



The Commander

President's Message



It has been an honor to serve as your President since April 2016; working with the members of the Executive Board and the various committees. These elected officers and committee members have dedicated their individual skill sets to improving the MFCA in order to make it a first class organization. The membership of the MFCA strives to support and improved the fire & EMS delivery of services within Maryland.

As a team, your Presidents have been working on several projects to improve the organization. Some of those projects include but are not limited to, increasing membership benefits, expanding our social media presence, rebranding of the MFCA website, streamlining the membership process and improving our communications outlet.

The MFCA Training Committee continues to offer our members and other fire & EMS personnel across Maryland with superb training opportunities. The Training Committee has listened to the membership and has put a list of training opportunities together for this year with the emphasis of improving leadership and operational excellence.

The leadership of the MFCA remains committed to working with all of our partners on legislative issues in the General Assembly and to ensure that the voice of the fire & EMS service is represented. The Presidents and Executive Board are looking forward to a great year. Please feel free to bring any ideas that you feel may benefit the organization to our attention.



Officers

- Chief Hugh Owens – *President*
- Chief Paul Sullivan, Jr. – *First Vice President*
- Chief Bill Smith – *Second Vice President*
- Chief Terry E. Thompson – *Past President*
- Chief Pete Mellits – *Secretary*
- Chief Ron Watkins – *Assistant Secretary*
- Rick L. Hemphill – *Treasurer*
- Bill Hildebrand – *Assistant Secretary*
- Katie Owens – *Membership Secretary*
- Richard “Chappy” Bower – *Chaplain*
- Chief John W. Hogle, PP – *Chaplain Emeritus*

Words of Wisdom

“Help others get ahead. You will always stand taller with someone else on your shoulders.”

Bob Moawad



MFCA Hosts Leadership Training

The Maryland Fire Chiefs Association recently hosted a leadership training seminar that featured retired FDNY BC John Salka. Chief Salka presented his “Five Alarm Leadership” and “RIT Gone Wrong” training programs.

The training presentation was held on January 20th at the Carroll County Public Safety Training Center and was attended by 92 fire service personnel from across the State of Maryland.

The leadership training opportunity was provided by funding from the MSFA-MFCA SAFER Grant. The MFCA has a number of training opportunities planned for this year. Please look for these training opportunities and consider attending.

The MFCA is also providing a number of scholarship opportunities this year for members to attend various leadership and training conferences. Please be sure to take advantage of these various scholarship opportunities. See the MFCA Training Committee for additional information.

This Issue Dedicated To

In memory of Chief Leonard T. King, Sr. who served the fire service with honor and distinction for over 50 years.



Chief Leonard T. King, Sr.

Damascus Volunteer Fire Department

MFCA Past President (1990-1991)

MSFA Past President (1985-1986)

Executive Board Member Spotlight



Since birth, Chief Bill Smith has been around the volunteer fire service following his Dad around from Glenn Dale to Kentland District Rescue Squad and Kentland VFD. At the age of 16, he began his volunteer service as a young junior member at Kentland while his Dad served as Chief. Being the “Chief’s Son” was rough, but he loved every minute of it, including running down the street and jumping on the back step of the rig with gear in hand.

Just after high school in April 1974, Bill joined Glenn Dale Fire Association while serving in the U. S. Army assigned to Fort George G. Meade as a Military Policemen. After leaving the military, Bill transferred to Greenbelt VFD and after a short stay there he landed at West Lanham Hills VFD. At WLHVFD, Bill rose through the ranks to chief officer. In addition, Bill also served as President of WLHVFD.

While continuing to be very active at West Lanham, Bill got involved with the Prince George’s County Volunteer Firemen’s Association continuing to follow his Dad’s example and went through the “chairs” from Board of Director, Second VP, First VP, and two consecutive terms as President in 2009-2011.

For 47 years, Bill has always put the fire and EMS service first. He currently serves in Charles County as the Coordinator and PIO for the volunteer associations. He works everyday serving the county volunteers. Bill has also worked in St. Mary’s County as the Recruitment/Retention Coordinator.

Bill has the keen desire and compassion to help and accepts all duties with dedication and commitment. He currently took on the role of Second VP of the MFCA and works hard making the MFCA better every day through teamwork that involves progressive training initiatives, better marketing strategies, and comprehensive achievements with our social media outlets.



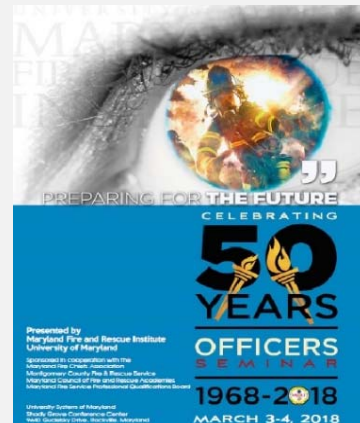
Legislative Update

On Wednesday, January 10th, the Maryland General Assembly convened for their 438th session. To date, there have been 222 Senate Bills and 242 House Bills introduced. At this time, the MFCA is interested in seven bills. The MFCA is particularly interested in House Bill 37 which would provide volunteers who meet certain requirements with a Maryland State Income Tax Deduction of \$15,000. House Bill 37 was heard by the House Ways and Means Committee on January 17th and continues to work its way through committee.

The Legislative Committee looks over the new bills as they are submitted. This year the Committee expects that there will be several dozen bills submitted that could affect the Maryland Fire Service. House Bill 226 which is still pending, would require that all school buildings be equipped with automatic fire sprinkler systems. Past history in dealing with sprinkler legislation indicates that there may be some opposition from a few rural counties. Some years back, several members of the House organized a Fire & EMS Caucus. Over the past couple of years other interests took a number of folks away from this group. This year, under the Leadership of Delegate Marvin Holmes (D. PG) this Caucus is being reorganized and rejuvenated. As the current legislative session continues, the MFCA is looking for many good things to come from the Fire & EMS Caucus.

Maryland Updates Smoke Alarm Law

As of January 1, 2018, Maryland will require homeowners to replace the traditional battery operated devices with new tamper resistance "10-year Lithium Ion Battery Smoke Alarms". This new technology will eliminate the need to replace outdated batteries each year. By sealing the battery inside the alarm, the unit becomes tamper resistant and removes the burden for consumers to remember to change batteries, which, in turn will save lives. These sealed-in, long-life battery smoke alarms provide continuous protection for a decade.



Upcoming Events

2/15/2018 – Legislative Reception, Miller Senate Office Complex, 11 Baden Street, Annapolis, MD 5:00 PM

3/3 – 3/4/2018 – Chief Officers Seminar, University System of Maryland, Shady Grove Conference Center, 9640 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, MD. 8:00 AM

3/22/2018 – Executive Board Meeting, Mexicali Cantina, 467 West Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 7:00 PM

4/14/2018 – Pride and Leadership Training. Southern Maryland, Location TBD. 8:00 AM

4/19/2018 – Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI) Dinner, Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. 7:00 PM

4/20 – 4/21/2018 – Eastern Division of the IAFC Annual Conference. Embassy Suites BWI, 1300 Concourse Drive, Linthicum Heights, MD. 8:00 AM

4/26/2018 – Executive Board Meeting, Fisherman's Inn, 3116 Main Street, Grasonville, MD. 7:00 PM

5/5 – 5/6/2018 – Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association 71st Convention, Newburg VRS & FD, 12245 Rock Point Road, Newburg, MD. 8:00 AM

Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

Rick Blair, PP – *Region 1*
(Garrett, Alleghany & Washington Counties)

Chief Eric Smothers – *Region 2*
(Frederick County)

Chief Robert McHenry – *Region 3*
(Montgomery County)

Chief Scott Wood – *Region 4*
(Howard County)

Chief Gerald “JJ” Lynott – *Region 5*
(Carroll & Baltimore Counties)

Chief Brandon Watkins – *Region 6*
(Harford & Cecil Counties)

Chief Doug Howard – *Region 7*
(Anne Arundel & Prince Georges Counties)

Chief Timothy Delahanty – *Region 8*
(Calvert, Charles & St. Mary’s Counties)

Chief Jeff Thompson, PP – *Region 9*
(Kent, Queen Anne’s, & Caroline Counties)

Chief Robert Philips &
Chief Calvin Stack – *Region 10*
(Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester
& Somerset Counties)

Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

P.O. Box 2066
Hagerstown, MD 21742
info@mdchief.org

Pride · Leadership · Integrity

Find us on the Web:

www.mdchief.org



Chaplain’s Chat

Fire departments by tradition have had someone in the role of Chaplain since the beginning of the fire service. However, in today’s world the Chaplain role has become more complex. And, EMS agencies are now welcoming Chaplaincy. The work of the fire service chaplain has increased as he or she meets the challenges of working within crisis settings. The MFCA has a Chaplain available within each one of regions. If you are or a member of your department is in need of a Chaplain please complete the online Chaplain Request form which is located at <http://www.mdchief.org/chaplains.html> or reach out to the Chief Chaplain Richard “Chappy” Bower at (845) 598-1737 or by email at chappy.bower@gmail.com. Please notify the Chief Chaplain of any MFCA member that passes away so that the MFCA can reach out to the family. If you are interested in becoming a Chaplain, please reach out to the Chief Chaplain.

MFCA to Improve Website

The Maryland Fire Chiefs Association is in the process of rebranding the website. Members will see the new components of the website as they are developed and launched for use. The current website will remain active as the redesign is occurring. Rebranding and redesigning of the website will allow for it to be much more user friendly. Eventually all membership requests and renewals along with membership card processing will happen through the new website. The new website will provide members with membership expiration reminder emails. In addition, members will be able to choose which correspondence they wish to receive.

Final Thought: On Example

The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers. Certainly there is a chain of command for a reason, and all cogs in the machine do play a vital role. But what are you doing to encourage tomorrow’s leaders? Are you autocratic, leading with an iron fist? Or do you encourage and mentor when you see a glimmer of hope and potential leadership attributes peeking through? It can be a delicate balance. Order must reign over chaos, but future leaders have to learn from someone.

Even if you have made mistakes in the past, the future is unscripted and can be altered for the best possible outcome. Think about the example you are setting today. Every leader, both new and old, has strengths and weaknesses. Focus on sharpening your talents, and accept constructive criticism for your weaknesses.

Whether a leader we’ve known personally, or even a historical leader we admire, the ideal has already been set – we strive to maintain those outstanding qualities. This manifests differently for everyone. What’s important to you depends on many factors, not the least of which is life experience. We certainly share goals – we all strive for professionalism and integrity in every action we take; that goes without saying. And we all hope we don’t become the example of what not to do as a leader. I challenge you to take it a step further. Embody the leadership traits important to you, but be your own example. In the end, while it may seem our contributions are small, rest assured that the leadership legacy we leave behind will carry on for generations. What example would you like to set?

Captain Angela Taury