

# DVFA EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUETS

**March 13, 2005**

Call to order at 10:07 A.M. by President Raymond T. Stevens

Invocation offered by Pastor Bob Hudson

Pledge of Allegiance led by DVFA Past President Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr.

Roll Call of Officers – Executive Secretary

- [X] Raymond T. Stevens, 88, President
- [X] Kennard L. Pyle, 4 & 24, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- [X] Alan F. Robinson, Jr., 44, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- [X] James L. Cubbage, Jr., 45, Executive Secretary
- [X] J. Allen Metheny, Jr., 51, Treasurer
- [X] Thomas D'Allessandro, 3, 6 & 12 New Castle County Director
- [ ] Nick Sawyer, 45, Kent County Director
- [ ] Richard Toulson, 87, Sussex County Director
- [X] Marvin C. Sharp, 42, Immediate Past President
- [ ] Warren F. Jones, 16, Director, New Castle County
- [X] Clarence R. O'Neal, 51, Director, Kent County
- [X] Ronald Marvel, 87, Director, Sussex County

All Officers were present with the exception of Richard Toulson, Sussex County Director and Warren Jones, New Castle County Director who were excused, and Nick Sawyer Kent County Director who was absent.

President Stevens then Introduced William Webb, CFSI Executive Director for brief remarks.

He wanted to thank all officers for being active in Washington for CSFI. Legislation has been very busy in DC. The president funded 500 million dollars for 2004 and has 600 million planned for 2005. With the new addition for grants for Delaware united States funding cuts for USFA. Wake up Delaware needs a 1-2 punch to inspire sprinkler systems. There are still a lot of buildings that are not protected.

Most of you are aware of Elderadge- legislation. This is for firefighters who have passed away from heart attacks. Our CSFI Dinner theme this year is protecting our communities and going home safe. Firefighter Health and Safety There will be a heart healthy test at the dinner this year. It is recommended all attendees to this dinner take the test.

There will also be bobble head dolls of Senator Biden this year at your place setting. If perhaps you receive the wrong Senator bobble head at your table please let him know and will make sure you get the correct one. The taste testing for this year's menu is March 14, 2005. We have 3 DVFA Members helping in selecting the menu, which include President Steven, Ex Sec Jim

Cabbage, and Past President Steve Austin. He advised, the Guest Speaker for the dinner has not been selected at this time. He noted, the Secretary of Homeland Security might be possible.

President Stevens announced Roland Neeman has a brief statement and would like to introduce a guest.

Roland stated for the last 6 months they have been trying to resolve the issue regarding Texas Hold'em. His head has been bitten off at all the county meetings. He has asked John McManus to help shed some light on this topic.

### ***John McManus Gaming Commission***

He stated there are too many interpretations of what's being asked. He believes Texas Hold'em poker is a moneymaker and is here to stay. He is a chair on the gaming control board. Legally there are 3 factors to determine if you can get a license to play. The three factors are. No denominational value for chips or funny money. 2, the regulation states no more that 1dollar bet. The ante shall be 1 dollar with no more than three raises.

Also with Texas hold'em poker there is no guarantee the game would be over in 6 hours. Which is the Max time limit for other Games. Some companies have contacted Ace's Full Entertainment, which is in violation of Delaware Law. Some companies have received a license to play. That's because they did not specify that is for Texas hold'em. They led on to be a casino night. He stated it would be about a 4-6 month process to get the board to review the procedures based on the frequency of board meetings. He believes there will be a three pronged Statue & Regulations. And a 2 tier to enact now and adopt a subsequent to act law.

He stated the law needs to be changed to allow Ace's Full Entertainment to maintain viable game to attract patrons. The wagering limit will also need to be changed. Regulations need to be changed. The dollar amount to be awarded in bingo is Max 1,000.00. There is a lot to factor to find if the dollar amount change. They need to make gaming enjoyable for patrons.

Bruce Ennis Citizens Hose asked what does it mean for Bonified members? It is an Active member of the organization in which the license is issued. Board meeting will be necessary to issue and duly qualify. You must meet all standards and may assist another fraternal organization. What constitutes a member? People to be contracted with donating their services. He believes the wagering limit needs to be changed immediately. He believes this legislation should be settled be the end of legislative session. He believes if the problem only arises for Texas hold'em poker and should be taken separately than other areas.

Jim Cabbage asked what are you going to do about the letters that have already gone out to fire companies that have already held the events? With him being duty bound, if there is documented evidence it must be produced to the board and it will then be turned over to officials for legal action. Cabbage then stated there was a fire company granted a license in November 04, and waited 6 months for a response. Cabbage then stated there are problems with companies filling out the necessary paperwork to apply for a license and not hearing back whether they were approved or not.

McManus said they are becoming aware of other organizations are doing this and they are not only attacking the fire companies. A question was asked if the people who have Texas Hold'em events planned continue with the event without the police busting them. No he cannot grant special permission. The commission answers to the Governor and the Governor answers to the Delaware Law.

Roland Neeman has known this for 6 months and is getting hammered all the time. Cabbage stated the gaming commission is giving out different information to different people at different times. McManus noted there are 5 members on the board and it takes 3 members to act. Law and legislative turned this issue over to legislation. A professional dealer may be able to be harmonized. It will have to be discussed with the general assembly.

President Stevens appointed a committee to handle the Texas Hold'em Problems.  
 Alan Robinson  
 Jim Cabbage  
 First Vice Presidents of each County

## Report of Officers

### President Stevens

I would like to submit my report for the 2nd quarter to the Officers and members of the DVFA covering my activities for the months of December 2004 thru February 2005 as follows:

Meetings attended since Dec. 1, 2004 .....	40
Miles Traveled (2nd quarter) .....	3,755
Number of Hours .....	183.25
 Total miles traveled as an officer to date .....	 41,853

<u>RECAP OF FIRST QUARTER:</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Meetings Attended	13	14	13	40
Miles Traveled	1,278	1,376	1,101	3,755
Number of Hours	61.25	68.50	53.50	183.25

First, I want to thank Bill Mitten for all the news articles that he forwards to me at home. Many times, I may miss reading the News Journal, but, within a few days, here comes anything in the paper relative to the fire service. Thanks again Bill.

Security and his effort to secure a permanent House Homeland Security Committee and to alleviate the burocracy of having 88 different committees administering the Program. We later received word that his efforts were achieved and the DVFA was proud to show up and support him.

### FIRE CORPS

On Friday, January 14, the DVFA officers had the opportunity to join DEMA Director Jamie Turner and others at the DEMA facility to talk with Mr. Shawn Stokes, Director of FIRE CORPS. This is a new federal program or initiative. The Program is to help fire companies, (both career and volunteer) to recruit civilians to assist in non-fire related activities and to free up the firefighters to do firefighting. I have appointed a Fire Corps Committee, chaired by Jim Monihan, our representative to the National Volunteer Fire Council, who is keenly aware of this program. The Committee will be comprised of 3 people from each of the three counties and

1 person representing the City of Wilm. Fire Dept.

I have attend several DEMSOC meetings along with Jim & Allen and they will give you an up-date on the 5 Year Review later.

#### DVFA CRUISE

I will give a full report on this under Committee Reports and I believe 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Ken Pyle has some information on next year's cruise also.

#### MEETING WITH GOVERNOR MINNER

On Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> the DVFA officers met with Governor Minner and her staff. We discussed 6 DVFA Priorities, 4 were funding issues and 2 were administrative issues. Secondly, we discussed 4 other DVFA supported issues. Copies are over on the table and you will be asked to approve these under new business.

#### MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

There has been much discussion and comment in regards to mutual aid contracts. Be advised that DEMA and the DVFA are working to prepare legislation that will be presented to the 143<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly when they come back in session this month. Director, Turner and Executive Secretary Cabbage, have reported that the legislation will cover both INTERSTATE and INTRASTATE mutual aid agreements. There will be more information forthcoming on this.

#### FLU SHOTS

Now that the flu season is nearly over you can get your flu shots!

The DVFA has had an ongoing problem with Public Health this entire Winter and your officers called for a luncheon meeting with Dr. Riveria, Director, Div. of Public Health and his staff to discuss the flu vaccine issue. Simply put, contaminated vaccine was received here in Delaware, it was rejected and by the time more was produced or received from other sources, we were not on the priority list, ( only those at high risk, age 65 and older and small children) . At our luncheon meeting we argued for 1,000 doses of flu vaccine to treat our EMT-B's and we were granted such. Several weeks later, we were finally advised that flu shots were available to all first responders around February 1st. Hopefully, we will not have this same problem this Fall.

#### HEALTH & SAFETY

Dr. Glen Tinkoff, Medical Director, Christiana hospital has notified the DVFA that the Medical Society of Delaware's, Board of Trustee's, is interested in developing a cardiac screening program for our volunteer firefighters. I have also appointed a Health & Safety Committee to meet with the Medical Society to begin exploring such a program.

The following individuals are hereby appointed the above Committee to work with Dr. Glen Tinkoff and the Medical Society of Delaware.

Ray Stevens, Chairman, Sta. 88  
Jim Monihan, Co-Chair, Sta. 82  
Mike Rush, Sta. 3,6,12  
James Watson, Sta. 28 & 32  
Scott Bundek, Sta. 54  
Kevin Wilson, Sta. 45

Tom Moore, Sta. 70

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM

I would like to congratulate all those fire companies that were on the receiving end of monies this year from the Firefighters Grant Program. We had 11 grants awarded out of 30 applications for a total of \$1,686,946 or better than 1/3 of our applicants received funding.

TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER

Gentlemen, as you are aware we have had a problem with the Gaming Control Board Of Delaware regarding this issue. Rumors are abundant and our Executive Secretary has tried diligently to contact them, however, they have not returned his calls or emails. As I stated at Brandywine Hundred last Thursday evening, this may be a "regulatory issue" and not a "statutory issue". If the Gaming Board has the powers by Delaware Code to adopt rules and regulations governing games played here in Delaware, they merely need to address this issue and do so. Otherwise, if it is statutory in nature, a piece of legislation might be needed to correct it. Never the less, the DVFA needs to be PRO-ACTIVE NOW. I am therefore going to appoint immediately an ad hoc committee to begin working on this issue. The Committee will consist of Chairman, Alan Robinson with committee members, Jim Cabbage, and the first vice presidents of each county, (Jerry Brennan, NCC, Edward Welch, Kent Cty. and Walt Reynolds, Sussex Cty.) The Committee will proceed on behalf of the DVFA to make contact with all the players involved and to resolve this issue as quickly as possible to the DVFA's satisfaction.

Remember the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual CFSI Dinner in Washington, D.C. on April 7 (Senator Biden is the Chairman of the Fire Caucus this year and we want to have a good turnout from Delaware)

Also, Delaware Night at FDIC in Indianapolis, Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Hotel  
And, DVFA's Annual Legislative Night at the Sheraton, Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

Let me say that during these past three months, your officers have had the opportunity to attend and install many newly elected officers at banquets throughout the state. We have attempted to represent you at as many functions as possible. On behalf of Saralee and myself, we thank each of you for your invitations and the warm friendships and laughter we shared with everyone.

In closing, remember to keep our men and women in the military service in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank you

*First Vice President Pyle*

I would like to submit my **second quarter report** to the Officers and Members of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association for the months of **December, January, & February.**

Meetings attended since December 1, 2005..... 41

Miles traveled (2nd Quarter.....1761  
Number of hours.....144

Totals as Vice President:

Meetings attended..... 238  
Miles traveled..... 15,860  
Number of hours..... 903.5

The banquet season is almost over and I would like to thank the companies for all of their hospitality that was shown to Joyce and myself. I would like to congratulate the companies that have received fire grants, Delaware companies have done well again. In closing as a reminder would like to see as many attend the CFSI dinner and FDIC in April

**Second Vice President Robinson**

Good Morning –

I have attended many functions, meetings, dinners, etc. in the past three months representing the DVFA – traveling 1225 miles, & spending 123 hours.

Of special note was the Past Presidents’ Ring Ceremony in December in Hartly (a time when we honored the past presidents of this association with a token of appreciation for the many hours they have put in over their years of service to the DE fire service); the many appreciation dinners @ fire stations throughout DE (it is good to be a part of functions where our members are recognized for the work they do & their accomplishments – I must say that Seaford is currently in the # 1 spot for Outstanding Dinner); & the ceremony held by the LADVFA, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>., honoring Alberta Morris as their 1<sup>st</sup> President Emeritus. Alberta is a long-time member of the LA CHC, actually a Charter Member. It was great to see the fine turnout from all that could witness this event. From the Officers & members of the CHC & LA CHC, I thank the LADVFA for honoring Alberta in this way.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alan F. Robinson, Jr.  
2<sup>nd</sup>. VP, DVFA

**Treasurer Metheny**

Fellow Officers, Delegates, Alternates, Members, and Guests.

It gives me great pleasure to present the attached Treasures Report for the period December 11, 2004 through March 8, 2005. This report includes both the DVFA Operations and the Conference Accounts.

On March 1, 2005 I transferred \$1,014,466.99 to the Mercantile Safe Deposit & Trust Bank for our Calendar Year ]2004 DVFA Pension Program. This consisted of 808,546.99 for the employer’s share of the program, 155,760 to cover 2,596 fire company members and 50,160 to cover 836 ladies auxiliary members. It give me great pleasure to report that an error rate from the pension officers was the lowest ever. I credit this to the extra page of instructions that were sent out by the State Pension Office. Thanks to the pension officers for a good job.

The total payment is approximately 114,000 more than Calendar Year 2003. The increase is the result of increased employer cost, which was previously explained. Actually, we have less fire company members covered in 2004 compared to 2003 and just a few more auxiliary members covered. I suggest we are not getting new members to join our pension program.

I have provided a final financial report for Conference 2004 in my handout today. The report shows receipts of \$224,154 and disbursements of \$212,758, or \$11,396 more income than disbursements. If anyone has any questions please see me.

### **Executive Secretary Cabbage**

Executive Secretary Cabbage has prepared and carried out the required duties and functions of the office since the last Executive Committee Meeting.

I have attended a Meeting with Governor Minner, Joint Finance Public Hearing, two meetings of the DEMA-DHSTPWG, three SFPC meeting, DVFA Conference committee meeting, three 800 MHz meetings, two Homeland Security Meetings, three DEMSOC Meetings, three EDIN Reporting Meetings, two meeting of NHSTA Assessment, two DHSTPWG Funding sub committee, two DEMSOC Annual Report, several meetings with Governor Minner's staff and other state agency officials, and meetings with, DEMSOC, DEMA, DVFA Officers, CFSI, Fire Corp, TMC, SERC, Public Health, DVFA Past Presidents, NIMS, Partners in Progress, DVFA Computers, RISK Watch, Congressional Staff, re: Grants, WMD Comm., DVFA Officer's, five county meetings.

During the months of December, January & February the position devoted 409.0 hours and traveled 1725 miles to support the Association.

***Motion made by Executive Secretary Cabbage to accept officer's reports. DVFA PP Jasper Lakey seconded the motion. Motion Carried.***

### **DVFA Public Relations William Metten**

The Sussex county Newspaper has annual response information. He asked if Kent and New Castle released this information. He was told they used to. He would like to coordinate at the end of the year. He congratulated the Fire companies who received grants. After reading the articles about receiving the grants many people don't feel the need to make a annual donation. They do not realize there are more expenses with the grants. He believed there should be an annual appeal and try to put these awards and expenditures in the paper and where these dollars are being spent.

### **Delaware Fire Service News – Tom Mitten**

The fire service newspapers are running behind schedule. Better late than never. This month's issue should be out shortly followed by April and May.

## **Committee Reports**

1. Advisory to State Fire Marshal – Willard F. Preston III

1. We hired three new full time employees
  - a) Carrie Bell Juvenile Intervention officer New Castle County
  - b) Tripp Wagner Deputy Fire Marshal Kent County
  - c) Steve Callaway Fire Protection Specialist Kent/Sussex County

2. False Fire Alarm reporting

The preliminary results for 2004 are in, and show a 15% reduction in false fire alarms statewide. However, many fire departments are either not reporting or only partially reporting their false fire alarms. If every department reported their false alarms we would experience a drastic reduction. Fire Marshal Preston asked each department to support the program.

3. Hard Wire Smoke Detector program

Fire Marshal Preston asked each department to support the hard wire smoke detector program. There is approximately \$400,000 left in the fund, and we are only getting an average of 7 referrals per month. The program is designed to protect the elderly, the infirmed, and people with disabilities.

**2. Advisory to DSFS- Michael Kernan**

Thank you to Jim Cabbage and everyone in this room. Could not do it without all of you. He stated when he first started in his position he made a few commitments and would like to report they are really coming along. He wanted to bring the fun back to training, keep training up to date. Stay at the top of technology, Thank you to all employees of the fire school. He has said many times he is open to all opinions weather they are in a scheduled meeting, stopping in the halls or popping in the office. He is a person who listens. Everyone asked for new speaker system, and it's in. There are still a couple of kinks that need to be worked out. He is updating the computer system; second version is in the worked right now. Hoping to have online registration for classes. There are problems with the pond and pumps in the back. Is working on new technology to get that taken care of. Currently updated the website. They are doing there best to explore tools and Technology. They recently purchased a new saw and are currently sharing with the Fire Co. They have new opportunity for training. Have to top rescue instructor coming. Exploring partnership with Del Tech for fire service courses in Sussex County. Planning digital mapping to prepare classmates. Teleconferencing training and online courses they were looking into getting grant money. With Federal grant money from DEMA and Jamie Turner, teleconferencing equipment it here and ready to be installed. Interaction with technology change to deliver courses.

**3. Advisory to DEMA – Kevin L. Wilson**

Volunteer Reimbursement problems way to handle in DE.  
Cost for training. Dave Poulson with the FEMA Grant has agreed to relax the Mutual Aid Agreement For Emergencies. Thank you Jim Cabbage for representing the Fire Service. There has been a move by President Bush to have a much smaller budget. Please express

your opinions to Carper and Biden. We need technology training taught by certified instructors.

**4. Archives – Charles Emerson**

The window of opportunity to be nominated into the hall of fame is now open. Anyone with a person to be nominated please write a brief description and submit to Charlie Emerson. This window closes at the June Meeting.

**5. Communications- Dave Robert**

Handout of the new 800 MHz systems to the next generation committee. There will be a 19 million dollar upgrade to 50 million.

**6. Critical Incident Stress – Lynn Truitt**

Currently working on educating. They will not be participating in the conference this year to allow training. May 1<sup>st</sup> there will be 2 sessions course. The title is Line of Duty Shooting Fire. The cost is 25.00 per session with no more than 15 people a session.

**7. DVFA Conference – Elmer Steele**

September 12-17 Sheraton Dover

Please be at the meeting Monday March 21, 2005 The Official Logo has been completed and the souvenirs were delivered last Monday. They will be ready for sale in 2 weeks. There were a few requests for changes in the souvenirs. A quarter zip sweatshirt was approved and added to the list. As well as a full zip sweatshirt with hood

There has been a change with the seminars. The HOT Training will be the Sat & Sunday before the Conference. Warren will be in Indianapolis finalizing the instructors. CISM training will be in the Late May & late fall. Registration forms will be online in May. For those of you who had a room for the conference at the Sheraton, and Holiday Inn you should have received a contract and it needed to be submitted before March 1<sup>st</sup> to guarantee your room.

**8. FEMA Grant/ Wake up Delaware**

The next big day is APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>. Stations should be open from 9am-2pm. 2,000 detectors are coming to Dover Fire School in the next week –10 days. Get your requests to your county contacts so you will be ready. Get extra batteries, also all companies should have received a fax.

“Fresh Batteries” Posters in cooperation with DE Children’s Fire Safety Foundation & Fire school are going to get door hangers to help advertise WUD. Some will be printed in Spanish and will look into getting funding from sponsors. It might be possible if we list them on the hanger.

After viewing the NCC Recruitment and Retention ad, we are looking at doing our own. Remember April 2, 2005 9am-2pm Please advertise on your marquees.

We will be participating in Safety Day 2005 @ Brandywine Creek State Park from 10am-2pm to Risk Watch.

**9. Fireman of the Year- Carleton Carey**

Nominations for the 2004 DVFA Fireman of the Year are now being accepted. The following criteria should be used for the nomination, which should include, but not be limited to:

1. Years of Active Service
2. Local Fire Service:
  - A. Elected and/or appointed Administrative and/or Fire Line Offices held.
  - B. Committees served on
  - C. Committees chaired
  - D. Award and/or outstanding accomplishments on any of the above.
3. County Fire Service:
  - A. Elected and/or appointed Administrative and/or Fire Line Offices held.
  - B. Committees served on.
  - C. Committees chaired
  - D. Award and/or outstanding accomplishments of any of the above.
4. State Fire Service:
  - A. Elected and/or appointed Administrative and/or Fire Line Offices held.
  - B. Committees served on
  - C. Committees chaired
  - D. Award and/or outstanding accomplishments on any of the above.
5. Service to the Community:
  - A. Elected and/or appointed Administrative and/or Fire Line Offices held.
  - B. Committees served on
  - C. Committees chaired
  - D. Award and/or outstanding accomplishments on any of the above.

Their fire Department must endorse the nominee. The letter of nominations shall be on official Fire Department stationary, signed by an authorized Fire Department representative.

The intent of the award is to recognize volunteers who have made a significant impact or contribution to their community, county and state. Heavy emphasis will be placed on the nominee's activities at the local level. The Committee recognized that there are many fine candidates who are well known within their individual Fire Department and communities who may not be known at the county or state level.

If your department has previously submitted a nominee who was not selected, the Committee urges you're to submit another nomination to consider. The committee does not carry over nominations from previous years.

The recipient of this award is not announced publicly until the Opening Ceremonies of the DVFA Annual Conference held Thursday morning. The time of the presentation insures for maximum recognition of the recipient. If your nominee is selected, the Committee will contact the Department representative who submitted the nomination to insure that the nominee and family is present.

In order to be eligible for consideration, the nomination letter for the 2005 Fireman of the Year **MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2005. The envelope should be sealed and marked "Fireman of the Year Nomination."**

The Nomination letter should be mailed to:

Carleton E. Carey, Sr.  
1547 Forrest Ave.  
Dover, DE 19904

**10. Law and Legislative- Dave Roberts**

Currently helping with the issues and support 6 priorities. Law & Legislative Night April 20<sup>th</sup>. Letters will be going out soon. Thank you Roland Neeman. HB 18 came from the commission. If an EMT is suspended and a hearing isn't requested within 30 days the EMT is technically fired. They have extended the suspension date to allow a hearing before the suspension date.

**11. Life Safety – Guy Hudson**

Thanked everyone for submitting their matching funds request on time. All of the paperwork has been turned over to Chairman McMahon from the Fire Prevention Commission.

Letters are being sent out to all fire companies who had matching fund requests denied by the committee so they won't submit the same requests next year.

Starting to work on 2005 Fire Prevention Program.

**12. Out Of State Coordinators –Steve Austin**

Group having problem with Texas Hold'em. Safer -Jim & I will be there to represent recruitment & retention. Please don't use the excuse you cannot afford a ticket for CSFI Dinner. Please give Representative Biden the same turnout as we gave Bill Roth.

**13. Scholarship George Kerr**

The scholarship information is now on the website. All applications must be post marked be March 31<sup>st</sup> to be eligible. April 17<sup>th</sup> is the date to select the winners. 500.00 Scholarship for junior & seniors. They must have a sponsor to match the scholarship. Teachers and Family members cannot be a sponsor.

**14. WMD/Hazmat – Joe Leonetti**

2002-2003 Funding almost finished. Working group has approved 2004 funding request. There has been a change in encryption. 10 radios per station will not have the encryption. It is a safety issue. Every station has 4 radios with encryption for emergencies. 2005 funding has been submitted 60/70 % dispersed once all out should be all done by next meeting. 2004 Thermal Imaging 2-3 months every station would receive one.

#### **15. DVFA Cruise – President Stevens**

Well, we all made it back from the Eastern Caribbean.

We had a total of 88 rooms booked on the Caribbean Princess.

(That's the most rooms yet booked by the DVFA for any cruise)

During our particular week we experienced some heavier seas than normal and some roll in the ship, but nothing to be concerned with.

We made ports-of-call at St. Thomas and St. Maarten and it was too rough to stop by Princesses own island, (Princess Cays) as the wind and surf was pounding the beach from the northwest. So, our ship along with another one (shadowing us in the distance) slowly sailed back to Ft. Lauderdale. Speaking with Debby Wilson from Uniglobe, there were no other ports-of-call that Princess could do, and we would have had to sail in the wrong direction to go back to San Juan.

The weather was great on the two islands we visited. Most of the women purchased inexpensive jewelry while the men had a few cool ones out on the street while waiting in the hot sun.

Saralee and I mailed the Cruise Questionnaires out on Friday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> and we have received a good number of responses back thus far.

Like to thank everyone that went along.

I believe that Ken Pyle has some information on the 2006 Cruise that he would like to share with you.

#### **DVFA Cruise – Ken Pyle**

The next Cruise will run from Sat. February 4<sup>th</sup> 2006 through February 11<sup>th</sup> 2006.

Departure location for the Golden Princess cruise will be from the port of San Juan, Puerto Rico. This cruise has various ports of calls, which include St. Thomas, St. Kitts, Grenada, Caracas Venezuela, and Aruba.

#### **16. Conference Site Selection – Elmer Steele**

Doyle is currently in Florida. The bid packages have gone out and we have received 1 from each county. We had a brief meeting this morning. Tom D'Alessandro, Warren Jones, Kevin Wilson, James, Lynn Warner, Flo Legates, Al Smick, Hal Barber.

Bidders coming in May for a meeting Packages will be handed out at the June Meeting please come and vote.

**17. State Fire Prevention Commission – Vice Chairman Willard R. Betts**

State planning committee

Nov. 20 5 State Chiefs Meeting

Feb 26. Mt Laurel NJ. 5 State Chiefs Meeting.

Delaware State June 27, 2005

**18. Recognition of Past Presidents – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pyle**

- [X] Clarence Schwatka, 26, 1964
- [ ] Emanuel J. Harkins, 14, 1967
- [X] Roland Neeman, 48, 1968
- [ ] Arthur I. Guessford, 24, 1973
- [ ] William Paskey, Jr., 48, 1974
- [X] Morris W. King, 51, 1977
- [X] E. James Monihan, 82, 1978
- [X] Raymond H. McCall, 3, 6 & 12, 1979
- [X] Richard E. Ennis, 44, 1980
- [X] John E. Bare, Sr., 76, 1981
- [ ] William G. Walton, Sr. 16, 1982
- [X] Lawrence Mergenthaler, 21, 1985
- [ ] Thomas V. Baker, Sr. , 57, 1986
- [X] Robert Sweetman, 7, 8 & 9, 1988
- [X] M. Frank King, 51, 1989
- [ ] Walton A. Johnson, Jr., 76, 1990
- [X] Edwin S. Barlow, 20, 1991
- [X] Elmer B. Steele, 81, 1993
- [ ] Harry E. Warner, Jr., 25, 1994
- [X] J. Allen Metheny, 51, 1995
- [ ] Lynn J. Rogers, 85, 1996
- [X] Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr., 22, 1997
- [X] Donald W. Knight, 55, 1998
- [ ] Michael H. Vincent, 87, 1999
- [X] Stephen P. Austin, 7, 8 & 9, 2000
- [X] James L. Cubbage, Jr., 45, 2001
- [X] Dale A. Callaway, 85, 2002
- [X] Jasper H. Lakey, 15, 2003
- [X] Marvin C. Sharp, 42, 2004

**President Emeritus**

- [X] Louis J. Amabili, 19
- [ ] C. Bryan Bennett, 87
- [ ] J. Benjamin Roy, Jr., 43
- [X] Bruce C. Ennis, 44
- [ ] Joseph R. Biden

## Affiliated Organizations/ Agency Representatives

### **Ladies' Auxiliary:**

1st Vice President Barbara Rossiter  
2nd Vice President Florence Legates  
Secretary Virginia Yeager  
Assistant Secretary JoAnne Catalino

**Joyce Figgs, President**

New Castle County President Pam Engle  
Sussex County President Sue Morris

Thanks to all companies for the invitations for my husband and I to the annual banquets and ladies nights. It was nice being with you all and have truly enjoyed the friendships made.

On February 21st, we did present Alberta Morris with President Emeritus. Alberta is a member of Citizens Hose Auxiliary. Thanks to all who attended and helped to make it a special day for her at the nursing home.

I would like to commend New Castle County on their video. You did a great job!

Next executive meeting of the LADVFA will be May 2nd at Delmar. You and your officers are invited to attend.

### **State Fire Chiefs:**

State planning committee  
Nov. 20 5 State Chiefs Meeting  
Feb 26. Mt Laurel NJ. 5 State Chiefs Meeting.  
Delaware State June 27, 2005

**Bill Betts**

### **State Ambulance Association:**

**Denis McMahon, President**

The Agenda for the 2005 EMS Conference is being finalized at this time. The registration process will be handled in a manner similar to last year.

At the February DSAA meeting, a management analyst with O.E.M.S. spoke on the work being done to remedy the printer problems being experienced with EDIN.

The next State Ambulance Association meeting is scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup> at Millville

### **DVFA Foundation:**

**Steve Austin, Chairman**

Acting on the appointment by the LADVFA, Vicki Knots of Townsend was elected to the DVFA Foundation Board of Directors. Vicki was then elected as Secretary of the Foundation.

Chaired by outside Director Laird Stabler Jr. and assisted by Jim Cabbage and Ray Stevens your foundation raised \$ 3000.00 at the first Annual Golf Tournament held in Milford. Thanks to all who contributed and played in the tournament.

Please remember that the DVFA Foundation maintains an endowment account in which gifts are maintained and only the interest is used for charitable purposes. What a wonderful place to make a lasting gift to honor a loved one or to honor the memory of some special person in your life who has passed away.

All deductions to the DVFA either for the endowment account or our operating account are tax deductible.

**National Volunteer Fire Council:**  
Alternate

**E. James Monihan, Delegate**  
J. Allen Metheny, Jr.,

A great deal is happening at the national level, and I will summarize the Council's activities.

- A great deal of conflicting information is circulating concerning funding for the Fire Administration and Academy. This is further compounded by the fact that usually reliable persons are making conflicting statements leaving us to draw our own conclusions.

NVFC stated its position in late January that the USFA should be fully funded. As this issue has developed, we have looked at history and recognized that consistently, the budget of USFA has been reduced during almost every year by all of the various parent agencies it has been under.

Given these circumstances, NVFC has drawn a result-oriented Resolution rather than wallowing in all the conflicting information. The Resolution is attached to this report and simply states that USFA should be fully funded and that USFA should be a line item in the Homeland Security budget to stop the annual budget raiding. We have submitted this Resolution to CFSI's Advisory Committee for adoption.

- NVFC is pressing for full funding of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program and to insure that the funding for the SAFER program not be subtracted from it as may have been a philosophy this year.

Criteria for SAFER grants are being developed and your Director will represent NVFC at that effort later this month.

We are still very concerned that written Mutual Aid agreements influence awards at this time as that will uneven the decision field for these grants.

- We are delighted that again DVFA has taken the lead in embracing Fire Corps and, Mr. President, I'm honored that you have asked me to chair this Committee.
- NVFC is still pressing to have the Hometown Heroes Act implemented providing PSOB coverage for heart attack and stroke.
- On the front of protecting the right of career firefighters to serve as volunteers at home, the General Accounting Office advises that their study of this issue as ordered by Congress, is getting started. In Connecticut, the bill is being readied for introduction in the Legislature, and we know that similar legislation is being drawn up in several states.

This is a summary of current events and, as has been said so many times, it is a pleasure and a high honor to represent the nation's Fire Service Organization of the Year.

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E. James Monihan  
Delaware Director  
Past-Chairman  
National Volunteer Fire Council Center

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J. Allen Metheny  
Delaware Alternate Director

### **Web Page- Ken Pyle**

There have been problems with the e-mail system. Russ Pickett's e-mail is not working. If you need information for the website please let me know. If you notice something on the web site needs to be changed please let me know.

## **Communications**

The following (34) thirty four communications were received and are summarized by the Executive Secretary:

- Letter from the State Fire Prevention Commission in regards to materials sent to Delaware Fire Companies
- NCC LEPC agenda for their January 10, 2005 meeting
- Copy of a letter to the Carlisle Fire Company from Richard E. Ennis
- Invitation to the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual CFSI Dinner in Washington, DC on April 7, 2005
- Copy of the "From The Director's Desk" for January 2005 from Mike Kernan, DSFS Director
- Copy of a Letter from Kent County Levy Court in regards to Conference 2005
- Copy of letter from the Embassy of Peru looking for assistance to firefighter in Lima, Peru
- Copy of a Letter to Marvin C. Sharp, in regards to South State Street land use plan
- Copy of the CVVFA Board of Directors Minutes held on January 9<sup>th</sup> in Halfway, MD
- Copy of the Christiana Fire Company News Release on Unionization Efforts
- Request for updated officer information for the "Pennsylvania Firemen"

- Letter from the Roxana Fire Company requesting Grant in Aide funds for a new ladder truck
- Copy of the NVFC News Release on their “Heart Healthy Firefighter Program”
- Thank you note from Janice Yerkes for the flowers she received during her recent surgery
- Copy of the minutes of the January 10, 2005 NCC LEPC Meeting
- Letter from the Office of EMS thanking the DVFA for their participation in the DEMSOC 5-Year Reassessment
- Copy of letter to the voter registration committee from the Department of Elections
- Notice of Classes at the NTSB Academy
- Copy of a notice to DEMA in regards to back fill for Exercise Evaluation Programs
- Thank you letter from DVFA Past President Donald W. Knight for his past presidents ring
- Copy of the NCC LEPC Meeting agenda for March 14, 2005
- Letter from Harrington Fire Company in regards to their BLS forms
- Letter from Conectiv stating their continued support of the 2005 Conference
- Notice of upcoming FEMA Grant Workshops
- Notice of South State Street Land Use Meeting on March, 9, 2005
- Request for Convention Book Ad in the CVVVFA Convention Book
- Letter From the Felton Community Fire Company supporting NIMS
- Letter from the Felton Community Fire Company requesting the consideration of increasing the Pension Benefits for active firefighters
- Copy of “From The Directors Desk” from DSFS Director Mike Kernan
- Note from Cynthia Rausso of the Burn Foundation in regards to the CFSI Dinner
- Thank you notes from four legislators
  - ❖ Sen. Margaret Rose Henry
  - ❖ Sen. David B. McBride
  - ❖ Sen. Robert L. Venables, Sr.
  - ❖ Rep. Robert F. Gilligan

The Executive Secretary received twenty-three separate faxes from Bill Metten Associates outlining fire, rescue, and EMS related items printed in the local media from December 12<sup>th</sup> to this date.

*Motion made by James Cabbage to approve communications Motion seconded by Thomas D'Alessandro. Motion carried.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

*None Reported:*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Appointment of Life Safety Committee by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pyle

Guy Hudson, 90 Chair  
Ronald Marvel, 87 Co-Chair  
Joe Mullen, 18 NCCVFA  
Charlie Boyer, 46 KCVFA  
Randal W. Lee, 81 SCVFA  
Edward Sawicki, 3,6,12  
Patti Carnevale, 21  
Willie Patrick, City of Wilmington  
Frank Beebe, 49  
Rebekah Quick, 51  
Sheila Scotten, 45  
Paul Eichler, 46  
Robert H. Yerkes, Jr., 52  
Paula King, 56  
Dottie Barber, 70  
Mike Lowe, DSFS  
Bryan Andrews, 3,6,12

*Motion for laws & legislation be accepted made by Roberts seconded by Larry Mergenthlawer*

Tom D'Alessandro in February along with 75 members of the Fire companies and LADVFA in New Castle County made a movie for recruitment and Retention. Tom Mitten was in charge of Publication. Rick Clark is the Co founder.

## PAYMENT OF BILLS

DVFA BILLS TO BE AUTHORIZED  
 ON MARCH 13, 2005  
 DECEMBER 11, 2004 THRU MARCH 8, 2005

PAY TO:	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
JAMES L. CUBBAGE, JR.	P/R NOV, 04	\$2,735.30
AT & T	800 FIRE LINE	\$24.16
CAROL WALTON	REFRESHMENTS-SEMINAR	\$11.98
MELISSA R. ARLOTTA	P/R 11-29-04 - 12-10-04 - BENEFIT 50% DEC	\$843.62
BAD CK/ CHARGE- MUNION	BAD CHECK	\$67.00
NEW PERSPECTIVES, INC.	CISM TRAINING CLASS	\$2,025.00
TRI-STATE BATTERY	BATTERIES FOR SMOKE DETECTORS	\$6,890.35
DOVER ELECTRIC SUPPLY	1008 SMOKE DETECTORS	\$3,276.00
THE NEWS JOURNAL	ADVERTISING WAKE UP DEL	\$6,055.80
FASTSIGNS	WAKEUP DEL. BANNERS	\$5,200.00
DELMARVA BROADCASTING CO.	ACCT. DEL220 ADVERTISING	\$1,000.00
WAFL-FM	INV. 5033 RADIO ADS	\$812.00
WJKS 101.7 KISS-FM	CONT. NO. 9361401	\$1,020.00
WSTW	INV. NO. 33139	\$1,819.00
M & M TROPHIES	PLAQUES	\$20.00
CANNON FINANCIAL SERVICES	CONTRACT CHARGE	\$714.81
CANNON FINANCIAL SERVICES	COPIES	\$165.49
VERIZON	OFFICE PHONE	\$202.93
COMCAST CABLEVISION	DEC. SERVICE	\$95.00
DVFA CONF. ACCT.	PIP FOR CONECTIV 04	\$10,000.00
VISA CARD	RTS-EMS REVIEW	\$213.84
	SUPPLIES, ETC.	\$163.22
	SUPPLIES-STABLES	\$203.17
COMCAST CABLEVISION	JAN. SERVICE	\$95.00
VERIZON	OFFICE PHONE	\$203.36
JEN MOR FLORIST	WREATH @ MONUMENT-CHRISTMAS	\$39.00
WILMINGTON TRUST CO.	FEDERAL TAXES - DEC 04..	\$1,857.26
DIVISION OF REVENUE	P/R TAXES - OCT 04 - DEC. 04	\$570.97
MELISSA R. ARLOTTA	P/R 12-12-04 - 12-24-04	\$613.31
EDW F. LEWIS & SONS FLORIST	YERKIES	\$54.00
BILL METTEN & ASSOC.	PR SERVICES- JUL - DEC '04	\$3,268.04
VERNON INGRAM	JAN.,FEB.,MAR. 05 RENT	\$1,275.00
DJM CUSTODIAL SERVICES	OFFICE CLEANING -JAN.,FEB.,MAR. 05	\$300.00
JAMES L. CUBBAGE JR.	CELL-NOV	\$41.06
	MILEAGE-NOV	\$284.13
	POSTAGE/SUPPLIES-NOV	\$46.88
	CELL-DEC	\$40.65
	PARKING-DEC	\$10.00
	POSTAGE-DEC	\$5.48
	MILEAGE-DEC	\$177.03
Transfer Money		\$88,000.00

Transfer Money		\$45,000.00
MELISSA R. ARLOTTA	P/R 12-27-04 - 01-07-05	\$844.62
JAMES L. CUBBAGE, JR.	P/R DEC, 04	\$2,741.30
KEVIN ZEIGLER	PP WATCH - B. ENNIS	\$423.57
MELISSA R. ARLOTTA	P/R 10-07-05 - 01-21-05	\$859.77
WILMINGTON TRUST CO.	FEDERAL TAXES - JAN 05	\$1,626.90
CHAMPION TROPHIES	STATE AWARDS	\$731.50
GEIGER	RISK WATCH - PUZZLES/WEEPULS	\$874.04
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	W/H ADJUSTMENT FOR CY 2004	\$49.64
KIM ROBINSON	REIMB-BEAR PRESENTATION	\$26.00
WILMINGTON BLUE ROCKS	INV. 32506A T-SHIRTS	\$5,600.00
STACY NORTHAM SMITH	PICTURES	\$9.48
AT & T	800 FIRE LINE	\$23.39
VISA CARD	RTS-WASHINGTON MTG.	\$324.49
	FEDEX	\$12.15
	SUPPLIES-STABLES	\$259.89
CANNON FINANCIAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES	\$153.90
COMCAST CABLEVISION	FEB. SERVICE	\$95.00
VERIZON	OFFICE PHONE	\$225.40
SEC.OF STATE OF DE.	FILE NO. 0295103	\$25.00
DUCK CREEK PRINTING	BUS. CARDS JLC/MA	\$136.00
MELISSA R. ARLOTTA	P/R 01-24-05 - 02-04-05	\$847.62
JAMES L. CUBBAGE, JR.	P/R JAN. '05	\$2,741.30
JAMES L. CUBBAGE JR.	CELL PHONE JAN.	\$40.76
	MILEAGE	\$207.59
	POSTATE	\$13.86
POSTMASTER	12 MO. BOX RENT - DOVER	\$68.00
MELISSA R. ARLOTTA	P/R 02-07-05 - 02-18-05	\$849.16
AT & T	800 FIRE LINE	\$23.64
VISA CARD	KLP-FDIC	\$208.40
	FEDEX/POSTAGE	\$55.94
	SUPPLIES-STABLES	\$177.46
	LUNCH-GOV MTG/FIRE CORP	\$61.70
	IAFC MEMBERSHIP	\$30.00
	AFR-FDIC (2)	\$336.80
VERIZON	OFFICE PHONE	\$212.56
CANNON BUSINESS SOLUTIONS EAST, INC	SUPPLIES	\$112.07
ARCH COMMUNICATIONS	PAGER JLC-SHIPPING	\$8.00
COMCAST CABLEVISION	MAR. SERVICE	\$95.00
RESCUE FIRE CO	CON. TROPHY	\$25.00
FOREMOST PROMOTIONS	INV. # 327470 RISK WATCH	\$1,829.34
WDEL/WSTW	CONT. # 0060949 INV. 27150	\$546.00
COLORFULLY YOURS, INC.	INV. # 13655, 13656, 13657 - RISK WATCH	\$1,362.00
JAMES L. CUBBAGE	CELL PHONE & BILL	\$47.88
	POSTAGE	\$5.12
	MILEAGE REIMB.	\$158.76
M & M TROPHIES	CERTIFICATE PLAQUE-RISK WATCH	\$30.00

\$210,575.84

*A motion was made to pay all bills made by PP Jasper Lakey the motion was seconded by Locke. Motion Carried*

## **GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Walt Renyolds.

George Kerr has been audited in the last 2 years. They have the right to come in and look to make sure they are paying unemployment Tax.

Tom Mitten is unable to serve as an Officer for the Association. New Secretary to be determined.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was regularly moved by Tom D'Alessandro and seconded by Monihan that the March Executive Committee Meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried. Pastor Bob Hudson offered the Benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 pm

**Respectfully submitted,**  
*Melissa R. Arlotta*  
**Melissa R. Arlotta**  
**Corresponding Secretary**

I hereby attest that this a true copy of the proceedings of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association Executive Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2005.

**Attest:** *James L. Cabbage, Jr.*  
**James L. Cabbage, Jr.**  
**Executive Secretary**

