

WASHINGTON COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

The regular meeting of the Washington County Fire and Rescue Association was held on September 21, at the First Hose Company of Boonsboro.

The meeting was called to order by President Glenn Fuscick. Chaplain Leonard Horst gave the invocation and lead in the pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL - All member companies were present except Company 5, 19 49 and 59. All officers were present except the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

GUEST: Harry and Heather Gossard, Secretary of Lodge 1 of the Woodmen of the World, made a special presentation to the Association. They presented flags of the United States of America and the State of Maryland complete with poles and stands. President Glenn thanked them and their Lodge for the flags.

Roger Bennett, Western Maryland representative from MEMA, reported the following: A. NIMS Incident Command train-the-trainer classes will be held in Frederick and Cresaptown. B. The Maryland National Guard has asked the County to give them a list of equipment available for winter emergencies. C. FEMA is looking for Point of Distribution (POD) for the distribution of supplies in case of an emergency. The WALMART parking lot has been designated as a POD. D. The public schools and Health Department are planning flu mist vaccinations of school children. Flu clinics for adults will be held in October and November.

Donna Brightman, Candidate for County Commissioner, was in attendance to listen and learn.

David Keller, MSFA Executive Committee, reported the following: A. Candidates speaking from the floor will be held to three minutes. B. Memorial forms are available on line. Please complete them as necessary, do not wait for the Convention. C. The Transportation Committee will meet at Glendale. D. The Legislative Committee plans to try to keep all funding in place. They are going to try to get an increase in the Amos Fund monies.

Roger Powell, MSFA Attorney, is seeking the 2nd VP position. He has been MSFA Attorney for 34 years.

Fred Cross, Financial Secretary MSFA, reported that due's notices will be coming out in January. All companies can ignore the notices as all dues are paid by the Association.

Don Mooney, Chairman Memorial Committee MSFA, reported that the memorial was dedicated and is receiving a lot of attention. Memorial bricks are still available on the website. A group of Canadian contributors are coming to see the memorial tomorrow.

Kingsley Poole, MFRI, reported the following: A. Requests for Spring training are out. Complete requests as soon as possible. B. Washington County Tech High School program is running with 15 students in the FFI class. C. A swift water rescue class was completed by 22 people. D Other classes are running. E. The First Responder class was moved to Clear Spring.

Bobby Balta, President MSFA, reported the following: A. Thanks to those participating on Committees. B. A convention critique was held and changes will be made next year. Some of the seminars will be repeated so that more people can attend. The memorial service may change. C. MSFA Retreat: Held for a weekend at Piney Point. Committees

met and brain stormed solutions to R & R, Funding, etc. D. The Trumpet will be changed by adding more action pictures. This should be available next month. E. The MSFA will seek raises to the 508 funding next year. It has not been increased since 1998. F. VoTech programs are increasing in the state. G. This will be a rough year for legislation because of many new legislators. It will be a training year. Helo replacement will be a big topic. He requested that all companies support legislation for replacement of the helicopters. H. Te residential sprinkler systems are gaining in the state. Doug and his committee are working to get jurisdictions to enact legislation. New construction only allows 10 minutes before collapse. Old construction allowed 20-25 minutes. I. Changes are being made to the web page. A calendar page will be added so that members can add their meeting and events to it. Each County should keep it up to date. J. The next executive committee will be in Oxford on November 5 & 6. Everyone is welcome.

John Latimer, Director DFES, reported the following: A. Each company must send a letter of certification concerning NIMS to the Director by the end of the year. If the County does not get a letter of certification, it may prevent the Company from receiving grants. B. NIMS Command class will be held soon with limited availability of slots. MINUTES: The minutes of the August were accepted as sent.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$180416.68. The gaming checks have been distributed.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PRESIDENT: The president reported: A. The BOCC has appointed an Emergency Service Fee Task Force which is working. Th president is a member of the task force. The first meeting was very productive. B. The Waynesboro Fire Department has requested the use of the Safety Trailer during Fire Prevention week. If any County companies

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want to use it that week, please notify Nancy at the office as soon as possible. Count companies get first choice.

1st VP: No report.

2nd VP: Legislative: A. Support the legislation to allow payment of volunteers responders during a national emergency. Volunteers were not allowed to respond to the south during the Katrina incident because there was nothing in place to allow payment of these people. B. Support the Emergency Responder Volunteer Efforts Act to allow a \$1000 tax credit for active volunteers. C. The Federal Government taxes LOSAP payments, and the state does not tax these payments. The federal government is considering not taxing the payments. Contact your legislators on all these items.

LOSAP: A. A meeting was held on Tuesday with the BOCC and the actuarial people reported that the fund is in very good shape. B. Payments will begin in January for people 62 with 25 or more years service. The payments will be made on the 15th of each month. C. Direct deposit will be available. D. Paperwork is due to the County by October 31, 2006. E. Pick up withholding forms from the office. Use the letter N when reporting the income on the Maryland State Tax forms. F. Report change of address or death of volunteer receiving benefits to the County immediately. G. LOSAP payments will be

made to volunteers at age 62 with 25 years service or at age 70 with any number of good years.

COMPUTER: A. FH software has been installed at all stations. Some people are having trouble transmitting. B. Several companies have not been transmitting their fire reports. Company 1 - May 1st - Present; Company 5 - April 1st - Present; Company 6 - April 1st - Present; Company 9 - May 1st - Present; Company 13 - Jan 1st - Present; Company 26 - Mar 1st - Present; Company 27 - Jan 1st - Present; HRA - May 1st - Present. No reports can be transmitted to the State Fire Marshal until all reports are complete.

CHAPLAIN: A. Leonard sent sympathy cards to Charles Sprecher, Company 7; Nancy Russell, Association office on the death of her mother; Howard L. Dorsey, Company 26. B. Get well cards were sent to Floyd Tressler, Eng 4; Tom Altman. Company 4; and Phil Ridenour, Company 13.

CHIEF OFFICERS: The President reported: A. A meeting was held on August 30 at Company 75. All companies except 12, 19 and 59 were represented. B. They heard a presentation about Children's Village. C. The Disaster Drill on September 23, was discussed. D. Brigitte has moved to the second floor of 33 West Washington St. E. Chief Mongan presented the first draft of the RIT guidelines. F. A motion to support DFES getting software to enable them to dispatch the closest company to all incidents was passed. G. All classes necessary to meet the County Officers' standards will be held. If there are not enough students the Association will pay for the class. H. Fire House software has been installed at all stations. As stated above some companies are behind with their data.

SATURDAY DISASTER DRILL: A. Brigitte reported that they are looking for more victims. Units will stage at the Maugansville Bible Brethren Church at 0700. B. DOT grants were approved for all that applied. Not all will receive the full amount applied for, but all will receive something.

FIRE POLICE: Harry Gossard showed the new coats purchased with a DOT grant. The Fire Police will have a float in the Mummies parade.

LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON: Col. Doug Mullendore reported: A. The Fire Police legislation will be resubmitted again next year. B. Bomb Threat notification procedures are being discussed. C. The Radio Communication System is progressing. The committee is working a full 2 days per week. The system is to be ready in May/June 2008 time frame.

AWARDS: Blaine reported that some information has been misfiled at the Association office.

PHOTO TEAM: Brian Stallings reported: A. Calendars are going to the publisher next week. They should be for sale around the end of November for \$10 each or 3/\$25. Bulk discounts will be available. B. The web site is being updated. C. They are considering a duty photographer concept. D. They will be at the Disaster Drill on Saturday and at a training burn at Company 11 in October. E. PAT tags are being developed. F. The next meeting will be on November 12. G. The web site is www.wcvfraphototeam.org

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS: Rick reported that all work is complete. There was an overrun of \$72. Quotes are being sought for a new roof and one additional awning.

TRAINING: Jay Grimes reported: A. Company 49 donated ambulance 495 for use at the Training Center. If the unit becomes surplus, it is to be returned to Company 49. B. All certified classes last year were free. This year \$17000 has been spent for classes to meet the Officer Standards. C. Requests for next year's classes are out. Get them returned as soon as possible. D. Classes that are not necessary for Officer standards that do not have

enough people will be cancelled.

PICNIC: The total cost of the picnic was \$3165 with \$720 worth of tickets not returned or used leaving a net cost of \$2445. The Committee will request that money be put into the budget for next year's picnic.

LEGISLATIVE: Glen Fishack reported: A. This year will have some heated races. There are 10 people running for five seats on the BOCC. Learn what each person will do for emergency services and vote accordingly.

OLD BUSINESS: A. Bids were received for each of the two surplus vehicles. A bid of \$335.00 for the green van,

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and a bid of \$301.10 for the Blue Pickup truck. Jay Grimes made a motion to accept the bids as submitted and the motion was seconded by Kitty Dorsey. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. B. It was reported that the copier at the office had been purchased for \$1.00 and a maintenance contract for \$530 has been executed.

NEW BUSINESS: A. Paul Hottinger made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Chief's Committee to support the DFES to purchase software to enable the dispatch of the closest Company to the incident scene and the motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 20 for, 1 opposed, and 3 abstentions. B. Jay Grimes made a motion to keep the existing gaming allocations to any two companies (one Fire and one Rescue/EMS) that merge/consolidate into one NEW Fire and Rescue/EMS Company. This would be calculated using the existing formula currently being used by the WCVFRA, which is to be distributed equally to all member companies; the NEW consolidated Company would receive two allocations. This would be the same amount received as if each company was still separate. This will encourage and not hinder merger/consolidations, which are usually in the best interest of the public. This will only be for gaming distributions received by the WCVFRA for distribution to member companies, and will not be used for any other member company distributions given to each company. In this instance, the NEW consolidated company will be treated as one, i.e., Senator Amos 508 Grant Funds. This motion was seconded by Brian Lowman. The motion passed on a roll call vote 20 for, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: A. The Fallen Firefighter Memorial will be held in Emmitsburg on October 6, 7, and 8. There will be 106 persons honored and help in Class A uniforms will be needed on Sunday. B. Jay thanked the Association for their support of the motion. C. Jason asked the Association to recognize Rick Hemphill for donating the Quik internet for the past several years. D. Director Latimer thanked the Association on behalf of the BOCC for the support of the motion. E. The President said a good friend of the Association, Rod Shoop, was retiring from the County. He suggested that the Companies send a letter of thanks to Mr. Shoop. F. Don Shumaker asked all to keep the Fales family in their prayers. Kurt Fales will be going for six months of treatments.

NEXT MEETING: the next meeting will be at Company 11 on October 19. November's meeting will be at Engine 4 on November 16 and the December meeting will be at

Company 7 on December 21.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Murray
Secretary