



**DVFA EXECUTIVE MEETING**  
**Delaware State Fire School**  
**December 11, 2022**

The December 11, 2022 DVFA Executive meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Ken Ryder at the Delaware State Fire School complex in Dover.

Invocation offered by Executive Manager Jay Jones

Pledge of Allegiance led by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Tom DiCristofaro

Roll Call of Officers:

All Officers, Directors and Office staff are present and/or accounted for.

**Report of Officers**

**President Ryder: (copied and pasted from written report)**

This will be to cover some of my thoughts about current and upcoming events since our November 29<sup>th</sup> officers meeting in Felton. I've finished posting my events, hours and miles travelled on my activity report. It seems like travelling has been above average this past quarter. I'd contribute that to a lessening in concern about COVID for most of us. However, we are at the beginning of December and it appears that things are continuing to worsen with the flu,

RSV and COVID cases showing signs of significant increases again. Since this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in December, we are getting into the holiday season...and of course official winter is the 21<sup>st</sup>.

R&R...Continues to be an item of importance during this year. The change in our tax credit legislation has passed and we will actually have that credit on our 2022 tax returns. Warren Jones will be working with Jeff Brown to get the programs up and running at Fire School. In addition, Warren secured the 4-year SAFER grant for \$1.251M and is working on the logistics of how this will work and be incorporated into other programs at DSFS. This is only the beginning we must continue to seek out and identify thoughts, ideas and other means that may help reverse the societal changes that our system of volunteerism has become a victim of. We must continue looking for solutions because failure for the volunteer fire service is not an option!

As we approach the DVFA Exec. Meeting in Dover this Sunday one item under committee reports will be the "final draft" of Reg. 709. The committee has reviewed, remolded, and rewritten Reg. 709 to be the document that we all can support going forward. This committee has worked in person, over the phone and by zoom meetings to get to this point. They have a document "once completed" that all can agree on that is in the best interest of the fire service. I cannot express my thanks and gratitude enough for all their time & efforts in this endeavor.

Our December 2<sup>nd</sup> President's and staff meeting with the Governor went really well. It looks like we are headed back to the grant-in-aid process with the 2 chairs once things settle down in the legislature after the elections.

The Surf Tag situation has been resolved for this year at least. They are currently on sale and available with no limit basis this year. All 3 Presidents have the stamps and are available to work with each company to get theirs completed.

My Presidential year needs to be adjusted by a planned family vacation. When you do something like this it is bound to land on or effect at least one thing on our busy calendars. So “in throwing the dart” at the board the event effected the most is going to be our March DVFA meeting on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. I’ll be travelling from March 5<sup>th</sup> through March 12<sup>th</sup>. Some of you are already aware of this due to the discussions we have been having about it. Vice President Ron O’Neal will be in the President’s position and chairing the March meeting in my absence.

One more thing to squeeze in here is my phone call with President Biden. This story goes something like this, Jay called me on the afternoon of October 11<sup>th</sup> telling me he had just gotten a call from the President’s office. He told me that the President was going to be calling me, he wasn’t sure when, but I should be on standby for a call on my cell phone. I replied “Okay, I’ll be looking forward to getting the call.” After a few minutes Jay called back and “asked if something was wrong with my cell phone?” I advised that “I didn’t think so since I was in a good place for reception.” He said “The President is trying to reach you but he can’t get through.” At this point I was becoming a little suspicious that Jay might be “pulling my chain” but I went along with what he was saying. He advised me to “stop whatever I was doing and call the President at this number.” “Okay, I’ll hang up and call that number.” So I tried the number, it rang twice before a feminine voice answered. Actually I was still a little suspicious about the call thinking that Jay was trying to pull something over on me. She said “This is Julia...how may I help you?” I replied “Yes....Ma’am, I’m returning a call to the President at this number.” She replied” he is here and I’ll put him on.”

He came on the phone and said “Ken, I understand that you are the President of the DVFA?” I replied “Yes...Mr. President I am.” At this point I knew it was not one of Jay’s jokes! Believe it or not it was him...I recognized his voice!

We both continued by exchanging some conversations between the two of us. He then went on to the message he wanted to convey. “I’m calling to tell you how grateful I am for all the help the volunteer fire service in Delaware has given to me and my family through the years.” He went on to say ”how grateful he was for all that WE (the volunteer fire service) have done and continue to do as volunteers for ALL the citizens of the State of Delaware!” He made no bones about it!

Stating that “We, the volunteer fire service in the State of Delaware, are the greatest volunteer fire service in the nation, bar none!! He continued “You should be extremely proud of that achievement!” He was very vocal about his high regard for all of us as volunteers. He asked me to relay that message and his greetings. I assured him that I would do so, as DVFA President. I replied “I appreciated his calling and sharing this important message with me.”

After hanging up I reflected and thought about what had just happened. It’s mind boggling for me to believe that he called me. Of all the people that he has to talk to...he called me about ALL OF YOU! How proud he is of the Delaware Volunteer Fire Service!! I was excited and at the same time extremely humbled to have spoken to the President of the United States. It’s hard for me to believe he called me to convey his sentiments...but he did! WHEW!! So as the President of the Delaware Volunteer Firefighters Association, I’m here to share his message about HOW PROUD HE IS OF ALL OF YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU DO!! End of story.

Or so I thought. We did receive a taped video message that was sent for us to present at our meeting to the membership attending which we will do this morning. I had originally extended an invitation for him to be here in person but as his staff advised that his schedule was full and he would be tied up in Washington with events for this weekend. Follow me now. We aren’t done yet.

Story continues. Next chapter. On Monday evening, December 5<sup>th</sup>, Jay gets an email from the White House Social Office. Jay then calls me to let me know of the email that has arrived and forwards it to me to review. It states "Please see the invitation below, inviting me and a guest, for a Holiday Reception to be held at the White House on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm." This is "out of the blue" and totally unexpected!! My wife declined attending as guest as she felt it should be someone from the DVFA. After this decision I in turn asked Jay if he was able to attend with me. His answer was yes...he felt his schedule would allow him to participate. So we agreed that's what we would plan to do.

However he later advised that his schedule had changed and he wouldn't be able to make the trip. So we ask Warren if he was able to attend. Warren said he was able to go so we agreed this would now be Plan A.

On Saturday morning, December 10<sup>th</sup>, your DVFA President and Administrative Assistant made the trip to the White House for a 2:30 pm Holiday Reception. Once we were able to get over the drive, the parking, the security check-ins and the screening, the rest was easy. What an experience! To be able to attend and represent the Delaware Volunteer Fire Service was quite an honor. My "Thanks to all of you" for electing me as your President and allowing me to represent you at the White House in Washington, DC. I'll not say end of story...who knows this year is young yet we might have to add another chapter!

I'll summarize my activity report by items noted...for events attended 34, travelled 1278 miles...111 hours in-service. These are the ones recorded for this quarter.... but I know many miles, time and hours get lost in the shuffle.

**Special Presentation:** Video from United States President Joseph R. Biden thanking the volunteer fire service for what you do on a daily basis. He praised the men and women of the fire service and promised to always have our backs.

#### **First Vice President O'Neal: (copied and pasted from written report)**

Following the Conference in September, the Officers & Directors put together a rough outline of priorities, items which we wanted to focus on to begin the year. Some of these you'll hear more about from Executive Manager Jones as a follow up to the meeting with the DVFA and the Governor on December 2.

PTSD, Mental Health – this was brought up at Conference. If you begin to search, there are any number of programs offered, such as the International Association of Fire Firefighters "Behavioral Health Awareness Courses" and the National Volunteer Firefighter's Council "Share the Load" program. The goal here is to utilize and build upon things already in place and to not "re-create the wheel".

- Seminars, training, contacts
- Insurance Coverage
- Sub-Committee?

Sustainable Funding – started with a discussion at conference involving all three counties. So far, this "committee" has met twice with some good discussion on how each County is funded and possible initiatives moving forward. Working in conjunction with the Resources Committees already in place in each County.

- Address Medicaid reimbursement amounts
- Requesting to make this an official committee under the DVFA

Volunteer Firefighter Death Benefits – Deb Lawhead to lead this effort

- Determine and document "reasonable costs" associated with the death benefits for eligible volunteers
- Document the process for claims

Volunteer Firefighter Funeral Expense – currently \$7K

- What can we do to have this amount increased (\$15K?)

Conference – moving forward

- Location/expenses
- Vendor participation, classes/seminars being offered, getting younger members involved while keeping with tradition

SAFER Grant for Recruitment & Retention - \$1.2M over the next 4 years

- Distribution of funds – creation of guidelines for distribution of funds for PPE/Training, etc. (sub-committees)

Legislative Fire Caucus – Executive Manager Jay Jones.

- What can we do to assist in moving this forward and making it successful in having our voice heard.

Permanent Memorial

- Update names
- Create a guideline for the identification, approval and addition of names to the memorial.

DVFA website

- Update layout to make it easier to find documents
- Add docs such as the documented Death Benefits

I certainly want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Years. Whether it's our own company or at a County or State level, it seems that we all spend quite a bit of time on the road going from one meeting or gathering to another, so please take this opportunity to spend time with your family, reflect on the past year, recharge and be ready to hit the ground running following the holidays.

For the record, since the DVFA Conference in Wilmington on September 16, 2022, I have attended 25 events, for a total of 2168 miles and 95 hours.

**Second Vice President DiCristofaro: (copied and pasted from written report and Secretary notes)**

- Nice being 3<sup>rd</sup> since most of my report has already been covered
  - Spent the first few months since Conference fulfilling the duties that I was sworn to do
  - Met with the Governor on December 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Happy Holidays to each and everyone

09/16/22 Installed at Conference  
09/20/22 Attended the September Fire Commission Meeting  
09/27/22 Attended Sussex County Firefighters Meeting  
10/06/22 Attended New Castle County Fire Chiefs Meeting  
10/09/22 Attended the NFFF Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, MD  
10/10/22 Attended a Recruitment and Retention Meeting at Dover Fire School  
10/13/22 Attended the New Castle County Volunteer Fire Fighters Meeting  
10/16/22 Was on Conference call for Committee Assignments  
10/18/22 Attended the October Fire Commission Meeting  
10/23/22 Attended a Statewide Alternative Funding Meeting at DSFS  
10/25/22 Attended the Sussex County Firefighters Meeting  
10/26/22 Attended Conference wrap up Meeting at Hockessin  
11/03/22 Attended New Castle County Fire Chiefs Meeting  
11/05/22 Attended the New Castle County Ladies Banquet  
11/09/22 Attended VCOS in Clearwater Florida  
11/10/22 Attended VCOS in Clearwater Florida

11/11/22 Attended VCOS in Clearwater Florida  
 11/12/22 Attended VCOS in Clearwater Florida  
 11/13/22 Attended VCOS in Clearwater Florida  
 11/14/22 Attended ARPA Meeting with County Officials  
 11/15/22 Attended the November Fire Commission Meeting  
 11/19/22 Attended Funeral Services for President Danny Mitchell  
 11/20/22 Attended a Statewide Alternative Funding Meeting at DSFS  
 11/22/22 Attended the Sussex County Firefighters Meeting  
 11/29/22 Attended the DVFA Officer Meeting  
 11/30/22 Attended Retirement Dinner for Senator Bruce Ennis  
 12/08/22 Attended the New Castle County Fire and Chiefs Installation Meeting  
 12/11/22 Attended the DVFA Quarterly Executive Meeting in Dover

**Secretary Steele: (copied and pasted from written report)**

- Thanks to the Association for allowing me the opportunity to attend the VCOS Symposium in Clearwater, FL. Lots of information and lots of time for networking with folks from various States.
- Spent a lot of time on the 2022-2023 DVFA committee list over the past couple of months. That list has been completed and is available today.
- Had contact with the Chase Center, the Westin and Homewood Suites regarding Conference 2023. Dates were “penciled” in for September 12 to 15, 2023. No contracts have been signed at this point.
- Had contact with Bally’s Dover Casino Resort on the possibility of them hosting Conference 2023. Per Derrick Stanley, Director of Hotel Sales and Brian Bedder, Director of Marketing, they do not wish to have Bally’s Dover considered for 2023. They are still in the transition faze and are doing a lot of remodeling and cannot accommodate our needs at the present time. Maybe 2024 will be a better year.
- My wife and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

**Treasurer Whitham: (copied from written report)**

As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, we show the following balances:

Checking - \$136,332.29  
 Money Market - \$263,113.74  
 Crawford Financial Account - \$239,558.71

Bumpers & Company have completed the financial review for the previous FY budget year. I have spoken with the F&B chairman in reference to reviewing same with his committee

In reviewing expenses, several trips and conferences have exceeded the budgetary line figure. I will present a six-month budget review to the F&B committee so we can discuss same.

Attached is a Budget vs Actual report to give you an idea on where we stand with expenses through the end of November.

In closing, may everyone have a safe and joyous holiday season.

***Motion by Brian Reeder and second by Dave Ruff to accept the Officer reports and spread them upon the minutes. Motion carried***

**Executive Manager Jay Jones: (copied and pasted from written report)**

- May 7, 2023 is NFFF Memorial in Emmitsburg. Planning to hire a bus
- Information on FDIC rooms will be available soon

- Legislative up-dates – (9 new legislators this year, 6 in the House and 3 in the Senate)
- Working on the Fire Caucus
- \$110m Opioid settlement. Will send out guidelines next week

#### **Administrative Assistant Warren Jones:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in 12 years that I have not worn a coat and tie and sat at the head table. Feels pretty good
- SAFER grant. Following the guidelines as set forth
- Received 2 bid proposals for a marketing firm. Hope to choose one next week
- Meeting with Vo-Tech schools on training classes for EMT's/Firefighters
- Will meet with all school superintendents next week
- Wish everyone a great Holiday Season

### **Committee Reports**

#### **State Fire Prevention Commission – Ron Marvel:**

The following are the highlights of the September, October, and November Fire Commission meetings.

- To date the suspected overdose deaths in Delaware is 307. There continues to be a high rate of calls and Naloxone use for overdose. All BLS agencies currently carrying naloxone can contact OEMS for naloxone re-supply as needed. Naloxone usage needs to be reported in the PCR's. New Protocol dosing has changed for Naloxone from 1 milligram to 1 to 2 milligrams for BLS during the opiate overdose. This was suggested by the BLS Protocol Committee as a more effective dose.
- PPE: Please continue to follow guidance as per the Department of Health. Any updates to guidance will be distributed to EMS agencies. Continue to make every effort to mask patients if they are not masked already. Despite some restrictions being lifted, there are no changes to EMS or healthcare PPE guidelines at this point. You can reach out to OEMS if you have PPE needs.
- The Commission made a motion to accept Consent Agreements for case numbers 2201 and 2207.
- The Commission requested Townsend and Minquadale Fire Companies to appear at the September meeting after not appearing as requested at the August meeting to discuss the reasons for late DFIRS Report submissions. They were requested to present a corrective action plan moving forward. The Commission agreed to have future conversations about reporting non-compliance.
- The Commission made a motion to accept the updated Ambulance Equipment list. The updated form can be found on the Commission's website.
- The annual Chair and Vice Chair elections were held. Ronald Marvel was elected as Chairperson for the Fire Prevention Commission. William (Bill) Kelly was elected as Vice Chairperson.
- The Commission has formed an EMS Committee to focus on some of the statewide needs surrounding EMS. Recruitment and funding will be some of the topics of focus.
- The 193 Committee has met and completed the Regulation 709 update. It is being prepared for public comment and the public hearing.

\*Next Commission meeting will be January 21, 2023

**Advisory to DSFM – Grover Ingle: (copied and pasted from written report)**

- Fire Fatalities – There are 18 fire fatalities for 2022. Working smoke alarms were present in seven (7) incidents and 11 incidents had no working smoke alarms. No fire sprinklers were present in any of these incidents nor were they required by code to be installed at the time of construction.
- Deputy Fire Marshal I New Castle County - Current vacancy position was reposted and will close on December 12, 2022, at midnight. Once we receive the list of qualified applicants the process will begin and probably take two – three months to complete.
- Fire Protection Specialist I Sussex County – Fire Protection Specialist II Dennett Pridgeon retired after 28 1/2 years on October 31, 2022. Currently in the process of selecting a candidate for this position and it is intended to have a person onboard by midJanuary or February at the latest.
- Administrative Specialist I Kent County /Sussex County – As a result of a resignation from Administrative Specialist I Joy Fleming in Kent County on November 5, 2022, and the recent retirement of Administrative Specialist I LuAnn James in Sussex County on November 30, 2022, there are two vacant positions. Recruitment posting has closed for Kent County and Sussex County will close on December 13, 2022. Kent County applicants are currently in the interview process with the intention to have a selection by mid-January or February at the latest. Sussex will start the interviews once a list is received and hopefully have a person selected by mid-January or February next year.
- New Arson Van – the Arson Van ordered in September 2021 from LDV is currently in the process of being built. Two staff members visited LDV for a construction inspection On December 5 & 6 and we look to take delivery after a final inspection in the first quarter of next year.
- DFIRS – Continue to work with each Fire Company/Department on current data submissions to DFIRS. Significant Improvements have been made by the Fire Companies/Departments in submitting the data on time.
- The Office of the State Fire Marshal wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to working with the new officers in 2023.

**Advisory to DSFS – Tucker Dempsey: (copied and pasted from written report)**

- We will be holding interviews this week for our Deputy Director position and that will open a Training Administrator position.
- The three county EMT classes are wrapping up this weekend with their practical skills evaluations.
- We have bought our first Virtual Reality headset and we will be using it in our command simulation classes.
- The Americorps program is developing slowly. The job posting has been out for a while, but no applicants yet. We also haven't figured out how to pay them yet either.
- The Tuition Reimbursement program is going well.
- We are a few weeks into the latest Wilmington FD recruit academy.
- We will be holding a summer fire academy in 2023.
- We are working with Public Health and the Commission on Health & Wellness initiatives.

**DVFA Pension Advisory – Ray Stevens:**

- Training for new pension officers
- Pension payments goes up 100% on January 1, 2023

**Health & Safety – Jack Wilson:**

- Discussed mental health issues - PTSD

**Life Safety – Guy Hudson: (copied from hand written notes)**

- Judged the posters and essays this morning
- Awards program is January 8, 2023 at 2:00 PM in Cheswold
- Need representative (in uniform) that day from:
  - Laurel, Millsboro, Greenwood, Dagsboro-Frankford, Milton and Lewes
  - Mill Creek, Aetna, Wilmington Manor and Good Will
  - Felton and Milford
- Matching funds request due to be postmarked by January 31, 2023. Application is on the web site.

**Out-of-State Coordinator – Steve Austin:**

- Several dates for 2023:
 

May 7	NFFF Memorial in Emmittsburg
May 19-20	PA Fire Expo in Harrisburg
May 22-23	CFSI in Washington, DC
June 17-21	MSFA Convention in Ocean City
August 3-5	CVVFA Convention in Elkton

**Revolving Loan – Ray Stevens: (copied from written report)**

1. Recent meeting was held on Wednesday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>
2. We approved the Minutes of our June 1, 2022 meeting
3. We had 3 applications seeking loan approval, they were
  - a) Loan for Equipment, (Radios and Hose) totaling \$67,635.18
  - b) Loan for New Pumper totaling \$419,742.50
  - c) Loan for New Ambulance totaling \$175,000.00
4. All Applications were in order and all 3 loans were approved totaling \$662,377.68
5. FUND BALANCE PRIOR TO THESE LOANS WAS \$5,850,000
6. Our next meeting is March 1, 2023
7. Interest rate continues to be 2% on the loans

**Final Conference report – Ray Stevens: (copied from written report)**

1. Closing of Books for 2022 Conference:
 

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, I closed the books for Conference 2022. All receipts have been deposited and all bills have been paid.
2. Conference Revenues:
 

Actual Conference revenues came in at \$169,889. We also transferred an additional \$20,000 from the M/Mkt. account to help pay Chase their initial deposit, thus giving us working capital of \$189,889.
3. Revenues:
 

The **two big ticket items** this year that helped was:

Exhibitors	\$15,000
Partners-in-Progress (both)	<u>\$83,052</u>
Combined revenue:	<u>\$98,052</u>

Equals: 57% of total Conf. revenues
4. Conference 2022 Expenses:
 

Total Conference expenses came in at \$175,246, thus giving us a surplus Of \$14,643
5. Conference Expenses:



Nearly all of the social events came in under budget, including the Men’s luncheon, Past Presidents banquet, Fire Chief’s banquet, Fire Police Banquet, and the Ladies hospitality night. The Ladies luncheon just missed coming in under budget by just \$232.

6. Conference Expenses: Chase on the Riverfront			
Total payments to Chase for Conference 2022 was:			\$109,468.97
	Conference 2021 was:		<u>\$101,124.57</u>
	Increase of:		\$8,344.40
7. Outstanding bills: NONE			
8. No-Show Policy:			
	2021 Conference		\$1,169.00
	2022 Conference		\$400.00
9. Current account balances:			
Conference Checking Account:		\$11,526.47	
Conference Money Mkt. Account		<u>\$75,858.23</u>	
TOTAL		\$87,384.70	

IN SUMMARY:

The combination of having a surplus in our revenues and being under budget in our expenses is great for our financial picture moving forward towards the 2023 Conference.

It’s been a pleasure working with everyone on the 2022 Conference committee and to all the Chairpersons. **SPECIAL THANKS TO:** Elmer, Jay, Warren, Terry and the three Chair Officers.

**Wake-Up Delaware- Paul Eichler:**

- Still have a few smoke detectors available, if anyone needs them
- Touched on a few of the items that were in the Fire Marshal’s report

**Sustainable Funding – Dan Seador:**

- Discussed the make-up of the committee and the work that has been done thus far
- Discussed hiring a lobbyist to help with this project
- Gave a detailed report on getting funding

**709 Regulations – David Majewski, Sr.:**

- Gave some background information on the 709 Regulations vs HB193
- Committee has reviewed 709 and the DAG has reviewed the proposal
- Revised copy to be sent to the 3 DVFA Presidents and the 3 DSFCA Presidents for review
- Advised the timeline associated with the process
- Copies to be sent to the Companies next week, need your written comments back as soon as possible
- Will hold several workshops for general discussion

This is the timeline the Commission DAG has recommended to us to follow:

- |          |                                                                                                                                            |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/20/22 | Fire Commission votes to adopt proposed changes to 709 and signs order re same.                                                            |
| 1/15/23  | Deadline to submit order and proposed amendments to 709 to Register of Regulations (ROR) for publication in February’s edition of the ROR  |
| 2/1/23   | Proposed changes and order published in February ROR. Must provide for a 30-day comment period.                                            |
| 3/2/23   | 30-Day public comment period expires. Commission to collect and distribute all comments received during official comment period (2/1-3/2). |

3/21/23 Commission considers public comments and votes to finalize proposed changes to 709. Assuming no further substantive changes, final changes with order sent to ROR for final publication in May edition. Regulations would be effective 5/10/23 (law requires minimum of 10 days before regs can be effective; also note that 3/21 is past the fifteenth of the month, so can't get it to ROR for April edition; if we have special meeting sometime between 3/2 and 3/21, could possibly get them in April edition to be effective 4/10/23).

5/1/23 Target date for publication of final changes.

5/10/23 Reg changes are final and enforceable.

**Recognized of Past Presidents and President Emeritus in attendance - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ron O'Neal**

14 Past Presidents and 1 President Emeritus

**Recognized current Fire Company Presidents and Fire Chief's:** Counted 17 in attendance

**Affiliated Organizations/Agency Representatives**

**Ladies Auxiliary:** President Deb Lawhead

- Introduced the LADVFA officers, LADVFA Past Presidents and the County Officers that were in attendance today
- Looking for assistance with storage of LADVFA records. Posting of minutes on the web page
- Looking for guidance on auditing their books for tax purposes. Maybe include with men's audit/review

**State Fire Chief's:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Mike Edwards

- Next meeting will be January 26 at Sta. 8 Aetna
- Speaker will be Scott Bundek regarding the fatal fire in Little Creek
- Get your new officer list in

**State Fire Police:** Leon Hyde

- Next State meeting is January 23 at Sta. 8
- Training on February 19 at the Fire School

**DVFA Foundation:** Chairman Lynn Rogers

- Last meeting was on October 18 at Willis Chevy
- Collected over \$1,500 for the Foundation at the Conference luncheon
- Awarded 22 scholarships this each at \$1,000 each

**National Vol. Fire Council:** Delegate Bill Betts

- Held their last meeting in Wilmington, NC
- Spring meeting will be the week before CFSI
- Received a grant for mental health
- Still working on R&R issues

**Del-Mar-Va Association:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jay Jones

- Last meeting was in Chestertown.
- DSFS Director Tucker Dempsey spoke on the recent barge fire on the Delaware River
- Next meeting will be February 5, 2023 at Sta. 75, Ellendale

**Communications:**

The following communications were received and were summarized by Secretary Steele

- Thank you card from President Ryder for the fruit basket he received during his bout with COVID
- Donation letter and check from Campus Community School for \$306.00

*Motion by Stephen Maichle second by Guy Hudson to accept communications and spread upon the minutes*  
**Motion carried**

**OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**NEW BUSINESS**

- *Motion by Dan Seador and second by Mark Harris to assess each Fire Co. \$500 to engage a lobbyist for sustainable funding. After much discussion, **the motion and second were withdrawn***
- *Motion by Dan Seador and second by Mark Harris to take up to \$30,000 from the DVFA Money Market account to engage a lobbyist firm for the sole purpose of obtaining sustainable funding for all 60 volunteer fire companies and the 3 volunteer ambulance companies within the State of Delaware. **Motion carried***
- *Motion by Johnny Hopkins and second by Brian Reeder to appoint a formal sustainable funding committee. **Motion carried***

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Treasurer Whitham highlighted the bills to be paid.

11:30 AM Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association  
 12/09/22 Expenses by Vendor Summary  
 September through November 2022

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	<u>Sep – Nov 22</u>
A+ Conferencing LTD	48.82
Amtrust North America	500.00
Bumpers & Company	7,775.00
Canon	581.61
Claymont Fire Company	2,099.40
Comcast	1,242.09
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce	500.00
Dolly Ingram	2,055.00
Dover Army-Navy Store	21.33
DSMCCC	1,000.00
Jor-Lin Tour & Charter	1,829.00
M&T	9,571.77
Norman “Jay” Jones	55.00
Paul Eichler	362.39

Pratt Insurance	4,863.00
Ron O'Neal	30.00
Steve Austin	58.84
Sussex Printing	189.00
The Guide	27.00
Young, Conaway, Stargatt & Taylor	<u>4,995.00</u>
TOTAL	37,804.25

***Motion by Al Townsend and second by Ray Stevens to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried***

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- Mill Creek Fire Co. will be doing a drive-by on December 15 at 8:00 PM for one of their members
- Thanked everyone that participated in the services for Dan Mitchell in Rehoboth
- President Ryder thanked everyone for the cards and prayers during his bout with COVID
- Will be a short DVFA officers meeting immediately after this meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was regularly moved by Guy Hudson and seconded by Dave Ruff that the December Executive Meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.** Executive Manager Jay Jones offered the Benediction  
The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM

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

I hereby attest that this a true copy of the proceedings of the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association Executive Meeting held on Sunday, December 11, 2022.

**Attest: Jay Jones**  
**Executive Manager**

**Ken Ryder**  
**President**