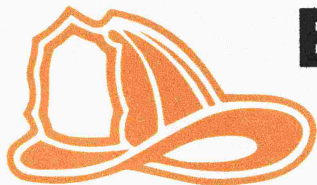


# THE BENEFITS OF



## BECOMING A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

### 1 FREE TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Whether you have tons of fire/ems experience or a rookie fresh to public safety, we offer numerous basic to advanced fire, rescue, EMS & leadership courses.

### 2 MARYLAND TAX INCENTIVES

You may be a volunteer but that doesn't mean there are not financial incentives. Maryland residents receive up to \$7,000 tax credit (2022 tax year) after three years of active service with a volunteer fire/EMS department in Maryland.

### 3 LOSAP / RETIREMENT PROGRAM

The LOSAP is a county or municipal funded program that provides a monthly or regular cash award (varies by location) after serving a specific number of years.

### 4 SCHOLARSHIPS & TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

The Maryland State Fireman's Association (MSFA) offers a variety of scholarships to members of the state's volunteer fire, rescue and EMS service.

“

THE MISSION OF THE MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION IS TO SERVE, PROMOTE, ADVOCATE AND REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF MARYLAND.



More information:

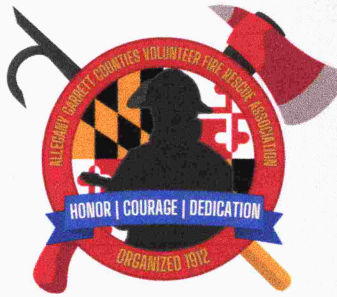
 <https://www.marylandvolunteer.org/>

# ALLEGANY GARRETT COUNTIES VOLUNTEER FIRE RESCUE ASSOCIATION

## Association Benefits

The mission of the Allegany and Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association is to serve, promote, advocate, and represent the interests of the volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services in Allegany and Garrett Counties.

The association also maintains and manages the Line of Duty Death Memorial in Both Allegany and Garrett Counties. Serves as a liaison between volunteers and county government.



> Event promotion on social media and through Bulletin



> Volunteer representation on Region One Emergency Service Advisory Council, and many MSFA Committees



> Optional Participating in "Relief Fund."



> Community Smoke and CO Alarms Program Access

## Perks



Access to Bi-County Award System



Pat A. Bowser Scholarship



Trusted Local Voice in Annapolis to the Maryland General Assembly



Funding and Programmatic Support

# ALLEGANY/ GARRETT COUNTIES DEMOGRAPHICS



## MEMBER DEPARTMENTS

- Accident
- Allegany County Fire Police Co.91
- Baltimore Pike Volunteer Fire Company
- Barton Hose Company No. 1, Inc.
- Bedford Road
- Bittinger
- Bloomington
- Bowling Green
- Bowman's Addition
- Corriganville
- Cresaptown
- Cumberland Hose Department
- Deep Creek
- Deer Park
- District 16
- Eastern Garrett
- Ellerslie
- Flintstone
- Friendsville
- George's Creek Ambulance
- Good Will Fire Company #1
- Gorman
- Grantsville
- Kitzmiller
- LaVale Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Luke
- Midland
- Mt. Savage
- Northern Garrett County Rescue Squad
- Oakland
- Oldtown
- Orleans
- Potomac Fire Company #2, Inc
- Rawlings
- Southern Garrett Rescue Squad
- Tri-Towns EMS

The mission of the Allegany and Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association is to serve, promote, advocate and represent the interests of the volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services in Allegany and Garrett Counties.

## ALLEGANY COUNTY FACTS:

- Population 67,729 (Census, 2021)
- Population Covered by Volunteer Fire Department (72.3%): 48,993
- EMS emergencies are covered by both volunteer agencies and the Allegany County Department of Emergency Service Employees

## COST ANALYSIS FACTS:

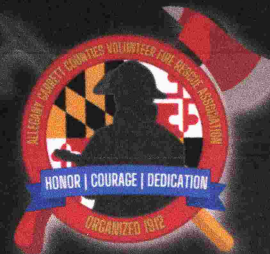
- The average cost of a Fire Engine is \$840,000
- The average cost of Turnout Gear is \$3,000, and NFPA requires replacement minimum every ten years.
- New York State's nearly 100,000 volunteer firefighters save taxpayers \$3.87 billion **EVERY YEAR** in salary and benefits and potential debt service.

Proud Members we advocate for!

Find out more on: [agcvfra.net](http://agcvfra.net) (Website Currently Under Construction)

# STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

## 2024 SURVEY



**HONOR**

**COURAGE**

**DEDICATION**

*The AGCVFRA serves, promotes, advocates & represents the interests of the volunteer fire, rescue, & emergency medical services in Allegany and Garrett Counties.*

### **SURVEY RESULTS**

#### **POSSIBLE RESPONSE SOLUTIONS**

- More financial and logistical support from local & state gov't, more incentives/benefits (tax breaks & discounts, LOSAP, public recognition).
- Retention Incentives.
- Lessening the number of hours of classes.
- A mix of paid/volunteer staffing.
- Get into the schools and excite young people about the fire/EMS services.
- More Diversity.
- Grandfathering of older members with good training and experience to newer standards.
- Mentorships for volunteer members.

#### **Challenges that your department faces?**

- Recruitment and Retention: **95%**
- Increased Training Requirements: **60%**
- Budget Constraints and Funding Challenges: **55%**
- Federal and State Regulations: **30%**
- Department Leadership: **25%**
- Rising Call Volumes: **25%**

#### **Volunteers, have you ever considered leaving the volunteer service?**

- Yes: **36.8%**
- No: **63.2%**

#### **What association benefits, if any, would you like to see in the future?**

- Bulk purchasing, lobbying, inter-departmental cooperation training.
- Advocate for additional tax breaks and insurance benefits.
- Help with obtaining grants.
- Make the volunteer service more appealing.
- Quarterly incentives.