



DVFA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Delaware State Fire School

December 13, 2015

Call to order at 10:00 A.M. by President Joe Zeroles

Invocation offered by DVFA Chaplain Bob Hudson

Pledge of Allegiance led by Past President Charles Boyer

Roll Call of Officers by Secretary Elmer Steele

- [X] Joe Zeroles, 47, President
- [X] Ted Walius, 75, 1st Vice President
- [X] Rich Perillo, 11, 2nd Vice President
- [X] Elmer Steele 81, Corporate Secretary
- [X] J. Allen Metheny, Sr., 51, Treasurer
- [X] Glenn Gillespie, 42, Director, Kent County
- [X] Earle Dempsey, 55, Kent County Director
- [] Clay Yocum, 78, Director, Sussex County Excused for medical reasons
- [X] Ron O'Neal, 83, Sussex County Director
- [X] Dan Carrier, 19, Director, New Castle County
- [X] Les Warrick, 14, New Castle County Director
- [X] Rich Toulson, 87, Past President – Director

DVFA Staff

- [X] Warren Jones, 16/86 Executive Manager

Report of Officers

President Zeroles: **(written report from President Zeroles is inserted)**

Good morning. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Executive Meeting this morning. I want to thank you for coming here today and for all the work you do for the DVFA and the Fire Service of Delaware.

I have submitted my meeting and travel report electronically to the DVFA Office. I will recap. I attended 35 meetings, for 235 hours and traveled 4259 miles. One of those events was the VCOS Conference. This year, I intend to have either the Secretary or Executive Manager post, on the website, a report

from any out of state event we attend. The VCOS Report is now posted on our Website. I will say that VCOS is a very worthwhile event for any fire service leaders of any volunteer or combination fire company.

This has been a very busy quarter since I was installed in January. I would like to take the time to go over a few items:

Grant in Aid: We reported at the Conference that we were researching Grant in Aid and possible moves with it. We met with JFC Chairman Senator McDowell, Senator Ennis, Representative Carson and members of the Controller General's staff on October 28. After some discussion it was decided the best place for us was to stay in Grant in Aid. Senator Ennis did mention the possibility of moving us to a separate Grant in Aid bill.

Firefighters Memorial: On September 30th, we met with Facilities Management, the Legislative Council Coordinator and OMB at the site. The memorial committee will give you a report on that meeting. I encourage everyone fire company to contribute \$1000.00 to the new memorial and a thank all Of you who had done so already.

Conference Committee: I meet with the committee that is looking at the conferenced on November 30. They will give you a report during this meeting.

Hall of Fame: There has been a discussion for the last several months on the criteria for the Hall of Fame. We received a copy of the criteria from Charlie Emerson last week and have retype it. It is available up on the table this morning.

One of the questions that came up was automatic inductions into the Hall of Fame. Other than the Heroic Firemen of the Year, the Non-Heroic Firemen of the Year and the Fire Policeman of the Year there is no other automatic inductions according to the criteria. Over the years, at different times, the DVFA President, other association Presidents and the EMT of the year have been admitted to the hall without changes to the Criteria. Technically these were not correct.

The DVFA Officers met this week by conference call to review the criteria and discuss what actions should be taken. This is what was decided.

1. Agreed that anyone now in the Hall of Fame would stay.
2. Agreed to have the Archives Committee draft a new up-to-date Hall of Fame Criteria and attend the next DVFA Officer's Meeting to present the Criteria for the officer's approval,
3. Agreed to have the Archives Committee proceed with the Five Points request for Duane Austin, since Five Points has followed proper procedures according to the current criteria.
4. Agreed to hold all other request for induction until the new Hall of Fame criteria is approved. This morning the three DVFA Presidents meet with the Archives Committee to go over these recommendations. We will have the new criteria and final report to you at the March Executive Meeting.

There is no fault here, if anything it was a misunderstanding. That is why we want an up- to- date written criteria that is posted on our website for all of you to see.

Lastly, I wanted to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you!

First Vice President Walius: Full report has been filed electronically with the office. Attended 24 functions, traveled 3,830 miles and in service for 176 hours. Wish everyone a Happy and Fire Safe Holiday season.

Second Vice President Perillo: Full report has been filed electronically with the office. Attended 14 functions, traveled 3,201 miles and in service for 135.5 hours. Wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Secretary Steele: Full report has been filed electronically with the office. Attended 20 functions, traveled 1,545 miles and in service 81 hours. Would like to thank everyone for their support during Sandy's recent surgery. Sandy and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Treasurer Metheny: Presented the Treasurer's report for the period September 12, 2015 through December 10, 2015. This report includes both the DVFA Operations and the 2015 Conference account balances.

I will be collecting your pension payments along with a copy of your Final Bill and a check which is due to me by February 15, 2016 or face a \$100.00 per day penalty if it is late. No other paperwork comes to me.

Relative to the Conference Account, we are in a better financial position for this past Conference than we were for last year's Conference. For this year's Conference, we have income of \$220,328 and expenses of \$255,228 or a difference of \$34,900. I am anticipating about \$7,500 income yet. I will not have to "borrow" any funds from our Operating Account for Conference. If anyone has any questions, please see me. On behalf of Barbara and myself, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Motion by Stephen Maichle seconded by Jasper Lakey to except the Officer reports as presented. Motion carried

Executive Manager Jones: **(written report from Warren is inserted)**

Executive Committee Records: I was going through our records and realize how out of date some of them are. I would like to get them corrected. Please find your name on the list being passed around. If everything on the list is correct put a check mark at the end. If it is not correct or if you are not on the list, go to the last page and enter the correct information. Thank you.

Symposium: The Fire Commission, the Fire Marshall, the Fire School, DEMA and the DVFA are holding a Symposium for all officers, fire line and administrative, on Saturday, April 9th at the Hyatt in Dewey Beach. It will be held in the Bay Center at the Hyatt. Flyers and Registrations forms will be sent out after the first of the year. There will be nationally known keynote speaker as well as other presenters. The goals and purposes are to bring all the leadership of the fire companies together for one day to go over important information, to network and to provide you with assets to make your job easier. There will be an open discussion period at the end. You have to register to attend. We need to know how many to plan for the room and lunch. Also, we need to know what topics you would like to hear or discuss. Please send your thoughts to the DVFA Office.

FDIC: Every year the DVFA has a block of rooms at the Sheraton Downtown in Indianapolis. If you are planning on attending and need rooms please contact the DVFA Office. We will send you the contact information. Two years ago we had 60 rooms, this year we have 55 because we did not use all the rooms last year. Don't wait until the last minute.

Lastly, from me and my family to you and yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you.

Recruitment & Retention: Earle Dempsey discussed several things that will be taking place again this year.

- 2016 Sub-Grants for Retention are available again this year. The committee will award \$40,000 in sub-grants. Please get the request forms filled out and sent back in .
- April, 2016, planning to have another legislative day at legislative hall. More info will be coming out on this.
- May, 2016, planning to have another open house, as we did last year.

Committee Reports

State Fire Prevention Commission – Dave Roberts

- Commission Chairman Roberts introduced the Commissioners that were in attendance.
- Reminder to get your financial statements to the Commission when they are due.
- Medical Director is advising everyone to get their influenza shots this year.
- Ambulance renewals are due by December 31. Make sure you include a copy of your current vehicle insurance card with your paperwork.

Advisory to State Fire Marshal – Grover Ingle

- Continuing to work on personnel issues. Moving forward to fill vacant positions.
- Final 2016 regulations will be published shortly.
- Paul Eichler will be chairing the sprinkler coalition committee for the State.
- On behalf of the Staff of the State Fire Marshal's Office, we wish everyone a Happy and Fire Safe Holiday season.

Advisory to DSFS – Robert P. Newnam

- Fire School class attendance has been about normal for 2015.
- EMS classes and certified EMT's has been up in 2015.
- FY 17' budget process. Requesting 3 items for additional funding in this budget.
- Officers seminar January 30th and the Ladies seminar is April 3rd.
- 2016 training schedule is out.
- Received approval to fill vacant position at the fire school.
- Wish everyone a Happy and Fire Safe Holiday from the staff at the school.

Archives – T.M. Gott

- The archives committee is in the process of up-dating the name plates on the various plaques in the hallway.
- Committee will be drafting criteria for induction into the Hall of Fame.
- Received a letter from Five Points Fire Co. reference to inducting Duane Austin into the Hall of Fame.

DVFA Conference– John Stevenson

- Room contracts will be going out in February. Review your contracts closely and make sure that you have the nights that you actually want. There was some confusion last year on Friday night rooms.

- Trophy bills have been re-sent for the 2nd billing. Need to get this money in, so Conference 2015 account can be closed out.
- EMS classes will remain the same for 2016.

Wake-Up Delaware – Paul Eichler

- This committee is “dead in the water”. We haven’t been able to get any grant money to purchase new detectors.
- Maybe it is time to re-vamp this committee to include other aspects of public safety.

Law & Legislative – Ed Barlow

- Legislation session starts again on January 12.
- Sen. McBride has been diagnosed with colon cancer.
- **Bruce Ennis** added that there were 4 bills signed by the Governor and that there are several other bills that will be re-introduced this year.
- **Bruce** also talked about EMT’s crossing State lines and not being able to perform their duties, due to various State laws.

Life Safety – Guy Hudson

- Awards program will be at Cheswold Fire Hall on Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 2:00 PM. Need representatives from various fire companies, in uniform, to escort the winners.
- Matching fund forms are due by January 31st. Info is on the web site.

Out of State Coordinators – Steve Austin

- CFSI in Washington is May 4 and 5.

DVFA Foundation- Steve Austin

- The foundation has been charged with handling the funds for the permanent memorial project. Each company was challenged at the Conference to donate \$1,000.00 to this project. Please make your check payable to the foundation and send it in.
- Received a \$3,000.00 grant from Mid-Del again this year.

Scholarship – George Kerr

- Applications have been revised for this year and are posted on the web site.

Permanent Memorial – Warren Jones

- Warren read a written report from Jim Watson regarding the monument:
(hand written report from Jim is inserted)

President Zerolo,

First I want to apologize for not being here today to give my report in person but I am playing Santa Claus for the Ladies Auxiliary.

Since the Conference the following things have occurred:

- on 9/17 I met with Bert Scogletti who is the Director of Policy and External Affairs for the State office of OMB.
- on 9/30 we met on the site of the proposed monument area. It included President Zerolo, Warren Jones, Robert Scogletti, Director Dennis Groom (Facilities Management Director for State), Lori Christianson (legislative ^{coord} assistant) and me. Everyone was in favor of the site we selected but Director Groom needs to meet with the state arborist to make sure the area could support our planned monument ecologically.
- As of this date I have also had a meeting with Danny Burris of PHB Builders who has done 2 conceptual drawings of the proposed monument site. I have sent these for people to be able to review today.
- We are continuing to solicit and receive funds from numerous sources —

- DVFALA gave \$1000
- Atlantic Emergency Solutions (Brian Bashista, VP) presented \$1000 at the NCCVFA mtg 12/10
- I have letters that will be going out to Businesses, each Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary as well as private patrons seeking additional funding for our project. Warren Jones has these letters if you would like to personally give any to businesses or friends/family.
- All funds/donations will be going through the DVFA Foundation.
- There have been a few questions that have come up regarding the project -
 - ① Can supplies or any items be offered for the project at a reduced cost or ~~free~~ donated? We will not know exactly what is needed until the state approves our plans and the final design is ready to produce. When we know what is needed we will be more than happy and grateful to accept any and all donations or discounts.
- The estimated cost of the project is between \$150,000 - \$200,000.

Once the exact size of the monument is decided we will be contacting E. P. Henry Co to request a donation of the ^{stones} blocks for this project. Ultimately we would like to be able to break ground just after the first of the year with a ceremony. Our goal is that the project be completed by Conference 2016 so we can dedicate it then.

If there are any questions or concerns or donations please feel free to call me at 302-528-2273, or by email e Kingshimr@aol.com or via facebook. Once again I am sorry that I am not there to give this in person.

By the way, any funding not used for the project will be kept in a special account to be used for upkeep and maintenance.

Fraternally,
Jim Watson

Ray Stevens stated that money has been received from the following: 16 companies in New Castle County, 4 companies in Kent County, 9 companies in Sussex County and 6 donations from other Associations/Organizations for a total of \$33,510.00 thus far.

Conference Exploratory – Tom D’Cristofaro

- Committee met on November 30 and reviewed the income and expenses for 2015. They were amazed at the amount that was being spent. Tom gave a brief accounting of the various events and the bottom line cost.
- Seems like there is no set budget for most events. Just spend what you want with no accountability.
- Committee will meet again in January.
- Committee would recommend that the DVFA opt for the 2 year extension on our contract for 2017 and 2018 and have the Officers sign the contracts.

Recognition of Past Presidents – 1st Vice President Walius asked that all DVFA Past Presidents and President Emeritus stand and be recognized

There were 22 Past Presidents and President Emeritus in attendance.

Affiliated Organizations/Agency Representatives

Ladies’ Auxiliary Mary Frances Eisenbrey:

- Thanked the DVFA for the invitation and introduced the ladies present with her.
- She presented a \$2,000.00 check to the President as a donation from the State ladies for the Memorial fund.
- Wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

State Fire Chiefs 1st Vice President Terry Jester:

- Next State Chief’s meeting will be January 28, 2016 at Station 26 Townsend. Speakers will be Ted Lowden and Jim Yates. Social at 6:00, dinner at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00.
- There will be a sprinkler coalition meeting on Dec. 17 at the fire school.
- Jack Wilson is chairing the Mayday policy committee for Sussex County. Hope to have something final on this real soon.
- Introduced the State Chief’s Officer’s that were in attendance.

State Fire Police President Alvin Schmick:

- The Fire Police will be having meeting/training this afternoon here at the fire school.
- Wish everyone a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

State EMS Association President Jennifer Knox:

- Next meeting will be January 28th at Townsend along with the Fire Chief’s.
- Happy Holidays

Mutual Relief – Steve White/Bill Tobin:

- Mutual Relief officers are meeting on a monthly basis to re-vamp their organization. They are putting together a power point presentation with all of the benefits that Mutual

relief has to offer. Most companies do not know what is actually available to them. Once this presentation is complete, they plan to go to every fire company and make this presentation.

- Bill stated that since Mutual relief has a large sum of money on hand due to their investments, they have decided to pay the AD&D policy premium that was supposed to be billed to the companies.
- Bills for the yearly Mutual Relief policy will be going out on Monday.
- Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year from Mutual Relief.

Danny Burris raised a question, as to why the Mutual Relief board was over riding a motion that was made at Conference regarding the AD&D policy premium. Bill Tobin stated that they had money available and felt that it would be proper to pay the premium for the companies. Danny stated that the member companies voted to pay their own premiums and that it should remain that way. Bill said that if that is the way you want it done, he will revise the bills that were supposed to go out tomorrow and send the bills with the normal policy premium and the AD&D premium.

NVFC – Allen Metheny:

- NVFC met in October in Concord, NC. While there they had time to visit with Joey Lagono and the #22 Shell Pipeline NASCAR race team.
- NVFC has changed their by-laws. We will now have 2 delegates, instead for 1 delegate and 1 alternate. This will give every member company/organization 2 votes, instead of the 1 that we currently have.
- Received presentations on large animal rescues, cancer issues and the use of 2 nomex hoods.
- Discussed speeding up the payments from PSOB. Currently worth \$369,000.00

Communications

The following communications were received and are summarized by Secretary Elmer Steele

- Thank you card from Steven Rozell for scholarship
- Thank you card from Will Poppe for scholarship
- Thank you card from Dan Godwin for scholarship
- Letter from Kent County Levy Court for Community Services Grant
- Letter from Millville Fire Co. with new mailing address
- Letter from Wilmington Manor Fire Co. reference to no-show billing at conference
- Letter from Sussex County Fire Police Assoc. with \$1,000.00 check for memorial
- Thank you card from the Brode family
- Letter from Wilmington Manor Fire Co. with their delegates and alternates for 2015-2016
- Letter from Hockessin Fire Co. changing alternate for 2015-2016
- Letter from Indian River Fire Co. with delegate and alternate changes
- Letter from Five Points Fire Co. with delegate and alternate changes
- Fax from Minquas Fire Co. with delegate and alternate changes

Motion by George Pyott and seconded by Jasper Lakey accept the communications as presented. Motion carried

OLD BUSINESS

None on the books and none from the floor

NEW BUSINESS

- *Motion by Jasper Lakey and seconded by Stephen Maichle to send a Thank You letter to Mid-Del for their donation to the DVFA Foundation. Executive Manager Jones will send the letter from the Office. Motion carried*
- *Motion by Tom D’Cristofaro and seconded by Robert Yerkes to remove Edward Angwin, Sr. from the Hall of Fame, due to a violation of Title 16, Chapter 66’. Motion carried*
- *Motion by Tom D’Cristofaro and seconded by Les McCourt to have the DVFA Officers execute and sign contracts with Dover Downs for Conference 2017 and 2018. Motion carried*
- *Motion by Ed Barlow and seconded by Stephen Maichle to add Duane L. Austin of the Five Points Fire Co. to the DVFA Hall of Fame. Motion carried*

Ed Barlow raised the question again in reference to the AD&D policy that was discussed earlier. It was stated that the companies would be paying the bill themselves per a motion on the DVFA Conference floor.

Pastor Bob Hudson stated that he has traveled numerous miles this past year visiting people in the hospitals, etc. He stated that he is glad to do this, so please let him know if someone is in need of his services.

Along with that, Elmer Steele took the time to personally thank Pastor Bob Hudson, Sussex County Chaplain Charlie Arnold and Laurel Fire Dept. Chaplain Jimmy Hoppa for the time that they spent with his family at Christiana during Sandy’s brain tumor surgery.

Mary Frances Eisenbrey said that LADVFA 1st Vice President Lois Pearson has been in the hospital and re-hab. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Steve Austin reported that Dan Kiley, President of Talleyville Fire Co. is having some cardiac issues. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Treasurer Metheny highlighted the bills to be paid.
Total amount is \$54,075.04

10:41 AM

12/15/15

Accrual Basis

Delaware Volunteer Fireman's Assoc., Inc.
DVFA Operations Bills to be Approved
As of December 10, 2015

Name	Memo	Amount
Operating		
DVFA CHECKING		
CREDIT CARD DISCOUNT	REIMB. WEB SITE LICENSE	-17.20
AT & T	FIRELINE	-12.88
COMCAST CABLEVISION	INTERNET/PHONES	-207.43
BOBOLA FARMS FLORIST	FLOWERS	-133.00
SUSSEX PRINTING	PRINTING- PACKETS	-2,835.68
CREDIT CARD DISCOUNT		-60.38
VERIZON	WARREN'S PHONE	-75.47
CANNON FINANCIAL SERVICES	COPIER SERVICES	-228.83
M&M TROPHIES	ENRAVED PLATES//F OF THE YEAR	-311.58
CFSI	PRE-DINNER RECEPTIN	-5,300.00
M&T BANK	VISA ACCOUNT	-1,901.13
WARREN F. JONES	P/R SEPTEMBER 2015	-2,817.14
U.S. TREASURY	TAX PERIOD- SEPTEMBER 2015	-924.84
CANNON FINANCIAL SERVICES	COPIER SERVICES	-228.83
GOLDFEIN & JOSEPH, P.C.	INSURANCE DISTRIBUTION CASE	-112.50
M & M TROPHIES	2 OFFICERS BADGES	-156.50
THE CONFERENCE GROUP, LLC	INV. # E726-0000-122	-2.57
RAYMOND F. BOOK & ACCOCIATES	ANNUAL AUDIT 2015	-4,417.00
AT & T	FIRELINE	-12.43
NEW CASTLE VOL. FIREFIGHTER'S ASSN	SPONSOR 5K WALK	-300.00
COMCAST CABLEVISION	INTERNET/PHONES	-207.81
VERNON INGRAM	OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015 RENT	-1,755.00
DVFA CONFERENCE ACCT.	CREDIT CARDS PAYMENTS	-17,700.00
DEPT.OF PUBIC SAFETY PETTY CASH	3 TICKETS SCHILIRO RETIREMENT	-75.00
KENNETH MCMAHON	TRAVEL EXPENSE-NVFC MTG,	-35.00
WARREN F. JONES	P/R OCTOBER 2015	-2,926.75
DIVISION OF REVENUE	P/R TAXES JUL - SEPT2015	-421.96
M&T BANK	VISA ACCOUNT	-3,025.83
CREDIT CARD DISCOUNT		-50.95
DIVISION OF REVENUE	P/R TAXES JUL - SEPT2015	-422.04
STATE OF DELAWARE	SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE-LEG. COUNCIL	-110.00
COMCAST CABLEVISION	INTERNET/PHONES	-212.84
AT & T	FIRELINE	-12.43
CREDIT CARD DISCOUNT		-9.68
U.S. TREASURY	TAX PERIOD- OCTOBER 2015	-964.90
CANNON FINANCIAL SERVICES	COPIER SERVICES	-228.83
WARREN F. JONES	P/R NOVEMBER 2015	-2,926.75
RAYMOND T. STEVENS	REIMB. CHART PAPER	-40.79
M&T BANK	VISA ACCOUNT	-2,893.09
Total DVFA CHECKING		-54,075.04
Total Operating		-54,075.04
TOTAL		-54,075.04

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*Motion by Bob Yerkes and seconded by Ray Stevens to pay the bills as presented.
Motion carried.*

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

President Zeroles stated that he had received an envelope from Clyde Luton with some “old” pictures, etc. He will turn this over to the archives committee.

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved by Guy Hudson and seconded by Bill Betts that the December Executive Meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. DVFA Chaplain Bob Hudson offered the Benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am

Respectfully submitted,
Elmer B. Steele
Elmer B. Steele
Corporate Secretary

I hereby attest that this a true copy of the proceedings of the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association Executive Meeting held on December 13, 2015.

Attest: Warren F. Jones
Executive Manager

Joe Zeroles
President