



DVFA Officers Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2021
Live meeting - 18:30 hours – Sta. 19, Hockessin

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
Sussex Director Jim Arrington
New Castle Director Tom DiCristofaro
New Castle Director Richard J. Perillo
Kent Director Gerald Manley

LADVFA OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

President Karen Workman
1st Vice Pres. Pam Ingle
2nd Vice Pres. Deb Lawhead

ASSOCIATIONS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Fire Chief's 1st Vice President Brian Reeder
Fire Police 1st Vice President Ron Deptula
Fire Commission Chairman Ron Marvel
New Castle County Past President Jim Watson

Conference Chairman Dave Ruff
Mutual Relief Chairman Steve White
Foundation Chairman Lynn Rogers
New Castle County Secretary Deb Watson

- President Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM
- Invocation given by Ron Marvel -- Pledge to the flag led by Dan Carrier
- Broke for dinner
- Called the meeting back to order, thanked the Hockessin 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 1st Vice President Brian Reeder:

- Lost 2 Past Presidents recently – Mike Rush and William “Pinky” Higgins
- Planning a Past Presidents dinner for this summer
- Still up-dating the web site
- Next State Chief's meeting will be March 25th at Millsboro (Sta. 83)

DSFPA 1st Vice President Ron Deptula:

- Training coming up soon (May 16)
- Thanks for the invite tonight

DSEMSA President Chris Blackburn: (absent) **sent written report**

- We are scheduling a regular quarterly meeting via zoom on March 21 at 10:0am
- Did have a conference call with the officers last month some important topics were discussed
- At the present time we do not have a treasure. Although we have no official resignation she has not been involved in any meetings or conference calls.
- We will be in the process of replacing the treasure position that was help by Jen Knox
- We have not made contact with her after several attempts. I am seeking the DVFA's help and guidance on how to get access to our bank account.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Jay Jones:

- Thanked everyone for attending
- Thanked Hockessin for hosting the meeting and dinner
- Commented on 100th Anniversary, which was actually yesterday – 2-24
- Discussed the planning of a 100th Anniversary parade after the Conference

1st Vice President Dan Carrier:

- Attended several zoom meetings
- Hope to get the names corrected on the monument when the weather warms up

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

This report is a review of thoughts on issues as we sit in front of our computers to continue putting together a few notes for our Officers meeting. After months of isolation, we are going to try an-in person meeting. The Presidents decided it was time to get together...in person... so here we go for tonight at Hockessin.

I continue to be concerned about the passing of time involved since the last meeting for the R&R Task Force in Dover. However, Warren was finally able to get something started with Chairman Mitchell. That being said we FINALLY had a zoom meeting with the task force on Thursday, February 18th. Most of the suggestions were reviewed and I should add that Warren (the DVFA) did provide a basic condensed list of possible areas that the task force should be thinking about as items that were important. When we finished that list was basically adopted as the criteria to consider going forward. Yes....it needs some tweaking but all in all it provides a basic blue print. We must continue to move R&R forward here in Delaware. We have to succeed!

As I've brought up before another area of concern continues to be the insurance distribution formula. So far through this year to date our request to the commissioner for a meeting has had no success to my knowledge. The commissioner has not had any discussion with the DVFA on this matter that I'm aware of. Warren was advised that there didn't appear to be anything wrong with the calculations initially. However, it would take some time to go back and check the numbers. Again, we need to solve/resolve this in time for this year's distributions, calendar 2021, but with the COVID situation getting a meeting together didn't happen. Now here we are less than 60 days prior to the usual distribution dates with no idea if anything has/will change to get it CORRECT!

On a lighter note, we are now officially into our 100th Anniversary year! COVID...so far...has prevented any gatherings or celebrations to date to begin to mark this special occasion for our Association. We missed the February 24th meeting at Carlisle (Station 42) but maybe we will be able to have some the other notable dates going forward. We will see!

Secretary Elmer Steele:

- No report at this time
- Glad to be able to get out and move around a little

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

1. Expenses since July 1st to date have totaled \$ 67,784.29. All expenses are in line with the 6-month budget review. The telephone budget might run slightly over due to the use of the conference line.
2. As I reported at our previous meeting at Ellendale the financial review has been completed by Bumpers & Company. Due to the pandemic, it's been hard getting the budget committee together to review. We have also submitted the required forms for Non-Profit filing to the IRS. And the State of Delaware Corporation taxes have been paid and up to date. FYI, they have been sending the notice directly to Arthursville Rd. in Hartly. That has been corrected and will be sent directly to the DVFA office address.
3. Tomorrow we will be wiring \$ 2,029,400.02 for the 2020 pension year. Needless to say, it has been a challenge rounding up the funds due to, in no thanks, to the Postal Service. In all fairness to the companies, we allowed a grace period due to mail not being delivered in a timely manner. Special thanks to Warren and the companies making special trips in hand delivering the checks.
4. As of the end of January, the Crawford Financial account cash in value is \$ 250,854.48. After Ellendale's Officers meeting, we transferred \$ 100,000.00 over to the money market. Keep in mind some of those funds are dedicated for upcoming projects. We will be starting to work on the budget for next year keeping in mind the \$ 500.00 dues reduction per company.

Assistant Treasurer Ray Stevens: (absent)

Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission Ron Marvel:

- The scratch report showed not one Ambulance company was deficient in scratches.
- Discussed the pending legislation for the commission
- The protocols will go into effect on March 1
- The traffic funds were about 10 days late due to the State of Delaware finding \$500,000.00 at the end of January and was included in the funding.
- The State Fire Marshal has submitted the new regulation updates and are open for comments.
- Discussed HB 82. Lots and lots and lots of questions, concerns and basic discussion on this bill.

SYNOPSIS

This bill seeks to amend sections of Chapter 66 concerning the Delaware State Fire Prevention by: imposing a timeframe on the Delaware Volunteer Firefighters' Association to recommend nominate Commission members to the Governor; imposing a presumption of neglect if a Commissioner misses three consecutive Commission meetings; adjusting the terms and term limits of the Commissioners; to prohibit a Commissioner from also serving in a politically elected or appointed position while serving as a Commissioner;

and to eliminate the requirement for an Advisory Board. The Commission also creates an Executive Director position, which will be currently filled by a current Commission employee serving in that function. That bill makes clear that that person's current merit status will remain, but will become an exempt position when the position next becomes vacant. The bill proposes to authorize the imposition of fines for violations of applicable Code and regulatory provisions and reasonable fees for Commission's certifications to help defray costs and expenses with the Commission's administration and enforcement of its powers under the Code and its regulations. Finally, the bill proposes to make several amendments to clarify and synthesize language in other sections of Chapter 66.

Conference Chairman Dave Ruff:

- All contracts must be signed by the President
- Conference call on March 15th at 7:00 PM

DVFA Foundation Lynn Rogers:

- Recently held a retirement dinner for Jim Cabbage
- Looking for funding

Foundation report (copied and pasted from Ron O'Neal report)

The application for the State Employee's Charitable Campaign has been submitted on-line. This gives State of Delaware employees an opportunity to donate to the Foundation's Scholarship fund. The Foundation has been fortunate to be awarded these funds over the past years along with a number of other charitable organizations and hopefully we will be chosen again for 2021.

The annual Franchise Tax fee of \$25 has been paid on line.

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

The scholarship application package for 2021 has been placed on-line on the DVFA website. Deadline for applications to be received at the Fire School in Dover is March 31, 2021. Once all applications have been received, the Scholarship Committee will be meeting to review the submissions and award the scholarships.

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

Inquiries to the website, Firefighter.Delaware.gov, have slowed down tremendously, with 1 or 2 submissions so far this year. We did have a spot on WBOC's DelmarvaLife segment last week but it was a very short spot so not a lot of information was able to be sent out. WBOC did link to the Firefighter website but hopefully we can put together another longer segment later on this summer.

Fire Prevention -- Ron O'Neal: (copied and pasted from written report)

Talks with the Board of Education regarding Fire Prevention activities...how do we go about getting back into the schools?

Mutual Relief Chairman Steve White:

- Still have 2 companies in Sussex that have not paid their premium
- Still have 1 company in New Castle that has not paid their premium

Director reports:

New Castle County Director Tom DiCristofaro:

- All 100th Anniversary books for the companies in New Castle have been delivered
- Question on the Conference, any thoughts been given as to when we need to have or not have the 2021 Conference?

- Question on the 100th Anniversary parade. President Jones stated that the parade will be on Saturday, after the Conference and in no way is it associated or tied to the Conference. Will be asking each company to bring 1 or 2 pieces of equipment and parade through downtown Dover. There will be no prizes or trophies given out.

New Castle County Director Richard J. Perillo:

- Working with County government on various issues
- Working on an impact assessment, similar to the profit/loss spreadsheet that Warren is compiling at the State level

Sussex County Director Ron O'Neal:

- Not much else to report. Pretty well covered everything in the various reports above

Sussex County Director Jim Arrington:

- Sussex had its first "live" meeting on Tuesday night. Went over very well
- Trying to get back to some sort of normal

Kent County Director Jim Woznicki: (absent)

Kent County Director Gerald Manley:

- Kent County sitting President Mark Langford passed away recently
- Hoping to have a "live" meeting on March 17th at Felton (Sta. 48)

Jim Watson asked if there are any smoke detectors available. Warren and Jay will check

Executive Manager Warren Jones:

- R&R task force: Had their 1st meeting in almost a year
- Tax credit: Mix-up between the \$400 and the \$500 tax credit. \$400 is for the 2020 tax year and \$500 is for the 2021 tax year
- Income loss: 30 companies have responded to the survey
- Commission legislation: Already been discussed
- Foam bill: AFFF can still be used on actual fires, but cannot be used for training
- By-Law changes: Received a written proposal, will be sent to the by-law committee for review and comment at the June meeting
- 100th Anniversary: Books and coins are available in each County
- Bond bill: \$2m in bond bill for radios and \$1.5m for revolving loan

There being no other business to come before the group, President Jones adjourned the meeting at 8:28 PM

Benediction by Jay Jones

Respectfully submitted,

Elmer B. Steele

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

Attest to: Warren Jones, Executive Manager

Jay Jones, DVFA President