

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

-a 501(c)3 Organization

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel

Weekly Report 2/8/25

Upcoming MSFA Executive Committee Meeting: February 22-23, 2025; Ridge VFC - St. Mary's County

A Notice from the Secretary's Office

-President Carey has scheduled his February Executive Committee Meeting of the Maryland State Firefighters Association for Saturday and Sunday, February 22 & 23, 2025. The meeting will be at the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., 13820 Point Lookout Road, Ridge, MD. The meeting will be called to order promptly at 9:00 a.m.

-For those desiring to stay overnight, arrangements have been made at Sleep Inn & Suites, 23428 Three Notch Road, California, MD. A block of rooms is being held for MSFA at a reduced rate. Each individual is responsible for making their own arrangements. For reservations, call 301-737-7244. Rooms are \$112.00 per night plus tax, using code "Maryland State Fire Association".

-A "Welcome Reception" has been planned for Friday evening, February 21st, at the Hotel between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

-Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary advised that there will be a Hot Breakfast and Hot Lunch on Saturday, February 22 for a fee and will provide a Hot Breakfast on Sunday, February 23."

REMINDER: All Committee Chairs must have their reports in for the February meeting at least a week prior to the meeting. Send to report@msfa.org or reports@msfa.org.

The Weekly "Did You Know?"

Did you know that the MSFA Award Committee offers over 25 awards and 8 certificates of recognition that you can nominate your members for? Recognizing your members for their hard work and dedication as well as milestone years of service and top responders is an effective retention tool, makes your members feel appreciated, and more importantly, a great way to say Thank You!

Visit <https://msfa.org/awards/> and <https://msfa.org/honors/recognition-certs/> to view the available awards and how to submit your nominations.

CONVENTION 2025: The 1st Mail out is on its way to all Departments!

Visit <https://convention.msfa.org/> for up-to-date info regarding Department Credentials, Awards, Exhibiting, Sponsorships, and Hotel information.

-The **MSFA Scholarship Application Period** is OPEN! Visit <https://msfa.org/resources/scholarship/> for more information on available scholarships for your fire service volunteers to assist with continuing education costs. There is also information on how you or your department can donate to the MSFA Volunteer Fire and EMS Continuing Education Fund.

-The **MSFA VCAF Application Period** is OPEN! Visit <https://msfa.org/committees/financial-branch/vcaf/> for more information on VCAF and how to apply. Please note that companies applying for a VCAF loan must be in the pre-contract phase of their acquisition process. Companies that have already signed a contract for the project (apparatus and/or equipment) are ineligible to apply for a

VCAF loan. For more on this important update and the current schedule for loans, please visit <https://msfa.org/an-important-message-from-the-msfa-vcaf-committee/>

MSFA Online Directory The MSFA is working on implementing an online, secure directory to be placed on the website. If you are currently listed in the directory and wish to OPT OUT of the online version, which will only consist of emails and phone numbers (no addresses), please fill out and submit this form **no later than March 1st**: <https://msfa.org/msfa-online-directory-opt-out-form/>

-Is your Department “NERIS-Ready”? Beginning this month, NERIS will undergo a 12-month nationwide rollout, eventually replacing the legacy National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) as the primary reporting tool for fire and emergency response for the nation’s approximately 27,000 fire departments.” –FSRI Keep up to date on how and when it will impact your department here: <https://fsri.org/programs/neris>

Training Sponsorships:

-The MFCA is sponsoring 15 MD volunteer fire service individuals to attend the **March 2-7, 2025 - National Fire Service Staff and Command** in Annapolis, MD. Register here:

<https://www.mfri.org/register/MGTS-301-R002-2025/seminars>

Reimbursement will be for \$2,075/pp which includes UP TO 6 nights lodging or \$1,355/pp without lodging. All class materials, refreshments, and off-site activities are included.

[Training-and-Conference-Scholarship-Request-Form.pdf](#)

Please email this request to attend to scholarships@mdchief.org

- The MFCA is sponsoring 20 MD Volunteer fire service personnel to attend the **March 8-9, 2025 - John W. Hoglund Maryland Officers Seminar** at the Universities at Shady Grove.

Register here: <https://www.mfri.org/register/MGTS-302-S003-2025/seminars> . Reimbursements will be for a two-night stay and mileage for those traveling more than 50 miles one way at \$.70/cents per mile.

Upcoming In Person Training:

-**February 22-23, 2025 - Maryland Weekend at the NFA** The 2025 brochure and registration application are located here: <https://zone.mfri.org/izone/schedule/export/file/SEM/119/S001/2025>

-**March 2-7, 2025 - National Fire Service Staff and Command** DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Annapolis. Register here: <https://www.mfri.org/register/MGTS-301-R002-2025/seminars>

-**March 8-9, 2025 - John W. Hoglund Maryland Officers Seminar** The Universities at Shady Grove, <https://www.mfri.org/register/MGTS-302-S003-2025/seminars>.

-**March 22, 2025 - Public Fire and Life Safety Seminar**, 0800-1700; MFRI Headquarters, College Park, MD Registration will open soon.

-**March 24-25, 2025 - 1st Responder Conference: 1st Responder Mental Health & Wellness**; Co-hosts: Behind the Line, Inc./ Worcester County Sheriff’s Office. Ashore Resort & Beach Club, OC MD

MSFA Committee Meeting Dates/Notices:

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

-**TOMORROW - The Safety Committee** will be meeting Sunday, February 9, 2025 at SHA Hanover Complex Blvd, Hanover, MD from 1100-1400 and again on May 4, 2025 at the Sudlersville VFC 1100-1400. Contact Chair Jon Black with any questions at cdrb2115@comcast.net

The **Recruitment and Retention Committee** will be meeting virtually on February 11th at 1900 hours. Contact Chair Bridget Weishaar at ivt1308@msn.com for the zoom link.

-The **Volunteer Trumpet Committee** is always looking for contributors! Are you a subject matter expert in Health and Wellness, Firefighter Safety, Recruitment and Retention or just have a cool story to share? Contact Trumpet Editor: Jonathon Dayton jonathan.m.dayton@gmail.com

Upcoming Virtual Sessions from the NVFC:

-February 13, 2025; 1400 hrs - **NVFC Webinar - Essentials of Volunteer Retention & Recruitment**
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VHqUYcZbRGKOy0SJ8K2Atw#/registration

-February 20, 2025; 1900 hrs - **R&R Coffee Talk: Leadership**
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsfuisqDsrH9GVN-3T_RdsguyWH-4M0-wt#/registration

-NVFC Training Summit: Travel stipends are still available for the NVFC Training Summit, which takes place June 20-21 in Salt Lake City, UT. Those who apply for a stipend by March 1 will be notified by March 20 and those who apply by the final deadline of April 1 will be notified by April 20. Stipends reimburse up to \$800 of eligible conference expenses, including travel, hotel, and the registration fee. <https://nvfc.swoogo.com/2025nvfcsummit>

LAMSFA NEWS

BESSIE MARSHALL - Any member of a company or department in good standing with the Maryland State Firefighters Association who is sick or injured (NOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY OR DEATH BENEFIT) and thereby incapacitated, may be entitled to weekly benefits. Approval will depend on compliance with the application requirements. Info here: <https://msfa.org/lamsfa/resources/>

LAMSFA Spring Conference

April 5, 2025 – Parsonsburg Volunteer Fire Company

**2025 Scheduled Executive Committee Dates:
April 26-27, 2025; Midland VFC; Allegany County**

MSFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BY COUNTY:

Allegany/Garrett	Tim Dayton	daytontd22@gmail.com
Anne Arundel	Ron Block	blockntackle@comcast.net
Baltimore	Doug Simpkins, Jr.	dougsimpkins350@gmail.com
Calvert/Charles/St. Mary's	Randy Smith	firehouseblues56@yahoo.com
Carroll/Howard	PP Mark Bilger (Vice Chair)	mbilger@miemss.org
Dorchester/Talbot	Bob Phillips	rfcchief48@gmail.com
Frederick	Chip Jewell	cjecc171@comcast.net
Harford/Cecil	PP Steve Cox	msfa96@gmail.com
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Prince George's	Lee Lutz	leelutz49@gmail.com
Queen Anne's/Kent/Caroline	Malcolm Faust (Vice Chair)	ssgbabyduck@atlanticbb.net
Somerset/Wicomico/Worcester	PP Roger Steger (Chair)	rsteeger21842@gmail.com
Washington	Dale Fishack	chiefringgold@aol.com

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