



**DVFA Officers Meeting  
Thursday, November 29, 2018  
Frederica Fire Company  
18:30 hours**

A total of 22 officers and guests were present tonight. All DVFA officers present except Kent Michael Brittingham. Sussex Director Holland was represented by his 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Doug Hudson and NCC Director was represented by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mark Gott.

- President Betts called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed everyone to Frederica
- Invocation by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jay Jones
- Pledge to the Flag by President Bill Betts
- Recessed for dinner at 6:45 PM

President Perillo called the meeting back to order after dinner and thanked the Frederica Ladies for the meal.

**ASSOCIATION REPORTS:**

LADVFA: President Penny Gentry:

Thanks for the invitation. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Workman and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ingle are with us tonight.

DSFCA: President Derrick Brode: Thanked the President for the invitation and reported that the next State Chiefs meeting would be January 24, 2018 at Aetna Station 8.

DSFPA: President Les States: Talked about the recent Fire Police training..

DSEMSA: Jason Capps: Reported that their next meeting would be Saturday, December 8 at DSFS Fire School in Dover at 1000 hours. He also talked about the Narcan availability through OEMS and getting firefighters trained on carrying it.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

President Bill Betts report is as follows:

Report of President Bill Betts: DVFA Officers Meeting, November 29, 2018

It has been a pleasure to work with all of the new DVFA officers since the Conference ended on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The quarter started out with my first DEMSOC meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> which was very interesting. In addition to attending a majority of the County Association Meetings, I also attended some special events as listed below:

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, I made a Power Point presentation on the Delaware Fire Service to over 40 members of the senior public at the OLLIE program at the University of Delaware Campus in Wilmington. The presentation went over well, and most of the people in attendance had no idea about the Fire and EMS Service in the State. I have the presentation available for anyone who wants to use it. I need to add some slides on the cost of some of our member's PPE.

I attended the Conference 2018 Wrap-up meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>, and there were a lot of ideas exchanged on what we could improve on for 2019.

I attended the dedication of the new Memorial on October 20<sup>th</sup>, and Dan Burriss did a wonderful job on the construction, and Warren Jones did a great job with the program. Fortunately, the rain stopped before the program.

We had a pre-conference meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>, and we are looking into some of the artwork for the logos for 2019.

Several members of the DVFA and Commissioner Roberts went on a trip to the Global Operations Network Center for AT & T on October 30<sup>th</sup>. It was quite a facility and had two programs on cyber security on their end, and their disaster response capabilities.

I attended VCOS on November 7-11<sup>th</sup>, and heard some great speakers that we might be able to get for the DVFA Conference sessions.

I met with the Revolving Loan Committee on November 15<sup>th</sup> and distributed out over \$800,00 in loans.

We had a meeting with Verizon at the DVFA office on November 19<sup>th</sup>, and they discussed their new programs to counteract First Net from AT & T.

The three table officers and Executive Officer met with the Governor yesterday morning in his Wilmington office and presented our list of legislative priorities. The Governor seemed more receptive to us this year and took time to question our proposals. We asked that the \$75,000 be put in the bond bill again for matching Fire Prevention monies, increase the revolving loan fund by another million dollars to a total of 4 million dollars, cancer presumption legislation, increasing our State income tax reduction, increasing our Medicaid billing from \$64 to \$100 to match the surrounding 4 states, establish an executive or legislative committee to assist our Recruiting and Retention efforts, revisit rescue billing with the Insurance Commissioner, and to visit an increase to the percentage on the Insurance tax formula.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance to any of you.

Bill Betts, President

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jay Jones report is as follows: Jay apologizes for missing the upcoming Executive Meeting since he will be on a cruise. His report is as follows:

For the 1st quarter of 2019, I have traveled 3,122 miles, on 33 events, spending 164 hours serving and representing the DVFA.

First, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped make this past conference successful. It truly does not just take one person, but an entire village to pull that off. Since the conference, we have completed the President's Leadership Handbook and it is now available online. We have also worked on updating the

DVFA Officers Guidelines. Both are living documents and are a continuous work in progress that we should continue to update. The handbooks should be a helpful resource to provide support to our fire service leaders today and in the future.

Since this past election, we have several new legislators, which we are currently meeting with to educate them on the Delaware Fire Service and to show them their role that they play within the system. The new DVFA informational video that was produced has now been released and can be found on YouTube and the home page <http://dvfassn.com>. We have received wonderful feedback from the video, from not only within the fire service but from the public and legislators which was a goal of ours. We have presented our legislative agenda to all legislators and have met with the governor and everyone seems very receptive to our items this year.

I attended several conferences this quarter. The Pennsylvania State Conference and Volunteer and Combination Officer Section of the International Fire Chiefs Association (VCOS). VCOS, although it was not as good as prior years, this conference is still the best with the most seminars that benefit us as volunteer and combination departments. Covering wide ranges of material such as leadership, combating negativity, updated reports on PTSD and cancer within the fire service, recruitment and retention, knowing when and how to pass the torch, and so on. The Delaware group has expressed our concerns with their leadership on future seminars. We told them our opinions on what would benefit us here in Delaware. For example, more information for the transition from volunteer to combination services. Covering the do's and the don'ts of the combination service. This way we could possibly avoid some of the heartaches and hardships of that processes.

I would like to go back to the DVFA video and give an update. This was a brand-new idea that looked to be successful, we were not able to afford any television coverage. We are still looking into the possibility of having it on the New Castle County TV Channel. So far, we have been statewide on the radio and online streaming, guiding people to the video on our website and YouTube. It has been viewed more than 2,000 times in the first three weeks. We have also used social media in this process as well. This seems to be a stepping stone. From some of the feedback of our members and even some government officials that we should continue these educational videos and dig a little deeper. Enlightening the public of our manpower issues and how our service has turned into a combination service throughout different areas of the state. We have utilized all the funding that was set aside for this project last year. If the membership so desires I would like to see a yearly budget be put together for media out reach. We have had these types of budgets before when we had Public Relations (Public Information Officer) Position with the DVFA. I'm not saying that I feel we need to hire someone but we need to set a budget for such outreach programs in the community whether it is informational or used for recruitment, not only do we need to sell ourselves more to the public but we also need to educate the public on what and how we do things in the State of Delaware. That's something we need to address and be better prepared for in the coming budget years.

Also, CFSI Fundraiser dinner in Washington, DC is approaching. This is a crucial event that many of our companies within the State of Delaware have benefited from. We always have a good showing at this event because Delaware is geographically close to DC. Throughout the years our attendance has been declining. We really need to address this attendance issue as a state. We have a standing motion on the floor for all events that the 3 officers shall attend. In our budget which was passed at our conference in September, it has the funds already in the approved budget for 5 tickets. I'm asking that this association make the exception on this one event that we have 5 attendees due to the importance of this fundraiser since the funds have already budgeted for the 5 tickets. I feel we should send 5 officers to this event,

rather than the 3 which is already approved. The funds are already in the budget that our membership approved at conference after discussion.

Lastly, one of my goals this year is to visit all fire companies that would allow us to come and whether it is before your Board of Directors or the entire membership. This is not just to explain what the DVFA is or does, but to simply listen to the boots on the ground who may issues for us. (For example: tell us your concerns, share with us the way you feel, etc.) We can address and resolve some of our issues in the state. We must face our shortcomings and find a path forward. Let us know what you and your local department needs are. I understand this will be like standing in front of a firing squad, but this is something our leadership needs to do to strengthen the DVFA and gain the confidence and support of its members.

I look forward with anticipation to this legislate year ahead of us. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your 1st vice president. I will continue to do my best with the hopes of making you proud and strengthening our service.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jones

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dan Carrier: Reported his written report will be sent in to the Secretary and how he is just learning the ropes.

Secretary Elmer Steele: He apologized for being late do to a previous engagement. He is working with Dover Downs to try to get some prices down. Happy Holidays!

**Treasurer Terry Whitham:** All the invoices have been paid. Kudo's to Jay and all involved with the video. Congratulations to Dan Burris and the financial committee on changing our insurance and saving us money. We have opened an account with Fulton Bank and are moving our conference account money from Citizens Bank to Fulton Bank. Ray Stevens will be the Treasurer of the conference. Would like to switch our credit cards from Elan to M & T Bank. Spoke about the payment voucher system he has instituted. We are setting up a meeting with Crawford Associates who handles our investment account. I'll have my reports submitted to Warren by tomorrow. He explained how his financial report will be different showing profit vs loss and budget vs actual expenses. I am leaving Sunday for Disney World and will be attending the Executive Meeting.

Motion by Vice President Dan Carrier, Second by Ron O'Neal to allow the treasurer to switch credit cards to M & T Bank. Motion passed.

**Assistant Treasurer Ray Stevens:** This is going to be a Trial and Error year. I'm trying to share the work with Terry. I'm looking forward to working with Elmer, Joe Zeroles and everyone on the conference committee. We need to work on the conference budget. He talked about the special project he did this past year working with the county associations gathering their debt and cash on hand report.

**Fire Prevention Commission Chairman Dave Roberts:** Reviewed the Budget Hearing. The JFC Hearing is scheduled for February 11 at 11:00 am. He spoke about the Narcan program and some of the companies who wish to carry it on other fire department vehicles. He also talked about the end of the year report for gathering the new officer's information for the commission.

**Foundation Chairman Steve Austin:** He talked about secession planning as he is planning on stepping down from the foundation in May 2019.

**Mutual Relief Chairman Steve White:** I just got the report from the accountant today if anyone would like a copy please contact him. All Mutual Relief payments are due by January 31, 2019. If anyone does not pay by then, each company will be notified that they are not covered until payment is received.

**Past President Director Ted Walius:** It is nice to be back. I am have some NVFC communications problems.

**Director Ron O'Neal:** Thank Steve for his work for the foundation all these years. I was pleased to accept a check from the Mid-Del Foundation for our scholarship program. I also was proud to present a check to the NFFF at Dover Motorsports NASCAR race last month.

**For Director Holland, Vice President Doug Hudson:** Hunter called and apologized for not being able to attend. It is my pleasure to represent him.

**Director Tom DiCristofaro:** He talked about VCOS and the Fire Expo in Nashville.

**For Director Majewski, Vice President Mark Gott:** Reported that the next NCCVFA Meeting will be Thursday, December 13 at Holloway Terrace.

**Director Ken Ryder:** Talked about CFSI. Kent County Fire Prevention Awards program is the December 9 at 2:00 p.m.

**Executive Manager Warren Jones:** Reported on the LADVFA IRS issue, the New Legislators and handed out the new event calendar.