

MINUTES
Allegheny Garrett County Fire & Rescue Association
Eastern Garrett Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department
May 4, 2014

The regular meeting of the Allegheny Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association was held Sunday, May 4, 2014 and hosted by Eastern Garrett Vol. Fire & Rescue Company. President Gene Kidwell called the meeting to order at 14:00 hours and Vice President Broadwater led the flag salute.

The Invocation was given by Chaplain Calvin Walbert who then read the 23rd Psalm in memory of Past President Frank B. Clark; Ellerslie; Jeffrey L. Baird, Bowling Green; and William R. Davis, Frostburg.

WELCOME: Jim Raley, President, and Garrett County Commissioner, representing the host company welcomed everyone to Eastern Garrett. President Kidwell said it was a pleasure to be at Eastern Garrett.

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTMENTS: Roll call of Departments showed 19 companies in attendance. Those not represented were: Baltimore Pike; Bittinger; Bloomington; Clarysville; Corriganville; Deep Creek; Deer Park; Ellerslie Ambulance; Flintstone; Frostburg Ambulance; Gorman; Grantsville; Kitzmiller; Oakland; Orleans; Rawlings; Tri – Towns Rescue and Southern Garrett Rescue.

Companies present were: Accident; Barton Hose; Bedford Road; Bowling Green; Bowman's Addition; Cresaptown; Cumberland Hose; District16; Eastern Garrett; Ellerslie; George's Creek; Good Will; Luke; Midland; Mt. Savage; Northern Garrett; Oldtown and Potomac.

All officers were in attendance.

RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS:

President Kidwell recognized the following 12 Past Presidents in attendance: Robert E. Knippenburg; James F. Decker; Calvin 'Pete' Walbert; Aaron Winters; Dennis Bonner; Rodney W. Bowser; Patricia A. Bowser; Michael A. Simmons; Timothy F. Dayton; Clarence B. Broadwater; Denny R. Mallery and Barbara A. Knippenburg.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Guests present and recognized by President Kidwell were: Mary Carr, PP LA AGCVFRA; Dick DeVore, Allegheny Co. Emergency Services; Leslie Cassady, Guard. AGCVFRA; Pam Kyle, President AGCVFRA; Miss Shelby Simmons, AGCVFRA Miss Fire Prevention; Jim Raley, Garrett Co. Commissioner; Dwayne Kitis, MIEMSS; John Herath ACEMS; and Brian Geraci, State Fire Marshal.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

All Officers gave a report of their activities since the last meeting.

Secretary's Report – Secretary Bowser made available copies of minutes for the day's meeting and e-mailed them to all companies and executive committee members.

Communications – None

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Shuhart reported the following fund balances: Savings Certificates: General Fund - \$14,044.09; Plaque Fund CD - \$2,928.34; Plaque Fund Cash \$94.00; Checking Account \$4,595.46 Prime Saver \$2,457.54; and Fire Prevention Scholarship Fund \$675.79.

Bills on hand were read: Mailroom (Bulletin) \$196.91; FP \$100.00 (Pat was last night's winner); E&S \$30.00 totaling \$326.91. It was motioned by Jim Decker and seconded by Mike Simmons to pay the bills. Motion passed.

Agency Reports –

MFRI – Todd Dyche – The following report was received:

Class Update in Allegany / Garrett County

Notes:

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

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

1. The Fall Course Schedule is out. Visit www.mfri.org.

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

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

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

Allegany County Emergency Services – Dick DeVore reported.

He said that appropriations will be out soon. If you haven't sent in your paperwork please do so soon.

The Financial Accountability Study results will be due mid-month.

Dick said he continues to seek information from companies for the Fund raising booklet to benefit the scholarship fund.

He said if you encounter a hoarding situation in Allegany County please let Roger Bennett know. He'll upload it into the CAD system.

The 700 mhz. radio system is about ready for rollout. It will reach up to 95 % of Allegany County.

Work continues on the Allegany/Garrett/Washington Incident Management Team that will forge an organizational structure for use at the Deep Creek 2014 Whitewater trials at ASCI.

Dick extended his personal thanks to those who attended or helped with the Memorial Service for Past President Frank B. Clark. He noted that Frank was president for many years at Ellerslie and he will be missed. Dick is now the President of the company.

Allegany County EMS – John Herath reported. He said they are working on the “Break it to me gently protocol”. He has been conducting protocol updates and has more scheduled this month. He also said that a DVD is available to be sent to you if a company wishes.

He noted the fail rate of ambulance responses has increased by 6.5 % and the call volume is down.

VCAF – Pat again reported that the three (3) applications were placed on the BPW's agenda May 14th. Two from this area: Eastern Garrett for breathing apparatus and Orleans for a used engine. Sharpsburg was also approved for new facilities. Both companies are working toward settlement as their purchases should be on the fast tract this time around.

Work continues to roll out the automated on-line version of the application. It is exciting to see all our hard work come together. This will revolutionize how we do business.

This will be a topic of discussion at the OC Convention in June. As always, help and assistance is available. Her contact information is: therbowsers@verizon.net Phone(s): 301.746.5576 (H) or 301.616.5576 (C).

MIEMSS – Dwayne Kitis reported.

Protocol updates are due by July 1st. The search continues for a replacement for Dr. Bass. Jean Tressler was recognized at the Miltenberger Seminar for your many years of service to EMS. She will be retiring in August.

MSFA – Tim Dayton presented his report from the Executive Committee meeting held at Mechanicsville on Sat. April 12th. His report is attached. (Attachment #1).

FIRE POLICE – Rodger said they were available. They have a busy summer already scheduled. Call if you need them.

Christian Firefighters – Pete reported. The A. Mike Walter's Chapter of Christian Firefighter's met at Oldtown on Sat. May 3rd.

The welcome was given and the response given by Rodger Long, Chaplain of Oldtown. Pam read a poem. The invocation and the blessing of the meal were given by Chaplain Walbert. Breakfast was served.

The pledge was led by Pam Kyle. Joys and Concerns were given by Rodger Long. Rev. Rick gave the morning meditation.

Birthdays were recognized. Betty Mowery was 91 years old.

During the business meeting, the minutes were read and the treasurer's report given. The Sunshine committee noted they sent 2 Get Well and 1 Sympathy card.

The prayer breakfast adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

The next prayer breakfast will be held at Cresaptown's convention at 7:30 a.m. in their community building.

Fire Marshal's Office – State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci attended the meeting for the first time. President Kidwell welcomed him to Western Maryland.

Brian spoke about their new campaign against “Hoarding”. He noted there are approximately 20,000 homes in Maryland that are affected. The FMO has an awareness program and will be offering a seminar in Ocean City on Monday. We are targeting the senior population.

John Ray will be coming to Western Maryland and will begin work with the Bomb Squad by July 1st. They are in the process of relocating here and finding a home.

The FMO has a new K9 – her name is Billie, and was obtained from the ATF.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

By-Laws – Nothing to report.

Convention – Chris Cage noted that plans are coming along. Any questions call: 301.697.7024. He noted that April 18th was the dead-line for pages in the Convention booklet. The prayer breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. Transportation to and from the church has been arranged for the Memorial Service which will begin at 9:00 a.m. The Convention will convene for the men at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Dinner will be held from 16:30 – 19:00 hours at the community building. The parade will begin promptly at 18:00 hrs.

He said if you don't have meal tickets you will be stopped at the door.

Fire Prevention/Education – Pat noted the committee would be meeting within the next month to determine what would be allocated for travel to Ocean City.

She thanked all those who continue to purchase the monthly raffle tickets. These monies help support our Miss Fire Prevention's in their quest to deliver the fire prevention safety messages to the population.

Congratulations were extended for both Sami Jo and Jenna for their participation in the Western Maryland Jr. Miss program. Sami Jo Kight was crowned the Western Maryland Jr. Miss at the program held Sunday April 27th at Flintstone.

Note: Fire Prevention & Education Committee's Monthly Safety Fact # 94 to be included within the minutes and "The Bulletin".

Hoarding in the Home

With the recent visit of State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci, he noted a campaign is on about bringing awareness to the emergency services. To notate the seriousness of hoarding, there were the recent deaths of two firefighters while fighting a house fire that was hampered with hoarding. This is a touchy subject for many fire and EMS personnel as we see some of this when we respond to emergencies on a daily basis. Sometimes, we have to move debris from our path to the patient or in order to access the area of and around a fire. It's something that we don't speak about outside of the response crew because we keep what we see to ourselves. It's hard to do our job sometimes due to excess "things" in our way. It's obvious we must move some furniture at times to get an ambulance stretcher through a hallway or around a tight corner as we navigate our way to the closest or best place of egress.

It seems this is a wide spread epidemic in homes across America. In Maryland there are approximately 20 K home affected (Too, too many). Thus, Fire Marshal Geraci and his Deputies are on a mission to bring awareness and information to the forefront of this problem that now plagues many communities. All emergency service personnel should be on the alert to inform their local emergency dispatch centers of addresses or areas of concern; then responding personnel will get a head's up during a response. I ask that each of you to be the eyes and ears for your fellow responder – to keep them safe and bring awareness to your brothers, sisters and fellow department members. If we can prevent at least one (1) loss of life we're doing our job!

Insurance/Benefits – John Shuhart reported that since the last meeting Relief Fund payments were made for Jeff Baird, Bowling Green. If any company belonging to the Relief Fund and has a member die, please give me a call so that I may send out the check.

I have received the Relief fund payments from most companies. They were due February 15th. There are still some companies that are due including: Clarysville; Deep Creek; and Midland Auxiliary. Please read the instructions and do what they say. It will pay off in the long run with beneficiary changes.

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

Special Ops – There was no report given.

Past Presidents – Next meeting May 17th at Ho Bo’s Restaurant at 6:00 p.m. This will be the annual meeting with election of officers for the coming year.

Auditing – Mike noted the audit committee will meet May 15th at Northern Rescue Squad in Grantsville, at 6:00 p.m. Special Awards will follow at the same location.

Special Awards – Will meet on May 15th at Northern Rescue St.1 Grantsville at 6:00PM. Awards received today were: Three (3) Firefighter of the Year; one (1) Jr. Firefighter of the Year; one (1) EMS Person of the Year; and two (2) Hall of Flame.

Pat moved that the Awards committee look at who has not been inducted into the Hall of Flames and they make a determination to fill some of the slots, etc. Tim seconded and the motion carried by voice vote.

Training – Registration is changing. After the first of the year, one must register on-line at the MFRI website. In Allegany County requests go to Tim Dayton and for Garrett County, send them to Jean Tressler.

Recruitment/Retention – Nothing new to report.

Public Relations – Any company having information, please forward to the editor for inclusion into the *‘The Bulletin’*.

Sprinklers – **Nothing new.**

Legislative – The Income tax Incentive program was passed to increase the amount to \$5,000 by increasing the allowance by \$250.00 / year until 2019. (This was changed when the final document was approved). Our apologies for the incorrect information last month...

Statistics – John – Please turn the statistics into John after you file them on-line. Print a copy for his files. Most companies have sent reports to John; four from out of the association. Still need from Bittinger, Clarysville, Eilerslie, Eilerslie Ambulance, Gorman, Kitzmiller, Northern Rescue and Oakland.

Career Center & 5 / 10 Year Planning – There was no report given from either committee.

Ways & Means – A raffle for a \$250.00 meat certificate from B&B Meats and a \$100.00 gas card will be held at the Allegany County Fair. It was also suggested to hold the raffle until after the Garrett County Fair which will conclude August 2nd. Tickets will be printed and available at Convention.

UNFISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Chief Tim Clark, Eastern Garrett, noted they were attempting to form a rehab trailer for Allegany/Garrett counties. He said he had a trailer, and has some supplies. He’d like to add a heater, cooling system/fan for summer, a small chest freezer and a tent.

He asked if the association could help fund the Rehab trailer for both counties. Dick DeVore noted he could help with \$1,000 for a heater and tent. Rod then moved that the association make purchase of a small chest freezer for keeping ice. John Shuhart 2nd and the motion passed.

Barb Knippenburg reported that the two companies still need to submit addresses for smoke alarms installed. Bowman’s Addition and Cresaptown still need to get their information in. Chris Cage said Cresaptown’s paperwork is on his desk. Denny Bonner said he would get the information to Barb.

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

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

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

The next meeting will be held at Convention, hosted by Cresaptown on Sat. June 7, 2014.

The next Prayer Breakfast will be held during Convention at Cresaptown at 7:30 a.m.

Chaplain Walbert gave the benediction and the blessing of the meal at 15:36 hrs.

Respectfully submitted

Rodney W. Bowser

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Secretary