

Rally Committee Report

As requested I chaired a Committee to review the rally and make recommendations for future rallies. I would like to thank those members of the committee who shared their thoughts and suggestions with me.

As the rally chairman for the past 3 years I can say that we need the input and support of all of our members, both organizations and individual members to make the rally a success. The rally faces problems along a full spectrum that ranges from the whims and obligations of politicians in Annapolis to the weather. We are faced with time and space constraints and the problems of support. We get limited support from worker bees, but those that do volunteer do a fantastic job. Our last minute ticket sales activity that leaves us guessing right up to the day of the rally is not good. It is not easy to concentrate and worry about the logistics of a Rally when you don't know until the last minute if you're playing to an empty house of 150 or to a SRO crowd of 600.

An organization as large as USM with hundreds of individual members and over 80 organizations representing millions of Marylanders should be able to commit to buying and having a SRO crowd of 600 at our Rally every year no later than October 1st each year. The Committee recommends that action be taken to have an automatic way of selling at least 300 tickets no later than Oct 1 each year to our organizational members. Specific recommendations for Rally are as follows:

1. Move the date of the Rally back to January.
2. Have the format for the Rally include both politicians representing both parties and an educational theme with speakers selected to provide informative talks on the issue selected.
3. Continue to obtain support for the Rally from exhibitors and advertisers in the Rally Program Book. However reduce our printing costs by reducing the number of books printed.
4. Continue the breakfast, box lunch and caucus activity. We should look into the feasibility of combining some of the delegations so that we do not end up with a poor showing in some districts that normally have low attendance at our rally.