

# Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company, Station 27

214 Wise Avenue, Dundalk, MD 21222 Phone (410) 887-7262

**(PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION)  
THIS IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND DOES NOT NEED TO BE TURNED IN WITH  
APPLICATION**

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for considering Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company.

**For your application to be processed quickly, please follow these steps:**

- Complete all information and signatures using only blue or black ink.
- Please write legibly.
- Answer each question to the best of your ability, indicate any that do not apply to you, by marking questions "N/A".
- Carefully review the attached Application Checklist and all required materials that apply.
- *Incomplete or partial applications may be rejected.*
- If you have any questions regarding the application or commitments of joining Wise Ave VFC, contact the Membership Coordinator, prior to submitting, at [membership@wavfc.org](mailto:membership@wavfc.org)
- Allow up to 30 days for processing.
- Upon completion of the application, contact Membership Coordinator or Representative by Email at [membership@wavfc.org](mailto:membership@wavfc.org).
- A drug screening is required by the Baltimore County Volunteer Fireman's Association, it must be completed prior to membership approval.
- All applicants are required to have a criminal background investigation prior to membership approval.
- A physical fitness exam meeting Baltimore County standard is required for all members who wish to participate in emergency service activities and training. Details will be given at the membership orientation.
- After completing your interview, your membership application will be presented to the membership for a vote at the regular company meeting (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the Month at 7:30 PM). Attendance at this meeting is encouraged although not required.

Thank you again for considering membership with the Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company. We look forward to having you as a part of the team serving the citizens of Dundalk and Baltimore County.

Regards,  
Wise Avenue Vol. Fire Co. Membership Committee  
Amanda Mertens  
Membership Coordinator

Phone: 410. 887.7262  
Email: [membership@wavfc.org](mailto:membership@wavfc.org)

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## History

- WAVFC was founded in 1942. We provide Fire and EMS service to our community and throughout Baltimore County. We are a 100% volunteer organization. We are one of the busiest and most successful volunteer firefighting organizations in Baltimore County.
- We have an Executive side led by our President, who is responsible for the business aspects of the Department.
- We have an Operations side led by our Chief who handles day-to-day and emergency operations.
- We have Non-Riding members who do not wish to be active firefighters/EMT, although wish to support the department through fundraisers and direct support.
- The Board of Directors provides oversight to the entire company.
- We have a proud tradition of service to the community. If you wish to join us, our expectations are that you will:
  - Serve the community with the integrity, honor, and respect that is part of our tradition.
  - Pay annual dues of \$10.00. The \$60.00 application fee includes 1 calendar year of dues.
  - Respect and maintain all WAVFC property, including the building, grounds, equipment, and any property entrusted to you, which may include keys, pager and turnout gear
  - Respect the other members, the chain of command, and officers.
  - Be willing to learn and grow.
  - Operate at emergency scenes as part of a team, not as an individual, with safety as your utmost concern.

## Administrative Operations, Application Process, LOSAP, and Dues

- The membership will vote on you for a Probationary Membership.
- Baltimore County Government offers a Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP).
- This is a Maryland state system to track your service time. Points accumulate for everything you do here, including emergency calls, meetings, fundraising, training, duty time and sleep-ins. It is important that you document your time on our LOSAP sheets available in the LOSAP mailbox on the door upstairs next to computer station.
- After 3 years of service with at least 50 points per year, you become eligible for a *MD state tax deduction* which will continue each year if you acquire 50 points per year. After 25 years of service you are eligible for a monthly stipend at age 60.
- Attendance for your probationary membership vote is not required. The LOSAP Chairperson will assign you a 6 digit LOSAP number. That number is what you will use when tracking all of your activity when performing duties around the station, *Memorize it*. You will complete a new member orientation within a few weeks of becoming a member that will explain the basics of membership and firehouse operations. You will also complete a few necessary forms. Per our by-laws, you must serve minimum 60-day probation before receiving a key to the building.
- Your application fee will cover your drug testing, the current years dues and your background check. **It is your responsibility to pay \$10 dues for the next calendar year before the first business meeting of December (1st Monday in December). If you fail to do this, you will be dropped from the membership role and must reapply.** Dues are payable by cash, check, money order, or pay pal you will need to fill out a drop slip with two signatures and drop in the safe outside the treasurer's Office.

## Fundraising

- The Wise Ave VFC owns this property, land, building, apparatus, and equipment.
- We receive some subsidies and grant funds, but the majority of our income is from donations and fundraising. **You are expected to assist with our fund-raising efforts.**

## Emergency Operations

- The requirements to ride are outlined in the Company's Standard Operating Procedures.
- Initially, you will need Bloodborne Pathogens, HAZMAT Core Competence, CPR and Medical Clearance from Baltimore County in order to ride as an observer on the engines/ambulance.

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- You will also need to complete ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 all can be done on-line at the FEMA website.
- Medical clearance through Baltimore county's medical board is required and a physical fitness exam is then required for all riding members every year.
- Your time availability, interest, and engagement will determine how rapidly you progress.

*If you introduce yourself to members and express interest in learning and training, you will progress more rapidly.*

- After your acceptance to the company, you are eligible to register for any Maryland Fire Rescue Institute (MFRI) class for which you meet the requirements. Be sure to follow MFRI cancellation procedures if you register for a class, but cannot attend.
- Shorts may not be worn on any calls due to safety concerns, unless covered with turnout gear/coveralls. Navy blue Dickies or navy blue EMS/tactical pants are encouraged.
- Open-toe shoes/,sandals/or flip-flops are not permitted for riding. Black safety boots are encouraged.
- Training and learning are encouraged and is a lifelong process.

## Safety and Wellness

- **There are responsibilities, stresses and potential hazards associated with training and emergency operations.** We have the highest safety standards, but the potential for injury is a part of the fire service. If you are injured in the firehouse or on a call, **you need to inform an officer immediately.**
- **Emergency operations are physically and mentally demanding.** It is important that you discuss these activities with your Doctor. If you have any health issues, (i.e. injuries, medications, etc.) either permanent or temporary that could interfere with your well-being on an emergency scene, *you need to be honest about your capabilities and should talk with an officer.*
- **There is potential for you to witness scenes of tragedy in the emergency operations field that may be disturbing to you.** This is especially true of incidents involving children, abuse, mass casualty, or dismemberment of a victim. The Baltimore County Fire Department has Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) resources available to address such cases. **If you are disturbed by something you experience, please inform an officer so that appropriate resources can be activated. CISD is most effective when implemented within 24 hours of the incident.**
- The WAVFC lifestyle needs to be balanced with your family, spouse, children, job, school and your personal responsibilities. The firehouse is not an escape from responsibilities and problems. We encourage you to talk with your family/friends/employer about your involvement with the WAVFC to discuss schedules and expectations.
- *We have no tolerance for horseplay, reckless, dangerous, or careless action.*
- We do not discriminate against age, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation.
- **We take these issues seriously and require all our members to take fair practices training. WAVFC does not participate or tolerate "hazing."**
- There is a security system throughout our building. We have no tolerance for behavior that is criminal or detrimental to the company.
- We take vehicle safety very seriously. *Your personal vehicle is not an emergency vehicle.* You are expected to obey all traffic and safety laws when you are responding to the station. You may not flash your lights or honk your horn to move through traffic. You may not install flashing lights and sirens on your vehicle. There is no freelancing. (i.e. you do not bypass the station to respond directly to a scene and act alone).
- The fire department demands a high degree of professionalism and maturity. This is an exciting but demanding environment. It is vital that you keep a healthy perspective on your priorities.

## For Members 16-18

- We have some specific rules pertaining to members under 18:
  - You may not be at the firehouse during times when scheduled for school, out by 10:00pm on school nights and cannot return until 3:30 PM once school is dismissed.
  - Must have a valid work permit.
  - **Are not allowed in the building alone, there must be an active member present.**