

MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING September 24, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Smarte at 1900 hours at Fisherman's Inn in Grasonville. There was some discussion regarding upcoming training opportunities at the War-Wic Community College and at the Church Creek VFD. Also noted was that there are two scholarships available to the Symposium in the Sun, being held on November 5 – 8, 2009 in Clearwater Beach, Florida; sponsored by the VCOS Division of the IAFC.

As there is to be a meeting of the Residential Sprinkler Committee of the MSFA immediately following this meeting, an effort was made to speed up our procedures so that the hour of adjournment would not be too late.

REPORTS

Robert Small made a report on the upcoming National Fallen Firefighters Weekend, being held next week at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg. He gave details of the planned operations for the week-end activities. He noted that our involvement would be from 0800 Thursday, October 1 until Monday, October 5, as we would be helping man the information tables and helping to pick up incoming families of those being honored. There will be 122 names of fallen fire-rescue personnel honored this year, and so far 92 families are expected to attend. Besides the activities at the Fire Academy, there will be a reception at the Juniors Fire Company station in Frederick on Friday night. If there is anyone that can provide vehicle assistance, Robert needs their name and vehicle description ASAP. This is needed to assure entrance onto the Academy grounds. Help will also be needed to man the information tables at each of the facilities where the families are staying.

Rick Hemphill reported on the MFCA cell phones. The NEXTEL Direct Connect people have provided 4 cell phones, air cards, etc; since the reception at Ocean City.

State Fire Marshal Bill Barnard spoke on the upcoming International Code Commission meeting being held in Baltimore starting 10/24. The most important date will be October 28, when the vote is expected to be taken for the removal of the clause added last year, which required the installation of home sprinkler systems in new one and two family construction. The Homebuilders have an effort going to remove this clause, and having enough voters present to counteract their

efforts is critical. Only members can vote, and each voting member (up to four for most departments) must be present at the meeting. The State Fire Marshal's office is trying to keep the residential sprinkler ordinance intact in the Code. Faron Taylor is the regional director for this effort, in which local departments are being asked to join the Commission (cost is \$100.00 and entitles the department to four votes, also gets them file copies of the International Fire Codes), and make sure their members are present to vote on 10/28. There was much information provided and discussion on this subject.

The SFM reported that there are still 6 vacancies in his staff. Fire deaths are up this year, with the total of 57 as of this date. All departments are reminded to get their INFERS data in to the SFM.

Fire Prevention Week will be October 4 – 10 this year, with the NFPA Theme of "Stay Fire Safe – Don't Get Burned". The SFM office is recruiting for the position of Deputy State Fire Marshal. Those interested are reminded that they MUST go to the written session to be considered for this job. See the Web site for details.

Hugh Owens reported he has a check to present for \$1,255.00 from the Convention Book. He still has some books left.

Hugh further reported on Training, in that he is working on the Fire Chief's Training Seminar, which will be held on March 13 and 14, 2010 at Shady Grove. So far, he is still under budget for the costs of the event.

Harve Woods reported that in the Federal legislative area, the IRS is looking at LOSAP. He is currently working on getting to know the various legislators and preparing for the upcoming session in Annapolis.

Miss Fire Prevention – Erin Drumheller, our Miss Fire Prevention representative, stated she has been very busy, and that there are currently 5 girls interested in the MFCA Miss Fire Prevention contests. There will be a meeting on 10/25 at the Prince Georges County Fire Science Building.

Treasurer David See noted that after many attempts to contact Mr. Batista, he has finally made contact and the tax work he is doing for us will be done in two weeks.

MOVED by R. Watkins to Adjourn. Second by R. Blair. Adjourned at 1945 hours.

ATTENDANCE LIST MFCA BOARD MEETING – 9/24/09

Jeff Thompson
Bill Hildebrand
Terry Thompson
Doug Alexander
Rick Hemphill
Harry Gossard
Skip Mensies
David Smarte
Robert Small
Rick Blair
David See
Calvin Stack
David Lewis
Robert Siebel
John Spiker Sr.
William Barnard, SFM
Christine Jackson
Ron Watkins
Ed Woods
W. Faron Taylor
Erin Drumheller, Miss FP
Hugh Owens