

Come to the Mid-Atlantic Area for the 2010 annual Seminar!
Hosted by the Fire Museum of Maryland, Lutherville,
HQ hotel will be the Crowne Plaza, Timonium,
29 October – 1 November.

Join your fellow members of the *Fire Museum Network* and partake of workshops involving your favorite subjects. We'll visit the *Fireman's Hall* in Philadelphia and the *Pennsylvania National Fire Museum* in Harrisburg on Sunday, and you'll have an option of visiting the *Friendship Firehouse Museum* in Alexandria, the *Friendship Fire Association Museum* in the District of Columbia and the *Baltimore City F.D. Museum* in Baltimore on Monday. Of course the *Fire Museum of Maryland* will be open for you on Friday daytime and Saturday night. All of the curators and directors of these museums are looking forward to sharing their extraordinary collections with you!

Metropolitan Baltimore in late October is beautiful and the weather moderate. The BWI airport is easy to navigate and although you'll have to arrange for ground transportation, once you get to the Crowne Plaza you won't need a car. For those who are driving in, the FMM is located at the interchange of Balto. Beltway 695 and Exit 26B, and the hotel is on the Harrisburg Exwy. 83 and the Timonium Rd. East exit, 2.1 miles north of the FMM.

FRIDAY

On Friday everyone is invited to drop by the FMM to look at exhibits at your own speed. If you need a ride from the hotel, call the FMM at 410-321-7500. The Museum is located straight down (south) York Road 2.1 miles. Please come to the Office door and buzz! There is a Subway and a Friendly's within walking distance.

The optional workshop starts at 1:30 in the Discovery Room where Mary Ellen Hern will talk about the basic pyramid of donors until about 3:00 and then delve into how to raise funds for a special project. She is a very experienced and successful fund raiser in N.Y. State as well as a good presenter. Her resume also includes curatorial and directorial concerns and I promise a valuable workshop. Museum staff and those attendees with cars will shuttle folks back to the hotel. Dinner is on your own. The Plaza has a restaurant and there are chain restaurants nearby (car is preferred).

Friday evening starts with registration from 6 to 8:30 at the Crowne Plaza. At 7:00 in the Chesapeake Room President Tom McDonald will chair the annual Membership Meeting. Bring your concerns, or better yet, email him in advance. tmcfire@aol.com Starting at 7:30 we'll watch a DVD of our museums. Each fire museum is urged to put together a 2-3 minute DVD introducing their museum, as it were, giving highlights as you choose. No more than three minutes per museum! Send it to FMM and we'll compile them onto a master file and make copies for all registrants to take home. A slide show, a video, sound narration or background track are all possible. Use your imagination! Be sure to make a title at the beginning. Send your DVD to the Fire Museum of Maryland by slow mail by 28 September.

There will be snacks, sodas and water. The hotel has a bar in the restaurant that will be open until 11. After we see the Museum Intro. DVD, we'll open the floor for show & tell. Power point and slide projectors will be provided.

SATURDAY

On Saturday late registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The workshops will be held in the Dulaney Valley Ballroom of the hotel starting with announcements and introductions at 9:00. Frank McKelvey will lead off with "Telling the Story". Frank has been teaching museum studies and consulting on museum design and interpretation for 44 years, including the New Jersey Fire Museum. He's going to talk about how to tell a good story. Next will be Tim Winkle

discussing the I.N.A. Collection: arguably the finest of the private insurance company collections. Tim is on the curatorial staff of the Smithsonian and oversaw the incoming I.N.A. Collection and the dispersal of a small portion of same, to many of our museums last year.

At noon we'll take a lunch break in the Chesapeake Room and you should make a choice of dishes on the registration form. If you are a vegetarian or have other dietary concerns, for any of the meals, please note them on the form and we'll make the appropriate arrangements.

One o'clock will see us back in the Ballroom for an illustrated talk on the United Kingdom's fire service heritage. Mick Kernan is a retired fire fighter of 30 years, and working on a grant, completed a survey of American fire museums last year which he will integrate into his talk on British museums. Then at 2:00 Melissa Marsh Heaver will talk about collections care of 2D objects. Attending to these flat materials is critical if we expect them to last a few more hundred years. Melissa is the registrar and archivist for the FMM, and served at the National Trust as senior collections manager for 13 years. There will be a cookie break afterwards.

At 3:00 David Steinitz, board member of the FMM and lighting engineer who owns a lighting specialties company will demonstrate techniques for punching up our displays but that are available on a low budget. There will be a thirty minute break before dinner will be served in the Chesapeake Room, 4:30-6:00. After dinner, please be prepared to depart for the FMM. There will be one bus making two trips: first departure will be about 5:20; second departure will be about 6:00.

The Fire Museum of Maryland presents its annual "Lantern Night" from 6 until 8. (The FMN Board decided to come here this weekend to coincide with this event.) Seminar attendees will mingle with the public to explore the museum under subdued lighting, hidden spots, and twenty or more candle and kerosene lanterns. There will also be interpreters in period attire from many different periods. Some years we've had as many as 16. The Discovery Room will be closed while staff sets up for the dessert party. At 8:00 when we boot out the public, Classic Catering and FMM staff will serve dessert and turn on the regular lights. FMM staff will be positioned throughout to discuss their favorite projects...the archives and library will also be open to you. At 9:45 the first bus will be available for boarding to return to the hotel.

SUNDAY

Sunday will be a full day so have a sturdy breakfast at 7:30 in the Ballroom and board one of two coaches between 8:15 and 8:30. Our first stop will be the Fireman's Hall (about a 1 3/4 hour drive). A representative of the FH will be on each coach to talk about their mission, their collections and to orientate you while en route. Harry Magee and his staff are chaffing at the bit to show off their wonderful facility! They will also serve us a Philadelphia lunch packed with things of local taste such as the Hoagie, soft pretzel, Tasty Kake and root beer.

Then we're back onto the coaches for Harrisburg and a visit to the Penna. Nat'l Fire Museum and its fine collection. Both museums reside in retired fire houses. Representatives of PNFMM will introduce us to their mission and collections en route. John Wagoner and his team are all steamed up over having such an august group visit. We'll enjoy a light snack and board for the trip back to the hotel at 5:00. This will be your 'quiet time' for the day!

Have dinner on your own. There is a restaurant in the Crowne Plaza and chain food restaurants nearby. There are several nice pubs or sea food places that will require a car and some extra time.

At 8:00 we will meet again in the Chesapeake Room to hear Matt Lee talk about the fire at Hand-in-Hand Graphics. Because Matt is a good friend of Ken's and because he was the coordinator of the relief effort, I've asked him to address what he would have done differently and to also make suggestions for our own preparedness. There is a

second presentation pending on disaster planning. The hotel bar will be open until 11 and of course, we'll have snacks, water and soda for our delectation.

M O N D A Y

Monday the 1st of November is an optional day and I hope that you will consider staying for one of the two bus trips. This area is blessed with many fire sites but they require some driving. OPTION NO. 1 is to go to Alexandria and work our way back north. Leaving at 8:30 we will visit the fire house built in 1855 which is now the museum. Bill Kehoe will be our host for the Friendship Veteran's Fire Engine Ass'n. A few blocks away is an in-service house built in 1901 which displays a steamer. In between are historic buildings from 1759 and plenty of good pubs and restaurants. About 1:00 we will depart for Washington, D.C. and the Friendship Fire Ass'n Museum on the second floor of E-31 and Res.4. Chief Jim Embry, ret., will be our host. There may be an extra rig brought up on the apron. Water and snacks will be provided. We expect to be back to the Crowne Plaza by 6 or 7.

OPTION NO.2 is to bus into Baltimore City. Boarding at 9:00, this will be a more leisurely trip as there will be less road time. First stop will be the world-renown Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum partially housed in a spectacular 1888 passenger car round house. We'll lunch at the Bay Café in newly re-vitalized Canton. About 1:00 we will visit the Steadman fire station housing multiple engines, the rescue squad, a medic and chief. It is at the base of another landmark, the Bromo Seltzer Tower. The 1972 H.P. Pumping Station, now O.O.S., will be open to us. A short easterly ride will take us to the Baltimore City F.D. Museum operated by the Box 414 Association (think coffee wagon) and our host will be Bob Brown, curator. This is a one-bay 1853 building with 117' Italianate bell tower. Helmets of the fire fighters killed in the line of duty are on display. Baltimore was the first city to introduce a modular ambulance and a Swab prototype is on display. Back to the hotel about 4:30.

T U E S D A Y

If you are prepared to stay another day, (and ask with rapturous enthusiasm!) I think we could do a car trip to the Royal Fire Co. ca.1880 fire house in York, Pa. This is without doubt one of the most ornate Victorian fire houses extant. (It is not as imposing as the Aurora museum and more like a Queen Anne style.) It contains many collections, both public and private, but has been closed as a museum. Collections are being dispersed. Its future is unsure and it could be put up for development by next year. This is a two-bay, three story monstrosity with etched glass horse stall doors, furrier's bench, exercise paddock, and much more. York is a 45 minute car trip from the hotel. The York County Heritage Trust, which manages the fire house, also operates a house museum and a handsome industrial museum complex.

H O T E L

The CROWNE PLAZA is a large, modern facility which we recommend. We work with the staff there for all of our out-of-town guests and they do a great job. Please call the Crowne Plaza to make your reservation. 410-252-7373. The room rate is \$89 for both singles and doubles starting on the 28th and running through the 1st. If you ask they will probably extend this rate in either direction. Their deadline is 5 October.

C H E C K L I S T

1. If you are not a FMN member, go to the Web site: www.FireMuseumNetwork.org for info.
2. Complete the enclosed registration page and send with your cheque to the FMM before 30 August.
3. Make your airlines reservation to BWI (Baltimore-Washington-Marshall Airport).
4. Make your SuperShuttle reservation from BWI to Crowne Plaza.
5. Make your 3 minute DVD and send a copy by mail to the FMM before 28 September.