



DVFA Officers Meeting
Monday, February 24, 2020
Hockessin (Sta. 19)
18:30 hours

DVFA ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

President Jay Jones
1st Vice President Dan Carrier
2nd Vice President Ken Ryder
Secretary Elmer Steele
Treasurer Terry Whitham
Assistant Treasurer Ray Stevens
Executive Manager Warren Jones

Past Pres./Director Richard T. Perillo
Sussex Director Ron O'Neal
New Castle Director Tom DiCristofaro
New Castle Director Jim Watson
Kent Director Jim Woznicki
Kent Director Ben O'Neal
Pastor Bob Hudson

LADVFA OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

1st Vice Pres. Pam Ingle

ASSOCIATIONS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Fire Chief s 1st Vice President Brian Reeder
Fire Commission Chairman Ron Marvel
Fire Commission Dave Roberts
Sussex County 1st Vice President Jim Arrington
Mutual Relief Chairman Steve White

Conference Chairman Dave Ruff
Ladies Conference Chair Stacy Northam-Smith
Conference Co-Chair George Lamborn
DVFA Past President Anthony Guzzo
NCCVFA Secretary Deb Watson

Address of Welcome by President Jones:

- President Jones welcomed everyone to Hockessin for the meeting
- Invocation by Pastor Bob Hudson
- Recessed for dinner (6:28 PM)

Reconvened at 7:10 PM

- Pledge to the Flag was led by 1st Vice President Dan Carrier

ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

LADVFA 1st Vice President Pam Ingle: Nothing to report tonight. President Workman and 2nd Vice President Lawhead are attending a function in Seaford tonight

DSFCA President Steven Deery: (absent) 1st Vice President Brian Reeder thanked everyone for their attendance at the last Chief's meeting held in Delaware City

DSFPA President Ernie Layfield: (absent)

DSEMSA President Chris Blackburn: (absent)

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Jay Jones (copied and pasted from written report)

In the 2nd quarter of my term as president, I spent more than 103 hours on behalf the association attending 60 events covering 3,690 miles.

First, I want to apologize for the few events which I had to miss due to illness or attending a previous committed engagement. I tried in every instance to have someone from the DVFA leadership attend in my place. I want to give a special thanks to Past President Betts for stepping up in the time of need to represent us. This has been a busy quarter with the legislature going back in session and going through the Joint Finance Committee process. I want to thank the numerous committee's that have been working tirelessly to accomplish our agenda items. I hope we will start seeing the fruits of their labor very soon. We are pleased to announce since last quarter, we have met with the Governor and the Budget Director concerning our items in the budget. Our fire prevention money is in the Governor's Operating Budget and we have received a commitment for our radio money in the Capitol Budget.

The Recruitment and Retention Task Force are still meeting. Their final report date has been moved back from January to the late spring. I am hoping some good legislation will come out of this task force. I especially hope for the possibility of a few pieces of legislation this session. We submitted a draft for items to be considered by the Task Force.

FDIC (Fire Department Instructor Conference) in Indianapolis is quickly approaching. The Delaware Room block is completely full. If you still need help with rooms or reservations, we will do what we can to assist you with those.

Next is CFSI (Congressional Fire Service Institute) fundraising dinner in Washington DC. The Delaware fire service discount this year is \$325 per person. Attendees outside our group are paying much more to attend this fundraiser. Please keep in mind this fee is what funds the CFSI, who work on our behalf with the federal government in securing bills that involve funding federal grants and keeping our best interests in mind on Capitol Hill. The \$325 not only provides you with the evening of speakers and a meal, it also gives you the ability to attend valuable seminars over the course of 2 days. It will provide you with the opportunity to meet with your legislators along with good fellowship. This year the Clayton Fire Company won an award and will be honored that night. I hope we will have a good crowd in attendance to support them. We also need to show support for the companies that have received federal grants in the past and/or currently in the process of trying to secure federal grants. These grants have also benefited the Delaware State Fire School on several occasions to better the educational system here in our state. At one point in time during your fire career we have all benefited from the CFSI. All the information is on our website or you can contact the DVFA office about these events.

As far as draft legislation from the State Fire Prevention Commission concerning oversight of the Delaware State Fire Service. We have sent out that piece of draft legislation and have called for a special meeting for that subject to be held on April 5th at 10am. This special meeting will be held at the Delaware State Fire School. Please reach out to any of the committee members with any questions.

Thank you all for your continued support and allowing me to be the President of this wonderful organization. We are only as strong as our members. While we may never agree 100% on most issues, we need to continue to come together to solve the problems to improve the volunteer fire service. We need to honor our commitment to serve the residents and the visitors of this great state.

Thank you.

1st Vice President Dan Carrier

- Attended several meetings
- Apologized for changing the meeting date
- Hockessin is buying a table for CFSI

2nd Vice President Ken Ryder (copied and pasted from written report)

This report is a review of thoughts on 2 issues as we sit at the table for our 2nd officers meeting here in Hockessin.

Again, I know the agenda that we cover here tonight will involve a host of thoughts and ideas, some that we have dealt with and some that we haven't.

I'm concerned about the passing of time involved with the five meetings for the R&R Task Force in Dover. It seems that our progress hasn't moved as quickly as I/we had hoped. I should add that Warren (the DVFA) did provide a basic condensed list of possible areas that the task force should be thinking about and planning on how to move forward. We must continue to move R&R forward here in Delaware. We have to succeed!

Last but not least...the DVFA Scholarship Fund. So far through January & February this has been mentioned consistently at all meetings that I've been able to attend. I've advised the attendees that the information has been distributed and should be given to the company members and their respective auxiliaries. We need to keep pushing this through March as the deadline for submissions is March 30th.

Secretary Elmer Steele

- Spent most of this quarter working on Conference stuff for 2020
- Most of the menus are done
- Waiting on the Past Presidents dinner menu and the breakfast, lunch and dinner menu for the EMS events
- Room contracts are out and were due back by February 15th
- Several issues to clear up regarding rooms; ie; general seminars, fire chief s seminars, vendors etc.

Treasurer Terry Whitham: (bullet points from written report)

- The Crawford Financial account has been updated in regards to signers. President Jones, Dan Burriss and myself have completed all the required paperwork. It will require no less than two (2) signers to perform any transactions.
- We have finally moved the Executive Managers payroll over to the Operations account effective January. Bumpers had to still use the old financial account due to the stipulations with Quick Books payroll. The game plan now, for budget purposes, is to separately record Salary, Social Security, Federal & State payroll deductions.
- We have to keep a close eye on our travel expenses. VCOS went over budget by \$ 1,100.00 and right now FDIC expenses are at 71 %. That is just airfare and registrations.

- The pension checking account was closed. The \$ 868.18 was transferred to the operations checking account. I email Doug Kook in regards to proper disbursement of the funds. From that discussion, you have before you a policy on usage of the assessed late fund payments. Doug said it didn't make much sense assessing a company a late penalty and then paying it back to them.
- In regards to the pension. I am set to wire the pension payment to Northern Trust on Wednesday. Please keep in mind that it has to be in their hands by no later than March 1st.

Assistant Treasurer Ray Stevens: (bullet points from written report)

- Developed a proposed 2020 Conference Budget that will be presented at the March 16th Conference meeting at Dover Downs
- Encouraging organizations to hold fund raisers to offset some of the cost of their particular events, since there are not enough funds to pay for all expenses
- Discussed conference expenses thus far for 2020. \$25,000.00 deposit check has been sent to Dover Downs for 2020 Conference
- Balances as of January 31, 2020; Checking Account \$5,500.00, Money Market Account \$49,291.75, Total Conference funds \$54,791.75
- Contracts to Date; Dover Downs \$100,000.00, Social Media \$8,300.00, Conf. App {Whova} \$2699.00. Reminder; ALL contracts are to be signed by the DVFA President
- New Accounting period; Conference is now on a calendar year (Jan 1to Dec. 31) This way all income and expenses will fall within the same year

Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission Ron Marvel:

- AG has drawn up proposed legislation to allow the fire commission the authority to promulgate oversight rules and regulations for the fire service, similar to the BLS rules
- Protocol committee is working
- Mar 16th will be the public hearing on the 710 regulations at 7:00 PM. Several questions and concerns, but nothing in writing.

At this time a discussion took place regarding the "gray" areas in the regulations. Lots of questions and concerns, but no real answers at this point. Need to understand the process. Lots of mis-information.

Conference Chairman Dave Ruff:

- Mar. 16th will be the next conference meeting, 7:00 PM at Dover Downs
- Souvenirs have been ordered
- Thanked the committee members for staying on for another year
- Jay and Warren are working with M&T Bank for future funding

DVFA Foundation Lynn Rogers: (absent)

Ron O'Neal reported the application for this year's State Employee Charitable Campaign has been completed and submitted. This is the annual fund-raising drive approved by the State of Delaware, allowing state employees to raise monies for local non-profit charitable organizations. This year's application was a little more complicated due to additional tax form paperwork being required, but after a number of back and forth emails, everything has now been submitted. Application review process should be completed by the first of May and notification of acceptance should be the first of June.

The next Foundation meeting is scheduled for April 14th. Mr. Jeff Eisenbrey will be joining the Foundation Board, taking the place of Mr. Jim Cabbage who officially retired from the Foundation in December. A luncheon honoring Jim's years of service on the Foundation will be held following the meeting.

Mutual Relief Chairman Steve White:

- All companies are paid up and on time this year
- Still available to make their presentation at your company meeting

Director reports:

Past President/Director Richard T. Perillo: (copied and pasted from written report)

I had the pleasure to attend the County Chief's Association meeting at Volunteer Hose. A gentleman from Lewes, Fire Police, spoke on the fire police vanity tag. Has this come to this Association?

If we need more funds for our conference, we can take an extra \$500.00 from the company dues being \$1,000.00, this will give the Committee \$60,000.00. We do not need \$180,000.00 to run the administration side of our Association. Taking the \$500.00 away from the admin it would bring that down to \$150,000.00 to operate.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of this Association.

New Castle County Director Tom DiCristofaro:

- The R&R task force committee is not working as well as it should. Disappointed; 5 meetings and nothing is getting done
- Requested Ladies representation on this committee and that hasn't happened
- Committee is not being taken seriously

New Castle County Director Jim Watson:

- New Castle has changed their meeting schedule. Only meeting 4 times per year instead for the previous 12 times per year. Seems to be working thus far
- Selling patches to raise money for their scholarship program

Sussex County Director Ron O'Neal: (copied and pasted from written report)

Recruitment & Retention Committee - Since the middle of December, we have had 11 contacts thru the Firefighter.Delaware.gov website. Broken down as per County: Kent - 1, Sussex - 1, New Castle - 9.

Categories of interest:

Firefighter - 5	Administrative - 1
Volunteer EMT - 2	Auxiliary - 1
EMT-B (paid) - 1	Fire Police - 1

Contacts with the inquiries are being made as soon as possible and directed to the nearest fire house, along with contact info (phone numbers, website, contacts) for that organization. Still looking for volunteers from each County to handle the contact information.

Looking at a number of upcoming events that I know of in Sussex County to participate: Ellendale Fire Company 100th Anniversary on May 9, Milton Fire Muster on May 30, Apple Scrapple Festival in October.

Sussex County Director Doug Hudson: (absent)

- 1st Vice President Jim Arrington stated that this is still a learning experience for him
- Next Sussex meeting is tomorrow night at Dagsboro, Sta. 73

Kent County Director Jim Woznicki:

- Looking to change their meeting format

Kent County Director Ben O'Neal:

- Annual Appreciation night at Felton is sold out
- Kent has appointed a committee to look at their meeting format for a possible number of meetings during the year. Should have a report by next month's meeting

President Jones:

- Ted Walius has asked to be removed as our alternate to NVFC and Bill Betts will fill that position
- Re-iterated what he has previously stated regarding leadership, taking care of business
- Watch what you put out, think twice before posting, be cautious, social media can be your enemy, as well as your friend
- Up-date on the forged signatures on the surf fishing applications. It appears to be 1 individual, from 1 company that forged the company President's signature and the DVFA President's signature on at least 5 applications. Has been turned over to our attorney for review and advise.
- Officers are using signature stamps to alleviate this problem in the future

Executive Manager Warren Jones:

- Delmarva Power application has been completed for the \$10,000.00 for Conference
- Legislation; Bond bill hearing will be Mar. 4th. Asked for \$2mil for radio replacement
- Safer Drivers LLC looking to build a driver's course in the Cheswold area. Looks like fun
- May 7th is the Governor's Prayer Breakfast in Dover. DVFA will purchase a table

Motion by Ron O'Neal and second by Jim Watson that the DVFA Officers, Directors, Assistant Treasurer and Executive Manager go into Executive Session. (8:35 PM) Motion carried

Pastor Bob thanked Ron Marvel for allowing him and many others for the transportation to various meetings up and down the State.

Before going to Executive session, President Jones asked Pastor Bob to do the Benediction so the other folks attending the regular meeting could leave.

Motion by Ron O'Neal and second by Jim Watson to close the Executive Session and return to the regular order of business. (8:48 PM) Motion carried

There being no other business to come before the group, President Jones adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Elmer B. Steele

Elmer B. Steele, Secretary
Delaware Vol. Firefighter's Assoc.

Attest to: Warren Jones, Executive Manager

Jay Jones, DVFA President