

**DVFA Officers meeting
Thursday, May 22, 2014
Station 47 - Farmington
18:30 hours**

DVFA ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

President Rich Toulson	(x)	Sussex County Director Ted Walius	(x)
1 st Vice President Anthony Guzzo	(x)	Sussex County Director Jay Jones	(x)
2 nd Vice President Joe Zeroles	(x)	New Castle County Director Lynn Truitt	()
Secretary Elmer Steele	(x)	New Castle County Director Dan Burris	(x)
Treasurer Allen Metheny	()	Kent County Director Glenn Gillespie	()
Asst. Treasurer George Pyott	(x)	Kent County Director Harold Brode	(x)
Executive Manager Warren Jones	(x)	Past Pres./Director Charles Frampton	(x)

Also in attendance;

LADVFA President Saralee Stevens	DVFA Chaplain Bob Hudson
LADVFA 1 st Vice Pres. Karen Majewski	State Fire Police President John Hall
LADVFA 2 nd Vice Pres. Mary Frances Eisenbrey	Kent 1 st Vice President Ken Ryder
Fire Commission Chairman Dave Roberts	Kent Secretary Pablo Reyes
State Fire Chief's Pres. Joe Morris	Conference Chair John Stevenson
State Fire Chief's 1 st VP Steven Maichle	DVFA Past President Steve Austin
Hockessin President Dan Carrier	DVFA Past President Ray Stevens

Meeting was called to order at 18:50 hours by President Toulson. Invocation was given by Chaplain Hudson. Pledge to the flag was given. Meeting was recessed for dinner served by the Farmington Ladies Auxiliary. Meeting reconvened at 19:30 hours.

Welcome by Joe Zeroles of Farmington Fire Co.

President Toulson turned the floor over to Pablo Reyes to discuss the computer issues at the office and his suggestions on how to fix the problems. Pablo did a power-point presentation regarding the current system, 2 proposed solutions and cost estimate of each. The current system was put in place in 2008 and it would take about \$2,500 to up-date it and make it workable for what we need at the present time. A new 2014 server with all of the necessary software would be about \$3,500. After some discussion a *motion was made by Dan Burris and seconded by Charles Frampton to allow up to \$4,000 for the new server system with an off-site back-up system. Motion carried unanimously*

Dave Roberts gave the Fire Commission report next, since he had to leave. Dave stated the Deputy Attorney General for the Commission has drawn up legislation that will give the final say on boundaries to the Fire Commission. There has been a question regarding annexation by towns and who is responsible for emergency services. This legislation will address this concern. The SYNOPSIS of the draft legislation is; *This Legislation establishes that the determination of fire*

company boundaries by the Fire Prevention Commission shall prevail over any other provision of the Code, state law, any county or municipal ordinance or any rules or regulations to the contrary.

At this time President Toulson brought out the ladies and gentlemen from the Farmington Fire Company and thanked them for the delicious meal. A rising ovation was given.

Ray Stevens gave a report from the DVFA Pension plan. He addressed the issue of either a fire company or an auxiliary withdrawing from the pension plan. When the plan was started in 1986 there was no provision or consideration given to this possibility. Dave Craik, Pension Administrator has received a letter from a fire company asking about withdrawing from the plan. There is an issue with “unfunded liability” and a “withdraw liability payment” which will need to be addressed. Draft legislation has been proposed to resolve this issue. *SYNOPSIS This bill clarifies that a participating volunteer fire company or ladies auxiliary in the Delaware Volunteer Firemen’s Pension Plan has the ability to withdraw from the plan. As part of that withdrawal process the company or auxiliary would pay a withdrawal liability payment that would be used to pay the retirement benefits of their member’s accrued benefits and ensure the actuarial soundness of the Funds for the remaining Employers. After some discussion a motion was made by Harold Brode and seconded by Joe Zeroles to accept the report from the pension plan committee recommendations and seek someone to introduce this legislation. Motion carried*

LADVFA President Saralee Stevens introduced the officers that were with her this evening. She thanked Farmington for the fine meal. She discussed an issue that has come from the State Board of Health and Social Services in reference to ladies serving meals. There are concerns about the certification of workers, classes that must be taken and liability issues should something happen. It was suggested that the DVFA ask to be exempted from this ruling. Warren will review this issue and see what the Board of Health is actually looking for. There seems to be a lot of unanswered questions at the Board level.

DSFCA President Joe Morris stated there is an issues with DelDot supervision refusing a Fire Chief’s request for sign boards, etc, to direct traffic. He suggested a meeting be held with “high level” people to get this issue resolved. President Toulson said he would schedule a meeting with the necessary “key” people to address and resolve this issue.

DSFPA President John Hall stated there is an issue in New Castle County regarding fire police members carrying weapons. This issue came up a couple of year ago and was thought to be a dead issue. There was a lot of discussion on this topic. We will wait to see what develops before taking any steps. The main issue from the discussion is liability.

DVFA President Rich Toulson thanked those that attended Firefighter Day at Legislative Hall on April 8th. He also thanked everyone that held open houses on April 13th. He briefly discussed the 4 bills that are pending regarding more EMS funding. President Toulson also thanked everyone for attending CFSI in Washington on May 1st. There were 194 in attendance from Delaware.

1st Vice President Anthony Guzzo thanked everyone for their help and support. Keep up the good work.

2nd Vice President Joe Zeroles thanked everyone for their help and support.

Secretary Elmer Steele stated he is working with the Conference Chairman on a daily basis to prepare things for the Conference. He also stated he was in receipt of an invitation to attend the Maryland State Firefighter's annual banquet on Saturday, June 14th and assumed that the other table officers had also received their invitations.

Conference Chairman John Stevenson stated he still looking for information from several committees in order to finalize an agenda. Several things on the web site need to be cleaned- up, he has sent that info to the office. Discussed the logo; are we changing logos each year or do we plan to use a generic logo? Souvenirs are in and each County has started selling them at the various meetings. We will be using the Rollins Center parking lot for outside vendors this year.

DVFA Foundation Steve Austin reported the foundation has turned over \$61,000 to the DVFA Scholarship program. There are very minimal expenses associated with running the foundation, which means more money can go to scholarships. There was some discussion around the non-profit status of 501c3 versus 501c4. We are currently a 501c3 corporation.

Directors:

Past President/New Castle Director Charles Frampton no report

New Castle County Director Dan Burris stated he feels the 4 legislative bills are looking good. He stated there will soon be an article in the News Journal regarding fire service funding, could be as soon as Sunday.

Kent County Director Harold Brode said he had attended the Kent County Levy Court budget meeting where the 15% County funding was discussed. Kent County Firefighter's Association and Kent County Levy Court are opposed to this bill requiring the 15%, since it will cost the fire companies part of their current funding.

Sussex County Director Ted Walius asked about the status of the trophy committee report. Wally Poppe was not in attendance so no report was given. Ken Ryder stated the committee was supposed to receive the recommendations by e-mail, since a suitable meeting date could not be reached by the committee, but thus far he has not received anything.

Sussex County Director Jay Jones stated the same issue regarding carrying weapons has taken place in Sussex County. Who is going to head up the meeting with fire representatives, county council, etc, to discuss the bill on the 15% county funding? He discussed an issue with the Sussex Tech Rescue team and what might happen. He encouraged everyone to write detailed reports on all incidents.

