

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel

www.msfa.org



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Greetings,

The time has come to begin planning for our 2020 Convention and Conference. Recently, there has been some discussion about the dates of our future events and for clarity, I would like to publish the dates for the next seven years:

2020, June 20 – 25
2021, June 19 – 24
2022, June 18 – 23
2023, June 17 – 22

2024, June 15 – 20
2025, June 14 – 19
2026, June 20 – 25

As you can see, we are a week later than normal for 2020 and 2026, this is due to the leap year calendar. What this means is that those two weeks are closer to the July 4th holiday and hotel rooming prices are much higher at that time. I highly suggest that you begin looking now for the best deal possible, even the convention committee is shopping for lower lodging prices due to the calendar schedule.

The Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA) Convention and Conference Committee has already been at work planning the many activities needed to support our annual event. This year, we intend to use the newly updated MSFA convention website to promote all the weeklong activities and training programs to be offered at the beach. We will not be doing multiple mailouts to each member company this year, but only highlight documents such as this letter of introduction. The website is live currently and please check it out to make sure you know what we are planning for June 2020 in Ocean City. Your prompt attention to these matters is vital to a successful annual Convention and Conference and there are specific deadlines for some activities.

Annual Dues Reminder - This will serve as a reminder that annual dues invoices have been sent to every member company as required by the MSFA By-Laws. Dues

for member departments are \$200.00 and associate members are \$50.00. All checks should be made payable to the Maryland State Firemen's Association and mailed to the Office of the Financial Secretary, P.O. Box 401, Jarrettsville, MD 21084. Email wmvocke@harfordpublicsafety.org if you have any questions. All dues must be paid by April 1, 2020.

Member Company Credentials – The MSFA has implemented an online credentialing and registration process via our website. We are requiring that all member companies utilize this application to register their delegates and alternates for the convention. Your company must be registered for the convention by May 30, 2020, in order to be eligible to vote. Please pay close attention to the statistical questions asked during the registration process. Accurate information is vital to the success of the Association. Each member company is entitled to five (5) delegates and five (5) alternates who represent your department at the business sessions. This registration form should be completed even if you do not intend to send delegates to the Convention and Conference.

Preliminary Convention Program - A draft program schedule is posted on the website and a final program will be released after the new year once special topic speakers have been confirmed. Please note the location for each event as changes may result from potential convention center construction that is planned for A/B Hall and the Sunset Room.

Seminars and Training Opportunities – The Convention Committee has been working to provide you with some of the very best educational opportunities available. You will note on the convention website that all the training opportunities are being posted much earlier this year than in the past. We want to make sure you know what is available and that you will plan appropriately to take advantage of this excellent learning opportunity. The Convention Committee has again partnered with the Ocean City “FOOLS” to provide more class sessions and hands-on training opportunities. More topics and nationally recognized instructors will be available for these educational opportunities.

Joint Memorial Service – The Joint Memorial Service will recognize fire service members who have passed away during calendar year 2019. Please complete a separate recognition form for each deceased member of your department. The forms can be found on the Convention website and on the MSFA Memorial web page. Insert a photo of each deceased member with each electronic form you complete. If for some reason an individual was omitted in a prior year, please include a separate completed form and photo of that member, as well. Clearly identify the year in which the member’s death occurred. Memorial Service Forms will be received by Chief

Chaplain Reverend John F. Long, Jr., at jflongjr@yahoo.com. Memorial Recognition Forms must be received by March 1, 2020, for inclusion in the Memorial Service and Commemorative Book.

BINGO Sponsorship – The Convention Committee has completely reorganized the Monday Night BINGO event and is asking for your support in making this a successful event. Please consider donating to the MSFA Convention BINGO so that we may offer the finest prizes to our participants. Donations will be accepted from individuals, member companies, auxiliaries, or from local businesses in your area. For additional information, contact Gloria Lewis by email at glbingo@yahoo.com, or call 410-693-0020.

MSFA Golf Tournament - Again this year, we will be hosting a Golf Tournament as a part of the Convention on June 26, 2020. Questions about the tournament, including sponsorship opportunities and team registrations should be sent to Past President Steve Cox at MSFA96@gmail.com.

Convention and Conference Exhibitor Opportunities - Member departments can acquire exhibit space, both in the exhibit halls and outside the convention center for a discounted price. Any questions should be directed to Past President David Lewis at dlewis@msfa.org or call him at 443-694-9113. There is a separate rate for businesses and corporations, that information is available upon request. Please try and help us locate vendors who may want to show their products and services at the convention. We need your help with this.

Convention and Conference Program Book Advertisements - Please show your department's support of the many opportunities we offer at the convention by placing an advertisement in this year's Convention and Conference Program Book. New ad opportunities are available and any questions should be forwarded to Past President C. Daniel Davis, Jr. at danrosedavis@verizon.net. We highly encourage commercial entities to place ads in the Program Book, so please share this with any business establishment who may be willing to support the MSFA, especially any in the Greater Ocean City area.

Convention and Conference Lodging – As mentioned, we are experiencing increased hotel rates for the week we are scheduled to be in Ocean City. The Convention Committee will be providing information through the website on special hotel rates being offered to the MSFA. We encourage you to take advantage of these rates as it builds our partnership strength with the management of the hotels we utilize during the convention. We are working with the Ocean City Hotel, Motel and Restaurant Association and the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce to get you the best

possible lodging deals available. We thank them for their support. Remember, when making your reservation, ask for a MSFA special rate.

Fire Prevention Ambassador Recognition - Once again, the Maryland State Firemen's Association wishes to acknowledge all the hard work and dedication put forth in the area of Fire Prevention and Life Safety. This year, during the Miss Fire Prevention Program we will again be recognizing the many individuals that support Community Risk Reduction throughout the State of Maryland. Please note that the Miss Fire Prevention Contest takes place on Sunday, June 21, 2020, at the Convention Center. The program will begin at 2:00 PM.

MSFA Annual Awards – One of the most important things that you can do as a leader of a volunteer organization is recognizing the contributions and accomplishments of your membership. Please take the time to review the requirements and submission guidelines for each of the awards that the MSFA offers and consider nominating a deserving member. A listing with the established award rules and due dates for entries are included in this document and available on the MSFA Website. Contact Past President Doyle Cox, Chair, Awards Committee, 29132 Superior Circle, Easton, MD 21601 with any questions regarding the MSFA Awards Program. Doyle's email address is doyle.cox2010@gmail.com or call him on his cell at 443-532-1416.

The Convention Committee is again working to provide an array of family activities in Ocean City to include discounted events at Jolly Roger Amusement Park, Splash Mountain Water Park, the Inlet Amusement Rides, along with Movies on the Beach and fireworks. Antique apparatus displays at the convention center and, of course, our annual parade is on the schedule again this year. Please remember that there are new parking requirements with automated systems in Ocean City and trailers parked on public streets requires a special permit issued by the town. The Air Show will be the week earlier and will not impact us this year.

Finally, we ask that you do not put these reminders aside but give them your earliest possible attention. Visit the convention website often. Our convention will be here before you know it and the committee wants to make sure it is a most enjoyable experience for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

See you at the beach,

Ron

Ronald Jon Siarnicki
Convention and Conference Chair