegany County Dept. of Emergency Services.



Johnnie Roth, MSFA, noted it was an honor and a pleasure to be at the meeting. He offered congratulations to Bedford Road on their 70th anniversary. It's always an honor and privilege to see departments with such long heritages. Johnnie also congratulated Morgan Blank in representing us as well as all the Fire Ambassadors - they're leaders in the future. VP Roth reported that the MSFA is gearing up for the General Assembly session which started January 8th. To date, haven't received a lot of information on legislation. VP Dave Keller is working on forming his committees for the upcoming year. Dave would like to have them formed by April and anyone wishing to serve on a committee should contact him soon.



Pat Bowser, Volunteer Company Assistance Fund, reported the committee met recently in Odenton. Applications are now being approved within 30 days or less, if given a specific reason). The committee is looking at changing the way the settlement is done. The next meeting will be January 19th with plans to update the VCAF process so that the process runs smoother, thus allowing the applicant to

receive their money quicker. Any one needing applications or help completing theirs should contact Pat.

MFRI, report submitted by Todd Dyche. The Spring schedule is now online. Visit [www.mfri.org](http://www.mfri.org) to view the schedule. Upcoming online training is the EMT 12 hour recertification program. The Maryland Weekend at the National Fire Academy is January 25-26 at the Academy. Beginning this month, 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. The forms can then be faxed, emailed, or scanned and sent to our office, but they MUST have an appropriate signature.

Pete Walbert, Fellowship of Christian Firefighters, reported on the breakfast meeting held at the Potomac FD. Betty Grabenstein, president, called the meeting to order. Pam Kyle read the poem "Love" followed by the invocation and blessing of the meal by Chaplain Walbert. Following the meal, Pete offered the Prayer of Joys and Concerns. Lonzo Clark, Potomac FD, spoke on the survival kit and the significance of each item. During the business session, officers for 2014 were elected:



Clarence Broadwater, president; Pam Kyle, vice-president; Mary Carr, secretary; John Shuhart, treasurer; Pete Walbert, chaplain; Jim Dawson, Ron Grabenstein and Gerard McGann, trustees. The Sunshine Committee reported sending five get well and four sympathy cards during the past month. Mary Carr also noted she was making the schedule for 2014-15 meetings. If your department/squad is interested in hosting a breakfast meeting, contact Mary. The next breakfast is scheduled at the ELLERSLIE VFD February 1st beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Gerard McGann, Allegany Co. Fire Police, noted the Fire Police worked a parade in Westernport and Frostburg, a truck fire on Interstate 68 and building fire in Mt. Savage. If you need us, call us.

Dick DeVore, Allegany Co. Dept. of Emergency Services, stated Commissioner Bill Valentine sent his regards but had icy weather at Little Orleans, preventing him from attending. Dick is in the process of preparing the packet for the 508 audit and would appreciate a prompt response if requested to provide paperwork.

Chris Cage, Convention Liaison, reported Cresaptown has formed their committees and the next



(Continued on page 4)

## Doug Alexander Announces Candidacy for MSFA Trustee

*The following announcement was released by Doug Alexander, MSFA Trustee, in his bid for re-election.*

I have served the past five years as Trustee for the Maryland State Firemen's Association. Throughout this term, I have learned so much about the need for our association to support our personnel when injured in the "line of duty". Just as important is the need for us to support the surviving spouses of our personnel killed in the "line of duty". The Trustees of the MSFA have worked hard to mitigate the claims submitted for consideration and have managed to raise the level of financial support provided for the LODI and LODD claims we have received in recent years. One issue that we still struggle with is getting our member companies to submit claims in a timely and appropriate manner. The Trustees wish to provide support for any legitimate LODI or LODD claim, but we must receive them in a timely and complete claim format. The Trustees are always available to assist any member company with completing these forms. The forms and procedures are easily accessible to all companies on the [www.msfa.org](http://www.msfa.org) website under "Trustees Benefits".

My first term will end this year at the annual MSFA Convention and Conference. I will be seeking another term to serve the member companies of the MSFA at that time. I pledge to continue to serve the volunteer fire service personnel of Maryland to the best of my ability if re-elected. I have received significant support from most of the Past Presidents of the MSFA as well as most of the Executive Committee and officers of the association. I am very grateful for this support and I ask for your support in seeking another term as Trustee of the Maryland State Firemen's Association.

Thank you for your support and do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you in any way with a claim or question reference MSFA Trustee Benefits.

Doug Alexander  
240-674-3936 Cell  
[dalexander17@comcast.net](mailto:dalexander17@comcast.net)

## 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](mailto:tacrisman@co.pg.md.us) or [tacrisman@hotmail.com](mailto:tacrisman@hotmail.com)

## 2014 Highway Safety Summit Scheduled, Registration Open

The Executive Council of the Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan, in conjunction with the Maryland Highway Safety Office, is proud to announce the 2014 Highway Safety Summit - Connecting the Dots to Save Lives Together. Connecting the dots represents a strong network of colleagues, across the 4 E's of highway safety (engineering, education, enforcement and emergency responders), that are working Toward Zero Deaths to save lives together.

This two-and-a-half-day event will be held at the The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute, in Linthicum Heights, Maryland, on February 24-26, 2014 and serve to provide an opportunity to learn, share and improve upon highway safety for Maryland, using the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) as the implementing tool.

The SHSP is a statewide, coordinated, comprehensive, traffic safety plan that provides the framework for reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries on all public streets and highways. It establishes overall goals and objectives as well as objectives and strategies within each of six key emphasis areas (Aggressive Driving, Distracted Driving, Highway Infrastructure, Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, and Pedestrian Crashes). The most important benefit of this Summit is the opportunity to bring together safety partners to identify best practices, successes and challenges as well as generate ideas for improving the update of the plan. Your participation in this event is essential in helping to create safer transportation for the State of Maryland.

Key highlights of the summit include:

- Dynamic presentations by respected leaders in the field of transportation safety;
- Workshops for each of the emphasis areas;
- Focused training for Public Information Officers, as it pertains to SHSP initiatives; and
- Exhibits sharing best practices across the state.

The event is FREE to attend but registration is required. Free parking and complimentary meals are included during the Summit. We hope that you will take the time to join us at this event. Registration is now open.

For registration and more information, visit <http://www.mdhighwaysafetysummit.org>

## Cresaptown Hosts Association Meeting....

meeting of the Committee will be Saturday, January 25th beginning at 12:00 p.m.

John Shuhart, **Insurance**, reported making one Relief Fund payment since last meeting for Mae Bennett, Bowman's Addition VFD Auxiliary. One



payment for the Accident Insurance was received from District 16 VFD. Frostburg Ambulance, Clarysville and Corriganville were rebilled. Frostburg Ambulance has notified John they are dropping the accident coverage. No word has been received from either of the other two departments. At the meeting, forms for the 2014 Relief Fund were passed out and those not present will receive theirs in the mail. Payment and one copy of the form is due back no later than February 15th.

Gerard McGann, **Safety**, reminded everyone that if the snow emergency plan is in effect the day of an Association meeting in the County the meet-



ing is being held, then the meeting is cancelled. Be careful on slippery roads as well as on the incident scene.

Mike Simmons, **Special**



**Awards**, asked everyone to remember, when giving out department awards, to consider submitting their names for the Association's annual awards as well. Submission for the Fire Prevention Award are due at the April meeting and all

others are due at the May meeting.

John Shuhart, **Statistics**, passed out the 2013 Statistical Report to those present at the meeting. Please complete them and return them to John as soon as possible. If you enter them directly to the MSFA website, 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 the printed form, John will enter the information into the MSFA files for you and will retain a hard copy for submission to the Emergency Service Board as well.

Under Unfinished Business, President Kidwell reminded everyone to complete and return the MSFA Fire Prevention Survey. The MSFA Jr. Miss Fire Prevention pageant is scheduled for April 27th at the Flintstone VFD. For more information, contact Donna Struntz.

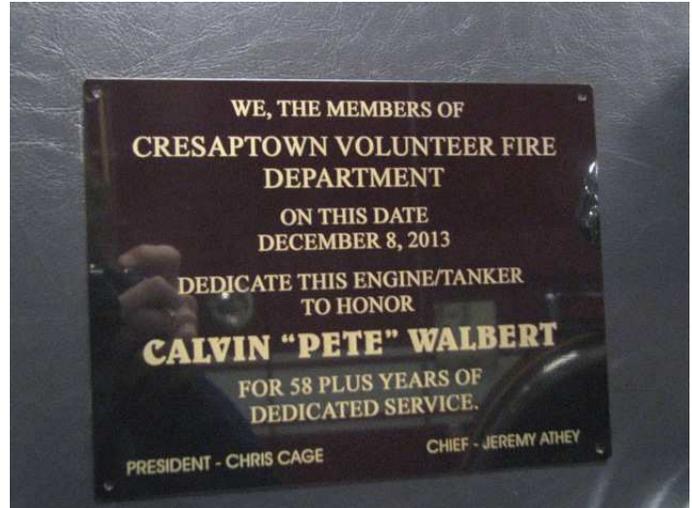
John Shuhart provided copies of Maryland's Tax Form 502V for those who wish to claim unreimbursed mileage on their Maryland taxes.

V.P. Roth also reminded everyone that credentials will all be done electronically now, there will be no paper submissions accepted. Roger Powell is available to do work with the Wills for Heroes program. Will provide a basic will at no charge to volunteers. Chris Cage thanked everyone who came out to the dedication of their new engine/tanker which was dedicated to Pete Walbert in honor of his 58 years of service to the Cresaptown VFD.

## Cresaptown VFD Dedicates Engine/Tanker To Honor 58 Year Member

December 8, 2013 was a special day for the Cresaptown Volunteer Fire Department as they gathered to dedicate their new Engine/Tanker to honor their member, Calvin 'Pete' Walbert for over 58 years of service to the department. Shown below are a few scenes from the dedication thanks to Past President Barbara Knippenburg.

### Congratulations Pete!!!



## MFRI, MSFMO, MIEMSS PRESENT REPORT TO MFRETC

The Maryland Fire-Rescue Education and Training Commission met December 18th and excerpts from their reports are printed below.

Steve Edwards, director of MFRI, reported the EMS Leadership Seminar held at MFRI on November 15-16, 2013 was well attended with about 70 students and received very high student evaluations. The seminar was designed for EMS officers and leaders in both the BLS and ALS field. Many expressed an interest to continue this seminar each year and to continue to focus on EMS leadership and managerial issues as opposed to the EMS technical skills. The MFRI Simulation Center was utilized to conduct an EMS simulation that the students participated in. For several years, MFRI has conducted a course in Safe Live Fire Training with very good results. The goal of this new 18 hour course is to provide participants with the introductory knowledge to safely conduct fire training evolutions. Major focus is placed upon safe strategies for conducting training in gas-fired and non-gas fired structures, the use of non-structural fire training props, and acquired structures. Various activities are provided throughout the program to reinforce the principles taught. The new course was piloted in December of 2013 and will be available for the 2014 Spring semester of classes. It should be noted that even though MFRI does not use acquired structures for burns, material on this is



included in this course since several jurisdictions do this type of activity. MFRI recently initiated a capital project within the University of Maryland System to upgrade the MFRI Western Maryland Regional Training Center, located in Cresaptown, MD. This project will correct existing deficiencies, meet the current training needs and bring this facility in parity with the other MFRI Regional Training Centers in the State. The scope of the project consists of two major components: construction of an addition to the administration/classroom building to address inadequate existing requirements; and renovation and upgrade of existing practical training areas, including the construction of a flammable liquids training prop with adequate safeguards and environmental protection built-in. The existing administration/classroom building contains many inadequacies that must be corrected for reasons of health, safety, and to support an improved learning environment for the emergency service providers of the region. The lack of space, technology, and general condition of the facility contribute to the proposal to rebuild the facility. Important and necessary upgrades to the Center include minimizing or eliminating health and safety issues, meeting code compliance regulations, improving the educational environment including state-of-the-art technology, as well as supporting the growth in number and scope of the training programs offered. Estimated Square Footage (NASF/GSF):

Total New Square Footage = approximately 3,230 NASF  
 Total Renovated Square Footage = 7,000 NASF  
 Estimated Project Cost: \$5,770,000  
 State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci submitted the following report pertaining to the State Fire Marshal's Office: OSFM Personnel  
 Currently, the OSFM is in the process of filling three Deputy State Fire Marshal position at the Bomb Squad Unit, Upper and Lower Eastern Shore Regional Office. In addition, we are filling two Fire Safety Inspector positions at the Metro and Southern Regions. Seven new positions have been requested and one upgraded position to meet the needs of a mid-level supervisor within the agency. Lastly, we are in the process of obtaining a full time IT position for the agency. Effective November 13, 2013, Matthew Stevens was promoted to Deputy Chief Fire Marshal and has reported to the Northeast Region as the new Commander for Harford and Cecil Counties. Fire Protection Engineer Ken Bush has been appointed to the NFPA Standards Council. This is a significant professional achievement and speaks volumes of Ken's long term commitment to fire and life safety. DFM Charles Widdoes retired from the agency on November 15, 2013 after 15 years of dedicated service. Fire Deaths: As of the meeting date, Maryland has recorded 64 fire deaths compared to 49 during the same period in 2012. More information about fire



deaths in Maryland can be found at the OSFM website at [www.mdsp.org/firemarshal](http://www.mdsp.org/firemarshal) under the Document Downloads tab on the left side of the page. Allegany County had, as of meeting date, one fire death as did Garrett County for the same time period. MFRIS: the OSFM has been working with the leadership of the Maryland Fire Chief's Association to provide them with a list of delinquent reports by department. In addition, the OSFM have updated this information on their website which is now being updated on a weekly basis. Fire and Life Safety Information Exchange Program: the OSFM/MSFA intern, Melissa Williams, is continuing to perform her exemplary tasks with updating and creating new content on the website. As a reminder, the Maryland Fire and Life Safety Information Exchange Program website is [www.mdflifesafety.org](http://www.mdflifesafety.org). U.S. Fire Administration - "Fire is Everyone's Fight" Initiative: the U.S. Fire Administration has moved forward with the "Fire is Everyone's Fight" action plan. All members of the fire service are being encouraged to begin use of the imitative materials and logos immediately. The graphic and theme have been made available using the [www.usfa.fema.gov/fireiseveryonesfight](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireiseveryonesfight) website. Dr. Robert Bass, MIEMSSS director, submitted the following in his report, one of his  
*(Continued on page 6)*



## MFRI, MSFMO AND MIEMSS SUBMIT REPORTS TO MFRETC (cont.)

final reports prior to his retirement that became effective December 31st.

Maryland Ambulance Safety Summit: the Maryland Ambulance Safety Task Force and subcommittees have been working hard over the past two years. Risk factors exist in ambulance safety; however, it is Maryland's goal to reduce ambulance crashes and injuries to zero by creating a culture of safety through the adoption of best practices. MIEMSS, in collaboration with the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute (MFRI), Maryland State Fireman's Association (MSFA), Maryland EMS-C Office, and jurisdictional and commercial ambulance companies held an informative Educational Summit to promote a culture of ambulance safety on November 5, 2013. Approximately 100 attendees heard presentations on information on crashes in Maryland, national vehicle standards, model programs for ambulance design, and restraint use. The event was hosted by Chief Goddard and the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services at the Howard County Public Safety Training Facility. The results of the summit and presentations will be posted on the MIEMSS website shortly.

Optional Supplemental Protocol for EMS Operational Programs - Naloxone: in an effort to reduce opioid/narcotic related deaths, MIEMSS, in collaboration with the Maryland Poison Center, has approved the use of naloxone (the medication that reverses the respiratory depressant effects of opioid/narcotics, for Emer-

gency Medical Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians as an optional supplemental protocol for EMS operational programs. Currently, every public safety and commercial Advanced Life Support unit carries naloxone. The addition of naloxone to the law enforcement services or Basic Life Support units would reduce the time to administration of this potentially lifesaving medication.

Maryland Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) - Addition of Physician Assistant authorization to legally sign MOLST form: under a new Maryland law, as of October 1st, Physician Assistants may sign the Maryland Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) form. All health care professionals, including EMS providers, are required to recognize and abide by the MOLST orders that are signed by a Physician, Nurse Practitioner or, as of October 1, Physician Assistant. The signature and date are required to validate the order.

EMS providers can expect to see the new form with the addition of the Physician Assistant later this Fall. However, as of October 1, a MOLST form signed by a Physician Assistant is valid even if it is not on the new form specifically including a Physician Assistant.

For further information regarding MOLST forms:

[www.marylandmolst.org/index.html](http://www.marylandmolst.org/index.html)  
MIEMSS NEW Online Training Center: MIEMSS has improved the Online Training Center for EMS providers and other users. As MIEMSS continues to move

forward with its distance learning initiatives, providing quality continuing education for providers across Maryland, this system upgrade promises to offer you increased interactivity and usability.

There are a few items to keep in mind when you log on to the new Online Training Center:

- Access the Online Training Center using the same links as before. From MIEMSS homepage, click the 'Online Training Center' link on the left-hand side of the page to access the Center
- The username is still the provider ID number, which is the seven-digit number on the certification card that starts with a zero.
- ALL passwords in the new system have been reverted back to date of birth as listed in MIEMSS records. The date of birth should be entered in a 'mmddyyyy' format (example: March 30, 1966 would be 03301966).
- Once access to the Online Training Center is obtained, you are encouraged to change your password and update the email address in the user profile. A correct email address is required for the lost password function to work correctly.

Printable certificates that were earned for online courses prior to August 9, 2013 are no longer available in the system. However, all of these previous completions have been entered into your continuing education re-

cord.

EMT Evaluator Workshop: the MIEMSS Office of Licensure and Certification is conducting an EMT Evaluator Workshop. This workshop is mandatory for all current MIEMSS EMT practical examination evaluators. The workshop is also open to all current EMT instructors. The workshop is covering EMT practical evaluator requirements, responsibilities, and instructions on how to use the electronic tablets being implemented for the paperless EMT practical. Interested instructors should contact their teaching agency for a list of offerings. USFA Posts Guidance on Active Shooter and Mass Casualty Incidents: the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) recently posted a fire and emergency medical services (EMS) resource that can be used to support planning and preparation for active shooter and mass casualty incidents. These complex and demanding incidents may well be beyond the traditional training and experience of the majority of firefighters and emergency medical technicians. USFA offers this guide as one source of many available for the public safety community, but it also takes into consideration the diverse local service levels available across America. In developing the guide, USFA consulted with individuals and groups engaged in fire and pre-hospital emergency medical services, law enforcement, and hospital medical and trauma care. From the Region I Office:

- Planning is underway for

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Flintstone VFD & Ladies Auxiliary Install, Celebrate 70 Years of Service



### Flintstone Volunteer Fire Company Celebrating 70 Years of Service

The Flintstone VFD Ladies Auxiliary were recently installed by Pam Kyle, president of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association's Ladies Auxiliary. Shown above, left to right, are Janet Smith, points coordinator; Vicki Bowman, historian; Jan Stickley, president; Rachel Rzezak, chaplain; Pat Leitzen, treasurer; Vicki Moyer and Mary Teter, color bearers; Louise Hess, sunshine committee; and Geraldine Dixon, vice-president. *Photo courtesy Vicki Bowman*



Officers of the Flintstone Volunteer Fire Company for 2014 were recently installed by Gene Kidwell, president of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association, during their recent awards banquet. Shown are, first row left to right, Delton Smith, sergeant at arms; Bryan Adams, president; Dottie Ruby, treasurer; Amber Thomas, secretary; Ian Reikie, financial secretary; Dave Kyle, hall manager and Steve Corioni, EMS chief. Second row, from left to right, are Allen Ruby, Sr., 3 yr trustee; Steve Bowman, fire chief; Buck Whorton, vice-president; Emmett Stotler, 2 yr trustee and Diane Cessna, 1 yr trustee.

*Photo courtesy Vicki Bowman*



Allen Ruby, Sr., center, was honored by the members of the Flintstone Volunteer Fire Department for his 41 years of service to the department as EMS Chief. Shown presenting his award are Bryan Adams, president (left) and Steve Corioni, EMS Chief (right).



## Bedford Road VFD Holds Awards Banquet, Installs Officers



The Bedford Road VFD recently held their annual awards banquet and installation of officers. Members of the department who were installed are shown below receiving their oath of office that was administered by Gene Kidwell, president of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association. From left to right are Andy Robinette, trustee; Tim Growden, president; Charles Gillum, trustee; Bob Grabenstein, vice-president; Steve Shuhayda, chief; Eddie Collins, secretary; Haley Meeks, assistant secretary and Debbie Helmstetter, treasurer.

*Photo courtesy Donna Struntz*



Bob Grabenstein, above left, is shown receiving the Fireman of the Year Award from Debbie Helmstetter during Bedford Road VFD's recent awards banquet and installation of officers.

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Scott Huffman, above right, is shown receiving the Firefighter of the Year Award from Chief Steve Shuhayda during Bedford Road VFD's recent awards banquet and installation of officers.

## Celebrating 70 Years of Service



# IN MEMORY

**Jerry Humberson, Deep Creek VFD/Southern Garrett RS**

**Mae Bennett, Bowman's Addition Ladies Auxiliary**

**Authur Winter, Cresaptown VFD**

**Delmer Yonker, Orleans VFD**

**Linda VanMeter, Corriganville Ladies Auxiliary**

**Donald Rice, Mt. Savage VFD**

*The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

*Psalm 18:2*

<p><b>*** FREE ***</b></p> <p><b>Dry Cleaning &amp; Shirt Salon</b></p> <p>1313 National Hghwy LaVale, MD 21502 (or any of their branches)</p> <p><b>Offering</b> Free Dry Cleaning of Class A Uniforms or Uniform Shirts</p>	<p><b>Oldtown VFD Auxiliary</b></p> <p><b>Ham Dinner</b></p> <p><b>February 9th</b> <b>12:00 pm</b></p> <p>Carryouts available</p>	<p><b>Spaghetti Dinner</b></p> <p><b>Good Will Fire Company</b></p> <p>First Friday of each month 4pm-6pm</p> <p>Fireman's Armory in Lonaconing</p> 	<p><b>Eastern Garrett Co. V.F.R.D.</b></p> <p><b>Spaghetti Dinners</b></p> <p>2nd Saturday each month</p> <p>3:00 - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Adults: \$7.00 Children: \$3.50</p> <p><b>Turkey Dinners</b></p> <p>4th Sunday of:</p> <p>March April September</p> 	
<p><b>MIDLAND VFD</b></p> <p><b>501 DRAWING</b></p> <p>February 15th March 22nd April 19th</p> <p>3:00 - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Tickets: \$5/person</b> Includes food, drink and a chance for</p> <p><b>\$500!!</b></p> <p>Tickets available from members or at the Bar</p>	<p><b>District 16 &amp; Oldtown VFD</b></p> <p><b>5th Annual Cash Bash</b></p> <p><b>Saturday, March 15th</b></p> <p>Doors open 11:00 am</p> <p>Early Bird Drawings begin 12:00 pm - must be present to win</p> <p>Bash Drawings begin 1:00 pm - need not be present to win</p> <p><b>Tickets \$20.00 per person</b> <b>Guests \$10.00 at the door</b></p> <p>Tickets available from any District 16 or Oldtown member</p>			<p><i>The Bulletin</i> is the official newsletter of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire &amp; 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 <a href="mailto:drm21555@yahoo.com">drm21555@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b>Send Us Your Information!!</b></p>		<p><i>The Bulletin</i> is the official newsletter of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire &amp; 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 <a href="mailto:drm21555@yahoo.com">drm21555@yahoo.com</a></p>		

## CFSI: House Omnibus Spending Bill Includes Funding for Fire Service Programs

## MFRI, MSFMO, MIEMSS REPORTS (cont.)

*From the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI)*

On Wednesday, January 15th, the House approved H.R. 3547, the Fiscal Year 2014 omnibus spending bill. The \$1.1 trillion spending package funds the federal government through the end of the fiscal year.

Included in the bill are funds for several programs of importance to the nation's fire and emergency services. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program are each funded at \$340 million in the bill. This is an *increase* of \$2.5 million for each program over the Fiscal Year 2013 level. The bill also funds the United States Fire Administration (USFA) at \$44 million, the same level as in Fiscal Year 2013, and rejects a proposal by the Administration to transfer the State Fire Training Assistance Grant from USFA to the FIRE Grant Program. The Urban Search and Rescue System is funded at \$35.18 million in the spending measure, also the same amount the program received in Fiscal Year 2013.

"The willingness of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to maintain finding for these important programs, and in the case of FIRE and SAFER grants increase funding, shows the commitment of our Congressional allies to America's firefighters," said Bill Webb, CFSI's Executive Director. "Because of the collective efforts of the nation's fire and emergency services organizations, these programs continue to be successful and provide our first responders with the resources they need."

Currently the federal government is operating on a continuing resolution (CR) which funds the government through January 18th. The omnibus spending bill now goes to the Senate, where it is expected to be approved before the CR expires. CFSI will continue to provide updates throughout the budget process.

the 12th annual Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar to be held on April 4th and 5th at Wisp Resort in McHenry, MD.

- The Region I Office coordinates the Federal HPP Emergency Preparedness Grant Funding for MIEMSS and includes all regional submissions.
- The Region I EMS Advisory Council has been revamping its overall objectives for the future and has developed a clear mission, vision, and goals. Committees have been implemented to fulfill the goals and objectives.

MD EMS Providers: As of December 31st, there were 27,065 certified or licensed EMS providers in Maryland. They are broke down as follows:

EMD	1,174	EMT	18,834
EMR	3,077	CRT99	814
Paramedics	3,166		

### 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.

**Topics include:**

- 'See Something-Say Something' -Emergency Services Role in Homeland Security
- Rubes Rule of Leadership
- But They're My Friends; The Challenge of Supervising Your Former Peers
- Does Your Fire Department Have a Reputation? CHANGE and ETHICS: Two Words Firefighters Hate to Discuss
- Customer Service Leadership: This Is NOT Smile Training

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

### Allegany & Garrett County Departments

With the election of officers for 2014 complete, please forward the following to me either by email or regular mail

**President:** name, address and email

**Chief:** name, address and email

**Chaplain:** name, address

Email to [drm21555@yahoo.com](mailto:drm21555@yahoo.com) or mail to PO Box 142

Oldtown, MD 21555

Thanks  
Dennis Mallery,  
Editor



The Maryland Fire Chiefs Association  
Invites You to attend our  
2nd Annual Legislative Reception

January 30, 2014 from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
at  
Miller Office Conference Center  
West Room 1 & 2  
Annapolis, MD

Richard Blair, President

### Upcoming Training

**Emergency Medical Re-sponder**

Feb. 8th Garrett College  
0830 hrs Saturdays

Mar. 4th Baltimore Pike  
1830 hrs Tue/Thurs

**EMS Officer I**

Feb. 12th Garrett College  
1830 hrs Mon/Wed

**EMT Refresher**

Feb. 15th Eastern Garrett  
0830 hrs Sat/Sun

**Firefighter I\***

Feb. 4th Oakland VFD  
1839 hrs Tue/Thurs

**Pump Operations**

Mar. 16th Shaft  
0830 hrs Sundays

**Haz Mat Operations**

Feb. 22nd Bittinger  
0830 hrs Sat/Sun

**Haz Mat Technician \***

Mar. 20th Garrett College  
1830 hrs Tue/Thurs

**Rescue Tech - Site Operations**

Mar. 8th Garrett College  
0830 hrs Saturdays

**Emergency Vehicle Operator**

Mar. 15th Southern Garrett  
0830 hrs Sat/Sun

**Instructor I**

Mar. 1st WMRTC  
1830 hrs Mon/Thurs

\* requires Medical Clearance

Always check the MFRI website  
for up-to-date classes and  
changes at [www.mfri.org](http://www.mfri.org)



### AYCE

#### Spaghetti Dinner Baltimore Pike VFC

Saturday, February 15th  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

\$7.00 - person

*Every 25th dinner sold is FREE!!*

Includes AYCE Spaghetti, salad & roll  
Soda and dessert extra

Extra spaghetti sauce sold  
by the quart - \$5.00

Eat in or carry out

For information - (301) 724-4170

*Come on out and have a  
good time with some good food!!*

### Gun Bash

#### Friendsville VFRD Saturday, February 22nd

Doors open 11:00 am  
Drawings 12:00 - 6:00 pm

**Tickets \$25.00/person**

Ticketholder must claim gun

Winners need not be present to win  
Winners must pass Insta Check  
to receive gun

Must be 18 to attend  
All drawings final

Any unsold tickets become property of  
Friendsville Vol. Fire & Rescue Dept.

Contact any member of the FVFRD  
for tickets.



# ESCAPE LADDERS



- Bedrooms above the ground floor may need a fire escape ladder. One of the most important features of a home fire escape ladder is the presence of *standoffs*. These are protrusions that hold the ladder rungs away from the side of the house. Standoffs help steady the ladder and allow enough room for a secure toe-hold.
- Having more standoffs on a ladder, the better. Home escape ladders come in two standard lengths—15 feet and 25 feet. The shorter length is adequate for most two story bedrooms, while the longer is used for three story rooms. Make sure that the ladder is easily deployed by the person who will use it. Also check for the load limit. Ladders should be rated for at least 1,000 pounds.
- **Where to get them:** Local hardware and home improvement stores carry escape ladders. Check by calling around to see who is currently carrying them. Another source is safety supply stores. Look for them in the yellow pages under safety equipment.
- **How to use them:** Portable ladders work somewhat like a boat ladder. They are generally made from aluminum or plastic chain with rigid bars as the rungs of the ladder. After purchasing a ladder, make sure that it fits the specific window for which it's intended. If the ladder is for a child's room, have the child practice putting the ladder out the window. Then have them practice climbing out, but do this from a first floor window. Do this as part of a family fire drill.

[www.agcvtra.org](http://www.agcvtra.org)

Visit us on the web!!

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Dennis R. Mallery, Editor

The Bulletin

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