

The following awards were presented:

Leslie B. Thompson Award / Sponsored by Chestertown VFD & Damascus VFD

Last year – awarded to Bill Barnard

Nominees:

Hugh Owens

Robert Small

Deborah Wilden

Awarded to Robert Small of the Clinton VFD

Perry Award (official) President's Award

Awarded to Jackie Olsen for all of the close-out work completed.

Awarded to Hugh Owens for all of his various efforts.

MFCA Trustee Awards:

Rich Hemphill – trustee award

Roger Steger – trustee award

Terry Thompson – trustee award

Kara Small – trustee award

Jackie Olsen – trustee award

Harve Woods - trustee award

Secretary Pete Mellits addressed relative business items noted in the previous Executive Board minutes.

Pete spoke for Bill Barnard, referring to the OSFM report provided.

Harve Woods spoke about the successes and defeats relative to the 2009 Legislative Session.

Harve stressed the importance of working with area politicians.

Elections: All positions were voted to remain the same – unanimous.

Announcements:

Next MFCA meeting will be in Chestertown, Maryland (VFD) on August 9, 2009.

Help will be needed in Ocean City / MSFA Convention – booth set up.

Kara Small stated that the new seals are available.

Kara Small discussed the need for updating membership information, addresses and email addresses.

Office of the State Fire Marshal – April 19, 2009 Report to the MFCA as prepared by the OSFM

Mr. President, members of the *Maryland Fire Chiefs Association*, it is my pleasure to present to you this report on the activities and events pertaining to the Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal since the last meeting of the Association.

- ❖ **OSFM Staff Positions** – Currently, the OSFM has eight full time vacant positions; six Deputy State Fire Marshals, one Fire Safety Inspector, and one Fire Protection Engineer. Effective June 30, 2009, one contractual Fire Safety Inspector has notified the OSFM that he will not be renewing his contract. It will be necessary to request a hiring freeze exemption to fill this position, which is paid by funding provided by DHMH and DHR.
- ❖ **Fire Deaths – Update** – The 2009 fire death total for the year, stands at 23. During the same time period last year there were 21 fire deaths.

The 2009 Fire Deaths by jurisdiction are as follows:

Baltimore City – 8
Baltimore County – 5
Cecil County – 2
Fredrick County – 1
Howard County – 1
Kent County – 1
Prince George's – 2
Washington County – 3

- ❖ **MFIRS** – Several fire departments and/or counties are not submitting MFIRS reports to the OSFM in a timely manner. MFIRS reports for each month should be forwarded to the OSFM by the tenth day of the following month. Please continue to remind all fire departments of the importance of submitting accurate and timely MFIRS reports to the OSFM.

- ❖ **Legislation** – *House Bill 1532 – State Fire Marshal – Fire Sprinkler Contractors*

The Departmental Bill passed on the last day of session, April 13, 2009. This Bill closes a loophole in the fire sprinkler contractor law that currently allows a licensed contractor to sub-contract fire sprinkler work to non-licensed contractors.

Many other Bills of interest were monitored throughout the session including *House Bill 14- Environment – Brominated Flame Retardants – Decabrominated Diphenyl Ether – Prohibition*. Unfortunately, these bills both failed in the Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs (EHEA) Committee.

- ❖ **Fire Sprinkler Update** – Chief Fire Protection Engineer, Dennis Gentzel is making a presentation to the Eastern Meter Management Association at WSSC Headquarters in Laurel Thursday, April 16, 2009. Additionally, CFPE Gentzel will be making a presentation at the NFPA Conference in Chicago on June 7, 2009, concerning the success of the Maryland Residential Fire Sprinkler Program.

Report of the State Fire Marshal

April 19, 2009

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- ❖ **NFPA Training Classes** -- On Tuesday, April 7th and April 8th, 2009, the OSFM in partnership with the Anne Arundel County Fire Department and National Fire Protection Association sponsored two one-day training programs for fire code officials on NFPA13 – Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems. The National Fire Protection Association provided the instructors and course materials, Anne Arundel County Fire Department provided the training facilities and the OSFM conducted the registration. Nearly 150 fire code officials attended the training program, including about 25 personnel from the OSFM office.

NFPA 25 training will be held on May 12th and May 13th, 2009, at the Earleigh Heights Fire Station in Severna Park. Jim Lake from NFPA will be the instructor. It is anticipated that 150 fire code officials will attend this program as well.

During the week of August 17, 2009, there will be three one-day classes on the 2009 editions of NFPA 1 and 101 for experienced fire code officials. During the week of August 24, 2009, there will be a four-day class on NFPA 1 and 101 for newly appointed fire code officials. These training programs are being held in preparation for the adoption of the revised State Fire Prevention Code. The classes will be held at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), in College Park.

- ❖ **Fire Marshals Sub-Committee Retreat** – On April 14th and 15th, the Fire Marshal's Sub-Committee of the Metro Fire Chiefs met at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg for an educational retreat. Several NFA staff members made presentations to the group and former Deputy State Fire Marshal Faron Taylor conducted a special leadership presentation while touring the battlefield at Gettysburg. Some 25 Fire Marshals from the state and local jurisdictions participated.

MFCA Board:

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