



The Bulletin

Official Publication of the Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

Volume XVIII Issue 5

Barbara A. Knippenburg, Editor

April 2023

Mt. Savage Hosts Allegany and Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Meeting

The April Meeting of the Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association was held Sunday, April 16, 2023 at Mt. Savage. President Austin Cristner called the meeting to order. The Association was welcomed to by Chad

Robison. Thirteen companies and nine past presidents were in attendance. Guests included: Mark Bilger, MIEMSS, Charles Simpson, candidate for 2nd Vice President MSFA, life member of Westminster Fire Company (Celebrating 200 years of service) and Pleasant Valley

Fire Company of Carroll County. He has served on numerous committees for MSFA. Nicole Stottlemeyer, MSFA R&R for Western Maryland. Companies need to update their profiles on MSFA website. Senator Mike McKay.

MIEMSS—Mark Bilger: Maryland EMS Cares: Ocean City MD, April 27—30th
MSFA Executive Committee—Tim Dayton: Fire Prevention grant \$500, with the stipulation that you have to donate \$100 back to MSFA. Your company will receive \$1200 – \$1500 worth of Fire Prevention items from Alert-all. Link to participate: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9VcflTYzBY7qexck77iIaEnX_Yc5mZ-XTCat-Ny_XlPclx7w/viewform
Convention: Prayer Breakfast Wed 21st – American Legion, No Presidents banquet at OC. Balloting on Name Change will be held in the convention center, electronically. Voting on Tuesday will be from 8-10 in room 208. Be sure to complete your companies credentials online. You can only be registered as a delegate for one company. Be sure to get your raffle tickets to Tim before convention. Fire and Burn Safety Coalition of Maryland has Alarm Devices for Deaf or

Partner Agencies

Hard of Hearing. <https://www.fabscom.org/our-application-process>

Volunteer Company Assistance Fund Barbara Knippenburg reported that the VCAF committee's timeline for this application period

- June 1, 2023 – Open the application period.
- July 14, 2023 – Last day to open a new online VCAF loan application.
- July 30, 2023 – Last day to finalize and submit the online application.
- August 13, 2023 – VCAF meeting. Location TBD (central/western MD)
- August 26/27, 2023 – Executive Committee meeting

Contact me if your company is interested in a low interest loan for equipment or apparatus. There is a list of items your company needs to have ready before an application can be opened.

barbarak3@comcast.net or 301-268-3793

MSFA 2023 CONVENTION AND CONFERENCE:

The 2023 Schedule of Events has been updated here: <https://convention.msfa.org/calendar/category/special-events/>. Please visit the page to see all of this year's highlighted events. Please make note of some important time changes for this year, especially the Joint Memorial Service which will be held at 3pm on Sunday, June 18th.

The 2023 Educational Seminar and Training Schedule has been posted here to include the OC FOOLS HOT offerings and classroom seminars: <https://convention.msfa.org/calendar/category/education/list/>. Please share with your membership. Registration is strongly encouraged.
NEW Prayer Breakfast Location - this year's breakfast will be held at the American Legion Post 166 on Wednesday morning June 21. Full selection hot buffet breakfast for \$16 PP.



John Shuhart

John was an active member of the Barton Hose Co. since 1967. He held the office of Secretary, Secretary/Treasurer, and Treasurer. John received the Fireman of the Year 3 years and the President's Award 3 years. He was active in the AGCVFRA since 1974, Insurance Committee since 1982, Treasurer since 1988 and was a member of the Hall of Flame. John was active in the Maryland State Firemen's Association since 1975 serving as a delegate. He served on various committees: Insurance Committee-1983-1986, Statistical Committee Chairman from 1986-1990, Assistant Treasurer from 1990-2000 and Treasurer 2002-2003. He was honored with the Gladhill Thompson Award in 1996 and as a member of the MSFA Hall of Fame.

Upcoming Meetings:

- ♦ **Maryland State Firemens Association Executive Committee— Convention June 17—22, 2023 Ocean City**
- **A. Mike Walters Prayer Breakfast—**
- **AGCVFRA - June 3, 2023**
- **LA AGCVFRA—**
- **Garrett County Fire Rescue Association—May 31, Accident, 1930 hours**



Tickets can be purchased here:

<https://convention.msfa.org/event/prayer-breakfast-2/#tribe-tickets>

BINGO IS BACK for the 2023 Convention! Bingo will be held at the American Legion Post 166 on Sunday, June 18th at 1100am. Doors open at 1000am. Tickets can be purchased at

<https://convention.msfa.org/event/msfa-lamsfa-bingo/>. The American Legion address is 2308 Philadelphia Ave, Ocean City, MD 21842. If you wish to donate for the door prizes, please contact Karen Lowman at low-mankrn@gmail.com.

The 2023 Ocean City Hair of the Dalmation 5K Walk Registration is OPEN Register Today!

<https://convention.msfa.org/event/5k/>
Please use the following links for all department submissions for the 2023 Convention: **-AWARDS**-Check out the available awards that you can nominate your members for at <https://www.msfa.org/awards/>
CREDENTIALS-Submissions of department credential forms began on January 1st at <https://convention.msfa.org/registration/department-credentials/>. Credential submissions are required for a department to be able to vote in June and allow for the collection of updated membership numbers across the state.

PROGRAM BOOK -Program Book ads are now available for purchase online <https://convention.msfa.org/sponsors/advertising-opportunities/application/>

MSFA Tag Reminder **Effective April 1st, 2023, the new tag application fee is \$10.00. All applications sent in after April 1st must include the \$10 fee or it will be returned. The REVISED MVA VR124A form and instructions are on the website under the Transportation committee page. Old versions of the form will not be accepted after May 1st. **The increase will affect the initial cost for the tags as well as the five-year recertification fee collected: \$2.00/year (\$10.00 every five years). The recert documents have been distributed to the executive committee members for each county. If you are a county tag coordinator, please reach out to your rep for the forms.

The Ways and Means Committee reminds all departments that the 2023 Convention \$10,000 Raffle tickets have been distributed to all Executive Committee members. Tickets and payments can be mailed to Mitch Vocke PO Box 401 Jarrettsville, MD 21084 or can be turned into any executive committee member. Tickets and payments can also be turned in at Convention no later than Tuesday June 22nd.



Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute
University of Maryland
Western Maryland Regional Training Center
Post Office Box 5153
13928 Hazmat Drive
Cresaptown, MD 21502-5153

Class Update in Allegany / Garrett County (note: may not reflect entire schedule**)

Report Date: April 9, 2023

Class	Log Number	Location	Start Date	Days	# Students	Status
EMT	-	Cresaptown	9/22/22	Th/Sat	29	Completed
EMT	-	GCCT TC	1/23/23	M/W/Sat***	14	Active
Fire-fighter I	-	Shaft	1/26/23	Th/Sat	21	Active
Instructor II	-	GCCT CC	2/20/23	M/W	7	Completed
Site Ops	-	Bowling Green	3/4/23	T/Sat	9	Completed
*Engine Co Ops	FIRE-207-S001-2023	Deep Creek	5/21/23	Sun	(5)	Open
EMT	-	Cresaptown	4/5/23	W/Sun	17	Active
EMT Refresher	EMS-203-S049-2023	Cresaptown	4/15/23	Sat	(11)	Open / Active
VME	RES-210-S025-2023	GC EOC	4/16/23	Sun	(30)	Overloaded / Active
HM Ops	HM-102-S013-2023	GC EOC	4/29/23	Sat	(12)	Open / Active
*HM Tech	HM-201-S009-2023	WMRTC	6/3/23	Sat/Sun	(10)	Open

**See entire schedule online at www.mfri.org

Additional Information

Renovation final completion is set for end of May.

Potential for new Emergency Services program in Garrett for high school students.

Fall scheduling is occurring now and will be online by May 1.

Remember that classes will be centralized starting in the spring semester.
Garrett County – all classes at either EOC or GCCTTC
Allegany – all classes will be at WMRTC once reopened



IN MEMORY

Allegheny Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association



John Shuhart, Barton Hose Company, Treasurer AGCVFRA
Paul Metz, Potomac Fire Company
Sam Glenn, Cresaptown Fire Company
Mark Durst, Oakland Fire Company
Thelma Ware, PP LA AGCVFRA

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

Bowling Green VFD

Bingo

Every Friday doors open at 5

Goodwill Fire Company

Spaghetti Dinner

First Friday of month

Barton Ladies

Auxiliary

Public Dinners

2nd Wednesday of the month

From 3:00 pm to 5:30

*Thank you to Elaine Huttenloch
for her generous donation to the
publication and distribution of the
AGCVFRA Bulletin.*

Midland Firemen's Tavern

WINGS Wednesdays

starting at 1700 hours.

Flintstone VFC

Ladies Auxiliary

Hoagie Sale

Last Friday of each month

Midland Fire Company

Chicken/Fish Dinner

May 19, 2023

1600 – 1830 hours

Adults \$12, Children \$7

Includes:

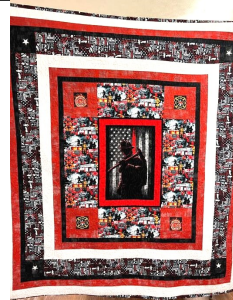
Includes 1/2 chicken or 2 fish
tails, mashed potatoes w/gravy
or fries, green beans, coleslaw,
roll, and desert.

Congratulations to Rev. Tom
Morgan being sworn in as



Assistant
Chaplain,
MSFA by
MSFA PP
Mark
Bilger at
Flintstone.

83
X
93



**Baltimore Pike Fire Co.
Quilt Raffle**

\$6 per chance

See BPVFC facebook page.

Eastern Garrett Co. V.F.R.D.

Spaghetti Dinners

2nd Saturday each month

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Adults: \$7.00

Children: \$3.50

Barton Hose Company

BINGO

Thursdays

Beginning at 6:30

Legislative – Tax incentive
bill failed again for the sec-
ond year.

Convention will be held at
Ellerslie –Saturday, June 3,
2023. No parade, the meet-
ing will be held at the station.
The awards ceremony will
not take place at convention
but an Awards Dinner held at
a restaurant, date and place
TBD.

**Patricia Bowser Scholar-
ship Committee** – Rod
Bowser: One application

received so far – Committee
will meet to decide. Several
fund raising activities are
being planned.

By-Laws – Dick DeVore –
Several bylaws will be voted
on at Convention to clean up
language.

Fire Chaplains – Tom Mor-
gan – MSFA Chaplain John
Long is looking for a location
to hold a fire chaplaincy class
in August. Two day class.
Good program - foundation
of fire chaplaincy.

LODD – Gary Carpenter –
New flags have been donated
by Wandas Clocks and placed
at the Allegheny County me-
morial.

Past Presidents—Jonathan
Dayton: The annual meeting
will be held at Hobos on May
16, 2023 at 1700 hours. Dues
will be collected at that time.

**Fellowship of Christian
Firefighters**– Mary Carr re-
ported that they will not meet
until after Convention.

New Business: The associa-
tion voted to support Charles
Simpson as 2nd Vice Presi-
dent of MSFA. Midland Fire
Company asked for the 2025
AGCVFRA Convention to be
held in Midland as they will
be celebrating one hundred
twenty five years of service.

Good of the Association:
Convention details will be
sent out in the near future.
Next meeting: Convention,
June 3, 2023



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Facebook: Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association

Web Page: www.agcvfra.net

Twitter: @AGCVFRA
E-mail: agcvfra@gmail.com

**Getting to the call safely is
the most important job you
have!
Buckle up!
Remember
Everyone Goes Home!**

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call 9-1-1.

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.



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