



# ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR  
2014

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

The State Fire Prevention Commission was established in 1964 and consists of nine (9) members appointed to a maximum of two five-year terms by the Secretary of the State Police, with the approval of the Governor in accordance with Public Safety Article 6-201. The following members served on the Commission in FY 2014:

<b>Timothy F. Dayton</b> <b>Chairman</b> <b>Term Expired June 30, 2014*</b>	<b><i>Western Maryland</i></b> <b><i>Volunteer Fire Company</i></b>
<b>C. Daniel Davis, Jr.</b> <b>Vice Chairman</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2015</b>	<b><i>Southern Maryland</i></b> <b><i>Volunteer Fire Company</i></b>
<b>K. C. Harrington</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2018**</b>	<b><i>Eastern Shore</i></b> <b><i>Building Contractor</i></b>
<b>Mark. F. Hubbard</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2017**</b>	<b><i>Central Maryland</i></b> <b><i>Career Fire Company</i></b>
<b>Eugene A. Jones</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2017</b>	<b><i>Washington-Metropolitan</i></b> <b><i>Industry Representative</i></b>
<b>Martin J. LePore</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2016**</b>	<b><i>At-Large</i></b> <b><i>Industry Representative</i></b>
<b>Anthony J. Spencer</b> <b>Term Expired June 30, 2014***</b>	<b><i>At-Large</i></b> <b><i>Member of the Public</i></b>
<b>Stacy N. Welch</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2017</b>	<b><i>At-Large</i></b> <b><i>Architect/Engineer</i></b>
<b>Richard L. Yinger</b> <b>Term Expires June 30, 2018**</b>	<b><i>At-Large</i></b> <b><i>Volunteer Fire Company</i></b>

\*Second term expired – Serving until replaced

\*\*Second Term – Not eligible for reappointment

\*\*\*Reappointment to second term pending

The Fire Prevention Commission may be contacted as follows:

Maryland State Police/Western Operations Center  
18345 Colonel H.K. Douglas Drive, Suite 240  
Hagerstown MD 21740  
Telephone: 301-766-3899  
Toll-Free: 877-890-0199  
Fax: 301-766-3889  
E-Mail: [msh.sfpc@maryland.gov](mailto:msh.sfpc@maryland.gov)  
Website: <http://www.mdsp.org/sfpc>  
Secretary: Heidi Ritchie

The Commission is mandated under Public Safety Article Title 6-204 to hold a minimum of six regular meetings every year. A quorum was achieved at all meetings. All members met the attendance requirements.

Public meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted at the Commission's website:  
<http://www.mdsp.org/sfpc>

<b>FISCAL YEAR ATTENDANCE ROSTER</b>						
<b>MEETING DATES LOCATION &amp; MEMBERS</b>	<b>8/15/2013 Laurel</b>	<b>10/17/13 Laurel</b>	<b>12/19/13 Mt. Airy</b>	<b>2/20/14 Annapolis</b>	<b>5/7/14 Laurel</b>	<b>6/17/14 Ocean City</b>
DAVIS	P	P	P	A	P	P
DAYTON	P	A	P	A	P	P
HARRINGTON	P	P	A	P	A	P
HUBBARD	P	P	A	P	P	A
JONES	P	P	A	P	A	A
LEPORE	A	P	P	P	P	P
SPENCER	P	P	A	P	A	P
WELCH	N/A	A	P	P	P	P
YINGER	P	A	P	P	P	P

P=Present    A=Absent    N/A=Not Appointed as of this Meeting

**Public Safety Article Title 6-501:**

The Commission is empowered to hear appeals filed by a person who is aggrieved by an order or decision of the State Fire Marshal or his designee in the course of enforcing the State Fire Prevention Code. The commission received five appeals in Fiscal Year 2014.

Case 13-01 C'Town Laundromat – Chestertown, Kent County

The petitioner appealed the State Fire Marshal's order to comply with *NFPA 58 Installation of LP-Gas Systems* to provide for greater separation between dryer vents on the exterior of the building and the liquid propane cylinders situated under the dryer vents. The Commission affirmed the decision of the State Fire Marshal and denied the appeal.

Case 13-02 Bennett's Repair Garage – Chestertown, Kent County

The petitioner appealed the State Fire Marshal's order to comply with distance requirements for above ground fuel storage tanks as well as correct other violations of the State Fire Prevention Code. The petitioner failed to appear for the hearing and the appeal was dismissed.

Case 13-03 Thunder Road Bar & Grille – Hagerstown, Washington County

The Petitioner appealed the State Fire Marshal's order to install an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system if the establishment provides live entertainment in the interior of the establishment. Based on the testimony presented, the Commission determined the offering of interior live entertainment constitutes a change in use from the restaurant previously operated on the premises to a nightclub and therefore must comply with the applicable provisions of *NFPA 101 Life Safety Code* which requires an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system where the occupant load exceeds 100 people. The Commission affirmed the decision of the State Fire Marshal and denied the appeal.

Case 13-04 Michelle Sullivan – Hagerstown, Washington County

The Petitioner appealed a \$100 invoice being issued to her company for the review of plans for her client. The petitioner withdrew her appeal and no hearing was held.

Case 14-01 Nichols Senior Care – Edgewood, Harford County

The Petitioner appealed an order of the State Fire Marshal which re-classified several residents as having an "impractical evacuation capability" thereby requiring the installation of an automatic sprinkler system. The Commission affirmed the decision of the State Fire Marshal and denied the appeal.

**PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE 6-205:**

The Commission is mandated to promote and conduct seminars, conferences, workshops and meetings at least once each year to inform the public and firefighting personnel of the latest techniques in fire prevention programs and procedures, life safety measures, changes in the State Fire Prevention Code, and development of improved fire safety goals.

**Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference**

The Fire Prevention Commission co-sponsored the Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference held September 24, 2013, in Laurel, Maryland. This annual conference offers a variety of safety oriented workshops presented by some of the nation's leading fire and emergency services professionals. Approximately 300 persons attended the event, including several Commission members. Commissioner Martin LePore serves on the Conference Steering Committee.

**PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-206:**

The Commission is empowered to promulgate, amend, and repeal regulations for the safeguarding of life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion and to hold public hearings pertaining to such regulations. Code of Maryland Regulations as promulgated by the Commission may be viewed at the commission's website:

<http://www.mdsp.org/sfpc>

**COMAR 29.06.04 Fees for Fire Prevention Services**

State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci requested the Commission consider amendments to COMAR 29.06.04.01 and 29.06.04.05 to allow local jurisdictions that wish to conduct its own plan reviews but not conduct the inspections to charge a fee for their plan review services and have a State Fire Marshal designee conduct the inspections. The amendments would allow the State Fire Marshal designee conducting the inspections to reduce the inspection fee by 50 percent. By majority vote the Commission agreed with the proposal and to proceed with scheduling a public hearing. A public hearing on the proposed amendments will be held in Fiscal Year 2015.

**PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE TITLE 6-302:**

The Secretary of State Police is empowered to appoint a State Fire Marshal to serve for a term of six years from a list of three names submitted by the Commission. Fire Marshal William E. Barnard announced his retirement effective July 1, 2013. Applications for the position of State Fire Marshal were solicited and eleven candidates met the qualification requirements. The Commission reviewed the qualifying applications and submitted its recommendation of three candidates to Secretary Marcus Brown who appointed Brian S. Geraci as the Maryland State Fire Marshal effective September 4, 2013.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Throughout the year, Commission members attend and participate in a variety of activities and serve on committees involving fire prevention education, fire and emergency services, and code enforcement.

### **MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE COMMISSIONS**

The Mid-Atlantic Association of State Fire Commissions is comprised of fire commissions from twelve (12) member states for the purpose of sharing and promoting state and national goals related to fire prevention and education. The states of Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia each host the annual conference on a rotating basis.

Representatives discuss a variety of topics related to fire code enforcement issues, proactive initiatives for automatic sprinkler system installations, funding sources, firefighter recruitment and training, and fire prevention education.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was hosted by the Kentucky State Fire Commission in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 15 and 16, 2013. Due to lack of funding, no Maryland members were able to attend the event.

### **MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

Chairman Dayton, Vice Chairman Davis, and Commissioner Yinger serve on a variety of committees under the auspices of this association. The association membership is comprised of volunteer departments from throughout the State whose mission is to serve, promote, advocate and represent the interests of the volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services of Maryland.

The association sponsors an annual contest to recognize fire, rescue, and ambulance departments' efforts in promoting fire prevention in their communities. The Fire Prevention Commission took the opportunity during the association's annual convention in Ocean City to participate in convention activities and present Certificates of Appreciation to several fire and emergency services departments for their contributions to fire prevention and fire safety education.

### **ALLEGANY-GARRETT COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION**

Chairman Dayton is a member of this association which serves, promotes, advocates and represents the interests of thirty-seven volunteer fire, rescue and emergency medical services companies in Allegany and Garrett Counties.