

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE 5 STATE ASSOCIATIONS**

**Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 19:00 hours**

**Delaware State Fire School – Dover Campus**

**DVFA**

President Jay Jones  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dan Carrier  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ken Ryder  
Secretary Elmer Steele  
Treasurer Terry Whitham  
Executive Manager Warren Jones  
Vice President-elect Ron O'Neal  
Parliamentarian Guy Hudson

**LADVFA**

President Karen Workman  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pam Ingle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Deb Lawhead  
Secretary Karen Barlow  
Treasurer Kim Figgs  
Vice President-elect Stacy Northam-Smith

**State Chief's**

President Steven Deery  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Brian Reeder  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ralph Tucker  
Secretary Stephen "Redman" Maichle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-elect Dwayne Pearson

**State Fire Police**

President Ernie Layfield  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Robert Lightcap  
Secretary Ken Tull  
Treasurer William Delledonne  
Secretary-elect Kim Herbert  
Treasurer-elect Les States

**State EMS**

President Chris Blackburn  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Albert Schrack  
Secretary Earl Briel

**Guest**

Charles Herbert

DVFA President Jay Jones called the meeting to order

Invocation and pledge to the flag by Guy Hudson

President Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the agenda for this meeting, which is to discuss the ramifications of the cancellation of the annual conference.

President Jones asked each Association to give a summary of what their constitution and by-laws state regarding nomination, election and installation of officers if the conference is not held and what their feelings were on this subject.

**DVFA:** President Jones stated that the DVFA by-laws state that there is to be three (3) quarterly meetings and one (1) conference meeting. It has been a practice that

all 5 State officers are from the same county, but there is nothing that actually mandates that practice.

Warren did some research to see if anything like this has ever happened in the past. During World War II in 1941,42,43 there was no conference/convention and the officers stayed in their respective place for the three (3) year, until the next conference/convention.

Legal opinion from the DVFA attorney Bill Preston is that the officers stay in place until the next conference, hopefully in 2021.

Jay thanked Director Newnam for the use of the school for our meeting tonight.

**State Chief's:** President Steven Deery discussed the by-laws for the Fire Chief's and theirs are pretty much in line with the DVFA's. Their installation is to be held during the conference meeting, but since there is no conference, they will follow the DVFA lead and suggest that the officers remain in place for a second year.

**LADVFA:** President Karen Workman discussed the Ladies by-laws and stated that they will follow the DVFA. Input from several of their officers in attendance expressed the same feelings. They will address their by-laws and see if changes can be made for future incidents that may allow an officer to move up or an amendment that would allow for suspension of a section to allow for changing of officers.

**EMS:** President Chris Blackburn discussed the EMS by-laws and they pretty much reflect the same as the DVFA, which would allow for the current officers to remain in office until the next conference.

**Fire Police:** President Ernie Layfield and Secretary Ken Tull stated that they are to have four (4) meetings a year and that the one (1) in the fall was during conference where the installation of officers would take place. They have several proposed changes in officers for this coming year and would like to be able to make those changes.

The bottom line seemed to be by most of the attendees that the DVFA is the "parent" Association and that the other four (4) Associations would follow the DVFA lead.

President Jones opened the floor for further discussion.

- It would be unfair to the current officers to not have a full year to do the things that would have been on their agenda for the year.
- It would be unfair for the in upcoming officers not to be able to serve a full year, if we wait till December to try to change officers.
- There was talk of several Associations changing their current by-laws to address this type of issue in the future.
- It was mostly agreed upon that the way the Associations by-laws are written, the current officers would stay in place for another year and that this be presented to the membership of each Association for any input and final approval.

- Secretary Steele shared some information from the CVVFA regarding their issue with their officers. They have drafted a resolution that would allow their current officers to stay in place until their 2021 conference and have sent that resolution out by way of survey monkey to their membership for a yes or no vote. Might be something for us to look at.
- Several others in the room expressed their thoughts. This is something that no one ever expected, so we have to deal with what is before us. Let's make the most of this bad situation and move forward in a unified manner.
- Executive Manager Jones discussed the DVFA by-laws and the lack of anything to cover this type of issue. He also discussed a possible vaccine hopefully sometime after the first of the year and that they are working to get first responders on the list as priority to receive the vaccine.

President Jones asked that all Associations submit a draft addressing the issue of no conference and the changing or not changing of officers by the winter meeting of each Association.

President Jones instructed Executive Manager Jones to contact our attorney Bill Preston for an opinion on how we can proceed with a vote of the membership regarding the current officers staying in their respective offices for another year. Can this be done by survey monkey, email, Zoom type meeting or in person meeting?? The next scheduled meeting of the DVFA isn't until December 13, 2020 or should we call for a special meeting in September or October??

President Jones stated that it normally takes a 30-day notice to hold a special meeting, but during a state of emergency a special meeting can be held with a 10-day notice.

Meeting adjourned at 20:00 hours

Benediction by Guy Hudson

Respectfully submitted,

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

Attest to:      Warren Jones, Executive Manager                      Jay Jones, President

Footnote; Thanks to LADVFA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Deb Lawhead for her notes and input.