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Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

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Dennis R Mallery, Editor

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- **Association Assists With Rehab Trailer**
- **Cold Water Challenge..What Is It?**
- **Presidents Car Up For Bid**
- **Activities from around the area**

Upcoming Meetings

Maryland State Firemen's Association

June 15: Ocean City

Allegany-Garrett Co. Vol. Fire & Rescue Association

June 7: Cresaptown VFD

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

June 7: Cresaptown VFD

Garrett County Association

May 28: Friendsville VFRD

Mike Walters Fellowship of Christian Firefighters

June 7: Cresaptown VFD

Mechanicsville VFD Hosts Meeting of MSFA Executive Committee

The MSFA Executive Committee met at the Mechanicsville VFD on Saturday, April 12th for a one-day session to receive reports and updates from the various committees and allied agencies.

Monte Mitchell, State Fire Supervisor, reported for Maryland's **Forest Service**, noting that to date, there have been 43 wildfires in Maryland, burning 1,620 acres of which 12 fires damaging 47.3 acres were in the Western Region. He also reported The 2014 VFA grant program funding has not yet been received from the US Forest Service but appears at this point to be near level funding. We anticipate receiving our grant award information by May. I have also requested clarification on additional federal requirements that maybe forthcoming for Fire Departments that are awarded grants under the program and purchase equipment with an acquisition cost of greater than \$5,000. *(Editors note: an email was sent out May 16th noting the opening of the application period and contained the following information: During the 2014 grant application period, the MD DNR Forest Service will be distributing funds from the Federal 2014 fiscal year. Total funding available for 50/50 match grant distribution to fire departments this year from the US Forest Service is \$82,500. A Department may*

submit one VFA grant application for a maximum grant award of \$3,000 with \$6,000 in qualifying expenses. Funds will be distributed on a 50% reimbursable basis for actual cost incurred by the Department up to the grant award amount. The 2014 grant application period closes on July 18, 2014).

Monte also reported that The Mid-Atlantic Forest Fire Compact is hosting the eighth annual Mid-Atlantic Wildfire Training Academy June 7-13. The Academy will offer a spectrum of classes in essential wildland firefighting skills, from basic to advanced levels. The classes will be held on the campus of West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. For more information and registration: www.mawfta.com/ Registration is open and classes are still available.

State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci presented the updates for **Office of the State Fire Marshal** beginning with a staffing update. Geraci pointed out currently, the OSFM is in the process of filling two Deputy State Fire Marshal positions. In addition we are filling one Fire Safety Inspector and two Contract Fire Safety Inspector positions. The Chief Deputy Fire Marshal and IT Support position should be posted on the state web site this month (April).

Effective March 19, 2014 Dep-

uty Fire Marshal II Brian Collins started work with the agency and is assigned to the Upper Easter Shore Regional Office. DFM Collins is recently retired from the Prince George's County Fire and EMS department where he served for many years on the Bomb Squad and Fire Investigations Unit. We are very pleased to have this valuable asset join our team. A Deputy Fire Marshal from the Metro region has been detailed to the PGFD Fire Investigations Unit per there request. Both agencies believe that this increased partnership will be beneficial. Regarding fatalities, Geraci reported as of this date the total fire fatalities for 2014 currently stands at 24 compared to 33 at this same time-last year which is a 27% reduction. We did obtain a ruling from NFIRS on the young child fatality from the house explosion in Baltimore City it was determined not to be a fire related death.

Lou Jonske, chairman of the **Ways & Means** committee reported the committee has been busy selling and collecting tickets since the February Executive Committee meeting. So far the 2013-2014 raffle has produced \$18,447, which is \$1,728 behind this time last year. The committee has distributed over 140,000 tickets to the member companies and

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Association Gathers At Eastern Garrett for May Meeting



The May meeting of the Allegheny-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association was

called to order by President Gene Kidwell at the Eastern Garrett County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department. Chaplain Pete Walbert offered the invocation and presided over a brief memorial service for those departed since our last gathering.

Roll Call showed 18 departments (49%) with Baltimore Pike, Bedford Road, Bittering, Bloomington, Clarysville, Corriganville, Deep Creek, Deer Park, Eilerslie Ambulance, Flintstone, Frostburg Ambulance, Grantsville, Gorman, Kitzmiller, Oakland, Orleans, Rawlings, Southern Garrett and Tri Towns EMS not represented.

Past Presidents answering roll call included Bob Knippenburg, Jim Decker, Pete Walbert, Aaron Winters, Dennis Bonner, Rod Bowser, Pat Bowser, Mike Simmons, Tim Dayton, Clarence Broadwater, Dennis Mallery and Barbara Knippenburg.

Guests included Brian Geraci, MD State Fire Marshal; Jim Raley, Garrett Co. Commissioner; Pam Kyle, president AGCVFRA-LA; Leslie Casady, guard AGCVFRA-LA; Shelby Simmons, Miss Fire Prevention; Dick DeVore, Allegheny Co. Dept. of Emergency Services; Dwayne Kitis, MIEMSS; John Herath, Allegheny Co. EMS Chief; and

Tracy Simmons.



Dick DeVore, Allegheny Co. Dept. of Emergency Services, noted that they are working on

getting appropriations out., If a Department does not have all their paperwork in, no money will be released until it is all in. Anyone having questions about outstanding documents should contact Ken May. The Financial Accounting Study bids are due in mid-May and, hopefully, the results will be announced at the convention.



Dwayne Kitis, MIEMSS, reminded EMS providers that the 2014 Protocol Updates need to be

completed by June 30th and can be taken by visiting the Online Training site at emsonlinetraining.org Letters will go out the first week of July to those who have not completed the update, and there will be periodic checks for providers running calls to ensure compliance. Nominations are being accepted for the 2015 Region I Night For Stars. Nominations are requested no later than October 1st, 2014. Nominations should be for events that occurred between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. Any questions, contact either Dwayne, 301-895-5934, or Crissy Martz, 240-964-8506. Winners will be notified no later than December 31, 2014.

Dwayne also noted that Jean Tressler will be retiring in August and was to be honored during the Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar.



Tod Dyche, MFRI, submitted a report of classes that are in progress, starting or cancelled.

The EMT Refresher course at WMRTC had 13 pre-registered and is scheduled to start June 14th. The Fall course schedule is available online at www.mfri.org The following online courses are available and pre-registration can be done online through the MFRI website also:

EMT Refresher (12 hours) - registration closes June 1
EVOG - registration closes June 15



Pete Walbert, Fellowship of Christian Firefighters, reported on the May meeting held at Oldtown.

President Clarence Broadwater called the meeting to order. Pam Kyle read a poem then led those attending in the flag salute. Chaplain Walbert offered the invocation and Blessing of the meal. Afterwards, Chaplain Walbert read the 23rd Psalm in memory of those who have passed away since the last gathering. Oldtown Chaplain Rodger Long offered a Prayer of Joys & Concerns. The Rev. Richard Willinghurst, Bethel Assembly of God, offered the meditation. Birthdays for the month were recognized and Shirley Walbert, Sunshine

Committee, reported on get well and sympathy cards sent.



Brian Geraci, State Fire Marshal, thanked Tim Dayton for his hospitality and congratulated Potomac FD on

their awards banquet. FM Geraci noted that there are around 20,000 hoarders around the State and six people have lost their lives due to hoarding as well as one Battalion Chief. The Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office is trying to raise the awareness of the issue of hoarding across the State. There is a presentation available, 'Hoarding and the Fire Service'. If crews note a structure that has evidence of hoarding, it's suggested that different strategies be used for fighting fire in those areas. The Office is working on reducing the number of senior population fire injuries and deaths down. FM Geraci also announced that the Western Region will have a new bomb technician, John Ray, in the Region beginning July 1. He is also looking at additional hiring to increase the staffing in the area. A new accelerant detection dog has been placed on the Eastern Shore and a explosive detecting K9 is due to the western area of the State soon. A Fall program is slated to be offered to the students and parents of students at Frostburg State University. More information will be available in the future.

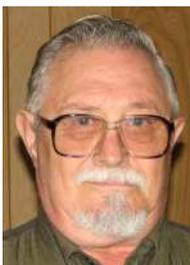


John Herath, Allegheny County EMS, reported 11

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Association Gathers at Eastern Garrett, Hears Updates

Narcans classes have been held in Allegany County with Barton and District 16 VFD's scheduled in May. John has the 'Break It To Me Gently' disk available for anyone wanting to use it for a company drill. He also noted that the County's failure rate was 6.5%, up from 5.5% for the same time period last year.



Rodger Long, **ACSO Fire Police**, noted as Gerard would say, 'we're still in business.' The group is getting ready

for the festivals coming up throughout the summer. New members are also being accepted. The Fire Police are willing to assist any Department that needs help. Allegany County Sheriff Craig Robertson is working with Garrett County's Sheriff to allow the group to also respond, if needed, into that county. An agreement already exists with Washington County allowing their response to our eastern neighbors.

Dick DeVore, **Allegany County Dept. of Emergency**



Services, noted that if Departments know of an address of a know hoarder in their community, con-

tact Roger Bennett and he can flag the address for future calls. The Joint Communications Center is still progressing through their upgrade and it's hoped to be completed in May. Dick reported the State's priority is now building out the 700 mHz radio system towards Western Maryland. It's hoped to be able to reach 95% of Allegany County but the biggest hindrance will be the cost of subscribing to the system - \$3,500 - \$7,000 for portable radios. Dick reported he is working with Garrett and Washington Counties to develop a Incident Management System for Western Maryland. On a personal note, Dick thanked those who attended the memorial service and funeral for Frank Clark. Dick is now serving as president of Ellerslie VFD.

Chris Cage, **Convention Liaison**, reported that meal tickets



are still coming in and being tracked as to who's paid and who has not. If you arrive at the Convention and need

a meal ticket, they will be able to be purchased at the door. Parade invitations have been sent out. If you don't receive one, you may still participate in the parade. Schedule of events for the day: Prayer Breakfast at Social Hall - 7:30 am Memorial Service at Calvary Baptist - 9:00 am Business Session - 10:30 am Men meet in engine bay area Auxiliary meets on 3rd floor Lunch at Social Hall - 12:00 pm Business Session resumes - 1:00 pm Dinner at Social Hall - 4:00 pm Parade - 6:00 pm Reports for inclusion in the packets are requested to be turned in by June 1st.

Pat Bowser, **Fire Prevention & Education**, congratulated on Sami Jo Kight and Jenna Holshey on being selected as the MSFA Jr. Miss Fire Prevention and First Runner-up, respec-



tively, at the pageant held at Flintstone. Their desire to serve as Fire Prevention Ambassadors speaks loudly of their dedication. Pat also noted

that Shelby Simmons, Miss Fire Prevention, is looking forward to the MSFA pageant in Ocean City in June. Pat reiterated her thanks to those who purchase the monthly Fire Prevention raffle tickets that help fund the girls trip to Ocean City as well as materials for Fire Prevention Week each year.



John Shuhart, **Insurance**, reported a Relief Fund payment was made for Jeff Baird from Bowl-

ing Green. If any company who belongs to the Relief Fund and has a member pass away, please give John a call. Relief Fund payments were received from most companies; however, Clarysville, Deep Creek, and Midland Auxiliary still have not returned their forms (as of meeting day).

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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

Highlights From Executive Committee Meeting at Mechanicsville

auxiliaries. Everyone should remember that proceeds from the raffle helps support your organization. We would also like to remind everyone that if you are returning ticket stubs and money by mail to Lou, it needs to be received by June 1. Every year Lou returns from the convention and finds tickets and money in his mailbox Steve Edwards, director **Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute**, reported the MFRI Logistical Support Section in conjunction with the MFRI Risk Management Committee regularly reviews and tracks injuries and illnesses that may occur during MFRI programs. During the first six months of this fiscal year in which we trained over 15,000 students we experienced 13 injuries and 10 illnesses. This is a very low rate of injury/illness and our success in the prevention of injuries has improved since we implemented the medical screening process. Thanks to the MFRI Field Instructors who continue to properly supervise our training programs and ensure a safe training environment for all students.

Director Edwards also noted it was his pleasure to appoint Sheri Luck as the Equity Administrator for MFRI, replacing Paul Brown who recently retired. Sheri will perform these duties in addition to her responsibilities within the ALS Section. Her focus will be on the equity requirements within the search and selection process for new positions as well as equity issues that may arise due to racial and sexual harassment or other such unwanted activities. She has a strong educational background with a Master's degree from John Hopkins University and is undergoing equity/diversity specific training and is working with the other

Equity Administrators on campus. Sheri understands MFRI, UMCP and the concepts regarding equity issues that will keep MFRI in the forefront regarding the fair and unbiased treatment of our employees and students. The Institute is also looking for an individual to serve as the Equity/ Diversity Training Coordinator for MFRI, which will be a part time position on a flexible schedule. This person will primarily focus on the training and educational needs of our student population and programs and would report to Sheri Luck as Equity Administrator. If you know of someone who may be interested in this position, please send that information to Sheri

Stephan Cox, chairman of the **Presidents Car** committee noted at the Executive Committee meeting in Cordova the Presidential Car Committee recommended we purchase the Chevrolet police package and the Executive Committee concurred with our recommendation. When attempting to order the vehicle we have run into obstacles such as: the vehicle is manufactured in Australia, Uncertain delivery, and only comes in various grey colors. We have ordered the Ford Interceptor (Police package) off state bid. The price of the vehicle is \$22,934.00 which includes the law enforcement package, red color, and All Wheel Drive. Unfortunately delivery will not be until late July early August. Announcements seeking sealed bids for the 2010 Ford currently assigned to Vice President Keller are being circulated. The vehicle will be available upon receipt and the new vehicle placed in service. Sealed bids are to be submitted to: Rusty Leftwich, 2121 Harkins Rd,

Pylesville, MD 21132. Bids will be opened on Sunday, June 15 and presented to the Executive Committee for approval. Vice chairman Joe Antoszewski and Pat Bowser, secretary of the **Volunteer Company Assistance Fund**, reported the VCAF Board met on Sunday March 30, 2014 at Tilghman Island at the Tilghman VFC, Talbot County. Vice chairman Antoszewski noted that were three applicants to be heard and reviewed, followed by some discussion regards to the terms of the various apparatus and other discussion items.

Applications heard were for: **Eastern Garrett County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department**, Garrett County, requesting a five year loan of \$74,115.00 for 18 sets of breathing apparatus with spare bottles. The Department's share of the program cost, or \$24,705.00, will come from their appropriations and truck fund. The application was approved.

Orleans Volunteer Fire Department, Allegany County, for a used engine, a 1996 HME which included a Hurst extrication tool/attachments, from the Bittering VFD to replace their 1982 GMC two-man cab. The request was for a seven year loan of \$46,984.00 and the Department would commit \$15,700.00 towards the project cost from their general fund and 508 monies. The application, following some discussion, was approved.

Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Company, Washington County, had submitted two applications, one for a loan and one for a grant. The applications were combined into one. The application was submitted for a new structure for the Department. The request included a loan of \$462,000. payable

over a 15-year term and a grant of \$175,000. It was noted during discussion of the application that Delegates Malone and Conway requested the grant amounts be increased, especially with the large amount of funds available. After considerable discussion, a motion was passed to increase the annual limit on grant monies to \$500,000, to include the current year. At the meeting, the amount of grant monies was \$87,865.00 and if the motion to increase the amount of annual grant funds is approved by the Executive Committee, the grant would be increased to \$138,865 and a loan of \$323,135.00. Following discussion, Sharpsburg's application was approved for \$87,865 grant plus an additional grant of \$51,000 if approved by the Executive Committee and a loan for \$323,135.

Both Wiley and Pat Bowser discussed the quick turnaround of building the software to fully automate the application process online. Everything an applicant would need would be readily available online. The software will allow DMIL to access the applications as well as the VCAF Board members for their review. This will streamline the process even further and allow all loans to be on the fast track to receiving their monies quickly by speeding up the application and settlement process. Pat noted with the progression of the software company they will be making a training disc for the Board members how to access the site, do a mockup of an application and discuss any issues they may have. She noted after have conference calls with the software company the last three weeks, the program should be available for roll out at the June Conven-

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MSFA Executive Committee Meeting Highlights (CONTUNUED)

tion. That's the goal. Craig is working on how to dress up the website-we will be using the MSFA website to access the VCAF button. A tentative meeting date has been set for Sunday, June 1st at Joppa-Magnolia. IF we have no applications it will be used as a work session to roll out the program to the VCAF Board.

Pat noted a full page ad will be submitted into the MSFA Convention book courtesy of Ron Siarnicki and the Convention Committee. All of those things are currently being worked on. It was recommended that we update our brochures to include the new information and contact information. There has been an ongoing discussion regards to increasing the terms of the various apparatus loans. Members were to think about this and bring back their recommendations to this meeting. After discussion, the following was recommended to be implemented immediately:

Medic / Ambulance Units from 5 years up to 7 years.
Engine / Tanker Units –from 10 years up to 15 years.
Ladder Units –From 15 years up to 20 years.
Squads/Quints –From 15 years up to 20 years.

The motions to increase the loan terns was approved, The following report was submitted from MIEMSS:

2014 Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Provider Educational Updates.
The Protocol Updates for the 2014 Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers are available on MIEMSS Online Training Center (www.emsonlinetraining.com), and available from on DVD for company drills from all MIEMSS Regional Offices. Electronic versionsof the full protocols, as well as just the

replacement pages and spreadsheet are available on www.miemss.org under the EMS PROVIDERS tab. The printed spiral bound and pocket versions will be available in the near future. Please remember, all EMS Providers must complete the "Meet the Protocols" version that matches their level of certification or licensure before July 1, 2014. If you have any questions about the online training center, please email online@miemss.org or call the Office of Licensure and Certification at 800-762-7157 or 410-706-3666.

EMS Related Bills from the 2014 Legislative Session.

Below is a summary of the final status of various bills of interest considered by the General Assembly during the 2014 Session:

HB 427 –Education – Maryland Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Act.

Requires the Maryland State Department of Education to develop and implement a program to provide sudden cardiac arrest awareness to coaches, school personnel, student athletes, and parents in collaboration with the DHMH, each local board of education, and other experts and stakeholders. Effective July 1, 2014

HB 812 –Education –Middle Schools –Automated External Defibrillators.

Requires all middle schools to meet the requirements of the current high school automated external defibrillator (AED) programs developed by each local board of education, i.e., to have an AED onsite and an individual trained in the operation and use of an AED present at all middle school-sponsored athletic events. Effective July 1, 2014.

HB 963 –Hospitals –Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical

Forensic Examinations and Planning Committee.

Requires each hospital that provides emergency medical services to have a protocol to provide timely access to a sexual assault medical forensic examination to a victim of an alleged rape or sexual offense who arrives at the hospital for treatment; the examination may be by a forensic nurse examiner or a physician. The protocol must be in place by July 1, 2014. The bill also establishes the Planning Committee to Implement Improved Access to Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations in Maryland. MIEMSS will be one of the members of the Planning Committee; MIEMSS and DHMH will also staff the Planning Committee. Effective June 1, 2014; provisions related to the planning committee terminate June 30, 2016.

HB 963 –Hospitals –Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations and Planning Committee.

Requires each hospital that provides emergency medical services to have a protocol to provide timely access to a sexual assault medical forensic examination to a victim of an alleged rape or sexual offense who arrives at the hospital for treatment; the examination may be by a forensic nurse examiner or a physician. The protocol must be in place by July 1, 2014. The bill also establishes the Planning Committee to Implement Improved Access to Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations in Maryland. MIEMSS will be one of the members of the Planning Committee; MIEMSS and DHMH will also staff the Planning Committee. Effective June 1, 2014; provisions related to the planning committee terminate June 30, 2016.

HB 1366 / SB 503 –Public Schools –Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator Instruction (Breanna's Law).

Requires each local board of education to provide, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in every public school that enrolls students in any of grades 7 through 12. Effective July 1, 2014.

Shortages of Intravenous Fluids.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is reporting a severe shortage of IV fluids across the nation - particularly 0.9% sodium chloride (normal saline). The cause of the shortage is being compounded by increased demand during flu season and recent issues with manufacturers. Because many Institutions have transitioned to using Lactated Ringer's Solution during the shortage, a pervasive nationwide shortage of both solutions is occurring. While the FDA is working with major manufacturers to match demand and abate a long term shortage, it is likely that EMS systems will be impacted until the situation is resolved. This Memo will provide recommendations to help guide the use of intravenous solutions until they become more readily accessible

(1) When appropriate, EMS providers should use an IV saline lock rather than IV fluids at KVO.
(2) EMS services should coordinate with local hospitals to establish a temporary policy regarding distribution of IV fluids to ensure mutual availability.
(3) The use of Lactated Ringer's solution should be restricted to patients requiring fluid resuscitation.

a. Consider using both 500 mL

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Highlights From MSFA Executive Committee Meeting (CONTINUED)

and IL bags to administer fluid.
b. Providers should take a more conservative approach to fluid administration and consider restricting fluid challenges to those with outward signs of shock (e.g., altered mental status, hypotension).

(4) EMS systems should inventory their stock of IV fluids and allocate them in a controlled manner, allowing for continued tracking to anticipate critical shortages.

(5) If critical shortage is reached, IV fluids should be removed from non-transport units (e.g., medic engines) and placed on transport ambulances. Please contact the Office of the State EMS Medical Director at 410-706-0881 with any questions or concern

New (eMEDS) Support Phone Number: 410-706-3669.

MIEMSS has set up a dedicated phone line for eMEDS support. This will simplify provider access for help with the eMEDS system when needed. Email messages may also be sent to eMEDSSport@miemss.org
MIEMSS 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 (www.miemss.org), click the "Online Training Center" link on the left-hand side of the page to access the training con-

tent.

- 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 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 completed 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 record.

Licensure/Certification Management Software.

MIEMSS has contracted with ImageTrend to replace the aging MPPR-Maryland Pre-hospital Provider Registry with new licensure/certification management software program. This web-based program will provide tracking of licensing, certification, and continuing education of Maryland's EMS providers. This application will also allow providers, Operational and Commercial programs to update Affiliations on line and will transfer to the eMEDS® system. Various aspects of the program will be phased in over the following months to cumulate in online access for providers, Operational and Commercial programs, and EMS Board approved teaching agencies. We

plan to have the ability to allow providers to create or update profiles and initiate affiliation changes in the near future.

Chief James Seavey, Sr. reported on activities from the **National Volunteer Fire Council**. Some of the activities include:

Health and Safety

The NVFC has launched a national behavioral health campaign called "Share the Load" and is providing training and other health and safety resources through a Fire Prevention & Safety grant. The NVFC will hold a Training Summit in June in Myrtle Beach that will focus on health & safety and fire prevention.

National Junior Firefighter Program

Through last year's FP&S grant, the NVFC developed and delivered the Training the Next Generation Workshop, a four-hour course for program advisors and department leadership on developing their local program. The course is now available on-demand on the NVFC's online training platform.

Through support from Tyco and Spartan, the NVFC also continued the Junior Firefighter and Junior Firefighter Program of the Year Awards and delivered a hands-on training event, and will publish a guide for finding funding for junior firefighter programs.

Your NVFC Delegates wish to offer our sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Washington County High School Fire and Rescue Academy on being selected as NVFC's Junior Firefighter Program of the Year. This is the second year in a row (Arcadia in 2013) that a Maryland program has won this prestigious award.

Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund

The NVFC continues to provide the Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund for first responders who have experienced an uninsurable loss in a disaster. In 2013, 195 individuals were awarded stipends through the Volunteer Firefighter Support fund, for a total of \$48,750.

Most of these recipients were victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Chevrolet Partnership

The NVFC has entered into a two-year partnership with Chevrolet. Details of the partnership are still being determined, but will include trade show exhibits, outreach, and likely incentive pricing for firefighters.

Globe Gear Giveaway Program

For the third year, the NVFC and Globe have partnered to offer the Globe Gear Giveaway Program. In 2014, the program is open to NVFC members and Globe will provide 200 departments with a complimentary NVFC membership. Fifty-two (52) sets of gear will also be awarded to departments. The application deadline is June 1, 2014

The Lighthouse Uniform Company's "Bereavement Program" is an extremely beneficial program for Departments that lose a member either in the line of duty or from an off-duty death. At the February Meeting in Cordova, we were told that the Lighthouse Uniform Company would be at the Executive Committee Meeting in April to explain the proposal and we would encourage a vote to have the MSFA formally endorse and adopt the Program.

The next meeting of the MSFA Executive Board will be held during the annual convention in Ocean City, June 15, 2014.

Association Discusses Creation of Rehab Trailer

John also reported on **Statistics**, noting that most of the returns have been received for the 2013 Statistical Report. John has contacted Barry Johnson, MSFA Statistics Committee, to get the entries made on the MSFA website for Allegany and Garrett Counties. As of the May meeting, John reports as not having received reports from Bittinger, Eilerslie Ambulance, George's Creek Ambulance, Gorman, Kitzmiller, Northern Garrett Rescue and Oakland.



Rodger Long, **Safety**, reported on electrical fire safety.

- U.S. fire departments respond each year to an estimated 25,900 home electrical fires. These fires cause an estimated 280 deaths, 1,125 injuries and \$1.1 billion in property loss.
- Home electrical fires result in greater dollar loss per fire than nonelectrical fires.
- In 79 percent of home electrical fires, the fire spreads beyond the object where the fire starts.
- Most home electrical fires involve electrical distribution, lighting or power transfer equipment.
- Thirty-nine percent of home electrical fires involve outlets and receptacles, electrical branch circuits (for example, interior house wiring), and other electrical wiring.



Mike Simmons, **Special Awards**, noted that meeting day was the deadline to submit nominees for the annual awards given at Convention. The Committee will meet at Northern

Garrett Rescue on May 15th at 6:00 pm to review the nominees. There were three nominees for Firefighter of the Year; one for Junior Firefighter of the Year and EMS Person of the Year; and two for the Hall of Flame. After some discussion, a motion was passed that allowed the Hall of Flame committee to look at who has not been recognized in the past and consider them for induction to the Hall of Flame.

Under **Old Business**, the Fair Raffle was discussed and decided to raffle off \$250 worth of beef from B&B Meats as first prize and a \$100 Sheetz card as second prize.

Under **Good of the Association**, Clarence Broadwater reported talking with Tim Clark, chief of Eastern Garrett VFRD, regarding creating a rehab trailer that would be stationed at Eastern Garrett and available for departments in both Allegany and Garrett Counties. Tim reported they had been looking at ideas for a trailer but want it to be a joint project. Tim's spoke with the Garrett County Association but needs help getting supplies such as a heater, cooling fan, water, small chest freezer, tent, etc. Tim explained he didn't want this to become a solo project for Eastern Garrett, but instead was seeking help from the Association.

Clarence stated he thought it was a good idea and there seemed to be a lot of interest. It's won't be a great expense to operate. Chief Clark suggested possibly working with Allegany County's Special Operations Team. Dick DeVore was agreeable, if the Association felt the project was plausible, to absorb the cost of some of the needed equipment, estimated to cost approximately \$1,000, into the Dept. of Emergency Services' budget. A motion was passed that the Associa-

tion purchase a small chest freezer for use in the Rehab Trailer.

Barbara Knippenburg reported on the smoke alarms provided by the MSFA Fire Prevention Committee through the DHMH grant. She still needs alarms from Cresaptown and Bowman's Addition. Once these reports are submitted, then she can email the reports to the State's Fire Prevention Committee. It's been a trying two years attempting to get all the information submitted. Dick DeVore asked if the Association would try and evolve a Jr. Firefighter Program. Clarence stated he is working with Corriganville and Midland to revamp their programs. Midland currently has fourteen interested juniors. Clarence stated anyone can contact him and he'll meet with them and help set up a program. He also reported Bloomington recently started a Junior program within their station.

Secretary Rod Bowser reported the following have yet to pay their dues and/or submit their credentials as of the May meeting. Those not having their dues paid will now be assessed a \$10 late fee.

Dues:

Clarysville, Eastern Garrett, Eilerslie, Eilerslie Ambulance, Frostburg Area Ambulance, Mt. Savage, and Tri Towns EMS.

Credentials:

Barton, Bedford Road, Clarysville, Corriganville, Eastern Garrett, Eilerslie, Eilerslie Ambulance, Frostburg Area Ambulance, George's Creek Rescue, Mt. Savage, Potomac and Tri Towns EMS.

A late notice was to be sent out to those owing dues.

The Cold Water Challenge.. What Is It Exactly? Is It Making A Difference?

With the recent explosion of videos on social media sites, the following article, in part, from The Fire Critic with Rhett Fleitz, May 29, 2014, attempts to explain the details of the Challenge.

What is the Cold Water Challenge? Where did the Cold Water Challenge originate? How long has it been going on? You might have asked yourself this question if you have spent any time on Facebook recently. You might also wonder if it is making a difference. I assure you it is. One of the main charities that is being used is the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. They have witnessed an influx in \$10-\$100 donations in the past weeks. Scroll down with a message from the NFFF.

What is the Cold Water Challenge? As best as I can find, the challenge moving through the fire service is this:

1. You are nominated to complete the challenge by someone who has done just that.
2. You have 24 hours to complete the challenge AND donate \$10 or \$20 to the charity of choice as defined by the person nominating you.
3. If you are unable to complete the challenge, you donate \$50 or \$100 to the charity they defined.
4. *The amount of the donations varies. The most common is \$10 if you complete it, \$100 if you do not.*

If you complete the challenge, upload the video of you completing it to Facebook or Youtube and nomi-

(Continued on page 8)

President's Car For Sale



On July 16, bids will be opened and a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria, with the police package will be sold to the highest bidder after approval of the MSFA Executive Committee. The car will be available for delivery after receipt and delivery of the new vehicle to the newly elected president. That date is yet to be determined as the delivery date has not been confirmed. The car is Toreador Red in color, and will have approximately 164,000 miles when delivered to the successful bidder. The vehicle is in excellent shape and all miles are highway miles. A picture is attached to show the type of car and color. The vehicle is currently being driven by 1st Vice President Dave Keller. **SEALED BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENTIAL VEHICLE COMMITTEE BY MIDNIGHT JULY 15, 2014.** Mark the envelope "MSFA CAR". Bids are to be sent to: Rusty Leftwich, 2121 Harkins Road, Pylesville, Md. 21132 Please direct questions to the same, at 410-808-8095, or whitehat10@aol.com. MSFA reserves the right to accept or reject bids.

Upcoming Training

EMT
 Aug. 20 WMRTC
 1830 hrs Wed/Sun

EMT Refresher
 June 14 WMRTC
 0830 hrs Sat/Sun

EMT Skills
 June 1 WMRTC
 0830 hrs Sat/Sun

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

Swiftwater Rescue Technician
June 16-20 ASCI
 9:00 hrs Mon-Fri
 Contact Matt Krause for info/costs of course
 (301) 616-7886 or
RescueDiver7402@me.com

Cold Water Challenge..What Is It? (continued)

nating 5 more individuals to Facebook.

So you can see, the number of people participating multiplies quickly and exponentially.

As best as I can find, the challenge is a unsanctioned spin-off of the polar plunge most widely used by the Special Olympics as a fundraiser.

There have been many local Cold Water Challenges that have benefited a local group or beneficiary by local organizations.

In the fire service, most firefighters have either dove into a body of water, had a trashcan full of water dumped on them, jumped into a drop tank, or gotten soaked by a stream of water from fire hose.

I was nominated by Josh Waldo and Kestin Wiemer within 24 hours. I was unable to complete my challenge so I donated \$100 to the Wounded Warrior Project as

one of them had requested. Without the challenge, I never would have donated to the WWP simply because I support other organizations. I appreciate the chance to donate to the WWP and I am sure they are thankful for my donation. Among firefighters, the most popular organization to donate to has been the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. It seems as though the purpose of the challenge has been lost by some. Whether you complete the challenge or not, you still have to donate to the organization of choice by the person who nominated you. If you complete it, the amount of donation is less than if you cannot complete it.

I have not heard of any firefighters getting injured doing the cold water challenge, but there have been some reported by others.

(Continued on page 10)

Orleans VFC Upcoming Events

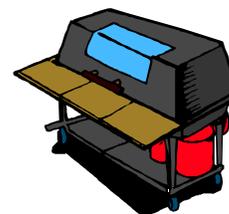
June 28: Meat & Cheese Drawing
 Doors open 6:30, Drawings start 7:00

July 19: Annual Gun Bash

August 31: BBQ Chicken & Ribs
 11:00 am til sold out

Sept. 21: BBQ Chicken & Ribs
 11:00 am til sold out

For more information, contact any member of the Orleans VFC





IN MEMORY

**Frank Clark, Past President, Ellerslie/Ellerslie Amb.
 Jeff Baird, Bowling Green VFD
 William Davis, Frostburg FD**

Pick Me A Rose

*Pick me a rose in heaven, Give it to the one I love
 Tell them its from me, To heaven up above
 Tell them that I miss them, Every single day
 How my heart was broken, When angels took them away
 Tell them that I love them, And the memories will remain
 This is not goodbye, We will meet again.*

John F. Connor

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>*** FREE ***</p> <p>Dry Cleaning & Shirt Salon 1313 National Hghwy 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 Sunday, June 15th Stuffed Pork Chops 12:00 pm until sold out Carry-outs available</p> | <p>Spaghetti Dinner</p> <p>Good Will Fire Company First Friday of each month 4pm-6pm</p> <p>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>Turkey Dinners</p> <p>4th Sunday of: March April September</p>  |
| <p>MSFA \$10,000 Raffle</p> <p>Don't forget to sell/purchase your tickets.</p> <p>Money and tickets can be returned to Tim Dayton prior to the State Convention</p> | <p>Chicken BBQ Corriganville VFD</p> <p>June 20th & 21st 11:00 am - 7:00 pm (or until sold out) June 27th & 28th Romney FD & Redneck Float</p> <p>\$7.00 gets you a half chicken, two sides and roll.</p> <p>We Deliver!! Just call (301) 722-7418</p> | <p>Deep Creek VFD 4th Annual Cash Bash June 7th 12 - 6 pm</p> <p>Elks Lodge - Oakland Doors Open 12 pm Drawings - 1:00 pm Tickets \$25.00 Guests \$25.00</p> <p>Grand Prize \$3,000 Tickets available from any Deep Creek member</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> |
| <p>Send Us Your Information!!</p> | | | |

Please be safe in completing the challenge. Do not jump into water that you do not know the depth. Never dive into water you cannot see through.

The National Fallen Firefighters Association released this message today:

To the cold and wet (or warm and dry) the NFFF says Thanks!

The 24-Hour Cold Water Challenge has captured the creative minds and generous hearts of many firefighters, survivors and NFFF supporters. To those who are taking the plunge – literally or figuratively – and picking the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation as your charity, we thank you.

In the past week alone, we have received nearly 250 donations in amounts of \$10 or \$100, and more are coming in every day. Your donation will directly help the survivors of fallen firefighters.

As you know, safety is one of the key missions of the Foundation. We urge you to keep that in mind if you accept a challenge.

You can fulfill your challenge obligation by going to donate.firehero.org and be sure to click on the Cold Water Challenge box. You can then show others that you've fulfilled your promise from your confirmation screen by sharing on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and email. You can also send a check to National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, P.O. Drawer 498, Emmitsburg, MD 21727 and earmarking it as Cold Water Challenge.

www.agcvtra.org

Visit us on the web!!

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Oldtown, MD 21555-0142

P.O. Box 142

Dennis R. Mallery, Editor

The Bulletin

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