

Firefighting Content for Maryland & Beyond



VOLUME XIV: ISSUE II

VOLUNTEER TRUMPET

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

**FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT
BEGINNING AND THE END
"Great Salisbury Fire of 1886"
WHO ARE THE MSFA TRUSTEES?**





Contents:

- Page 1: Fire Grants and Safety Act
- Page 2: Editor's Corner
- Page 3-4: MSFA News
- Page 5: Beginning and the End
- Page 6: Kids Corner
- Page 7: Legacy Donations - Scholarship Fund
- Page 8-9: Great Salisbury Fire of 1886 - Chip's Logbook
- Page 10: Who are the MSFA Trustees?

On July 9, 2024, President Biden signed into law the Fire Grants and Safety Act (S.870). After two years of advocacy by CFSI and our National Advisory Committee members, the AFG and SAFER grant programs will continue to be able to deliver vital

federal support to fire departments across the nation and enable them to address their baseline needs. Specifically, this bill:

- Reauthorizes the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs through fiscal year 2028,
- Reauthorizes the U.S. Fire Administration through fiscal year 2028, and
- Extends the sunset date for AFG and SAFER to September 30, 2030.

The path to reauthorization adds new meaning to the quote, "United we stand, divided we fall." Working together, CFSI, our National Advisory Committee members, leaders of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and committees of jurisdiction, and other members of Congress built support for the legislation, which is why the measure achieved strong bipartisan support in both chambers.

While the legislative path for a bill to become a law can appear relatively straightforward, it is never smooth and requires constant, sustained, and coordinated effort. In this instance, the fire service remained persistent, staying the course and never relenting until the bill became law. The collaboration between the national organizations and many members of Congress cannot be understated and was essential in moving this bill forward, despite a series of hurdles.

Credit: cfsi.org/afg-safer-usfa-reauthorization-bill-signed-into-law/



Editor's Corner



The focus of my twelfth presentation will be on the subjects of **communication, expectations, and time commitments**. Within the volunteer fire service, we frequently express dissatisfaction with the subpar level of communication between individuals and the ineffective communication and collaboration between generations.

In my professional opinion, the challenges faced by our department are a result of misalignment between departmental leadership and membership expectations. It is essential that all volunteers, regardless of their rank, have clearly defined expectations and guidelines for their duties. Without this clarity, it is unreasonable to expect volunteers to perform their duties effectively. Furthermore, I believe that our departmental meetings are often inefficient and time-consuming. In today's fast-paced society, where individuals are juggling multiple commitments such as work, family, and education, it is crucial that we respect their time. Spending excessive time discussing trivial matters, such as snacks for the day room, detracts from the purpose of these meetings. Instead, we should focus on streamlining our processes and ensuring that meetings are productive and efficient. While I cannot speak for my entire generation, I believe that weekend meetings with extensive reports are outdated and inefficient. With the advent of email and social media, we have more effective means of communication and collaboration. We should leverage these technologies to simplify our processes and improve our overall efficiency.

Because this section of the newsletter is meant to share ideas and start conversations, I want to hear from the readership new topics that I should cover and ways that we can work on expanding the readership of the Trumpet. If you want me to write about an issue, please send ideas to Jonathan Dayton at jonathan.m.dayton@gmail.com. About the Editor: Jonathan is a volunteer Firefighter/EMT serving Allegany County, MD. MSFA Committee Chairperson, Assistant Secretary, Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire Rescue Association Past President, President and Public Information Officer, Member of the Maryland Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council, and Nation Fire Service Speaker and Educator. Jonathan holds an associate's degree in Fire Science and bachelor's and master's degrees.

Jonathan

-FIND THE LEAF-

We're back with the "FIND THE ____ Challenge" for this month! This time you are tasked with finding the camp fire (to the right), hidden somewhere throughout this issue. Starting on **November 1st**, once you find it you must email Stephen Jenkins (sjenkins@msfa.org). It can be located on ANY page EXCEPT the front and back cover, and they will not be all together. The first correct person to discover the truck will win the opportunity to submit one free 1/4 page ad!



MSFA News

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. If you need immediate support with a suicidal, mental health, and/or substance use crisis, Call 988 for the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

In addition, SAMHSA's National Helpline is available at 1-800-662-HELP (4357), and the Crisis Text Line is available by texting HOME to 741741.

The MSFA Donation Campaign link is now LIVE! Click on the following link to donate and to share! Donations help support the many programs of the MSFA. All donations are tax-deductible. <https://givebutter.com/acNFtS>
SAFER Training Reimbursement Grant for the November VCOS Symposium in the Sun in Clearwater, FL (November 14 – 17th) has just 3 slots remaining! Send the attached application to KLoveless@mfsa.org if you are interested in attending.

SAFER Retention and Recruitment Officer Courses Open for Registration Space is limited. <https://missioncit.com/maryland-state-firemens-association-retention-and-recruitment-officer/> NEXT WKND

- September 14-15 Upper Eastern Shore MFRI Centreville
 - October 5-6 Western Maryland MFRI Cumberland
 - October 19-20 Lower Eastern Shore MFRI Princess Anne
 - October 26-27 Northern MD Fred County Pub Safety Train Facility
 - November 2-3 Mid-State MFRI College Park
-
- This SAFER-funded two-day workshop takes a retention-first approach to help participants evaluate the type of environment they're inviting potential members into and offers keen insight and process improvement from the moment of inquiry to application and acceptance and through the onboarding phase. -NOTE: To ensure a personalized experience, the course will be open to 24 attendees per region (and limited to two people per department), so be sure to register early!
 - Mileage will be reimbursed for all attendees traveling 50+ miles one way.
 - Lodging will also be reimbursed for one night up to \$175 for those traveling 75+ miles one way.

SAFER Training Announcement:

The Art of Reading Smoke presented by Phillip Jose, Deputy Chief (Ret.), Seattle Fire Department. This class will be held at the four locations listed below;

- Sept 28: Cordova VFD <https://www.mfri.org/register/SEM-144-S001-2025/seminars>
- Sept 29: Washington CTC <https://www.mfri.org/register/SEM-144-S002-2025/seminars>
- Oct 5: Aberdeen VFD <https://www.mfri.org/register/SEM-144-S003-2025/seminars>
- Oct 6: Hollywood VFD <https://www.mfri.org/register/SEM-144-S004-2025/seminars>

Contact Training Chair Tim Delehanty with any questions: Chief9a@hotmail.com

Printed Materials Now Available! The updated MSFA Recruitment and Retention Guidelines Manual and Cadet Program Sample Guidelines will be mailed to all Departments in the coming weeks, so be on the lookout!

2024 Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Annual Gala

September 28, 2024; 1800 hrs. Double Tree, Annapolis, MD. Tickets: \$70 each or \$700 for a table. For tickets, sponsorships, or questions, please email mdmemorialgala@gmail.com. Tickets must be paid for in advance.

MSFA News Continued

Registration is Now Open for **Maryland Weekend** at the NFA! February 22-23, 2025. The 2025 brochure and registration application are located here:

<https://zone.mfri.org/izone/schedule/export/file/SEM/119/S001/2025>

2025 SAVE THE DATES

- March 22, 2025 - Public Fire and Life Safety Seminar, 0800-1700; MFRI Headquarters, College Park, MD

NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System) is Coming! Effective January 1, 2026, all U.S. fire service incident reporting will occur through NERIS, and departments will no longer input data into NFIRS. This webinar, released May 6th, 2024, by the USFA and FSRI,

- <https://vimeo.com/932930106/831a83e3bc?share=copy> shares updates about onboarding timelines, how to sign up to be an early adopter, and the upcoming Beta Data Schema. For more information on NERIS and how to prepare your department, visit <https://fsri.org/programs/neris>

MSFA Committee Meeting Dates/Notices:

*All Committee Chairs: Please send any upcoming meeting/training dates to KLoveless@msfa.org so they can be posted in the weekly reports. Please also send any requests to use the MSFA Zoom link at least two weeks prior to your meeting.

- The Fire Police Committee will be meeting on September 21, 2024, at 1100 hrs at the Frederick County Law Enforcement Center, 110 Airport Drive East, Frederick, MD 21704
- The Volunteer Trumpet Committee is looking for contributors! Are you a subject matter expert in health and wellness, firefighter safety, recruitment, and retention, or do you just have a cool story to share? Contact Trumpet Editor: Jonathon Dayton jonathan.m.dayton@gmail.com
- The Cancer Support Committee would like to assist any Maryland volunteer fire, rescue, or emergency medical services personnel who are facing a battle with cancer. We want to provide a gift card that can be utilized to help offset fuel costs or purchase needed supplies. You can submit a request through this form: <https://tinyurl.com/382scb7a/>

Upcoming Training:

- October 8, 2024: U.S. Fire Administrator's Summit on Fire Prevention & Control NFA, Emmitsburg, MD. Registration Open: <https://mbandco.swoogo.com/usfa2024summit/begin>
- November 2-3, 2024; Two-Day OC FOOLS Hands-On Training; Sudlersville VFC. 0800-1500 hrs both days. I'll be sure to follow more info. Contact for training: Jason Bloom, OC FOOLS
- November 3-4, 2024; 65th Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference; BWI Airport Marriott Hotel; Registration Open: <https://www.midatlanticlifesafetyconference.com/>
- Shock Trauma/UMMC Stop the Bleed Training Host a Free Class for Your Community at Your Firehouse. Register here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7a13c6b88ae14c2b9b4d949837c1f9ce?>
- Would you be interested in serving on an MSFA committee? Submit your interest here: <https://www.msfa.org/committees/interest-form/>

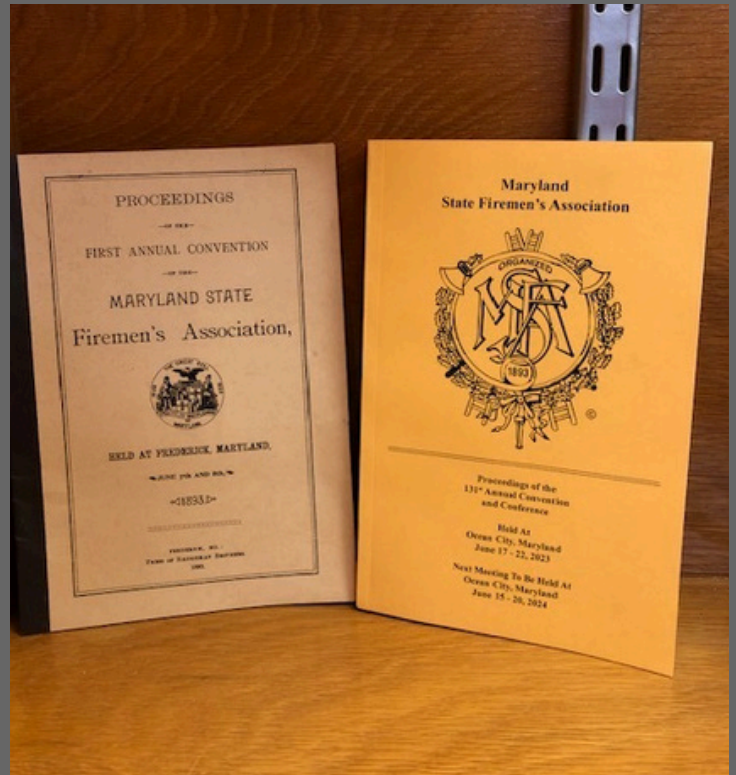
President Carey has announced the dates and locations of the 2024-2025 Executive Committee Meetings:

- December 14-15, 2024; Berlin VFC; Worcester County
- February 22-23, 2025; Ridge VFC; St. Mary's County
- April 26-27, 2025; Midland VFC; Allegany County

Beginning and the End Clarence "Chip" Jewell

Vice-Chairman Historical and Archives Committee

Pictured is the very first proceedings book of the Maryland State Firemen's Association held in Frederick in 1893 and the last proceedings book that contains the last complete convention of the Maryland State Firemen's Association held in 2023. The 2024 MFSA Convention was held as the Maryland State Firemen's Association for Monday Tuesday and Wednesday called to order as the very first session of the Maryland State Firefighters Association. These books are displayed together at the Frederick County Fire & Rescue Museum in Emmitsburg.



**I LIVE IT.
I RESPECT IT.
I PROTECT IT.**

Scott Cain

26 years firefighting
8 years in insurance

vfis.com/scott
800.233.1957





KIDS CORNER

Hey kids! Fire Dog Spotty has a **WORD SEARCH CHALLENGE** for you! Can you find all the words hidden in the letters below?



Word Search



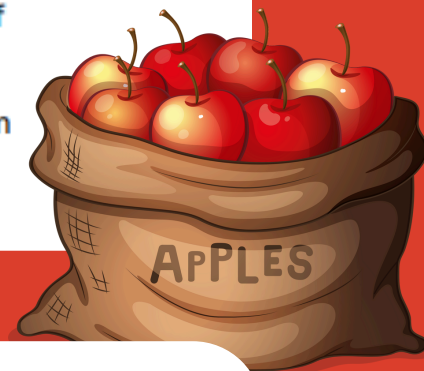
V A P P L E S S D I O Q V Z E
P W H N N D S W E A T E R R G
P H L L C Z H U B O Z H Z W W
Q T I A E V O E F C M K C F N
L F H A Q A V J K I P C B A Z
F J X A W Q F N G E W P L L H
C V K I N T U R K E Y U A L U
T I O Y T K J H D U G M N U D
B E N L M L S H L I O P K S X
G A T N U T W G Y J S K E J D
Q N L R A N E S I D X I T M Q
O X F A E M T K Z V R N X R R
A Z X D R N O E E B I A R J K
F H U W C M L N E X Q N N T R
R C U T R H E G U R V H G T O

Thanksgiving
Pumpkin
Sweater

Volunteer
Hydrant
Turkey

Cinnamon
Blanket
Apples

Leaf
Fall
Alarm



The answers will be printed in the next issue!

Legacy Donations to the Scholarship Fund can help secure the future of our Volunteer Fire and EMS Services.

Did you know that you, or your company, can now make Legacy Donations to the Scholarship Fund? This is a great way for you to show support for your members that support your company, and your community. Scholarships are a terrific tool to have in your recruitment and retention toolbox and can help us to get members to accomplish our fire service mission.

Legacy Donations can be made in the memory of past members, or in honor of present members. Think about the history of your department, and the individuals that were instrumental in the formation of your fire company. This is a great way to honor their memory. Or, there may have been members that were responsible for the building or equipment that you have used in the past or continue to use today. Also, consider some of your members that have done, or continue to do so much for your fire company. This is also a great way to remember or honor loved ones.

You may also want to think about making a donation in memory of, or in honor of, an individual that has contributed to the advancement of the fire service in the State of Maryland. This could be someone that held a position with the Maryland State Firefighters Association.

Legacy Donations can be made annually or on a one-time basis. All Legacy Donations will be listed in the MSFA Convention book showing the name of the donor, the name of the person (including their title if appropriate) being honored, or in memory of, and the amount of the Legacy Donation.

Individual Legacy Donations may be made at the following levels:

- Chief \$1,000
- Deputy Chief \$ 750
- Captain \$ 500
- Lieutenant \$ 250



Larger Legacy Donations from Individuals, Corporations, and Non-profit Organizations are also welcomed.

Level of Sponsorship

- Gold \$4,000 - \$5,000
- Silver \$3,000 - \$4,000
- Bronze \$2,000 - \$3,000

Which ever level you go for, Legacy, Gold, Silver, or Bronze, the students that your helping will appreciate your kind help, and know you appreciate their efforts they give to your organization.

Support your local volunteer fire company! Feel free to submit department events to sjenkins@msfa.org; we can't publish everything in the Trumpet, but we would be happy to share on social media!



**Chip's Firehouse Logbook
October 2024
Volunteer Trumpet
Great Salisbury Fire of 1886**

By Chief Clarence "Chip" Jewell

Some of the largest fires in our nation's history have occurred in the month of October. The Great Chicago Fire literally destroyed the Mid-West thriving center of commerce. The fire killed approximately 300 people and covered an area of about 4 square miles destroying 17,000 buildings. As fire raged in Chicago, an enormous forest fire was racing through the timberland surrounding the town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin. This fire burned over 1,800 square miles (roughly the size of Carroll, Frederick and Howard Counties) and destroyed 12 different communities. Estimates of as many as 2,500 people may have been killed. Both of these fires occurred on October 8, 1871. These tragic fires brought forth the dedication of the week around October 8 as Fire Prevention Week. For more information on the Great Chicago and Peshtigo fires see my article in the October, 2020 issue of the Volunteer Trumpet.

In Maryland, another great city was destroyed by fire in the month of October. The Great Salisbury Fire occurred on October 17 - 18 in 1886. Though smaller in size and fortunately no lives lost, this fire also nearly devastated a growing city that was rapidly becoming the crown jewel of the Eastern Shore.

To fully understand the fire in 1886, it is necessary to review another fire that destroyed Salisbury just prior to the Civil War. Then considered in Somerset County, Salisbury was a town of about 500 people and rapidly growing as a port and center of trade. On August 18, 1860, a fire destroyed over 40 buildings leveling the growing community along the Wicomico River. The fire was suspected to be incendiary in

nature, typical of many fires in the pre-Civil War era. The fire destroyed stores owned by proprietors Rider and Toadvine, Buekhead, Dashiels as well as Bush's Hotel. The fire also destroyed the only fire protection in the town, a small hand pumper.

This fire did not keep the people of Salisbury down as the town was rebuilt and continued to grow, ultimately becoming the county seat of the newly formed Wicomico County. But, the means of rebuilding of the town greatly contributed to the nearly complete destruction of Salisbury in another fire in 1886. With an abundance of wood on the Eastern Shore, essentially every building built in Salisbury was a wooden structure.

In 1872, funds were raised by public subscription to purchase a small hand drawn fire engine. On August 28, 1879, the Salisbury Fire Department was officially born. Dr. L. S. Bell was elected the first fire chief. The fire department purchased a modern Silsby steam pumper for a cost of \$4,100. However, for whatever reason, the engine was not well maintained.

At approximately 7PM on Sunday, August 28, 1886, the church bell atop the St. Peter's Episcopal Church was ringing, not to summon parishioners to Sunday evening church service,

but rather to alert the community of a fire. A fire had erupted in the stables of S. Frank Toadvine on East Camdem St. near the Wicomico River docks.

The fire company was summoned and responded with the Silsby engine. The engine failed to operate and was unable to throw water through a hose. Two months prior to the fire in 1886, the city board had directed the fire chief to get the engine repaired and put into serviceable condition. A newspaper account after fire advised the engine was rusted and useless at the scene of the fire. It was noted if the engine had been in working condition the fire could have most likely contained to the building of origin.

The fire was fed by a brisk wind and soon spread to additional structures. The flames spread to the stables of John Bennett on Dock Street and to the large double stables of T. W. Seabrease also along Dock St. The flames rapidly spread along Dock St. to Main St. where fire consumed buildings on both sides of the street. The flames reached the bridge and up Mill St. to the large lumber yard of E.E. Jackson.

The Baltimore Sun described the fire, "The streets were filled with frightened men, women and children hurrying to

and fro, endeavoring to save what little they could from destruction. Children, paralyzed with fright, were screaming in their mothers' arms, and nothing could pacify them." The fire essentially destroyed the entire business district of Salisbury as well as 58 private residences.

The fire raged with little to stop the spread except hastily organized bucket brigades. An urgent call for assistance went out to surrounding communities. Most fire departments of today did not exist in Wicomico or Worcester Counties. Pocomoke City and Crisfield had each purchased new Clapp and Jones steam pumpers in 1885. Both communities loaded their new Clapp and Jones engines on rail cars and responded to assist Salisbury. Crisfield was requested at approximately 7:30PM and arrived by train in Salisbury by 9:30PM.

Railroads played a critical role in early "mutual aid" responses. The engine from Pocomoke City was transported on the Worcester and Somerset Railroad to Newtown Junction where it joined the Eastern Shore Railroad to be transported to Salisbury. The Crisfield engine was pushed and pulled to the loading ramp by hand, to the Pine Street Station where it was loaded onto a flat car of the Eastern Shore Railroad and transported directly to Salisbury. The Eastern Shore Railroad ran from Crisfield to Delmar where it joined the Delaware Railroad. At least one engine from Wilmington, DE traveled on this line to provide assistance in Salisbury.

When the Crisfield steamer arrived in Salisbury, it was placed at Humphrey's pond to draft water which was delivered up the street to the newly constructed Courthouse of the recently established Wicomico County. Crisfield firefighters gathered up rugs, blankets and sheets that were soaked with water and placed on the roof of the building to extinguish embers blowing from the center of the fire in the lower part of town. Their actions saved the new county courthouse, one of the few buildings that remained standing intact after the fire. The fire was finally stopped on Main St. and at the Wicomico River to the west,

Division St. to the south and Church St. to the north. When Salisbury rebuilt, the town fathers would not allow wooden structures to be built, thus hopeful the help eliminate another potential disastrous fire.

Only brick and stone was allowed. According to an article in the Baltimore Sun on June 7, 1887, the Main St. businesses were exclusively built with brick. A detailed report of the buildings being constructed on both sides of the street indicate a new business district without any wooden structures. The estimated construction cost at the time was \$125,000. In addition, new private homes were being built in stone and brick. Another unique feature was a concrete sidewalk being installed along Main Street.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, the location that sounded the first alarm of fire, was itself totally destroyed and collapsed into a burning pile of rubble. The 700lb bell was cracked and soon restored by the congregation. In 1888, the church "loaned" the bell to be installed in the tower of the Wicomico County Courthouse. In 1996, 108 years after the church was destroyed, the Wicomico Council agreed to return the bell to its rightful owner and today the magnificent bell is back in the steeple of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Salisbury..

The 1886 fire in Salisbury is most probably the second largest fire of a city in Maryland after the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904. Though many communities suffered large fires, no fires I have researched have been as large as Baltimore and Salisbury. It is interesting to note, MSFA President "Skip" Carey started his firefighting career in Salisbury. Information for this article was retrieved on-line from several sources, not an interview with President Carey. Contrary to popular belief, President Skip did not fight the Great Salisbury Fire of 1886, but maybe fed the horses!. Make every day of every week Fire Prevention Week!!

BE SAFE
CHIP

The recent Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association meeting on 7-29-2024 at Newburg Rescue and Fire Department, Newburg, MD.



Who are the MSFA Trustees, and what do they do?

By Trustees Chair Jeff Clements

This is a question we hear far too often. The MSFA Trustees are five persons elected from the member companies of the MSFA, who are there to administer the line of duty injury and death benefits to member company personnel that are injured in the line of duty or death benefits to the surviving family of a member that died in the line of duty. The members of the Trustees are elected for a five-year term; thus, one Trustee is elected each year at the annual convention and conference. The funds for the Trustee benefits come from the State of Maryland budget each year. They are earmarked for the specific purpose of assisting volunteer fire, rescue, and EMS service personnel injured in the line of duty or assisting the families of personnel killed in the line of duty. The definition of "line of duty" injury or death is defined in the Annotated Code of Maryland Article 7-202 through 7-204, and each application for assistance must adhere to this definition.

The MSFA Trustees meet at or before each Executive Committee meeting and, as needed, to review any

applications that have been submitted for benefits. The forms are checked for complete and accurate information. The content is checked for applicability and qualification. Benefits for a line of duty injuries can be short-term or long-term. Death benefits are not only for surviving spouses, but dependent children as well. There is also a benefit for the college education of surviving dependent children. All types of applications must be considered and approved for each claim.

Currently, The Chair of the Trustees is Jeff Clements from Potomac Heights, Tommy Mattingly from Leonardtown is the Vice Chair, Theresa Collins from Savage is the Trustee Secretary/Treasurer T. R. "Robbie" Blackiston from Sudlersville and Joel McCrea from Long Green fill out the Board of Trustees. The Trustees are available to assist a member company in applying for benefits at any time. If anyone should have a question on whether someone is eligible for benefits from the Trustees, or needs assistance with an application, please get in touch with one of the Trustees for assistance. All requirements and forms needed to file a claim are on the www.msfa.org website on the Trustees page.

SMOKE ALARMS

Make Them **WORK For You!**[™]



fpw.org

©2024 National Fire Protection Association | Sparky[®] is a trademark of NFPA



The Volunteer Trumpet

**A publication of the Maryland State
Firefighters Association**

www.msfa.org

Editor-In-Chief Jonathan Dayton

P.O. Box 3020

LaVale, MD 21504

Stephen Jenkins

Social Media & Marketing Manager

Skip Carey

President

Happy Halloween!



linktr.ee/MSFA1

***THE MISSION OF THE MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION IS TO SERVE,
PROMOTE, ADVOCATE, AND REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE,
RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF MARYLAND.***