



DVFA Officers Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 2021
Live meeting - 18:30 hours – Sta. 48, Felton

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
Executive Manager Warren Jones

Sussex Director Ron O'Neal
New Castle Director Tom DiCristofaro
Kent Director Jim Woznicki

LADVFA OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

President Karen Workman
1st Vice Pres. Pam Ingle

2nd Vice Pres. Deb Lawhead

ASSOCIATIONS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Conference Chairman Dave Ruff
Foundation Chairman Lynn Rogers

Fire Commission Chairman Ron Marvel

- President Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM
- Invocation given by Karen Workman -- Pledge to the flag led by Jay Jones
- Broke for dinner
- Called the meeting back to order, thanked the Felton ladies for a fine meal

ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

LADVFA President Karen Workman:

- Greetings from the State Ladies Association
- 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents are also in attendance

DSFCA President Steven Deery: (absent)

DSFPA President Ernie Layfield: (absent)

DSEMSA President Chris Blackburn: (absent)

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Jay Jones:

- General discussion regarding R&R task force, legislation issues, 100th Anniversary, Conference at the Riverfront in Wilmington.
- Followed up on all reports from the various Officers

1st Vice President Dan Carrier: **(copied and pasted from e-mail)**

Have attended meeting up and down the state and have attended Zoom meetings.

Warren Jones has informed us he will be stepping down as executive manager in March 2022 I have appointed a committee of the vice president of the DVFA in the three-year directors from each county of the DVFA to come up with job descriptions and start the process of looking for a replacement. Everyone please stay safe

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

This report is a review of thoughts on issues as we prepare a report with a few notes for our Officer's meeting tonight. Its 3 months later since we had our last meeting in Hockessin in February. After how many months of isolation we are going to have another in person meeting. So it looks like we are now on track to begin getting things back to a "normal" that we all had prior to our COVID-19 outbreak. Finally after approximately 14 months of trying to live with a pandemic going on all around us here in Delaware, the United States and the world... so we meet tonight in Felton to keep the DVFA moving forward.

At our meeting this past February in Hockessin things were mostly stagnant and nothing it seemed like was going on with R&R Task Force. Granted much of this was due to the COVID situation and not being able to communicate or have the meetings needed to jump start this project and move it towards final completion. As we have been talking about over the last couple of weeks things are progressing more quickly. Warren advised the FINAL REPORT to be distributed to the Task Force for approval. Once approved it will be ready to distribute to our companies for their review. We must continue to move R&R forward here in Delaware. We have to succeed!

Again as I've brought up at our February meeting my concerns about the insurance distribution formula. So far this year our request to the commissioner for a meeting has not happened. Again we need to solve this in time for this year's distributions, calendar 2021. The commissioner advised that he had hired an outside firm to do the work and a new computer program to do the calculations involved. Finally on Monday, May 3rd...the numbers were released for all 3 counties. Kent County came from behind last year's debacle to receive an increase of \$17,768.00 bringing per company total to \$299,290.00!! Additionally the Rescue/Ambulance money increased by \$5,273 to an annual total of \$77,132.00!! Halleluiah!!

I need to mention pending Legislation that affects us. At the moment there seems quite a few that we need to watch, about half dozen. Our premier will be the Cancer Presumptive Package crafted by the committee that President Jones appointed. In my opinion their work on developing this was right on target. We have the product for good coverage and a fiscal proposal to support it. Now we need this to be submitted, passed by both the House and Senate...signed by the Governor. This can't come soon enough! More to follow on others pending..

Last but not least this being our 100th Anniversary year our memorabilia of Anniversary Books and Coins are finally being distributed and sold mostly by the DVFA Office and we three Presidents. Several months ago I met with LADVFA 2nd VP Deb Lawhead to seek her help in this project and of course she agreed. Since that time we both have been working on the local level and within Kent County by company to promote these items. I reached out and was able to recruit KCFPA 2nd VP Bill Carrow to work with us in Kent County. The

KCFPA made a purchase of 21 books and 22 coins for \$640.00 to use as gifts for their Past President's Honorarium at their May 18th meeting. I'm going to turn in to Treasurer Terry Witham tonight a second deposit of \$860.00. Deb has turned in \$400.00 to date both Deb and Bill will continue assisting with sales in Kent County.

The real 100th Anniversary date was February 24th, 2021 but that planned meeting at Carlisle (Station 42) couldn't happen due to COVID. Maybe we will be able to celebrate some the other historical events that were significant during 1921. We will see!

Secretary Elmer Steele:

- No report, working on Conference issues

Treasurer Terry Whitham: **(copied and pasted from written report)**

1. Revenue since our last DVFA Executive meeting in March are:
 - 100th Anniversary Souvenirs- \$2,200.00. I have another \$ 560.00 to deposit along with some additional money that 2nd VP Ryder has.
 - Special Programs Revenues- CISM- \$ 4,600.00 and \$ 10,000.00 for Recruitment & Retention. Total Revenue- \$ 16,800.00
 - Total Expenses for the period- \$ 18,974.99
2. As of May 20th we show the following balances:
 - a. Checking- \$ 143,504.16
 - b. Money Market- \$ 163,070.22
 - c. Crawford Financial Account- \$ 232,340.
3. The FY 21-22 Operations budget is currently being finalized. The F&B chairmen will be calling the committee together to review the budget requests and figures for a presentation to the Board and membership.

Assistant Treasurer Ray Stevens: (absent)

Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission Ron Marvel:

- Discussed several issues regarding; DEFIRS reports, company audits, fire prevention money, putting masks on patients, sprinkler demo at fire school, several legislative bills that affect the fire service and the commission

Conference Chairman Dave Ruff:

- Conference will be Sept. 14-17 at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington
- Voted to cancel the dance
- EMS will have a 1-day session and will give 6 hours of CEU credits if criteria is approved by OEMS
- Working on forms for the web site
- Next meeting will be June 21 at 7:00 PM at Sta. 49 Frederica

DVFA Foundation Lynn Rogers:

- Met on May 5th, re-appointed officers, looking for funding for scholarship

Foundation report by Ron O'Neal: **(copied and pasted from written report)**

The postmarked deadline for scholarship applications this year was March 31, 2021. 19 applications have been received and reviewed by Kim O'Malley, and the Scholarship Committee has scheduled a meeting for 9:30am this Sunday, May 23, at the Fire School in Dover to review the submissions and select winners.

Those applicants selected to receive scholarships should be notified immediately and will be announced at the June Executive Meeting.

At this time, there is approximately \$10,360 in the Scholarship Account for distribution towards the successful applicants. This available amount does not include funds budgeted annually by the DVFA. Usually, the bulk of the funding is received at the June Executive Meeting.

Thank you to Treasurer Whitham and to Brooks Layton for creating a link on the DVFA website to the Foundation, providing information to those who wish to donate towards the scholarship fund. This link is located at <https://dvfassn.com/page/dvfa-scholarship>.

Scholarship report by Ron O'Neal: (copied and pasted from written report)

Following the R & R segment done on WBOC's DelmarvaLife (thanks to President Jones), Terry Ayers, WBOC Media Specialist, has been working on developing some ideas around promoting the DVFA, and in particular, Recruitment & Retention. The main goal here would be to get the word out on the need for volunteers to as many social media outlets as possible. Terry currently is the Firefighter.Delaware.gov Facebook "administrator" and posts most of the articles seen on that site, but it willing to work with someone from the fire service to be the "point person" for the Facebook page, basically turning over the administrative duties to this person.

Terry also mentioned a creating a DVFA Youtube Channel, where any Delaware Fire Company could post information or link to their own videos.

Recruitment & Retention report by Ron O'Neal: (copied and pasted from written report)

- There have been no inquiries on the Firefighter.Delaware.gov website since late last year.

Mutual Relief Chairman Steve White: (absent)

Director reports:

New Castle County Director Tom DiCristofaro:

- Questioned extra funding from the State, rainy day funds, grants, Federal money for Covid. We need to stay on top of this and "need to be in line, with our hands out" to get anything that may come along
- Possibility of "wrapping" the DVFA car for some added advertisement. Asked Lynn Rogers to get a price as to what could be done and what the cost may be.

New Castle County Director Richard J. Perillo: (absent)

Sussex County Director Ron O'Neal:

- Talked more about the R&R segment on WBOC and about creating a YouTube channel
- Hope to start participating in upcoming events for R&R purposes

Sussex County Director Jim Arrington: (absent)

Kent County Director Jim Woznicki:

- Nothing to report

Kent County Director Gerald Manley: (absent)

Executive Manager Warren Jones: **(copied and pasted from written report)**

Conference items: Some registrations are on the website. As I receive more I will put them up.

Task Force: The final report is being sent out to the task force very soon. I have read it and forwarded some information to them for the front page. Once that is approved it will be distributed to the General Assembly and the Governor. One thing is critical for OMB to include in the operating budget and two pieces of legislation are also important to get passed this year. I was contacted by the attorney writing the tuition reimbursement bill, so I know that is in the works. I have not been contacted on the \$1,000 tax credit.

Legislative items:

SB92: State Parks bill past the Senate this week

SB126: pull over for approaching emergency vehicles

SB139: Changes some of the language for DEMSOC appointments: DVFA President, Chair of DVFA EMS Committee, Chair of the Commission

SB63: Foam Bill

HB82: Commission Terms and fees

Cancer Presumption is completed but not filed. No number

HB193 which is the commission legislation giving them the authority to promulgate regulations to investigate complaints and firefighter injuries is introduced in the house.

SB1, I was not happy with. I'm meeting with Senator McBride next Thursday. The problem I have is SB1 is a family leave bill where the employers pay into a fund to cover the cost of the leave. It would cost any employer with more than 20 employees 0.08% of the total payroll. All of our fire companies who have employees would be affected by this legislation.

SB120 has caused me a lot of work. I have to tell you this whole story because it kind of comical and shows we still have some clout in legislative hall. SB120 is bill to reduce health care cost. When I was reading the bill I received a call from the Hospital Association to ask me if I saw the bill. Yes and I have some questions. After I hung up with them, I send my questions to Senator Townsend (sponsor) and Senator Ennis 2 weeks ago. Senator Townsend was back to me right away. I told him I had two questions what is a non-capitated ambulance and how does affect our ambulance billing. His first reply was as long as you are not gouging people with your fees you won't have a problem. I wasn't going to answer that statement. Ok thank you for your reply. Next I hear from Senator Ennis who said I hear you have a problem with SB126. No, its SB120 not SB126 and I do not have a problem yet, just a couple of question. Next day I get a text from Senator Pettyjohn who says, Bonini told me you are not supporting SB120. I told him the same thing I just have a couple of questions. Next day or night Townsend calls me back. He says you know you have some influence her in legislative hall and I hear you have a problem with 120. I said I just have two questions. Ok I'll get your answer from the insurance department

'The bill's notation of "non-capitated ambulance" means that which is paid on individual services provided. So, it would be limiting price increases on specific care charges that can be provided in an ambulance "when billed separately from the professional component," but not limiting price increases when ambulance services are purchased per user, or for professional services delivered within ambulances. Any type of capitated contract, i.e. one based on a set rate to provide services to a population, would be excluded. These rates incentivize providers to streamline operations.'

I send this to our attorney Bill Preston about 10:30 that night when I got this from Townsend. He get back to me the next morning and has more questions I need to ask Townsend. I send Townsend the question from Bill and finally I get some definitive answers to my two simple questions from two weeks ago. I finally get about 3 paragraphs from the Insurance Department, Wednesday night. In summary "This legislation relates to hospital-based ambulance care (such as if the hospital owns the ambulance or the hospital contracts with an ambulance). We are capitated ambulances not non-capitated."

- Discussed Special Olympics contribution. Motion made and second to donate \$500 to Special Olympics as in the past. **Motion carried**
- Discussed CVVFA Convention book ad. Motion made and second to take a full-page ad in their convention book at a cost of \$100. **Motion carried**

There being no other business to come before the group, President Jones adjourned the meeting at 8:08 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