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**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PROVIDED AS A SERVICE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS**

## **EDITORIAL COMMENT:**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> in what is hoped to be a continuing commitment to keep Missouri's Fire Chiefs apprised of the "goings-on" in the Missouri Fire Service.

If you do have any contributions to make or just want to give me information, my contact is below.

Please send the information to:  
[rlehmann@kc.rr.com](mailto:rlehmann@kc.rr.com)

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## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER DAVE WILLIAMS**

I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday. As I reflect back on 2008 the things that come to mind is the economic downturns, soaring fuel cost, the election of a new governor and president. They are all things that will have a profound affect in our everyday lives and in our jobs as leaders in the Fire Service. We are all going to be facing some trying times over the next year. But, one of the things that make me proud to be part of the fire service is our ability to adapt and overcome. It doesn't matter if it is something that happens on the fire ground or something that comes across our desk, we answer the call.

I was lucky enough to be attend the IAFC Strategic Planning Conference in

Washington DC this past October and the theme was "Thriving and Striving in Bad Times." It could not have been more of an appropriate theme. It was during the time of the stock market losing several hundred points every day. It seemed like every time you turned on the TV it was bad news. Kelvin Cochran the Fire Chief in Atlanta, Georgia did a presentation about going through rough times and how we as fire service leadership should respond to hard times. I thought there were some good points that he brought up that I would share today. I think one of the most important things he said; "It is easy to be a leader in good times but the true test of leadership is leading your department through hard times."

I don't know if you are aware that Atlanta Fire had a rough 2008. Chief Cochran was instructed to cut a little over 13 million dollars from their 86 million dollar budget. Atlanta laid off 27 new firefighters and didn't fill several openings that were on the books. They shut down stations, shut down a heavy rescue, shut down apparatus and several other parts of their everyday operation. They also lost part of their overtime budget which causes them to close some stations during times of high absenteeism.

Chief Cochran talked about how hard it was on Atlanta Fire and everyday was a new struggle just for everybody to be at work and morale was as low as it could



get. He decided that most of the problems they were facing were out of their control and Atlanta Fire was not at fault, they were caught in the middle of something they couldn't change.

Chief Cochran made a few discoveries in this process and he shared those with us and the direction he took. He called in his staff and told them that he knew that moral was in the tank and there was nothing that he could do to change that fact. But, it was up to each person to get up every morning and decide if their glass was half full or half empty. He decided that he would get up every morning and his glass would be half full. He stressed that they as a department could not accept bad job performance due to a bad attitude. He asked his Chiefs to make those changes in their own attitudes and concentrate on the positive things that were taking place. Chief Cochran shared that message with everyone who works for Atlanta Fire and hopefully they can look past all of the negative things they have been through and move towards the future.

In closing I think many of us will have some trying times during the next few years and I want you to remember Missouri Chiefs and renew your membership and let your voice be heard. It is a good strong organization and we do have a voice in the state. Missouri Chiefs and the Fire Service Alliance work diligently to protect the things that are important to the Fire Service. We will need that more than ever as we work through these trying times.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

John VanGorkom

The following is as of December 15, 2008:

Checking	58,550.00
CD	26,196.39
BALANCE	84,716.39

John wants you to know that the 2009 Membership Renewals can be found at the MO Chiefs website. If you have any problems call him at: 816-690-6990. The website is: [mofirechiefs.org](http://mofirechiefs.org).

## BIG CEDAR IS ALMOST HERE

The dates for the Winter Conference are: February 19 – 22, 2008.

Chief Rick Lasky of the Lewisville, Texas Fire Department will lead the 2009 Winter Seminar at Big Cedar Lodge. Chief Lasky is an author and veteran public speaker. He will build on last year's program of Pride and Ownership and Real Leadership.

Another exciting addition is the new conference center at Big Cedar. We will be hosting the conference in this new state of the art center. There are still rooms available. Please call Big Cedar at 417-339-5233. Tell them you are attending the conference.



If any one needs a registration form please call Chief VanGorkom at 816-690-6990 or email him at [snichief1@comcast.net](mailto:snichief1@comcast.net).

## LEGISLATION

The Fire Service Alliance is a group of seven statewide Fire Service organizations that has been in existence for some 25 years. The organizations are permitted one representative from each of their organizations.

The organizations are:

- MO ASSN OF FIRE CHIEFS
- FIREFIGHTERS ASSN OF MO
- MO ASSN OF FIRE DIST
- PROFESSIONAL FIRE&FRAUD INV
- INTL ASSN OF ARSON INV (MO CHAP)
- Fire Marshals of MO
- ST LOUIS METRO ALLIANCE

Each year the Alliance chooses some 5 legislative items to pursue through the legislature. Our lobbyist (Gamble & Schlemeier) then pursues the passage of the legislation.

2009 will be no different. The 5 items have been chosen. They are:

### 9-1-1

This legislation will attempt to place a service charge on cellular phones and other devices, similar to the 9-1-1 charges on landlines in the state. The monies

should revert back to the various 9-1-1 systems currently in operation. There may be some monies to assist in areas that do not have 9-1-1 service. This legislation will probably require a vote of the people. This type of legislation has been attempted at least three times in the past.

Missouri is the only state in the nation where cell phones do not pay for utilizing 9-1-1.

### Fire Safe Cigarette

This legislation had been introduced last year with no success. Currently there are over 30 states that have this legislation. It would require that all cigarettes sold in Missouri have paper that will not continue burning after a short period of time if the individual sets the cigarette down.

New York & Vermont statistics have shown a 13% decrease in cigarette caused fire deaths since their enactment some 6 years ago.

### Emergency Disaster Response Fund

FSA will be looking to begin a state fund that will assist in defraying the cost of emergency responders that respond to disasters under MOSCOPE guidelines.

### Amend SB 711

This will be an attempt to fix last session's property tax issue that passed, but looks like it will significantly affect cities and fire districts. The current language may require

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significant roll backs beyond what the bill originally intended.

## **STATE FUEL TAX SAVINGS FOR VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS**

We are still reviewing this potential legislation. Currently the word we are getting is that the fiscal note will be exorbitant and no one will touch it. We are looking at ways of paring it down and make it more palatable. We may start with providing it to the fire association vehicles and equipment as a 1<sup>st</sup> step.

## **OTHER FSA INFORMATION**

The above legislation will be championed by the Alliance. The Alliance will also assist other organizations and agencies in passing legislation that is deemed to be in the best interest of the state's fire service. Items such as fixing the nursing home issue concerning sprinkler systems and smoke detectors and a burn ban on open burning in times of draught.

One other bill we will be assisting in is the Federal Medicaid Reimbursement Allocation for transport ambulance services. You can read more on this a little later in this newsletter.

The other area of work by the FSA is attempting to defeat bills that are a threat to the Fire Service. Each year there is legislation proposed that is or could be a detriment to the fire service and/or the citizens of the state. The FSA attempts to

dissuade the legislature from passing such legislation.

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## **MISSOURI VALLEY DIVISION-IAFC CHIEF GREG POTTBERG STATE VICE-PRESIDENT**

With winter upon us, let's look at the upcoming year. The 2009 Missouri Valley Division Conference will be held July 8 – 10 in Overland Park, Kansas. The current report is that the most of the speakers have been confirmed and plans are moving along well. Please mark your calendars to attend.

As we are always looking at saving money for our organizations please take time to review the Fire-Rescue Government Purchasing Organization (FRGPO) contracts. You can find the link off the Missouri Chiefs website [www.mofirechiefs.org](http://www.mofirechiefs.org). The FRGPO website ([www.firerescue-gpo.com](http://www.firerescue-gpo.com)) is being update to a more user friendly with direct link to contracts off the main page and state reporting of use. The newest contract is with Rainbow Valley Fire Department, a company that provides public education materials. Purchases that occur from our division, allocates a percentage of money back into our division.

**(Editors Note: Chief Pottberg is running for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the MO Valley Division-IAFC. The MAFC Board has endorsed Chief Pottberg. We urge all who**



will be attending the MVD conference in July to do the same. Good luck Greg!!!)

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**PHIL SAYER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND  
RANDY COLE  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

Beginning last year the Missouri Fire Education Commission authorized funding dedicated to support scholarships (**no cost registration**) for “volunteer firefighters and volunteer fire officers” to further their skills and education by attending Winter & Summer Fire Schools.

A maximum amount of \$3,000 is available for the upcoming Winter Fire School (February 6-8, 2009). Additionally, financial assistance for successful applicants is available to cover lodging costs by MUFRTI.

The main focus/goal of the scholarship is to provide training opportunities to firefighters who have not had the opportunity to attend the fire schools due to financial limitations within their department.

To apply please visit our website [www.dfs.dps.mo.gov](http://www.dfs.dps.mo.gov) and follow the Phil Sayer Memorial Scholarship link under “Announcements” .....**DEADLINE** to apply is **January 2, 2009**. Successful applicants will be notified no LATER than January 15<sup>th</sup>.

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## IN MEMORIAM

James C. Coleberd, D.O., age 71, of Hannibal, died Monday, December 15, 2008, at Boone Hospital Center in Columbia. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, December 22, 2008, at the First Presbyterian Church, Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 23, 2008, at Lee's Summit Historical Cemetery in Lee's Summit, Mo. Dr. Coleberd was born July 10, 1937, in Kansas City.

Dr. Coleberd graduated from Liberty High School, class of 1955, Liberty, Mo., attended William Jewell College and was a 1961 graduate of the University of Kansas. He was a graduate in 1970 of the University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine of Kansas City. He served his internship at Capital Regional Medical Center in Jefferson City. He practiced medicine in Clinton, Mo., for 30 years.

Most recently he received his A.A. degree in fire science from John Woods Community College in 2007. He was member of the following professional associations: Charter President, Missouri Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Emergency Medicine, National Volunteer Fire Council, Fire Fighters Association of Missouri, and the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Fire Apparatus in America,



Dr Coleberd was the past Fire Chief of the Clinton, Mo., Fire Department; He was also on the Board of Directors of the Fire Fighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri. Dr. Coleberd retired after 48 years in the fire service. Dr Coleberd was the epitome of selflessness and dedication especially to the Fire Service of Missouri, which he most dearly loved. He will be missed.

Memorials may be made to Fire Fighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri, PO Box 151, Kingdom City, MO 65265, or University of Kansas, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Lawrence, KS 66045, or in c/o Smith Funeral Home & Chapel, at PO Box 549, Hannibal, MO 63401.

**(Editor's Note: If there are other Chiefs' or Chief Officers that have passed away, please let me know so we may honor them here in the Trumpet and at our Winter Meeting in February.)**

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## FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT ALLOCATION

During the 2008 Missouri Legislative session, the EMS Community considered the creation of a Federal Reimbursement Allocation (FRA) program for ground ambulances. Several legislators either offered to sponsor such legislation or vocally supported the concept. **This allocation would affect payment for Medicaid patients only.**

The creation of an FRA for the ground ambulance community is a new concept. Hospitals in Missouri have had a "provider tax" (defined the same as an FRA) for **Medicaid** patients since the late 1980's. Recently the nursing homes and pharmacies have created provider taxes under Missouri law, sponsored by their groups to increase their reimbursement from the state **Medicaid** program (now called Missouri Health Net).

Basically an FRA would occur when ground ambulance services would tax themselves in order to increase their return from the **Medicaid** program. Presently the federal government pays to the state 61 cents for every 39 cents of state money put into the state **Medicaid** program. As an example, if the ground ambulance community creates a "provider tax" which would reach the sum of \$3.9 million then the ambulance community would receive an additional \$6.1 million in new federal dollars.

The FRA process would pool all these dollars and then divide them back out to the ground ambulance services, based upon a formula that would best serve the ambulance community.

In late spring an umbrella group was formed consisting of:

- Ambulance District Association of Missouri
- Fire Service Alliance
- Missouri Ambulance Association
- Missouri EMS Association

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The purpose of this group is to explore the issue of an FRA for ground ambulance services and bring forward to the EMS community a recommendation as to whether this would work out in a positive way for the ground ambulance services in Missouri. These entities formed a new group called "Emergency Medical Service Agent Corporation"

The hospitals have been able to create an FRA which generates very large sums of money as well as generates positive cash flow for each and every hospital. Their system is set up through the Missouri Hospital Association.

Our proposed "tax" would be based upon **emergency responses only**. Currently other agencies have established a process where the tax is paid electronically and all funds are sent back out to the member agencies within a 2-3 hour period so that there is no movement of cash in the process, meaning it is painless on the budget.

The umbrella group for ground ambulances is presently trying to work through the complex financial calculations in order to determine if we create an FRA that we would indeed generate a net gain state-wide as well as benefit each ambulance service.

The Umbrella group has met with

- state **Medicaid** officials

- the Missouri Hospital Association
- the attorneys & lobbyists who assisted in setting up the nursing home and pharmacy programs

During our meeting with the Director of Missouri Health Net and the Deputy Director of the Missouri Department of Social Services we were told that an FRA for ground ambulance services would be a good thing for ambulance services financially and it could meet the strict requirements of the federal government.

Currently in Missouri there are 212 transport ambulance services of which 58 are fire service based. These services could improve their income through this program. More information will be forthcoming as we work through the process.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact:

Richard Lehmann  
Executive Director  
Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs  
[rlhmann@kc.rr.com](mailto:rlhmann@kc.rr.com)  
816-804-9865



## **MOSCOPE (MISSOURI MUTUAL AID)**

As was reported in the last Trumpet, the Statewide Mutual Aid program (now called MOSCOPE) participated in a drill in October. The exercise was funded by the MAFC and the International Assn of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).

The exercise was evaluated by a team from the IAFC. The final report is due next month. The exercise consisted of a large tornado decimating the town of Kirksville, MO. There were many lessons learned. All participants felt it was an effective exercise that showed both the strengths and weaknesses of our statewide Mutual Aid program.

Both the Division of Fire Safety and the Board of Directors wish to thank all participants in the exercise.

On another note on the day before the exercise, the MAFC sponsored a strategic planning process for Statewide Mutual Aid. The participants were the 9 regional mutual aid coordinators.

The result was a strategic plan for the continuation of the state mutual aid program. Your Board of Directors has approved the plan. The following is a summation of the strategic plan:

- **STANDARDIZATION OF VARIOUS PROCESSES WITHIN MOSCOPE**

- Provide a radio procedures guide
- Resource Typing
- Review and provide potential changes in activating the system
- Provide after action reports and other forms for documentation

- **SUPPORTING THE MOSCOPE SYSTEM**

- Provide funding for the various activities needed within the Fire Resources of the MOSCOPE System.
- Review process for managing and coordinating the plan
- Encouragement of participation by all organizations potentially affected by Plan

- **ESTABLISH PROPER CONTROL OF THE PLAN**

- Provide a working MOU between the MAFC Board of Directors and DPS to insure long-term stability of plan and its utilization