

WASHINGTON COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

The regular meeting of the Washington County Fire and Rescue Association was held on November 15, 2007, at Engine 4 hosted by Company 79.

The meeting was called to order by President Glenn Fuscick. Jason Baer gave the invocation and lead in the pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL - All member companies were present. All officers were present except the Assistant Secretary and Chaplain.

GUEST: Doyle Cox, MSFA Candidate for 2nd VP had several words for the Association and asked for their support next June.

Paul Sterling, President MSFA, gave the following report: A. Remember Leonard King who suffered a stroke two weeks ago. B. Since the Convention meetings have been held with Shock Trauma, State Police, MFRI, MIMESS, and with Legislative Leaders. C. MSFA is working to maintain the current funding levels. D. The Exec Committee is pursuing funding for the Executive Director's position. E. The moving Violation fines which add \$7.50 to each conviction is only collected if the person goes to court. A request to correct the law has been made to the legislative leaders. $\frac{1}{2}$ goes to the Aviation Replacement fund and $\frac{1}{2}$ goes to MSFA for the revolving loan fund. F. The Volunteer Company Assistance Fund is now administered by MEMA and there has been a problem with the applications being approved. This has been corrected and they are now accepting applications. The cap for each Company is \$250,000 per year. G. The Trustees Fund for Widows and Orphans has been updated. H. A Move-Over bill is being pursued. I. The Governor wants to increase to Income Subtraction Modification amount this year. J. MSFA is trying to get an amendment to the Slot's bill to include 5% for the fire service. K. The bill on Tip-Jars is probably dead. L. MSFA is working to change the law on requiring Fire Service vehicles to have two license plates. Also to allow amber lights on the rear of the vehicles. M. MSFA is trying to get funding for the unfunded mandate requiring volunteers to get physicals. N. MSFA is opposed to including NFPA 1403, concerning Live Burn Fires, in COMARS. O. If the National EMS Educations Standards are approved as written the requirements for EMT will go from 131 hours to 166/200 hours. P. The Executive Committee is recommending a dues increase from \$125 to \$200, which will be voted on at the next convention. Q. The next Executive Committee will be held in Ocean City on December 1-2. R. Betty Remy passed away, Fred Cross is fighting cancer, and Don Mooney has health problems.

Roger Bennett, MEMA West, offered the following report: A. A grant of \$500,000 has been received to construct 4/5 towers in Washington/Allegheny/Garrett counties. B. The state will receive about 200 generators from the military. DFES has requested some for Washington County. C. The Homeland Security Department has given Washington County a \$461,000 grant for interoperability. This money will be used for the new radio system. D. CEDAP Grants for 2008 can be requested for certain equipment. See www.rkb.mipt.org website for particulars.

Brigitte Heller, DFES, reported the following: A. Financial Statement have not been received from Companies 2, 26, 9, 1, 10, 79, 19, 69, and 29. County checks will be held if the reports are not submitted. B. Senator Amos Fund documentation is due at the Association office by November 26, 2007. C. Triage training will start in January. To schedule Company training contact Brigitte. D. Contact Skip or Nancy for provider ID numbers. Jennifer Barciz, Company 79, asked the Association to support her for Washington County Fire Prevention Queen. She has been a member of Company 79 for 4 years and has volunteered 24 hours per month. She is also in the military. The Association can hold a contest or sponsor someone. The state contest is in June at the Convention with a May 1 deadline for entering.

Gloria Schaffer, County Ladies Auxiliary President, reported the following: A. The Ladies meet 4 times per year. B. There are currently 6 Company in the County Auxiliary. C. The next meeting is the 1st Monday in December at Company 12. D. The ladies are interested in helping sponsor a Miss Fire Prevention. E. The county Ladies hold a raffle to help with the Hospitality Room and to help with goods for the Food Banks. F. The State Ladies sponsor the Bessie Marshall fund. This fund provides a one time check to help firefighters in need. Please buy raffle tickets to support this fund. G. Please push the \$10000 dollar raffle tickets for MSFA.

MINUTES: The minutes of the October meeting were accepted as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported a \$11482.30 balance in the checking account.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President: Glenn reported that a listing of all the Committees of the Association are included in the packets. Please contact the office if you are willing to serve on a committee during the next year.

2nd VP: Skip reported the following items: A. [Help@Work](#) has reported that some of the volunteers reporting for physicals are giving the personnel a hard time. This is not acceptable. If you have a problem report it to the Association office for resolution. B. The House of Representative has passed a bill to allow a \$360 per year

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exemption for monies received from LOSAP. This is not enough and your Representative should be contacted to increase this amount. C. A sheet with the LOSAP statistics is included in the packets. There are currently 2686 volunteers in the LOSAP. 106 volunteers are eligible for benefits in 2008.

Treasurer: The tax filings and report from the Auditors are complete. A copy of the audit report was filed with the Secretary.

Secretary: Forms for reporting New Officers and Delegates will be included in the packets next month. Please complete and return these forms as soon as possible, but no later than March 15, 2008. Please include as many email addresses as possible. This enables the Secretary and the Office to distribute information as quickly and inexpensively as possible.

Chaplain: Donny Koons is at Homewood for therapy and would like visitors. Tom Cochrane is at home recovering from an operation. John Hall is in the hospital. Harry Daviler of Engine 2 is having health problems. Bill Dietrich has had a cataract operation and is having some complications. John Spessard suffered a stroke and is in Julia Manor room 222.

Budget and Finance: Requests for next years budget are due by the end of November.

Computer: Equipment is being returned to be repaired and is showing signs of abuse. This equipment will not be returned and the Company responsible for the abuse will be charged for the replacement. An additional DSL line will be installed to handle the scanner. The scanner should be available online by next meeting.

Fire Police: The next meeting which will be the Christmas banquet will be held on December 12 at Company 12. A written report is available on the table.

Legislative: Glen Fishack thanked everyone who showed up to testify at the Committee meeting in Annapolis concerning the Tip-Jar bill.

Photo Team: The President requested that the team give wider representation in the County and to provide quicker turnaround of photos. An audit of the equipment of the team showed all assets in good order and complete.

Property: The heating and air conditioning has been worked on. The 2nd fit test package is in back in service. The Company responsible for damage to these kits in the future will be held responsible for repairs. It cost over \$600 to get this kit returned to service.

Standards: A complete set of Standards should be available to all Companies in December. The President wants to give this to all Companies as a Christmas present.

Training: A. The MSFA 10 Year Training Plan is available for each Company. Pick them up from Rick Blair. B. The Fire Officer I and the First Responder classes were able to get enough students to have then provided by MFRI at no cost to the Association. These classes are required to meet the County Officer Standards. The Association is committed to pay for these classes if there are not enough students. C. Dale Martin asked why the Fire Safety Officer class was not paid for at Mt. Aetna. Glenn said that the class was not required according to the standard. He is hoping that next year that the Chief's Committee will be able to set priorities for classes that are needed in the County that the Association could sponsor if class size was a problem. Dale advised that he understood the Association's position, but would write a letter explaining his Company's position.

Picnic: Dan Grove reported progress.

OLD BUSINESS: A. Elections for 2008-2009 were held. Each Company had one vote for each office. The following officers were elected: President - Glen Fishack; 1st VP - Clint Stouffer; 2nd VP - Skip Menzies; Secretary - Sam Murray; Assistant Secretary - Vacant; Treasurer - Rick Blair; Assistant Treasurer - Rick Hemphill; Chaplain - Leonard Horst. B. Steve Heefner of Company 26 requested a report on the EMS Plan presented to the BOCC. In particular if the Companies would be receiving fuel reimbursement. Glenn reported that the BOCC had accepted the Plan by consensus, but have not voted on the Plan. Money was included in the budget for the purchase of vehicles, for hiring personnel and for fuel reimbursement, but cannot be spent until a

vote is taken on the Plan. Glenn and others have tried to meet with the BOCC to answer any questions, but have not met as of this date. We are currently shut out as an Association level and Glenn suggested that members of the Association contact the members of the BOCC by email or telephone to ask that the Plan be approved. The Emergency Services Advisory Council at their last meeting sent a letter to the BOCC to take a vote on the Plan. Until the Plan is voted on do not expect any funds from the County. C. Blaine made a motion to destroy the ballots. The motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business was presented.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: A. The President congratulated Blaine Snyder on receiving an award from the Community Foundation. B. Blaine made a motion that if no other applications for Fire Prevention Queen are received by January 1, that the Association sponsor Jennifer Barciz. The motion was seconded by Kitty and passed. C. Phone, mail or email th BOCC to move on the EMS Plan.

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NEXT MEETING : NEXT MEETING ON DECEMBER 20, 2007 AT ENGINE 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Murray
Secretary