



**DVFA Officers Meeting  
Thursday, August 31, 2017  
Ellendale (Sta. 75)  
18:30 hours**

President Ted Walius called the meeting to order at 18:30 hours. Invocation was given by Steve Austin. Pledge to the flag was led by President Walius.

- Recessed for dinner
- Reconvened the meeting and thanked the ladies for the meal
- President Walius welcomed everyone to Ellendale for the meeting.
- All Officers in attendance, except Sussex Director Charlie Arnold, New Castle Director Keith Bowman and Kent Director Alan Post

**GREETINGS FROM ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS:**

LADVFA: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lynn Warner: Thanked Ted for a great Year. The ladies will be honoring President Lois Pearson at all of their events during the Conference. Greenwood ladies will be assisting in various functions and events.

DSFCA: President Terry Jester: absent

DSFPA: President Marty Redington: Everything is set for the Conference. Fire Police will be assisting with the entrance doors during the Memorial Service.

DSEMSA: President Matt Gajdos: absent

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

President Ted Walius: Thanked everyone for their support this past year. There have been some difficult times, but we have managed to get through them. He has done some traveling this year and the same topics and concerns keep coming up, no matter where we go; funding, recruitment & retention, legislative issues, etc.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Rich Perillo: **Written report is copied and inserted**

Good evening everyone,

If I may I'd like to congratulate President Walius on a successful year. Yes, we all know there were some bumps in the road and turbulent times but this didn't distract Ted from the business at hand. I'd also like to thank Ted for including Bill and I in everything that transpired. Thank you, Mr. President.

Congratulations to our 2nd Vice President Jay Jones and our Sussex County Director Ron O'Neil. Gentlemen, I can guarantee you that Bill and I will include you and the rest of the Officer's in everything we do.

Ted, Bill and I had talked about our current President's hand book. What we currently have does not include, in our opinions, cover everything we need to do and at times where we may be going. With that said, I'd like to have our 3 County Director's work on this hand book for our future Officer's.

I would like for us to create a handbook and placed on the DVFA website for our member companies that gives the time lines of when certain items are due. Items such as; when company audits are due per their physical year or calendar year and a copy of said audit to their prospective County if necessary, their BLS Financial Statement to Fire School, DVFA and County Delegates and Alternates and other items you all feel could be beneficiary for our member companies.

We could also have on the DVFA website for Mutual Relief, how and where to file a claim. PMA, State of Delaware Workers Compensation and Provident Insurance Company, secondary policy for Mutual Relief.

As you all are aware, there was a motion to have a committee to compose our future budgets. This committee is now our Budget and Finance Committee. I had stated that they will continue through my term and it is up to President Betts during his term who will be on this committee.

There has been one change on this committee already. At the last meeting held at the Cheswold Fire Company, I thanked the following Ladies, Pam Ingle, Sarah Lee Stevens and Debra Lawhead for the hard work and long hours they had committed to this process. I then stated that they would no longer be on this committee. As I had had a conversation earlier in the year with President Lynn Warner, I saw no need for the Ladies being on this committee. Our Ladies do not contribute to this budget nor are there any men on the Ladies Auxiliaries budget committee, nor should there be. This has nothing to do with me not wanting a woman on our committees, some of you may not like this and that is fine.

But once our past treasurer stated that he was done, this was prior to any resignation, I had asked Debra Lawhead to put her name in for the position of the DVFA Treasurer if no one else had done so. I've also had the honor and pleasure to serve with Lynn Truitt as we went through the New Castle County chairs. It is my hope that none of our members, especially our Ladies feel that I do not value what you do for this Association and your fire companies.

I had asked the Ladies to continue and work on the Conference Committee Budget. Yes, our Ladies do contribute to this part of our Conference.

Earlier this week I had asked Warren what we need to do with the Smoke Detector program, the \$200,000.00 dollars our State Legislators had given to our Association for the indigent, low income housing residents? Warren had informed me that Paul Ichler is working on this program. Should we ask our member companies for them to tell us, him who the areas are in their districts? If these areas are section 8 are they entitled to these free smoke detectors? Isn't there a county code stating that the land lords must provide this? I wouldn't want us giving these away to land lords that are making money from the residents, when they should already be providing this life safety devices to them. Your thoughts?

As you all know, this is the first time this Associations budgets have been sent to the member companies for their review prior to the conference. At this time, we have only received 1 company reply asking a couple of very good questions, questions that Ray Stevens answered quickly and appropriately. We did have one member ask questions about the conference budget and his questions were answered too. I along with the

DVFA Officer's cannot thank the Budget and Finance Committee Members enough for the hard work and long hours they have put in to composing our budget. Working with this committee has been a pleasure.

The Budget and Finance Committee broke down in to a separate committee to interview new accountants for our Association. Daniel Burris, William Tobin, Pablo Reyes, George Pyott, Ray Stevens and I had interviewed 3 accountants and have voted to accept Mr. Douglas Kook of Bumpers and Associates to represents and do our annual audit and our 990's. This committee recommends that you except our recommendation and vote on this so it can be brought up to the membership at our Executive Meeting this September.

I want us to continue having our treasurers report sent to the member companies prior to all Executive meeting, including the Conference meeting in September.

We need to compose a committee to see what our membership wants to do for the 2018 Conference / Convention. I guess this all depends on what may come up at this Septembers Executive Meeting.

After the conference, we will review the members that have signed up for committees, send this out to everyone, make a decision if we need to meet or if we can create the committee listing on line though emails. We will discuss this later on how we are going to go about this in the near future.

At all 3 County Firefighter's Association Meetings, there has been a pad for anyone and everyone who wants to receive an email from the DVFA office to write down their email address. I feel this is a great start to show the membership that their Association wants to give them information, be open and transparent with what we do and how we do it.

I hope that we continue to be open on everything we do as an Association, give our member companies the information they deserve.

I was asked if we can have our Legislators change the verbiage for the legislation that gives us the free background checks for new prospective firefighter's joining a fire company to include a free Federal and State background check authorized by the fire department for active firefighter's, EMT'S and drivers. Every EMT has to obtain a Federal background check that is sent to the Delaware State Fire School to take the EMT course. Some companies require their drivers to obtain these before they allow them to drive any of their equipment. This would also be a great recruitment and retention tool for the fire service.

Since the Governor will be signing the bill to allow the volunteer fire companies career staff to belong to the State of Delaware Pension should we not ask the IFF Local 4417 and the Christiana Fire Company to be present during this presentation? I would like for us to do this.

Thank you all for what you do and thanks to your families for allowing and understanding what you do.

Fraternally,

Richard T. Perillo

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bill Betts: This year has been a real learning experience. He discussed the CVVFA and West Virginia conventions that he attended and it seems that those groups are having the same issues and problems that we are having here in Delaware. Looking forward to the conference and working with the new officers in the coming year.

Secretary Elmer Steele: Have been staying pretty busy the last few weeks with conference issues.

Assistant Treasurer George Pyott: Learning new things every day. This has been a full time job. We have updated the quick books program. We are currently working on credit card issues, so the money ends up in the right accounts.

Conference Chairman John Stevenson: **Written report is copied and inserted**  
Conference report 8/31/2017 John Stevenson

Conference Budget was overhauled

Thanks to Ray Stephens for spearheading this. There are still a few questions around how much money comes in through the sponsors and what events it goes to is one.

Need to look at the individual organizations funding their own event. If not DVFA will need to look for more sponsors or increase dues. If we want just a conference then stay the line, if you want a good conference then We need to invest into it with the support of funds, attendance and looking for new events.

EMS is going to end up in the red due to the attendance and lack of sponsor funds. Kent county EMS association has made a donation to help offset some of the cost.

Check Web site to for del & alt

Rooms, Sent an email out for confirmations on arrival and departure dates. Only got one response back.

Joe is the Conference Co-Chair for Kent County.

Sales of souvenirs have been slow. Only ordered 240 mugs this could be too many. I would look at a stein next year, have one or two made for samples and only take orders for them.

Elmer has let me know that things are set with the rooms and BEO's at Dover Downs. Thanks Elmer for the hard work and time spent completing this task.

Joe put out that the Men's golf was canceled due to poor sign up. He will see moneys are returned.

Stuff packages Monday evening all are invited. If anybody has something to include in them please have to me before Monday 9/11.

Mutual Relief Chairman Steve White: Held their annual meeting last night. They have and still continue to offer to come to your fire house and explain what mutual relief can do for you. The 3 county representatives are available to help you with paperwork.

DVFA Foundation Steve Austin: Working on a Kent County representative to replace Allen Metheny. The foundation will be hosting a Beef & Beer fundraiser on 10/14 for the scholarship program.

**Director reports:**

Past President/ Director Anthony Guzzo: Congratulations to Ted on a fine year.

New Castle Director Keith Bowman: absent

Kent County Director Alan Post: absent

Sussex County Director Charles Arnold: absent

New Castle County Director Dan Carrier: Thanked Ted for a great year. Lou Amabili is having some health issues. He is being moved to a rehab center in Salisbury.

Kent County Director Ken Ryder: Next Kent County meeting is 9/20 at Sta. 48, Felton.

**Executive Manager Warren Jones:**

- DVFA Luncheon - Discussed some things that are being planned for the luncheon. The Governor will be signing SB35 REPLICA and HB265 allowing firefighter's to join the State Pension plan. Need a table for the signing.
- Texas Relief Efforts – Passed around a flyer from the IAFC requesting help and support for the flood victims in Texas. There are several other relief efforts going on.
- Conference – Will be doing special recognition for Lois Pearson, Virginia Yeager and Clay Yocum. Still have several companies that have not sent in conference information.
- Legislative Issues – Discussed legislative issues and concerns.
- Bethany Beach letter – Passed around a copy of the letter from Bethany Beach regarding their request for addition funding through the legislation process.

**General discussion:**

- Talked about t-shirt program for Texas
- Talked about various Memorial programs for 9/11 in the area
- *Motion by Rich Perillo and seconded by George Pyott that we go with Douglas Kook of Bumpers and Associates as a new accountant for the Association. Motion carried*

President Walius recognized the new nominees for DFVA Office for the coming year: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jay Jones and the Sussex Director Ron O'Neal. Both gentlemen expressed their thanks for being invited to the meeting and are looking forward to the coming year.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 20:30 hours

Benediction was given by Steve Austin

Respectfully submitted,

*Elmer B. Steele*

Elmer B. Steele, Secretary

Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Assoc.

Attest to and approved by:      Executive Manager Warren Jones

President Ted Walius