



**DVFA Officers Meeting
Thursday, August 29, 2019
Frederica (Sta. 49)
18:30 hours**

DVFA ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

Kent Director Ken Ryder
Kent Director Michael Brittingham (*absent*)
Sussex Director Ron O'Neal
Sussex Director Hunter Holland (*absent*)
New Castle Director Tom DiCristofaro
New Castle Director Mark Gott (*absent*)
Past Pres./Director Ted Walius

LADVFA OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

LADVFA President Penny Gentry
LADVFA 1st Vice President Karen Workman

LADVFA 2nd Vice President Pam Ingle

ASSOCIATIONS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Fire Chief's Assoc. President Derrick Brode (*absent*)
Ambulance Assoc. President Jason Capps
Fire Police Assoc. President Les States
Fire Commission Dave Roberts
Foundation Lynn Rogers (*absent*)
Fire Police 1st Vice Pres. Ernie Layfield
Kent County Director Jim Woznicki

Conference Chairman Joe Zeroles
New Castle Cty 1st Vice Pres. Jim Watson
New Castle County Secretary Deb Watson
Mutual Relief Steve White
Sussex County 1st Vice Pres. Doug Hudson
Conference Co-Chair Dave Ruff
Out-of-State Coordinator Steve Austin

Total of 26 in attendance.

- President Betts called the meeting to order
- Invocation by 1st Vice President Jones
- Pledge to the Flag by President Betts
- Recessed for dinner at 6:35 PM

Reconvened at 7:10 PM

President Betts brought the Frederica ladies out and thanked them for the meal that was prepared tonight. A round of applause was given to thank them.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

LADVFA: President Penny Gentry:

- Ladies have some changes that they would like. The 2 Vice Presidents will be working on them for next year.
- Expressed their Thank You for allowing them to attend and for keeping them informed this year

DSFCA: President Derrick Brode:

- Absent No report from the Chief's Association

DSFPA: President Les States:

- The Fire Police have made up pamphlets this year explaining the duties of a Fire Police Officer
- Fire Police will be attending the schools, along with the State Police, to do a power point presentation regarding driver's education
- It has been a pleasure working with the DVFA Officers this year
- Introduced 1st Vice President Ernie Layfield

DSEMSA: President Jason Capps:

- It has been a good year. Thanks to everyone for their help
- Held a fund raiser in New Castle this year to raise some funds to help with the EMS cost during the Conference. Raised almost \$7,000
- Conference is almost here. Will have a National speaker (Ken Bouvier) this year for the CEU classes on Wednesday
- Number counts are up a little this year for the classes

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Bill Betts (cut and pasted from original filed report)

The last quarter started out attending the Maryland State Firefighter Officer's Banquet at the Clarion in Ocean City, MD on June 15th, and the opening ceremonies on June 17th. After they struck up the band for the second time, we marched out the door with the band.

I attended the Delaware State Chief's Expo in Harrington on June 27th and went to Legislative Hall for the closing session on June 30th which last until 1:15 am. I was disappointed that the Senate did not pass the Income Tax deduction to \$500 after it passed the House 41 to 0.

July was a slow month for the DVFA, but I attended all three county association meetings and the commission meeting.

August began with attending the Cumberland Valley Convention in Berkeley Springs, WV on August 12st & 2nd, with the President's Council on August 2nd. I have notes to file in a report but have had some medical issues with my wife to deal with.

Jay and I attended the Virginia Convention on August 7th & 8th in Hampton Roads, VA and attended their opening ceremonies and Memorial Service on Wednesday night, and their business meeting on Thursday until they started a roll call process on a page and a half of By-law changes. We visited their exhibits, and I believe that we have more vendors than what they had.

I want to thank everyone for their support that they gave me over the past year. It felt like it went very quickly, and I tried to do my best to promote the good qualities that the DVFA is about. There are a lot of

naysayers out there in the Fire Service that feel that we do nothing for the State Fire Service, and if they do, they should take a look at their State funding at present. It is second to none in the rest of the 50 States and it is the result of a lot of hard work by past and present DVFA Officers and Executive Managers pounding on the legislators for funding. With the new problems, we need to continue to examine potential funding sources and look back at our success with the red-light money for our EMS system.

I would like to offer my support to the incoming officers, and I promise to be around to assist, and not be a one-hit-wonder. Thank you once again as I have met and got to know some very special and capable members of the Delaware Fire Service.

1st Vice President Jay Jones (cut and pasted from original filed report)

In the 4th quarter of 2019, I traveled to 3,544 miles, attended 59 events with over 137 hours of service. This brings my yearly totals to 14,928 miles traveled, 503 hours of service, and 176 events attended.

It has been an extremely busy quarter. I was working along with Executive Manager Warren Jones to wrap up our legislative items and securing funding for the fire service at the state level for this physical year. I have also been doing some traveling to several states representing the Delaware Fire Service. Those States include West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland States/Commonwealth conferences along with the Cumberland Valley conference.

I have also been working along with the Delaware conference committee to help make this year's conference a success and hope that we all can enjoy and benefit from the conference that we have planned. We have a lot of great seminars this year. I am hopeful that next year I will be able to continue providing more of these great seminars when I begin my term as President.

As you aware, we were not successful in getting the cancer presumption legislation passed through the legislature before the end of session. I have appointed a working group to iron out all the kinks on any new and current legislation concerning cancer in the 2020 term. I hope their work can move cancer legislation through the chambers more rapidly with a successful outcome.

In our last quarterly meeting the DVFA, I was charged to help facilitate a way to address the staffing issues throughout the state. To begin my task, I have reached out to every county association and county chiefs association asking them for an appointee from their bodies to come together with our three elected DVFA directors and appointees of the State Fire Chiefs Association, to put together a working group, to start the conversation of this statewide issue. I hope good things will come from this and we will be able find a path forward.

The 2020 DVFA committees have been assigned by the 2020 Presidents and will be distributed at the conference. We decided to change some committees by adding a few and separating the technology and website committees, along with forming a Junior member/cadet committee. We also reinstated the DVFA cruise by request. We are also changing the name of the Health and Safety committee to Health and Wellness. We hope this will eliminate any confusion between the Life Safety Committee (fire prevention) versus this committee and gives a more clear description of the intent. I am eager to see great accomplishments from these committees and working groups.

Lastly, I would to thank all my fellow officers, whom have showed their support and friendship. I have been lucky to serve with these individuals to create a common bond and work toward a common goal. I also want to thank all my family and friends that have supported me these past few years, with an understanding of my absence. Surely, I will be remiss if I did not thank you, the members of this great association for allowing me to serve you as your 1st Vice President. I look forward to serving you in the role of DVFA President

going into 2020. This is a great honor that I do not take lightly. I guarantee, I will always put forth my best effort for the good of the association. I hope you all have wonderful conference.

2nd Vice President Dan Carrier

- Congratulated President Betts on a good year
- Will have a full written report for Conference

Secretary Elmer Steele

- Congratulated President Betts on a great year.
- Thanked everyone for their support during his recent medical issues. Some of the treatments are done, will wait about 4 weeks for some re-testing and final results
- Spent most of this quarter working on Conference BEO's and diagrams

Treasurer Terry Whitham

1. We have received all the companies' dues for the upcoming budget year. Thanks to Warren for all your help.
2. The check has been cut and received by Ray Stevens for the conference contribution.
3. All the accounts have been separated in the Quick Books program. You should start seeing a cleaner report for both the operations and conference accounts.
4. I'm in the process of closing down the AT&T fire line account. This has not been an easy process, as they have made me jump through several hoops.
5. Our financial review is in the hands of Bumpers & Company. They had several questions for Ray and me.
6. Pablo and I re-established the Intuit account for receiving credit card charges. The fee now processed goes directly into the conference account. So far things are going smooth.
7. The new vehicle purchased went over budget by \$ 503.88. So, Mr. 1st VP, you will be going into your new term in the red.
8. Please try to remember any purchases for conference expenses, need to be separated if you use the DVFA credit card for accounting purposes. So far things have worked out.

Assistant Treasurer Ray Stevens

- Gave Conference revenues and expenses thru August 28th
- Gave checkbook and money market balances thru August 28th
- Discussed the credit card fees through INTUIT
- Discussed a pension meeting for Sept. 4th with Dave Craik. Will inform the Officers of the outcome

Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission Dave Roberts

- Congratulations to the Officers for another good year
- Expressed a special thanks to the Officers for attending the Commission meetings
- The Commission had to fine 3 Companies at the last meeting regarding late audits
- Reviewing NFPA 1917 reference to ambulance construction standards
- Welcomed President Betts as the new Commissioner and thanked Past President Perillo for his service this past year

Conference Chairman Joe Zeroles

- Congratulations to the Officers on a good year
- Numbers seem to be off a little, especially for the Chief's dinner/meeting in Cheswold
- Will stuff packets on Monday, 9/9 at 6:30 PM
- Co-Chair Dave Ruff said he was looking forward to next year

DVFA Foundation

- Steve Austin gave the report in the absence of Chairman Rogers
- Steve also gave a report as out-of-State coordinator. He thanked the Officers for traveling to the various events this past year
- Steve stated that Sean Carroll will be leaving CFSI on September 13th and taking a position with Kidde as Associate Director of Governmental Affairs. Sean has been with CFSI for 17 years
- Ron O'Neal stated that there will be some changes to the make-up of the foundation shortly, due to some retirements
- The foundation will award 13 scholarship's this year at \$1,500 each
- Next meeting will be Oct 8th at 10:00 AM

Mutual Relief Chairman Steve White

- Gave an up-date on the policy cost for next year
- Copies of the info will be sent to the office on Tuesday for distribution to all member companies

Director reports:

Past President/Director Ted Walius

- Thanks to the Officers for a great year
- This will be his last meeting as a Director, but he will be around, not going away

Sussex County Director Ron O'Neal

- Congratulations on a great year. Looking forward to next year
- Since he sees that he has become Chairman of the Recruitment & Retention committee, he hopes to revive that committee. Asked how this committee could interact with the new State Task Force
- Looking to work with the Sussex County GEMS group for some input
- Raised a question as to how we can get people to stay for the men's lunch on Friday. Seems like people are filtering out as soon as the meal is over

Sussex County Director Hunter Holland (absent)

- 1st Vice President Hudson congratulated the Officers for a good year
- Looking forward to next year

New Castle County Director Tom DiCristofaro

- Congratulations to the Officers for a great year, especially to Terry for sorting out the finances of the Association and making it easier to understand
- Discussed seminar bookings at the Conference. Need to take a strong look at how they can be re-aligned so there are more options for people to attend
- Stated that some of the school districts are still not allowing fire prevention material into the schools. Thought this issue was addressed a couple of years ago with the Governor
- This has been a learning experience. Looking forward to next year

New Castle County Director Mark Gott (absent)

- 1st Vice President Watson congratulated the Officers for a good year
- Deb Watson stated that New Castle County Association will be holding a bar-b-que fund raiser for the Association on October 18th at Sta. 15

Kent County Director Ken Ryder

- Re-iterated what has already been said
- Thanks to Warren and Jay for their work at legislative hall
- Looking forward to next year

Kent County Director Michael Brittingham (absent)

- Introduced Jim Woznicki as the new Kent County Director for next year

Executive Manager Warren Jones

- Went over Conference number counts
- Discussed some Conference items; seating for opening ceremonies, evaluation forms for the various seminars and events, will move the office to Dover Downs on Monday, 9/9
- Need various Officer reports for the Conference
- Working on 2019/2020 event calendar. Need info on meetings, dates, places, etc.

General Discussion

Reviewed the "DVFA Emeritus Roles" that was presented. Several comments were made and some word changes were recommended. 1st Vice President Jones will re-write this policy and get it to the Officers for review

There being no other business to come before the group, President Betts adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM

Benediction was given by 1st Vice President Jones

Respectfully submitted,

Elmer B. Steele

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

Attest to: Warren Jones, Executive Manager
Bill Betts, President