

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel

www.msfa.org



Ronald Jon Siarnicki
Convention and Conference Chair
2130 Priest Bridge Drive, Suite 4
Crofton, MD 21114
(O) 410-721-6212
(F) 410-721-6213
Email: rsiarnicki@aol.com

March 1, 2023

Greetings,

The MSFA/LAMSFA Convention Committee has been working on the arrangements for the 2023 Annual Convention and Conference and as programmatic components have been completed, the MSFA website has been updated. We will continue to transform to a paperless registration process and hope to have much of the convention materials completed for this year's event. With the return to Ocean City last year, several major changes occurred. We will continue with those adjustments and have plans for a few more this year. All of these changes are needed to keep our annual gathering current and reflective of the economic times we are currently living within. We promise that this year event will be just as great as those before it and that we will make sure all of the necessary components and challenges to be faced are dealt with in a positive fashion.

Below, please find the convention and conference dates for the next four years:

2023, June 17 – 22

2024, June 15 – 20

2025, June 14 – 19

2026, June 20 – 25

As mentioned, the MSFA Convention website is under constant update and everything you need to know about this year's activities is located there. I highly suggest you continue to check it out to stay on top of convention planning activities and changes to the program and schedule.

Now is the time to begin looking for lodging opportunities. I am sure that more and more people are looking to get away to the beach this summer after being secluded by the pandemic, so I highly suggest you take care of your lodging needs as soon as possible.

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. Please email Mitch Vocke at wmvocke1@gmail.com if you have any questions. All dues must be paid by April 1, 2023.

Member Company Credentials – The MSFA online credentialing and registration process is available on the Convention website. Your company must be registered for the convention by May 30, 2023 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. If you know of someone from your department that will be attending the convention, please designate them as a delegate or alternate so they can pick up your department’s voting instructions. Only those listed as a delegate or alternate will be allowed to vote on behalf of your department.

Please note: The Credentials 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 will be posted on the website in the next few weeks and a final program will be released a few months from now once special topic speakers have been confirmed. Please note the location for each event as changes may result from realignment of the overall convention schedule.

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 will be 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 the excellent learning opportunities. 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. Please be sure to visit the website after March 15th for the full seminar and training schedule.

Convention and Conference Exhibitor Opportunities - Member departments can acquire exhibit space inside the exhibit hall. Pricing and online purchasing of space are now available on the convention website. Any questions should be directed to our Staff: Executive Director Kate Loveless or Lynn Hawkins at the following email address; exhibits@msfa.org or feel free to call the office at (443) 302-2911. Please help us identify 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 Chuck Walker at cwwalker343@gmail.com or Robert Phillips at rfchief48@gmail.com. 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 the MSFA special rate.

Fire Prevention Ambassador Recognition - Once again, the Maryland State Firemen's Association wishes to acknowledge all of 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 18, 2023, at the Convention Center.

MSFA Annual Awards – One of the most important things that you can do as a leader of a volunteer organization is to recognize 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 available on the MSFA website. Contact Past

President Doyle Cox, Chairman of the 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 the return of Bingo Night. 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