

DVFA Executive Meeting Minutes

December 12, 1999

The December, 1999 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Steve Austin. The invocation was offered by Rev. Art Titus, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Past President Donald Knight.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Past President William T. Lowe, Jr. and the six firefighters from Worcester, MA who lost their lives in a building fire.

Dr. Greg Sylvester submitted the following update on Hepatitis C: It is an inflammation of the liver caused by a virus. It is not a bacteria. Hepatitis A: results from poor sanitary conditions, i.e. saliva, etc. and is self-limiting. Hepatitis B: is a chronic disease and can cause life-long damage to the liver (blood born problem, is contagious, can get it from a tattoo, etc.). Hepatitis C: There is no vaccine, same type as "B", is blood born problem also, need to be tested for it. High-risk groups: drug users, dialysis patients, health care and public safety people are susceptible, sexual contact with infected persons, recipients of blood transfusions before 1992, recipients of the clotting factor, infants born to mothers with "C". You only test people who are at the highest risk. It stabilized in the 80's, then in the 90's, it started going down. Sixty percent of the patients have something to do with needles. There is no preventative; there is no vaccine. It is treated with *Interferon* and *Riboviron*. Hepatitis C is a concern, There is a home test available. He recommended that the physician on the State Fire Commission and the EMS physician review and make recommendations to the President and to him on the next steps to take. The symptoms are fever, tiredness, jaundice. There is an incubation period of 4 weeks for "A"; 17 weeks for "B" and 8 weeks for "C". The "B" shot is good from 13-15 years. He then fielded questions from the audience.

William Metten, DVFA Public Relations report: (1) generated statewide publicity on the annual oyster eat in Georgetown; (2) publicized the Delaware Firefighters Appreciation Day in Dover; (3) publicized the re-dedication of the Firemen's Memorial; (4) News Journal report: meeting was held with the Editorial Staff, came away a bit frustrated, they consider Delaware's volunteer fire service a "sacred cow"; tried to set the record straight with Ron Williams on his views about the DE volunteer fire service. The exchange of words became a bit heated. They will probably continue to write misinformed articles in the future. Past President Vincent wrote two articles, which were published. (4) Wrote articles on Hurricane Floyd, provided coverage for the conference, parade results were published in the News Journal. (5) Helped publicize Dagsboro's donation of a rescue truck to a volunteer fire company in North Carolina. (6) Worked with Rep. Ennis and Citizens Hose on drafting a news release for the fine honor of Citizens Hose being asked to participate in the 2001 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland. (7). Had frequent meetings with the President to publicize public relations communications, wrote several articles for the Delaware Fire Service News. He then presented a check in the amount of \$100 to the Scholarship Fund from he and his wife.

Roll Call of Officers by the Secretary revealed all were present with the exception of Past President Vincent.

Report of Officers

President Austin reported that we had a Conference. Then we had a hurricane. Then we had some radio problems. Then we had a family squabble. Then we did what we do best; we helped others that received damages in the hurricane. Then we helped our families who received damage. Then we said good bye to loved ones at Emmitsburg. Then the newspaper wrote untruths about what one of our leaders said. Then the newspaper announced that we were finished. Then we told the newspaper what we thought of them. Then we told DEMSOC that we

were committed to making emergency medical services the best we could make it. Then the radio system was investigated by the Legislature. Then we told the Legislature what we thought of the radio system. Then we had some wonderful anniversary celebrations and banquets. Then our hearts were broken with the death of DVFA Past President Bill Lowe and Maryland State Firemen's Association Past President Charlie Burton. Then the unspeakable happened, six of our brothers died in Massachusetts. Then we paid respect to our fallen brothers. All the while there were a whole bunch of meetings and events 55 of them to be exact. It took 8172 miles to get there and back. Now it is the Holiday Season and time for gift giving. Now I'll give the Treasurer a \$100 check from Shirley and I for the Scholarship Fund. A finally it's time to wish all of you my brothers and sisters a Merry Christmas and a safe 2000. A detailed itinerary of travel has been provided to the Secretary.

1st Vice President Cabbage reported that he had attended 23 functions, traveled 3145 miles and comitted 112.5 Hours to supporting the DVFA during the first quarter. Further, he wished all present to have a fire-safe, prosperous and peaceful holiday season. A detailed itinerary of travel has been provided to the Secretary.

2nd Vice President Callaway reported that he had attended 19 functions, traveled 800 miles and spent approximately 100 hours to Fire Service related meeting. He wished everyone a very happy holiday! A detailed itinerary of travel has been provided to the Secretary.

Treasurer Metheny reported that a final financial report has been provided to the Conference Committee, all applicable IRS forms have been submitted to our CPA firm prior to filing dates and corporate filing fees are current. On behalf of his family and himself he wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

He reported that Association Balances as of 12/6/1999 are as follows:

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|---------------------------|-----------------|
| DVFA Checking | \$ 2,566.44 |
| DVFA Credit | \$ 4,187.99 |
| DVFA Pension | \$ 163.98 |
| DVFA Savings Money Market | \$116,401.76 |
| Merrill Lynch Account | \$ <u>78.03</u> |
| Total Association funds | \$123,397.90 |

The Conference Account balances as of 12/6/1999 are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1996 Surplus | \$ 47,694.00 |
| Business Investments | \$ 37,250.00 |
| Checking Account | \$ 21,817.85 |
| Money Market Account | \$ <u>281.95</u> |
| Total Conference funds | \$107,043.80 |

Secretary Turner - Conference 1999 Proceedings have been completed and will be provided to the Printer. The sole exceptions are the Conference Financial report, which is to be presented today for the Association's approval and the Poster & Essay Award winners, which will be announced this afternoon. Letters of Committee member appointment were provided to Member Companies at our Conference. Each Fire Company received two copies per station of a complete listing of Association appointments.

A motion by Secretary Turner, seconded by Past President Roland Neeman, that the reports of the officers be received and be made a part of the minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

1. Advisory To SFPC for Ambulance Service – Dr. E. David Bailey reported as part of the continued commitment to improving EMS in the State of Delaware, the DVFA and State Fire Prevention Commission are meeting to discuss the implementation of H.B. 332. The Commission has recently released the draft proposal for implementation of H.B. 332 for areas relating to the volunteer fire service and the commission. This proposal was reviewed at a special Ambulance Advisory Committee Meeting on December 9, 1999. What follows is a summary of the comments and recommendations made by the committee as they pertain to the proposed commission implementation plan.

In general, the implementation plan is a well thought out beginning to organize and prioritize the responsibilities before all of us. The time line is aggressive and very data driven. There is some concern that in the absence of data, and a good chance that much of this data will not be obtained in an accurate form for some time, that decisions not be made based on absent or inaccurate data. We should not push a data driven system faster than the data is available. This impacts, most importantly, performance data on response times and "scratches". This is a recurrent concern throughout the implementation process.

Concerning recommendations made by DEMSOC to the commission, the DVFA asks to be part of the process for handling recommendations put forth to the commission. This can be done through the joint DVFA/ SFPC committee that currently exists.

With regard to data collection and analysis, there is some concern over how the fire service, and especially the individual fire companies, will get the data. Will it come from the OEMS, SFPC, or from the dispatch centers? The data given to the fire departments should be timely and accurate so that we can assess our performance in a timely fashion. Currently we get little if any organized and consistent data regarding our performance, and find it hard to know what changes to make at this time. If requirements for data reporting are developed, the DVFA should play an active role in this process, and time should be allowed to implement changes to meet the new requirements. No sanctions should be imposed until the fire service has been given a period to come up to meeting these goals.

On the subject of ambulance service district certification, there is concern over how this process will occur. What will the process entail? There were questions raised whether all the EMS district boundaries are even known with a degree of certainty. How will boundary disputes be settled, and how will fire and EMS boundaries be defined in areas where they are not the same. Once established, will these boundaries be official, only to be changed by the commission?

Concerning operational and administrative requirements, the commission has acknowledged that the current regulations will need to be updated to reflect the current parameters mandated by law. One of the mandates is to establish a minimum number of EMT-Bs for each fire company. We feel that this will be difficult if not impossible to do. How will this be objectively calculated, since currently no formula exists to calculate this figure? The commission would have no way of knowing how many of the card holder were active, so a station with few EMT-Bs who are all active may be in a better position than a station with a large number of EMT-Bs few of which are active. We feel that if a company is meeting the response and patient care requirements, that the absolute number of EMT-Bs is a less important issue, and one of operational concern to that company and less of a regulatory concern. There is also some question as to why there needs to be regulations for every provider to be capable of 911 responses and interfacility transports. There should be regulations for each of the above responses but a requirement to be both should not be mandatory. Most prehospital 911 providers are not in the interfacility transport line of response, and should not be required to be equipped as such. If they wish to be interfacility transport services then they would need to meet those requirements, as would any other ambulance operating in the State of Delaware. As such, any interfacility company would need to meet the requirements of the 911 response regulations in order to do prehospital responses. The

commission will need to review each company for efficiency, but how is that defined? Is it quality / cost? How will quality be judged? If the commission decides to rewrite EMS districts, will the fire district change as well? If this occurs, there will be a lot of fire district issues to overcome, and if the fire districts don't change with EMS district changes, how will combined fire/ EMS calls be dispatched? This may be an issue better settled by mutual aide or dual response agreements, which are operational issues within the individual companies. These may work well for some but not all companies and should be worked out at the local level with commission input.

With regard to the issue of provider certification, there is some concern over what the contract will entail. If a service fails to meet standards, a period of time to correct those deficiencies should be instituted followed by a warning period before sanctions are imposed. The DVFA should be actively involved in the contract writing process with the commission. Recertification is to be an annual process, and with it an annual report submitted by each company. Is this report necessary if the commission already has all the data on responses and EMT-Bs? What else would this report entail, and what are the time constraints associated with writing it?

Decertification is another issue discussed by the Committee. If a service cannot meet the needs of the community, they could be decertified. Questions and concerns raised include the existence of criteria for decertification, what is considered a problem serious enough to be decertified, and how will the problem be identified. To solve this problem, a set of criteria should be established for decertification. There should be a probationary period where problems can be resolved; a due process protocol should be developed to ensure that a decertification is justified. This should be followed by an appeals process. The timetable should be efficient but care should be taken to allow enough time for a company to correct the problems or decide who will take over coverage of the district. How will the organization be notified of decertification and stoppage of funding, and will funding still be available during the appeals process? Who will notify the neighboring companies of their added responsibilities to cover that district or part of it, and who will make the final decision on who covers the defaulted district? Will it be the chief or the commission?

The commission must develop a contingency plan for service, in the event that a company can no longer meet the needs of its district. The commission proposes contracting with private services to cover in the event a company cannot serve their district. The problem with this is that most private companies will not find this a lucrative bottom line, especially in the low run districts, and will only sign with a subsidy. If they are going to be granted a subsidy, why not put that subsidy into the ailing service caring for that district in the first place. This, or having neighboring companies provide the service with a subsidy seems a better solution than trying to establish an open ended contract for possible service with a paid provider. The best way to avoid having to cover a company who fails to meet its district needs is to assist them as the problem arises, if necessary with additional funding.

There was lengthy discussion on the topic of "scratches". The commission would like to receive data on scratches as early as January 1, 2000. This is an applaudable goal but not likely to be obtainable. The dispatch centers will not likely be able to provide consistent accurate data that soon. It is OK to collect the data as long as we do not make any decisions on performance based on the data until it is accurate. There is also a lot of discussion on what constitutes a scratch. Our committee has taken the following position based on the current law. A scratch constitutes any call made to an ambulance service for help, which that company does not respond to. There are however two different circumstances. The first is when a company does not respond to a call in their own local district. These we consider to be the "primary scratches". This means that an ambulance is not serving its district. The other scratches are when a company is called to mutual aide for another district, and does not respond. These we consider "secondary scratches". We feel that it is the primary scratches that are of the most important concern, since by eliminating them you will reduce the secondary scratches as well. Penalizing a company for a secondary scratch could lead to untoward problems with mutual aide agreements not only for

neighboring districts in Delaware but across state lines as well. In those instances when all of a district's units are on a call and an additional call comes in, or if that district's ambulance(s) are out of service and they cannot respond, these should not be considered a scratch since that company is not capable of responding and should not be dispatched. How will an allowable scratch rate be determined? We feel that an allowable scratch rate needs to take into account run acuity. The commission has provided a timeline for the total elimination of scratches within 3 years. Given that data is currently unavailable and there is no firm date on when we will begin to receive accurate data, this timeline seems over aggressive. We feel a 5-year timeline would be more achievable as would an annual scratch rate review rather than a quarterly review. A company could have a glitch in one bad month that would throw the quarter for their rate, but not the yearly rate, which could be otherwise fine. Reviewing quarterly would cause problems in an otherwise fine year.

This summarizes the discussion of the Ambulance Advisory Committee. We would like to applaud The Commission and all those involved for their hard work on what has been a formidable task. These comments are not made to in anyway belittle the work being done by all, but rather to add a fire service perspective to many of these complex issues. We hope to continue working with The Commission and DEMSOC to improve our system for the good of our patients and our providers, to make this the best EMS system it can be.

2. Advisory to the State Fire Marshal - Roger W. Hitchens: announced the following additions to their staff: Fire Protection Engineer, Fire Protection Specialist; classrooms have been converted; hoping to get funding for 2 new classrooms and garage area; new storage building; part-time Code Inspectors program has been temporarily suspended; the Fire Marshal and the Fire School will be running a NFPA Fire Inspector certificate program; nuisance alarms (having spot problems. When an appeal has been submitted, please notify their office with problems). Every effort will be made to notify the fire chief.

3. Advisory to the State Fire School – Joe Murabito: Reported on improvements and renovations to the drill grounds; status of purchasing a new breathing apparatus system for the fire school and plans for 350-400 seat auditorium.

4. Archives – Charles Emerson: Pictures need to be taken of the DVFA & LADVFA officers; there is a new showcase in the hallway, which is need of donations; he has been in contact with the Historic Society on preserving papers and photos.

5. Communications - L. G. "Dick" McCoy: The State is currently testing to see how many buildings have in-building coverage; received a letter from Hartly Fire Co. expressing concerns about the amount of channels at the Hartly site. Talk Groups/template: received memo from Jeff Hill (Laurel) about the assigning of 800 MHz talk groups. This will be addressed in January.

6. Computer Technology – Mike Hojnicky: Presented the final Y2K task force report; County response plans are all improved and in place by all county chief's associations; have committed to one emergency crew and one EMS crew; fuel – each company should top-off all fuel; oxygen – should have at least 25% additional supplies on hand. If assistance is needed, work through normal procedures; News Journal advertised a universal check list. On 10/22/99, DEMA held a drill. The impact on the fire service is business as usual. Have met the Governor's Executive Order #48. The web site is up and running; 4,000 are accessing this information per month. A new EMS report system – a pilot in January or February.

7. Constitution & By-Laws – Warren F. Jones: The re-write for the Constitution & By-Laws was completed after Thanksgiving. The Committee approved to send the document to the floor; would like to waive the physical first reading and hold workshops at the County meetings in February. Received a "name change" request for the Association. It was decided to wait for the Association's approval to address this issue. It is a request from one of the member company's.

8. Critical Incident Stress Management - Kevin L. Wilson: Will be conducting basic CISM training class at the Fire School. Conference 2000 – speaker lined up from the Columbine high school shooting and a speaker on the Egyptian air crash. Will be conducting advanced 2-day training class prior to Conference. 2001 - The Texas A&M bonfire log wall collapse and the Fort Worth church shooting. Will be hosting a one-day "Taking Care of our Own" seminar on 2/19/00 on how to deal with line of duty death, serious injury, stress, etc.

9. 2000 DVFA Conference – Arthur I. Guessford: Reported that Norman Tate is progressing very well after suffering a light stroke. Conference 2000 will be held September 26-30; Marvin Sharp has volunteered to be Chairman of the Souvenir Committee. Items should be on hand by March. The Ambulance Assoc. would like to expand their training; leftover souvenirs from Conference '99 will be sent to North Carolina.

Conference 99 Financial Recapitulation was submitted by Treasurer Metheny as follows:

| DESCRIPTION | BUDGET | ACTUAL | DIFFERENCE |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| REDEPOSITS | \$0.00 | \$137.00 | (\$137.00) |
| AUXILIARY ASSESSMENTS | \$11,400.00 | \$11,400.00 | \$0.00 |
| COMPANY ASSESSMENTS | \$60,000.00 | \$60,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| DONATIONS | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| PATRONS ADS | \$300.00 | \$0.00 | \$300.00 |
| INTEREST | \$1,500.00 | \$737.00 | \$763.00 |
| EXHIBITORS | \$9,000.00 | \$9,250.00 | (\$250.00) |
| SOUVENIR SALES | \$18,000.00 | \$20,278.00 | (\$2,278.00) |
| PARADE TROPHIES | \$5,000.00 | \$2,591.00 | \$2,409.00 |
| GOLF | \$18,000.00 | \$17,771.00 | \$229.00 |
| CORP. SPONSORSHIPS | \$26,500.00 | \$42,737.00 | (\$16,237.00) |
| DINNER RESERVATIONS | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| DANCE | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| NO SHOWS | \$1,500.00 | \$152.00 | \$1,348.00 |
| FISHING TRIP | \$2,000.00 | \$1,300.00 | \$700.00 |
| TOTALS | \$154,400.00 | \$167,353.00 | (\$12,953.00) |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | | |
| ADMINISTRATIVE EXP. | \$4,000.00 | \$6,995.00 | (\$2,995.00) |
| REGISTRATION EXPENSES | \$6,000.00 | \$9,606.00 | (\$3,606.00) |
| SOUVENIRS | \$12,000.00 | \$17,482.00 | (\$5,482.00) |
| CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST | \$7,200.00 | \$20,355.00 | (\$13,155.00) |
| PAST PRESIDENTS BANQUET | \$5,000.00 | \$5,192.00 | (\$192.00) |
| MEN'S LUNCHEON | \$6,500.00 | \$8,835.00 | (\$2,335.00) |
| LADIES LUNCHEON | \$5,500.00 | \$5,778.00 | (\$278.00) |
| INSTALLATION | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 |
| PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION | \$6,500.00 | \$6,972.00 | (\$472.00) |
| MEET YOUR HOST NIGHT | \$12,000.00 | \$18,658.00 | (\$6,658.00) |
| CISD SEMINAR | \$4,500.00 | \$4,386.00 | \$114.00 |
| LADIES MEETINGS | \$50.00 | \$60.00 | (\$10.00) |
| MEN'S MEETING | \$350.00 | \$360.00 | (\$10.00) |
| FIRE CHIEF'S MEETING | \$7,500.00 | \$13,937.00 | (\$6,437.00) |
| FIRE POLICE MEETING | \$6,800.00 | \$74.00 | \$6,726.00 |

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|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| MUTUAL RELIEF MEETING | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| AMB ASSOC. MEETING | \$1,700.00 | \$2,207.00 | (\$507.00) |
| LADIES HOSPITALITY | \$10,000.00 | \$75.00 | \$9,925.00 |
| MEMORIAL SERVICE | \$1,800.00 | \$2,191.00 | (\$391.00) |
| EXHIBIT COSTS | \$4,400.00 | \$4,257.00 | \$143.00 |
| TRANSPORTATION | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| PARADE | \$20,000.00 | \$21,688.00 | (\$1,688.00) |
| ARMY BAND | \$0.00 | \$400.00 | (\$400.00) |
| EMERGENCY SERVICES | \$800.00 | \$700.00 | \$100.00 |
| HOUSING | \$6,500.00 | \$5,524.00 | \$976.00 |
| OPENING PROGRAM | \$1,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| PRINTING - BOOKLET | \$3,200.00 | \$2,897.00 | \$303.00 |
| DANCE | \$0.00 | \$4,868.00 | (\$4,868.00) |
| GOLF | \$18,000.00 | \$17,211.00 | \$789.00 |
| EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS | \$500.00 | \$0.00 | \$500.00 |
| FISHING TRIP | \$2,000.00 | \$1,493.00 | \$507.00 |
| CONTINGENCY | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| | | | |
| TOTALS | \$154,400.00 | \$182,201.00 | (\$27,801.00) |
| OVER/UNDER BUDGET | \$0.00 | (\$14,848.00) | \$14,848.00 |

10. Electric Deregulation - Harvey C. Smith, Jr. reported that he has spoken to Jan Jurden our attorney and she has obtained a copy of the Legislation and the Final Regulation. After reviewing, she feels the following: 1. We can become a broker of electric and buy it wholesale and sell it back to the fire companies who wish to join the group. 2. We may need to form a new corporation after making the necessary applications and obtaining a license to sell electric from the state. 3. We may have to have employees to read meters and to send out statements. He has not gone any further than the above. We have not spent any association money that I am aware of at this time. The association needs to let us know how far we should go and is there a dollar amount we should spend in true research. This may well be more than an attorney wishes to do for free. He apologized that he could not be present at the meeting. He will be at the March Executive meeting.

11. Executive Director – Lou Amabili: Meeting was held on 11/29/99 where they approved a rating form for the process; have received 6 applications; all have been reviewed; have drafted a report of recommendations to the DVFA President. 1st Vice President Cubbage reported that they will be setting up interviews and then will make a tentative offer. After the offers are received, will meet with the Board of Directors for their approval, after which a contract will be drawn up with the attorney to be signed by both parties. It will take some time but hope to have it in place by the March Executive Committee meeting.

12. Fire Prevention – Sandra Young: Needs a copy of all receipts by January 31, 2000; will need a letter of approval from the DVFA for the EMS *Wrist Watch Program*. In June, it was passed for the DVFA to sponsor one of the web pages for the Delaware Fire Safety Foundation. A check is needed, not to exceed \$2,500. *Safety Bear* web page is up and running.

13. Law & Legislative – Bruce Ennis: HB 121 (increasing death benefit from \$2,000-5,000) and use of tobacco money for new EMTB training were discussed at last Committee meeting.

14. Permanent Memorial – Kenneth E. Clendaniel: Wreath, which was donated by Jen-Mor Florist, is in place. The Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce is having a Millennium Fountain installed. Along with the fountain, a time capsule will be placed in the ground on 12/31/99 and

opened in 100 years. A history of the Firemens Monument will be placed in the time capsule, as well as a copy of the Committee's appointments and some photos.

15. Recruitment & Retention – Ken Pyle: Responded to a letter from the officers to volunteer link coordinator, Glenn Stubbolo of the Office of Volunteerism. The 1-800 number was offered to him and they will continue to work with him. R&R Program is ready for the Conference, to Delmarva and to any companies who are interested in the program; will be submitting a letter to Conference 2000 to present a program; also, working on a web page.

16. Resolutions - Bruce C. Ennis – Anniversaries as follows: Laurel (100th), Cranston Heights (80th), Brandywine Hundred (75th), American Legion Post #14, Smyrna (75th), New Castle County Fire Police Assoc. (50th), and Aetna Hook and Ladder Ladies Auxiliary (50th).

17. Scholarship - George L. Kerr, Jr.: May have over \$20,000 to award this year; asked each company to post the information packets in their fire house; all material must be postmarked by March 31,2000.

18. Sunshine & Visitation – Art Titus: Flower baskets were sent to Past President Lowe, the Metheny family and Norman Tate. Information about illnesses, deaths, etc. is not being received on a timely basis; will disburse \$5,000 to people in New Castle County who had problems with Hurricane Floyd.

19. Weapons of Mass Destruction/HazMat - Kevin Wilson: Will coordinate with the State Fire School to provide weapons of mass destruction awareness training to all the fire service; will be meeting with DNREC, DHSS, EMS and the National Guard. Going to put together a list of equipment that is needed, look at incident command training, will coordinate with DEMA on domestic preparedness; will meet with the FBI, who is the lead organization for the U.S.

20. Recognition of Past Presidents:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clarence Schwatka, 26, 1964 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roland Neeman, 48, 1968 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Morris W. King, 51, 1977 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. James Monihan, 82, 1978 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond H. Mccall, 36 & 12, 1979 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard E. Ennis, 44, 1980 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lawrence Mergenthaler, 21, 1985 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edwin S. Barlow, 20, 1991 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George A. Diamond, 55, 1992 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elmer B. Steele, 81, 1993 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J. Allen Metheny, 51, 1995 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lynn J. Rogers, 85, 1996 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr., 1997 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald W. Knight, 1998 |

President Emeritus:

Louis J. Amabili, 19

Bruce C. Ennis, 44

Affiliated Organizations/Agency Representatives

Ladies' Auxiliary, Eileen Doyle, President: Introduced the officers and Past Presidents. They are still selling the Christmas ornaments.

State Fire Chiefs, Grover P. Ingle, President: Will continue to focus on the training aspect and offered support and help to the County chiefs; asked that each fire company attend the Weapons of Mass Destruction seminar; supporting a conference by the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial on "Taking Care of our Own" ; invited everyone to attend a 6-hour seminar on the protocol to follow.

State Fire Police, Joseph Bukowski, President: Will be reviewing proposed changes to the Constitution and By-laws; through a grant from the Greenwood Bank, will again sponsor a bicycle safety campaign; recognized Congressman Weldon as an Honorary member of the

DSFPA; all three counties are now teaching the required 6-hour basic Fire Police course. A seminar will now follow all State meetings. He then presented a check from Aetna Hook & Ladder in the amount of \$1,000 to the relief fund for aiding families of deceased brothers in MA and also a check to the Scholarship Committee in the amount of \$1,000 from the New Castle County Fire Police Assoc.

State Ambulance Association, Keith W. Bowman, President: They are now meeting by county; there will be speakers; had approximately 70 members present at the last meeting; encouraged all fire companies to be put a major push on *National EMS Week, May 21-17..*

National Volunteer Fire Council, E. James Monihan, Delegate: Submitted a lengthy verbal report that consisted of the following: FLSA, residential sprinklers, working with a group in forming a Volunteer Fire Council in Canada; the Firefighter of the Year Award; new web site; Volunteer Fire Assistance Program; development of a safe harbor for ambulance re-stocking; joined with other organizations in support of a firefighter being held personally responsible for a wrongful death; HCFA; NVFC stands by the original fire bill; Roadside Emergency Safety Act; work of the Cumberland Valley Assoc. on fire police safety; Disaster Relief Committee; new EMS committee. He recommended that Secretary Sylvester be sent a letter thanking him for his presentation.

State Fire Prevention Commission, Carleton E. Carey, Jr.: Hired Susan Givens as Senior Secretary; David Collins as Fire Protection Engineer; approved amending the budget to include extra money for EMTB training; approved that when courses are completed, the certificate will be sent to the Fire School, then to the Fire Commission, at which time a check will be issued to the fire companies. There is a stipulation in the legislation that the person must stay active in the fire service for 6 months or the money must be refunded to the State; approved obtaining SRI passes for the Commissioners; approved the Hospital Diversion Policy; approved a request from Harrington Fire Co. to re-locate their fire station; BLS Protocol Pilot Program will begin on 1/12/00; DEMA will mail information on Y2K to all fire companies. He then presented the winners of the Governor's Fire Safety Conference as follows; Allied Award: Marie Renzi (Office of EMS); School System Award: Carmen Carizone (Laurel); Ed McCormick Award: 3rd place-Goodwill; 2nd place-Rehoboth Beach; 1st place-Bridgeville..

Mutual Relief, Lynn Dill: Reported that they are working on the renewal policy for 2000.

Communications

The following Communications were received and are summarized by the Secretary.

- Letter dated 7/21/99 and received on 9/18/99 addressed to George Kerr with copy to President Vincent thanking the DVFA for awarding of scholarships to William J. and Christopher M. Braxton, Bethany Beach.
- Letter addressed to President Vincent dated August 3rd and received on 9/18/99 from Tom Osrisko, Wilmington Riverfront District outlining concerns on the Fire Service Blue Rocks game on July 10th. Referred to Barry Beck
- Letter from Glen Stubbolo, Volunteer Link Coordinator in the Delaware Office of Volunteerism requesting a meeting to discuss volunteering issues received via fax on 9/9/99 and received by Secretary on 9/18/99. Referred to Recruitment & Retention Committee.
- Copy of letter received by President Austin, dated September 17th concerning support for Delaware's relief from allocation of 800MHz radio frequencies.

- Memo from Paul W. Eichler, President, Robbins Hose Company requesting an opportunity to serve on the DVFA Fire Prevention Committee.
- Letter dated 9/21/99 addressed to President Austin from Warren F. Jones, President, Elsmere Fire Company outlining his concerns on the duties of the Executive Secretary position. Referred to Executive Director Committee.
- August meeting minutes Mutual Relief - 9/21/99
- SFPC Memorandums of Understanding & Agreements - 10/1/99 (Distributed to all Companies and Officers)
- Conference meeting minutes of Mutual Relief - 10/1/99
- NFPA Draft Standard for Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression, EMS and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments - 10/2/99 (Distributed to all Companies and Officers)
- Fax copy of letter to Secretary DiPasquale, DNREC concerning state employee responses to emergency calls by Fire Company members sent by Senator John C. Still - 10/3/99 (Distributed to all Fire Companies and Officers)
- List of newly elected & appointed Officers of Bethany Beach Fire Company - 10/8/99
- Hockessin Community News article on DVFA parade publicity from Bell Metten & Associates - 10/12/99
- September Recruitment & Retention meeting minutes - 10/13/99
- Letter from Claymont Fire Company expressing their concern and position on the holding of meetings and other activities during the last Conference 10/14/99
- Oklahoma State Fire Fighters Association letter thanking the DVFA for their contribution to the Tornado Relief effort - 10/14/99
- News Release on Dagsboro Fire Company donates and delivers Rescue Truck to Floyd Ravaged Fire Company in North Carolina which was prepared by Metten & Associates - 10/14/99
- Note & donation Harvey C. Smith, Jr. to commemorate the 80th Birthday of Morris W. King, P. P. - 10/14/99
- Additions to Bethany Beach Fire Company Officer list - 10/17/99
- Copies of 1999 - 2000 LADVFA Officers, Past Presidents & Auxiliary Presidents of all Ladies' Auxiliaries statewide - 10/15/99
- NFPA Standard for Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression, EMS & Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments. 10/15/99 (Copies to Officers)
- Rehoboth Beach Fire Company with enclosed letter dated June 12th to President Vincent requesting written clarification on DVFA Special Assessment - 10/16/99

- Christiana Fire Company suggesting consideration be given to changing Fireman to Firefighter in the Constitution and By-Laws (Referred to Constitution & By-Laws Committee)
- List of Kent County Fire Police Officers for the coming year 11/8/99
- Officers of Sussex County Firemen's Association - 11/24/99
- Letter from Hartly Fire Company dated 11/11/99 concerning radio communications problems received 11/24/99 (referred to DVFA Communications Committee chair)
- Meeting notice of House Legislative Committee meeting on 800MHz radio system - received by President Austin 11/22/99 - 11/24/99 (referred to Communications Committee)
- Elsmere Fire Company Delegate and Alternate change - 12/1/99
- Card of thanks from the Metheny family - 12/2/99
- Letter from President DiCristofaro, Claymont Fire Company reporting that he will be unable to attend the meeting & delegating Charles Emerson to speak on behalf of Claymont Fire Company - 12/9/99.

The following communications were distributed:

- Oklahoma State Firemen's Association Relief fund with check covering donations made by the Delaware Fire Service to their Tornado relief fund. 9/15/99
- Letter to Jon Hansen, with enclosed check from this Association in response to donations received for Mr. Hansen to assist him in recovering from the disastrous tornado which destroyed his home. 9/15/99
- Memo to all Fire Companies, dated 9/18/99, announcing Committee appointments.
- Letter to President Jones, Elsmere Fire Company responding to his letter dated 9/21/99 concerning the Executive Director's position and duties.
- Letter to Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, FCC Office of the Secretary expressing support on behalf of the Fire Service for relief submitted by Delaware Office of Information Services 800 MHz request. 9/28/99
- Letter to Ken Pyle Recruitment & Retention Committee concerning the State of Delaware's assistance in promoting volunteerism. - 10/3/99
- List of Mutual Relief Advisory Committee members to B J Caniford, Secretary Mutual Relief.
- Letter to R. Anne Emerson responding to her written request to Past President Vincent, dated June 30th concerning Mutual Relief Appointments. 10/3/99
- Letter to Barry I. Beck concerning a complaint received from Tom Ostriski, Riverfront Wilmington concerning an event sponsored by the Fire Service in July. 10/3/99.
- Officer update consisting of TRANSCAER Whistlestop tour in Wilmington on 10/8/99, thank you note from for Scholarships received by members of Bethany Beach, Memorandum of Agreement & Understanding authorized by the SFPC concerning EMS issues, and transition information reviewed at an Officers meeting on Saturday, September 18th. 10/4/99

- Memo dated 10/8/99 to all Officers concerning the North Carolina Relief Effort, the Volunteer Fire Service Deployment standard draft, and memo from Senator Still to Secretary DiPasquale concerning state employee responses to emergencies as Firefighters.
- Memo dated 10/12/99 concerning the News Journal editorial page articles and response from John P. Fox, President, New Castle County Fire Chiefs.
- Letter dated October 14th, from President Austin to Claymont Fire Co President DiCristofaro acknowledging receipt of his letter and providing an explanation of the events leading to the cancellation and rescheduling of Conference meetings and affairs.
- Officer update dated October 15th with copies of Claymont letter and response, report of Thermal Imaging Committee, and hurricane Floyd information.
- Letter dated October 15th sent by President Austin to Representative Stephanie Ulbrich concerning the Governmental Accountability Committee meeting to address 800MHz issues.
- Letter from President Austin, dated 10/20/99 to President Blizzard acknowledging receipt of letter dated October 14th.
- Memo to all Association Officer requesting updated lists of Officers and addresses for 1999 - 2000 dated October 22, 1999.
- Letter to Morris W. King informing him a donation made in his honor to this Association due to the commemoration of his 80th birthday.
- Memo to all Fire Company Presidents and Association Presidents dated 10/22/99 outlining Delaware's endeavor to support the North Carolina and Delaware Fire Service relief efforts for Firefighters and their Departments..
- Memo to DVFA Officers, President Ingle and County Chiefs Association Presidents with a copy of the draft of NFPA Career Fire Service Deployment standard.
- Memo dated November 1st announcing the death of Past President William T. Lowe and John L. Metheny with funeral service information.
- Memo to all Companies and Associations dated November 1st correcting the address of New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association.
- Memo to all DVFA Officers, Association Presidents and Conference 2000 announcing the November Officers meeting date, time and location dated 11/8/99.
- Letter to President Blizzard, Rehoboth Beach outlining and responding to concerns expressed by Rehoboth Beach concerning the Executive Director position.
- Letter to all Fire Chiefs, cosigned by President Austin and Chief's President Ingle announcing the "Taking Care of Your own" seminar to be held at the Fire School and encouraging their participation and attendance dated 11/23/99.
- Letter to Chief James Fox, Hartly Fire Company with copies sent to the Communications chair announcing receipt of his letter dated 11/11/99 and received on 11/24/99.

- Memo dated 11/26/99 sent to DVFA Ambulance Advisory Committee members, DVFA Officers and Association Presidents with an enclosed draft copy of the SFPC EMS implementation Plan and requesting the Ambulance Advisory Committee to meet, review and offer recommendations on the draft plan.
- Memo to all DVFA Past Presidents announcing the death and services for Chief Charles Burton, Past President, Maryland State Firemen's Association.
- Memo to Lou Amabili, Ray Stevens and Allen Metheny appointing them to an Ad-hoc committee to develop a Financial Accountability Form in response to H.B. 332, the EMS legislation.

A motion by Past President Ennis, seconded by Past President Neeman, that the Communications be received and be brought up under the proper order of business. Motion carried.

Old Business

Past President Lawrence Mergenthaler asked about the audit on the insurance monies. President Austin advised him that he would follow up on this matter. He also asked where does mutual relief stand on life insurance policies for the fire service. President Austin has several proposals that were turned over to him and the big issue was the amount of paper work that is required on a statewide basis that needs to be collected to write this. Mutual Relief believes it is not feasible.

New Business

A motion by Dick McCoy, seconded by Kevin Wilson, that the Association send a letter to Jack Nold in support of a letter from Hartly Fire Co. on increasing the amount of channels on the Hartly site. Motion carried.

A motion by Dick McCoy, seconded by Past President Neeman, that the Secretary send a letter to the Governor expressing the Association's concerns over the inter-teller repeaters that should be installed. They should be considered a temporary fix. The channels that have been allocated for the repeater sites should be used to enhance the existing 800 MHz radio system for in-building coverage. Consider using fire company towers to reduce the cost of the upgrade or other existing towers so as not to create a problem with local residents. Copies of this letter are to go to Secretary Bushweller, Jack Nold, Representatives Bruce Ennis and Ulbrich and L.G. McCoy. Motion carried.

Warren Jones brought up the subject of a by-laws change. President Austin informed him that it isn't necessary that a reading of the by-laws be made at this time. It will be circulated and once it is returned to the floor, it will be considered. However, Mr. Jones felt it imperative to keep communications open and would like to hold workshops in the meantime. Christiana Fire Co. sent a letter requesting the Association name change to "*Delaware Firefighters Association*" and this, too, will be circulated in the same manner..

A motion by Bruce Ennis, seconded by John Mitchell, to adopt the resolutions as presented in the Committee Report, to also include the 60th anniversary of Cheswold's Ladies Auxiliary. Motion carried.

A motion by Bruce Ennis, seconded by Past President Ennis, to forward communications to the Governor and all legislators in support of HB 121 and that consideration of tobacco funds be given to EMBT training by new trainees, the Risk *Watch* Program, annual contribution to the Burn Foundation and the Firemen's Education bill. Motion carried.

A motion by Sandy Young, seconded by Jasper Lakey, that the DVFA appropriate an amount, not to exceed \$2,500, to the *Friendly Firefighters* web page. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| JAMES E. TURNER, III | POSTAGE | 140ADMIN | \$ (348.88) |
| KENNETH MCMAHON | MTG. EXP. | 150 MEETING EXP: | \$ (598.99) |
| SHANE QUALITY PRESS | '98 MINUTE BOOKS | 140ADMIN | \$ (3,460.00) |
| OSFM RELIEF FUND | DONATIONS | 285 MISC.EXP. | \$ (3,150.00) |
| THE TROPHY SHOP | NAME PLATES | 240 HALL FAME | \$ (50.00) |
| STATE FIRE SCHOOL | PRINTING | 140ADMIN | \$ (559.60) |
| HAL BARBER | AWARDS | 180 GIFTS | \$ (90.00) |
| M & M TROPHIES | CHAP. HARDWARE | --SPLIT-- | \$ (523.15) |
| VISA CARD | POSTAGE | --SPLIT-- | \$ (1,122.20) |
| ROGERS SIGNS | LAKEY/KIPPENBURG | --SPLIT-- | \$ (365.00) |
| JEN MOR FLORIST | WREATH | 205 PERM MEM | \$ (32.50) |
| M & M TROPHIES | PAST PRES. BADGE | 180 GIFTS | \$ (39.00) |
| PENNSYLVANNIA FIREMEN | EXEC SECT AD | 140ADMIN | \$ (77.00) |
| JACKIE GUZZO | SUPPLIES | 245 RET. & REC. | \$ (39.96) |
| SUSSEX GUIDE | PRINTING MAT. | 220 FIRE PREV. | \$ (2,450.00) |
| DVFA CONFERENCE ACCT. | CISD EXH. SPACE | 125 CISM EXPENS | \$ (200.00) |
| RAYM OND F. BOOK & CO. | AUDIT FEES | 110ACCT. LAW | \$ (2,600.00) |
| R. W. HAHN | SUPPLIES | 245 RET. & REC. | \$ (84.97) |
| VISA CARD | FRAMES | 240 HALL FAME | \$ (52.60) |
| DEL. FIRE SERVICE NEWS | AD-OCT/NOV | 165NEWSPAP | \$ (1,200.00) |
| COMMERCIAL EMBLEM | POCKET BADGES | 140ADMIN | \$ (122.00) |
| SUSSEX CO CISD | REIMBURSEMENT | 125 CISM EXPENS | \$ (196.80) |
| STATE FIRE SCHOOL | PRINTING | 140ADMIN | \$ (307.84) |
| E. JAMES MONIHAN | REIMB.EXP. | 150 MEETING EXP | \$ (490.40) |
| EDW F. LEWIS & SONS FLORIST | FLOWERS | 130 FLOWERS | \$ (136.00) |
| DIV. MOTOR VEHICLES | P. P. TAGS | 180 GIFTS | \$ (20.00) |
| SHANE QUALITY PRESS | INVITATIONS | 220 FIRE PREV. | \$ (148.00) |
| LEIPSIC FIRE CO. | REIMB. - INSURANCE | 245 RET. & REC. | \$ (158.00) |
| VISA CARD | FRAMES | --SPLIT-- | \$ (538.22) |
| CHIEF JON HANSEN | OK TORONADO | 285 MISC.EXP. | \$ (700.00) |
| JANICE YERKES | SECRETARY | 140 ADM. | \$ (100.00) |
| JAMES E. TURNER III | POSTAGE REIMB. | 140 ADM | \$ (325.56) |
| NAT'L VOL. FIRE COUNCIL | DUES 2000 | DUES | \$ (300.00) |
| | TOTAL BILLS | | \$ (20,586.67) |

A motion by Past President Monihan, seconded by Richard Ward, that the bills as presented are paid. Motion carried.

Secretary Turner will incorporate Ed Klima's Auto Racing Committee report with these minutes.

Good of the Association

Past President Ennis suggested that a telephone chain be established to inform members of the illnesses, deaths, etc. President Austin will contact Past President Barlow with this request.

Russ Pickett announced that he will be establishing a "Memorial" page in the near future. He will be working with Dave Paul on this matter so they can honor the firemen locally, nationally and worldwide.

Adjournment

It was regularly moved and seconded that the December Executive Committee meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The Benediction was offered by Rev. Art Titus. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20.p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice S. Yerkes
Janice S. Yerkes
Corresponding Secretary

I hereby attest that this is a true copy of the proceedings of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association Executive Committee meeting held on December 12, 1999.

James E. Turner, III
Attest: James E. Turner, III, Secretary

DVFA Executive Meeting Minutes

December 12, 1999

The December, 1999 Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Steve Austin. The invocation was offered by Rev. Art Titus, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Past President Donald Knight.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Past President William T. Lowe, Jr. and the six firefighters from Worcester, MA who lost their lives in a building fire.

Dr. Greg Sylvester submitted the following update on Hepatitis C: It is an inflammation of the liver caused by a virus. It is not a bacteria. Hepatitis A: results from poor sanitary conditions, i.e. saliva, etc. and is self-limiting. Hepatitis B: is a chronic disease and can cause life-long damage to the liver (blood born problem, is contagious, can get it from a tattoo, etc.). Hepatitis C: There is no vaccine, same type as "B", is blood born problem also, need to be tested for it. High-risk groups: drug users, dialysis patients, health care and public safety people are susceptible, sexual contact with infected persons, recipients of blood transfusions before 1992, recipients of the clotting factor, infants born to mothers with "C". You only test people who are at the highest risk. It stabilized in the 80's, then in the 90's, it started going down. Sixty percent of the patients have something to do with needles. There is no preventative; there is no vaccine. It is treated with *Interferon* and *Riboviron*. Hepatitis C is a concern, There is a home test available. He recommended that the physician on the State Fire Commission and the EMS physician review and make recommendations to the President and to him on the next steps to take. The symptoms are fever, tiredness, jaundice. There is an incubation period of 4 weeks for "A"; 17 weeks for "B" and 8 weeks for "C". The "B" shot is good from 13-15 years. He then fielded questions from the audience.

William Metten, DVFA Public Relations report: (1) generated statewide publicity on the annual oyster eat in Georgetown; (2) publicized the Delaware Firefighters Appreciation Day in Dover; (3) publicized the re-dedication of the Firemen's Memorial; (4) News Journal report: meeting was held with the Editorial Staff, came away a bit frustrated, they consider Delaware's volunteer fire service a "sacred cow"; tried to set the record straight with Ron Williams on his views about the DE volunteer fire service. The exchange of words became a bit heated. They will probably continue to write misinformed articles in the future. Past President Vincent wrote two articles, which were published. (4) Wrote articles on Hurricane Floyd, provided coverage for the conference, parade results were published in the News Journal. (5) Helped publicize Dagsboro's donation of a rescue truck to a volunteer fire company in North Carolina. (6) Worked with Rep. Ennis and Citizens Hose on drafting a news release for the fine honor of Citizens Hose being asked to participate in the 2001 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland. (7). Had frequent meetings with the President to publicize public relations communications, wrote several articles for the Delaware Fire Service News. He then presented a check in the amount of \$100 to the Scholarship Fund from he and his wife.

Roll Call of Officers by the Secretary revealed all were present with the exception of Past President Vincent.

Report of Officers

President Austin reported that we had a Conference. Then we had a hurricane. Then we had some radio problems. Then we had a family squabble. Then we did what we do best; we helped others that received damages in the hurricane. Then we helped our families who received damage. Then we said good bye to loved ones at Emmitsburg. Then the newspaper wrote untruths about what one of our leaders said. Then the newspaper announced that we were finished. Then we told the newspaper what we thought of them. Then we told DEMSOC that we

were committed to making emergency medical services the best we could make it. Then the radio system was investigated by the Legislature. Then we told the Legislature what we thought of the radio system. Then we had some wonderful anniversary celebrations and banquets. Then our hearts were broken with the death of DVFA Past President Bill Lowe and Maryland State Firemen's Association Past President Charlie Burton. Then the unspeakable happened, six of our brothers died in Massachusetts. Then we paid respect to our fallen brothers. All the while there were a whole bunch of meetings and events 55 of them to be exact. It took 8172 miles to get there and back. Now it is the Holiday Season and time for gift giving. Now I'll give the Treasurer a \$100 check from Shirley and I for the Scholarship Fund. A finally it's time to wish all of you my brothers and sisters a Merry Christmas and a safe 2000. A detailed itinerary of travel has been provided to the Secretary.

1st Vice President Cabbage reported that he had attended 23 functions, traveled 3145 miles and comitted 112.5 Hours to supporting the DVFA during the first quarter. Further, he wished all present to have a fire-safe, prosperous and peaceful holiday season. A detailed itinerary of travel has been provided to the Secretary.

2nd Vice President Callaway reported that he had attended 19 functions, traveled 800 miles and spent approximately 100 hours to Fire Service related meeting. He wished everyone a very happy holiday! A detailed itinerary of travel has been provided to the Secretary.

Treasurer Metheny reported that a final financial report has been provided to the Conference Committee, all applicable IRS forms have been submitted to our CPA firm prior to filing dates and corporate filing fees are current. On behalf of his family and himself he wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

He reported that Association Balances as of 12/6/1999 are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| DVFA Checking | \$ 2,566.44 |
| DVFA Credit | \$ 4,187.99 |
| DVFA Pension | \$ 163.98 |
| DVFA Savings Money Market | \$116,401.76 |
| Merrill Lynch Account | <u>\$ 78.03</u> |
| Total Association funds | \$123,397.90 |

The Conference Account balances as of 12/6/1999 are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1996 Surplus | \$ 47,694.00 |
| Business Investments | \$ 37,250.00 |
| Checking Account | \$ 21,817.85 |
| Money Market Account | <u>\$ 281.95</u> |
| Total Conference funds | \$107,043.80 |

Secretary Turner - Conference 1999 Proceedings have been completed and will be provided to the Printer. The sole exceptions are the Conference Financial report, which is to be presented today for the Association's approval and the Poster & Essay Award winners, which will be announced this afternoon. Letters of Committee member appointment were provided to Member Companies at our Conference. Each Fire Company received two copies per station of a complete listing of Association appointments.

A motion by Secretary Turner, seconded by Past President Roland Neeman, that the reports of the officers be received and be made a part of the minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

1. Advisory To SFPC for Ambulance Service – Dr. E. David Bailey reported as part of the continued commitment to improving EMS in the State of Delaware, the DVFA and State Fire Prevention Commission are meeting to discuss the implementation of H.B. 332. The Commission has recently released the draft proposal for implementation of H.B. 332 for areas relating to the volunteer fire service and the commission. This proposal was reviewed at a special Ambulance Advisory Committee Meeting on December 9, 1999. What follows is a summary of the comments and recommendations made by the committee as they pertain to the proposed commission implementation plan.

In general, the implementation plan is a well thought out beginning to organize and prioritize the responsibilities before all of us. The time line is aggressive and very data driven. There is some concern that in the absence of data, and a good chance that much of this data will not be obtained in an accurate form for some time, that decisions not be made based on absent or inaccurate data. We should not push a data driven system faster than the data is available. This impacts, most importantly, performance data on response times and "scratches". This is a recurrent concern throughout the implementation process.

Concerning recommendations made by DEMSOC to the commission, the DVFA asks to be part of the process for handling recommendations put forth to the commission. This can be done through the joint DVFA/ SFPC committee that currently exists.

With regard to data collection and analysis, there is some concern over how the fire service, and especially the individual fire companies, will get the data. Will it come from the OEMS, SFPC, or from the dispatch centers? The data given to the fire departments should be timely and accurate so that we can assess our performance in a timely fashion. Currently we get little if any organized and consistent data regarding our performance, and find it hard to know what changes to make at this time. If requirements for data reporting are developed, the DVFA should play an active role in this process, and time should be allowed to implement changes to meet the new requirements. No sanctions should be imposed until the fire service has been given a period to come up to meeting these goals.

On the subject of ambulance service district certification, there is concern over how this process will occur. What will the process entail? There were questions raised whether all the EMS district boundaries are even known with a degree of certainty. How will boundary disputes be settled, and how will fire and EMS boundaries be defined in areas where they are not the same. Once established, will these boundaries be official, only to be changed by the commission?

Concerning operational and administrative requirements, the commission has acknowledged that the current regulations will need to be updated to reflect the current parameters mandated by law. One of the mandates is to establish a minimum number of EMT-Bs for each fire company. We feel that this will be difficult if not impossible to do. How will this be objectively calculated, since currently no formula exists to calculate this figure? The commission would have no way of knowing how many of the card holder were active, so a station with few EMT-Bs who are all active may be in a better position than a station with a large number of EMT-Bs few of which are active. We feel that if a company is meeting the response and patient care requirements, that the absolute number of EMT-Bs is a less important issue, and one of operational concern to that company and less of a regulatory concern. There is also some question as to why there needs to be regulations for every provider to be capable of 911 responses and interfacility transports. There should be regulations for each of the above responses but a requirement to be both should not be mandatory. Most prehospital 911 providers are not in the interfacility transport line of response, and should not be required to be equipped as such. If they wish to be interfacility transport services then they would need to meet those requirements, as would any other ambulance operating in the State of Delaware. As such, any interfacility company would need to meet the requirements of the 911 response regulations in order to do prehospital responses. The

commission will need to review each company for efficiency, but how is that defined? Is it quality / cost? How will quality be judged? If the commission decides to rewrite EMS districts, will the fire district change as well? If this occurs, there will be a lot of fire district issues to overcome, and if the fire districts don't change with EMS district changes, how will combined fire/ EMS calls be dispatched? This may be an issue better settled by mutual aide or dual response agreements, which are operational issues within the individual companies. These may work well for some but not all companies and should be worked out at the local level with commission input.

With regard to the issue of provider certification, there is some concern over what the contract will entail. If a service fails to meet standards, a period of time to correct those deficiencies should be instituted followed by a warning period before sanctions are imposed. The DVFA should be actively involved in the contract writing process with the commission. Recertification is to be an annual process, and with it an annual report submitted by each company. Is this report necessary if the commission already has all the data on responses and EMT-Bs? What else would this report entail, and what are the time constraints associated with writing it?

Decertification is another issue discussed by the Committee. If a service cannot meet the needs of the community, they could be decertified. Questions and concerns raised include the existence of criteria for decertification, what is considered a problem serious enough to be decertified, and how will the problem be identified. To solve this problem, a set of criteria should be established for decertification. There should be a probationary period where problems can be resolved; a due process protocol should be developed to ensure that a decertification is justified. This should be followed by an appeals process. The timetable should be efficient but care should be taken to allow enough time for a company to correct the problems or decide who will take over coverage of the district. How will the organization be notified of decertification and stoppage of funding, and will funding still be available during the appeals process? Who will notify the neighboring companies of their added responsibilities to cover that district or part of it, and who will make the final decision on who covers the defaulted district? Will it be the chief or the commission?

The commission must develop a contingency plan for service, in the event that a company can no longer meet the needs of its district. The commission proposes contracting with private services to cover in the event a company cannot serve their district. The problem with this is that most private companies will not find this a lucrative bottom line, especially in the low run districts, and will only sign with a subsidy. If they are going to be granted a subsidy, why not put that subsidy into the ailing service caring for that district in the first place. This, or having neighboring companies provide the service with a subsidy seems a better solution than trying to establish an open ended contract for possible service with a paid provider. The best way to avoid having to cover a company who fails to meet its district needs is to assist them as the problem arises, if necessary with additional funding.

There was lengthy discussion on the topic of "scratches". The commission would like to receive data on scratches as early as January 1, 2000. This is an applaudable goal but not likely to be obtainable. The dispatch centers will not likely be able to provide consistent accurate data that soon. It is OK to collect the data as long as we do not make any decisions on performance based on the data until it is accurate. There is also a lot of discussion on what constitutes a scratch. Our committee has taken the following position based on the current law. A scratch constitutes any call made to an ambulance service for help, which that company does not respond to. There are however two different circumstances. The first is when a company does not respond to a call in their own local district. These we consider to be the "primary scratches". This means that an ambulance is not serving its district. The other scratches are when a company is called to mutual aide for another district, and does not respond. These we consider "secondary scratches". We feel that it is the primary scratches that are of the most important concern, since by eliminating then you will reduce the secondary scratches as well. Penalizing a company for a secondary scratch could lead to untoward problems with mutual aide agreements not only for

neighboring districts in Delaware but across state lines as well. In those instances when all of a district's units are on a call and an additional call comes in, or if that district's ambulance(s) are out of service and they cannot respond, these should not be considered a scratch since that company is not capable of responding and should not be dispatched. How will an allowable scratch rate be determined? We feel that an allowable scratch rate needs to take into account run acuity. The commission has provided a timeline for the total elimination of scratches within 3 years. Given that data is currently unavailable and there is no firm date on when we will begin to receive accurate data, this timeline seems over aggressive. We feel a 5-year timeline would be more achievable as would an annual scratch rate review rather than a quarterly review. A company could have a glitch in one bad month that would throw the quarter for their rate, but not the yearly rate, which could be otherwise fine. Reviewing quarterly would cause problems in an otherwise fine year.

This summarizes the discussion of the Ambulance Advisory Committee. We would like to applaud The Commission and all those involved for their hard work on what has been a formidable task. These comments are not made to in anyway belittle the work being done by all, but rather to add a fire service perspective to many of these complex issues. We hope to continue working with The Commission and DEMSOC to improve our system for the good of our patients and our providers, to make this the best EMS system it can be.

2. Advisory to the State Fire Marshal - Roger W. Hitchens: announced the following additions to their staff: Fire Protection Engineer, Fire Protection Specialist; classrooms have been converted; hoping to get funding for 2 new classrooms and garage area; new storage building; part-time Code Inspectors program has been temporarily suspended; the Fire Marshal and the Fire School will be running a NFPA Fire Inspector certificate program; nuisance alarms (having spot problems. When an appeal has been submitted, please notify their office with problems). Every effort will be made to notify the fire chief.

3. Advisory to the State Fire School – Joe Murabito: Reported on improvements and renovations to the drill grounds; status of purchasing a new breathing apparatus system for the fire school and plans for 350-400 seat auditorium.

4. Archives – Charles Emerson: Pictures need to be taken of the DVFA & LADVFA officers; there is a new showcase in the hallway, which is need of donations; he has been in contact with the Historic Society on preserving papers and photos.

5. Communications - L. G. "Dick" McCoy: The State is currently testing to see how many buildings have in-building coverage; received a letter from Hartly Fire Co. expressing concerns about the amount of channels at the Hartly site. Talk Groups/template: received memo from Jeff Hill (Laurel) about the assigning of 800 MHz talk groups. This will be addressed in January.

6. Computer Technology – Mike Hojnicky: Presented the final Y2K task force report; County response plans are all improved and in place by all county chief's associations; have committed to one emergency crew and one EMS crew. fuel – each company should top-off all fuel; oxygen – should have at least 25% additional supplies on hand. If assistance is needed, work through normal procedures; News Journal advertised a universal check list. On 10/22/99, DEMA held a drill. The impact on the fire service is business as usual. Have met the Governor's Executive Order #48. The web site is up and running; 4,000 are accessing this information per month. A new EMS report system – a pilot in January or February.

7. Constitution & By-Laws – Warren F. Jones: The re-write for the Constitution & By-Laws was completed after Thanksgiving. The Committee approved to send the document to the floor; would like to waive the physical first reading and hold workshops at the County meetings in February. Received a "name change" request for the Association. It was decided to wait for the Association's approval to address this issue. It is a request from one of the member company's.

8. Critical Incident Stress Management - Kevin L. Wilson: Will be conducting basic CISM training class at the Fire School. Conference 2000 – speaker lined up from the Columbine high school shooting and a speaker on the Egyptian air crash. Will be conducting advanced 2-day training class prior to Conference. 2001 - The Texas A&M bonfire log wall collapse and the Fort Worth church shooting. Will be hosting a one-day "Taking Care of our Own" seminar on 2/19/00 on how to deal with line of duty death, serious injury, stress, etc.

9. 2000 DVFA Conference – Arthur I. Guessford: Reported that Norman Tate is progressing very well after suffering a light stroke. Conference 2000 will be held September 26-30; Marvin Sharp has volunteered to be Chairman of the Souvenir Committee. Items should be on hand by March. The Ambulance Assoc. would like to expand their training; leftover souvenirs from Conference '99 will be sent to North Carolina.

Conference 99 Financial Recapitulation was submitted by Treasurer Metheny as follows:

| DESCRIPTION | BUDGET | ACTUAL | DIFFERENCE |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| REDEPOSITS | \$0.00 | \$137.00 | (\$137.00) |
| AUXILIARY ASSESSMENTS | \$11,400.00 | \$11,400.00 | \$0.00 |
| COMPANY ASSESSMENTS | \$60,000.00 | \$60,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| DONATIONS | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| PATRONS ADS | \$300.00 | \$0.00 | \$300.00 |
| INTEREST | \$1,500.00 | \$737.00 | \$763.00 |
| EXHIBITORS | \$9,000.00 | \$9,250.00 | (\$250.00) |
| SOUVENIR SALES | \$18,000.00 | \$20,278.00 | (\$2,278.00) |
| PARADE TROPHIES | \$5,000.00 | \$2,591.00 | \$2,409.00 |
| GOLF | \$18,000.00 | \$17,771.00 | \$229.00 |
| CORP. SPONSORSHIPS | \$26,500.00 | \$42,737.00 | (\$16,237.00) |
| DINNER RESERVATIONS | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| DANCE | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| NO SHOWS | \$1,500.00 | \$152.00 | \$1,348.00 |
| FISHING TRIP | \$2,000.00 | \$1,300.00 | \$700.00 |
| TOTALS | \$154,400.00 | \$167,353.00 | (\$12,953.00) |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | | |
| ADMINISTRATIVE EXP. | \$4,000.00 | \$6,995.00 | (\$2,995.00) |
| REGISTRATION EXPENSES | \$6,000.00 | \$9,606.00 | (\$3,606.00) |
| SOUVENIRS | \$12,000.00 | \$17,482.00 | (\$5,482.00) |
| CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST | \$7,200.00 | \$20,355.00 | (\$13,155.00) |
| PAST PRESIDENTS BANQUET | \$5,000.00 | \$5,192.00 | (\$192.00) |
| MEN'S LUNCHEON | \$6,500.00 | \$8,835.00 | (\$2,335.00) |
| LADIES LUNCHEON | \$5,500.00 | \$5,778.00 | (\$278.00) |
| INSTALLATION | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 |
| PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION | \$6,500.00 | \$6,972.00 | (\$472.00) |
| MEET YOUR HOST NIGHT | \$12,000.00 | \$18,658.00 | (\$6,658.00) |
| CISD SEMINAR | \$4,500.00 | \$4,386.00 | \$114.00 |
| LADIES MEETINGS | \$50.00 | \$60.00 | (\$10.00) |
| MEN'S MEETING | \$350.00 | \$360.00 | (\$10.00) |
| FIRE CHIEF'S MEETING | \$7,500.00 | \$13,937.00 | (\$6,437.00) |
| FIRE POLICE MEETING | \$6,800.00 | \$74.00 | \$6,726.00 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| MUTUAL RELIEF MEETING | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| AMB ASSOC. MEETING | \$1,700.00 | \$2,207.00 | (\$507.00) |
| LADIES HOSPITALITY | \$10,000.00 | \$75.00 | \$9,925.00 |
| MEMORIAL SERVICE | \$1,800.00 | \$2,191.00 | (\$391.00) |
| EXHIBIT COSTS | \$4,400.00 | \$4,257.00 | \$143.00 |
| TRANSPORTATION | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| PARADE | \$20,000.00 | \$21,688.00 | (\$1,688.00) |
| ARMY BAND | \$0.00 | \$400.00 | (\$400.00) |
| EMERGENCY SERVICES | \$800.00 | \$700.00 | \$100.00 |
| HOUSING | \$6,500.00 | \$5,524.00 | \$976.00 |
| OPENING PROGRAM | \$1,500.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| PRINTING - BOOKLET | \$3,200.00 | \$2,897.00 | \$303.00 |
| DANCE | \$0.00 | \$4,868.00 | (\$4,868.00) |
| GOLF | \$18,000.00 | \$17,211.00 | \$789.00 |
| EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS | \$500.00 | \$0.00 | \$500.00 |
| FISHING TRIP | \$2,000.00 | \$1,493.00 | \$507.00 |
| CONTINGENCY | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| | | | |
| TOTALS | \$154,400.00 | \$182,201.00 | (\$27,801.00) |
| OVER/UNDER BUDGET | \$0.00 | (\$14,848.00) | \$14,848.00 |

10. Electric Deregulation - Harvey C. Smith, Jr. reported that he has spoken to Jan Jurden our attorney and she has obtained a copy of the Legislation and the Final Regulation. After reviewing, she feels the following: 1. We can become a broker of electric and buy it wholesale and sell it back to the fire companies who wish to join the group. 2. We may need to form a new corporation after making the necessary applications and obtaining a license to sell electric from the state. 3. We may have to have employees to read meters and to send out statements. He has not gone any further than the above. We have not spent any association money that I am aware of at this time. The association needs to let us know how far we should go and is there a dollar amount we should spend in true research. This may well be more than an attorney wishes to do for free. He apologized that he could not be present at the meeting. He will be at the March Executive meeting.

11. Executive Director - Lou Amabili: Meeting was held on 11/29/99 where they approved a rating form for the process; have received 6 applications; all have been reviewed; have drafted a report of recommendations to the DVFA President. 1st Vice President Cabbage reported that they will be setting up interviews and then will make a tentative offer. After the offers are received, will meet with the Board of Directors for their approval, after which a contract will be drawn up with the attorney to be signed by both parties. It will take some time but hope to have it in place by the March Executive Committee meeting.

12. Fire Prevention - Sandra Young: Needs a copy of all receipts by January 31, 2000; will need a letter of approval from the DVFA for the EMS *Wrist Watch Program*. In June, it was passed for the DVFA to sponsor one of the web pages for the Delaware Fire Safety Foundation. A check is needed, not to exceed \$2,500. *Safety Bear* web page is up and running.

13. Law & Legislative - Bruce Ennis: HB 121 (increasing death benefit from \$2,000-5,000) and use of tobacco money for new EMTB training were discussed at last Committee meeting.

14. Permanent Memorial - Kenneth E. Clendaniel: Wreath, which was donated by Jen-Mor Florist, is in place. The Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce is having a Millennium Fountain installed. Along with the fountain, a time capsule will be placed in the ground on 12/31/99 and

DSFPA; all three counties are now teaching the required 6-hour basic Fire Police course. A seminar will now follow all State meetings. He then presented a check from Aetna Hook & Ladder in the amount of \$1,000 to the relief fund for aiding families of deceased brothers in MA and also a check to the Scholarship Committee in the amount of \$1,000 from the New Castle County Fire Police Assoc.

State Ambulance Association, Keith W. Bowman, President: They are now meeting by county; there will be speakers; had approximately 70 members present at the last meeting; encouraged all fire companies to be put a major push on *National EMS Week, May 21-17..*

National Volunteer Fire Council, E. James Monihan, Delegate: Submitted a lengthy verbal report that consisted of the following: FLSA, residential sprinklers, working with a group in forming a Volunteer Fire Council in Canada; the Firefighter of the Year Award; new web site; Volunteer Fire Assistance Program; development of a safe harbor for ambulance re-stocking; joined with other organizations in support of a firefighter being held personally responsible for a wrongful death; HCFA; NVFC stands by the original fire bill; Roadside Emergency Safety Act; work of the Cumberland Valley Assoc. on fire police safety; Disaster Relief Committee; new EMS committee. He recommended that Secretary Sylvester be sent a letter thanking him for his presentation.

State Fire Prevention Commission, Carleton E. Carey, Jr.: Hired Susan Givens as Senior Secretary; David Collins as Fire Protection Engineer; approved amending the budget to include extra money for EMTB training; approved that when courses are completed, the certificate will be sent to the Fire School, then to the Fire Commission, at which time a check will be issued to the fire companies. There is a stipulation in the legislation that the person must stay active in the fire service for 6 months or the money must be refunded to the State; approved obtaining SRI passes for the Commissioners; approved the Hospital Diversion Policy; approved a request from Harrington Fire Co. to re-locate their fire station; BLS Protocol Pilot Program will begin on 1/12/00; DEMA will mail information on Y2K to all fire companies. He then presented the winners of the Governor's Fire Safety Conference as follows; Allied Award: Marie Renzi (Office of EMS); School System Award: Carmen Carizone (Laurel); Ed McCormick Award: 3rd place-Goodwill; 2nd place-Rehoboth Beach; 1st place-Bridgeville..

Mutual Relief, Lynn Dill: Reported that they are working on the renewal policy for 2000.

Communications

The following Communications were received and are summarized by the Secretary.

- Letter dated 7/21/99 and received on 9/18/99 addressed to George Kerr with copy to President Vincent thanking the DVFA for awarding of scholarships to William J. and Christopher M. Braxton, Bethany Beach
- Letter addressed to President Vincent dated August 3rd and received on 9/18/99 from Tom Osrisko, Wilmington Riverfront District outlining concerns on the Fire Service Blue Rocks game on July 10th. Referred to Barry Beck
- Letter from Glen Stubbolo, Volunteer Link Coordinator in the Delaware Office of Volunteerism requesting a meeting to discuss volunteering issues received via fax on 9/9/99 and received by Secretary on 9/18/99. Referred to Recruitment & Retention Committee.
- Copy of letter received by President Austin, dated September 17th concerning support for Delaware's relief from allocation of 800MHz radio frequencies.

- Memo from Paul W. Eichler, President, Robbins Hose Company requesting an opportunity to serve on the DVFA Fire Prevention Committee.
- Letter dated 9/21/99 addressed to President Austin from Warren F. Jones, President, Elsmere Fire Company outlining his concerns on the duties of the Executive Secretary position. Referred to Executive Director Committee.
- August meeting minutes Mutual Relief - 9/21/99
- SFPC Memorandums of Understanding & Agreements - 10/1/99 (Distributed to all Companies and Officers)
- Conference meeting minutes of Mutual Relief - 10/1/99
- NFPA Draft Standard for Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression, EMS and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments - 10/2/99 (Distributed to all Companies and Officers)
- Fax copy of letter to Secretary DiPasquale, DNREC concerning state employee responses to emergency calls by Fire Company members sent by Senator John C. Still - 10/3/99 (Distributed to all Fire Companies and Officers)
- List of newly elected & appointed Officers of Bethany Beach Fire Company - 10/8/99
- Hockessin Community News article on DVFA parade publicity from Bell Metten & Associates - 10/12/99
- September Recruitment & Retention meeting minutes - 10/13/99
- Letter from Claymont Fire Company expressing their concern and position on the holding of meetings and other activities during the last Conference 10/14/99
- Oklahoma State Fire Fighters Association letter thanking the DVFA for their contribution to the Tornado Relief effort - 10/14/99
- News Release on Dagsboro Fire Company donates and delivers Rescue Truck to Floyd Ravaged Fire Company in North Carolina which was prepared by Metten & Associates - 10/14/99
- Note & donation Harvey C. Smith, Jr. to commemorate the 80th Birthday of Morris W. King, P. P. - 10/14/99
- Additions to Bethany Beach Fire Company Officer list - 10/17/99
- Copies of 1999 - 2000 LADVFA Officers, Past Presidents & Auxiliary Presidents of all Ladies' Auxiliaries statewide - 10/15/99
- NFPA Standard for Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression, EMS & Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments. 10/15/99 (Copies to Officers)
- Rehoboth Beach Fire Company with enclosed letter dated June 12th to President Vincent requesting written clarification on DVFA Special Assessment - 10/16/99

- Christiana Fire Company suggesting consideration be given to changing Fireman to Firefighter in the Constitution and By-Laws (Referred to Constitution & By-Laws Committee)
- List of Kent County Fire Police Officers for the coming year 11/8/99
- Officers of Sussex County Firemen's Association - 11/24/99
- Letter from Hartly Fire Company dated 11/11/99 concerning radio communications problems received 11/24/99 (referred to DVFA Communications Committee chair)
- Meeting notice of House Legislative Committee meeting on 800MHz radio system - received by President Austin 11/22/99 - 11/24/99 (referred to Communications Committee)
- Elsmere Fire Company Delegate and Alternate change - 12/1/99
- Card of thanks from the Metheny family - 12/2/99
- Letter from President DiCristofaro, Claymont Fire Company reporting that he will be unable to attend the meeting & delegating Charles Emerson to speak on behalf of Claymont Fire Company - 12/9/99.

The following communications were distributed:

- Oklahoma State Firemen's Association Relief fund with check covering donations made by the Delaware Fire Service to their Tornado relief fund. 9/15/99
- Letter to Jon Hansen, with enclosed check from this Association in response to donations received for Mr. Hansen to assist him in recovering from the disastrous tornado which destroyed his home. 9/15/99
- Memo to all Fire Companies, dated 9/18/99, announcing Committee appointments.
- Letter to President Jones, Elsmere Fire Company responding to his letter dated 9/21/99 concerning the Executive Director's position and duties.
- Letter to Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Secretary, FCC Office of the Secretary expressing support on behalf of the Fire Service for relief submitted by Delaware Office of Information Services 800 MHz request. 9/28/99
- Letter to Ken Pyle Recruitment & Retention Committee concerning the State of Delaware's assistance in promoting volunteerism. - 10/3/99
- List of Mutual Relief Advisory Committee members to B J Caniford, Secretary Mutual Relief.
- Letter to R. Anne Emerson responding to her written request to Past President Vincent, dated June 30th concerning Mutual Relief Appointments. 10/3/99
- Letter to Barry I. Beck concerning a complaint received from Tom Ostriski, Riverfront Wilmington concerning an event sponsored by the Fire Service in July. 10/3/99.
- Officer update consisting of TRANSCAER Whistlestop tour in Wilmington on 10/8/99, thank you note from for Scholarships received by members of Bethany Beach, Memorandum of Agreement & Understanding authorized by the SFPC concerning EMS issues, and transition information reviewed at an Officers meeting on Saturday, September 18th. 10/4/99

- Memo dated 10/8/99 to all Officers concerning the North Carolina Relief Effort, the Volunteer Fire Service Deployment standard draft, and memo from Senator Still to Secretary DiPasquale concerning state employee responses to emergencies as Firefighters.
- Memo dated 10/12/99 concerning the News Journal editorial page articles and response from John P. Fox, President, New Castle County Fire Chiefs.
- Letter dated October 14th, from President Austin to Claymont Fire Co President DiCristofaro acknowledging receipt of his letter and providing an explanation of the events leading to the cancellation and rescheduling of Conference meetings and affairs.
- Officer update dated October 15th with copies of Claymont letter and response, report of Thermal Imaging Committee, and hurricane Floyd information.
- Letter dated October 15th sent by President Austin to Representative Stephanie Ulbrich concerning the Governmental Accountability Committee meeting to address 800MHz issues.
- Letter from President Austin, dated 10/20/99 to President Blizzard acknowledging receipt of letter dated October 14th.
- Memo to all Association Officer requesting updated lists of Officers and addresses for 1999 - 2000 dated October 22, 1999.
- Letter to Morris W. King informing him a donation made in his honor to this Association due to the commemoration of his 80th birthday.
- Memo to all Fire Company Presidents and Association Presidents dated 10/22/99 outlining Delaware's endeavor to support the North Carolina and Delaware Fire Service relief efforts for Firefighters and their Departments.
- Memo to DVFA Officers, President Ingle and County Chiefs Association Presidents with a copy of the draft of NFPA Career Fire Service Deployment standard.
- Memo dated November 1st announcing the death of Past President William T. Lowe and John L. Metheny with funeral service information.
- Memo to all Companies and Associations dated November 1st correcting the address of New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association.
- Memo to all DVFA Officers, Association Presidents and Conference 2000 announcing the November Officers meeting date, time and location dated 11/8/99.
- Letter to President Blizzard, Rehoboth Beach outlining and responding to concerns expressed by Rehoboth Beach concerning the Executive Director position.
- Letter to all Fire Chiefs, cosigned by President Austin and Chief's President Ingle announcing the "Taking Care of Your own" seminar to be held at the Fire School and encouraging their participation and attendance dated 11/23/99
- Letter to Chief James Fox, Hartly Fire Company with copies sent to the Communications chair announcing receipt of his letter dated 11/11/99 and received on 11/24/99.

- Memo dated 11/26/99 sent to DVFA Ambulance Advisory Committee members, DVFA Officers and Association Presidents with an enclosed draft copy of the SFPC EMS implementation Plan and requesting the Ambulance Advisory Committee to meet, review and offer recommendations on the draft plan.
- Memo to all DVFA Past Presidents announcing the death and services for Chief Charles Burton, Past President, Maryland State Firemen's Association.
- Memo to Lou Amabili, Ray Stevens and Allen Metheny appointing them to an Ad-hoc committee to develop a Financial Accountability Form in response to H.B. 332, the EMS legislation.

A motion by Past President Ennis, seconded by Past President Neeman, that the Communications be received and be brought up under the proper order of business. Motion carried.

Old Business

Past President Lawrence Mergenthaler asked about the audit on the insurance monies. President Austin advised him that he would follow up on this matter. He also asked where does mutual relief stand on life insurance policies for the fire service. President Austin has several proposals that were turned over to him and the big issue was the amount of paper work that is required on a statewide basis that needs to be collected to write this. Mutual Relief believes it is not feasible.

New Business

A motion by Dick McCoy, seconded by Kevin Wilson, that the Association send a letter to Jack Nold in support of a letter from Hartly Fire Co. on increasing the amount of channels on the Hartly site. Motion carried.

A motion by Dick McCoy, seconded by Past President Neeman, that the Secretary send a letter to the Governor expressing the Association's concerns over the inter-teller repeaters that should be installed. They should be considered a temporary fix. The channels that have been allocated for the repeater sites should be used to enhance the existing 800 MHz radio system for in-building coverage. Consider using fire company towers to reduce the cost of the upgrade or other existing towers so as not to create a problem with local residents. Copies of this letter are to go to Secretary Bushweller, Jack Nold, Representatives Bruce Ennis and Ulbrich and L.G. McCoy. Motion carried.

Warren Jones brought up the subject of a by-laws change. President Austin informed him that it isn't necessary that a reading of the by-laws be made at this time. It will be circulated and once it is returned to the floor, it will be considered. However, Mr. Jones felt it imperative to keep communications open and would like to hold workshops in the meantime. Christiana Fire Co. sent a letter requesting the Association name change to "*Delaware Firefighters Association*" and this, too, will be circulated in the same manner..

A motion by Bruce Ennis, seconded by John Mitchell, to adopt the resolutions as presented in the Committee Report, to also include the 60th anniversary of Cheswold's Ladies Auxiliary. Motion carried.

A motion by Bruce Ennis, seconded by Past President Ennis, to forward communications to the Governor and all legislators in support of HB 121 and that consideration of tobacco funds be given to EMBT training by new trainees, the Risk *Watch* Program, annual contribution to the Burn Foundation and the Firemen's Education bill. Motion carried.

A motion by Sandy Young, seconded by Jasper Lakey, that the DVFA appropriate an amount, not to exceed \$2,500, to the *Friendly Firefighters* web page. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| JAMES E. TURNER, III | POSTAGE | 140ADMIN | \$ (348.88) |
| KENNETH MCMAHON | MTG. EXP. | 150 MEETING EXP: | \$ (598.99) |
| SHANE QUALITY PRESS | '98 MINUTE BOOKS | 140ADMIN | \$ (3,460.00) |
| OSFM RELIEF FUND | DONATIONS | 285 MISC.EXP. | \$ (3,150.00) |
| THE TROPHY SHOP | NAME PLATES | 240 HALL FAME | \$ (50.00) |
| STATE FIRE SCHOOL | PRINTING | 140ADMIN | \$ (559.60) |
| HAL BARBER | AWARDS | 180 GIFTS | \$ (90.00) |
| M & M TROPHIES | CHAP. HARDWARE | -SPLIT- | \$ (523.15) |
| VISA CARD | POSTAGE | -SPLIT- | \$ (1,122.20) |
| ROGERS SIGNS | LAKEY/KIPPENBURG | -SPLIT- | \$ (365.00) |
| JEN MOR FLORIST | WREATH | 205 PERM MEM | \$ (32.50) |
| M & M TROPHIES | PAST PRES. BADGE | 180 GIFTS | \$ (39.00) |
| PENNSYLVANNIA FIREMEN | EXEC SECT AD | 140ADMIN | \$ (77.00) |
| JACKIE GUZZO | SUPPLIES | 245 RET. & REC. | \$ (39.96) |
| SUSSEX GUIDE | PRINTING MAT. | 220 FIRE PREV. | \$ (2,450.00) |
| DVFA CONFERENCE ACCT. | CISD EXH. SPACE | 125 CISM EXPENS | \$ (200.00) |
| RAYM OND F. BOOK & CO. | AUDIT FEES | 110ACCT. LAW | \$ (2,600.00) |
| R. W. HAHN | SUPPLIES | 245 RET. & REC. | \$ (84.97) |
| VISA CARD | FRAMES | 240 HALL FAME | \$ (52.60) |
| DEL. FIRE SERVICE NEWS | AD-OCT/NOV | 165NEWSPAP | \$ (1,200.00) |
| COMMERCIAL EMBLEM | POCKET BADGES | 140ADMIN | \$ (122.00) |
| SUSSEX CO CISD | REIMBURSEMENT | 125 CISM EXPENS | \$ (196.80) |
| STATE FIRE SCHOOL | PRINTING | 140ADMIN | \$ (307.84) |
| E. JAMES MONIHAN | REIMB.EXP. | 150 MEETING EXP | \$ (490.40) |
| EDW F. LEWIS & SONS FLORIST | FLOWERS | 130 FLOWERS | \$ (136.00) |
| DIV. MOTOR VEHICLES | P. P. TAGS | 180 GIFTS | \$ (20.00) |
| SHANE QUALITY PRESS | INVITATIONS | 220 FIRE PREV. | \$ (148.00) |
| LEIPSIC FIRE CO. | REIMB. - INSURANCE | 245 RET. & REC. | \$ (158.00) |
| VISA CARD | FRAMES | -SPLIT- | \$ (538.22) |
| CHIEF JON HANSEN | OK TORONADO | 285 MISC.EXP. | \$ (700.00) |
| JANICE YERKES | SECRETARY | 140 ADM. | \$ (100.00) |
| JAMES E. TURNER III | POSTAGE REIMB. | 140 ADM | \$ (325.56) |
| NAT'L VOL. FIRE COUNCIL | DUES 2000 | DUES | \$ (300.00) |
| | TOTAL BILLS | | \$ (20,586.67) |

A motion by Past President Monihan, seconded by Richard Ward, that the bills as presented are paid. Motion carried.

Secretary Turner will incorporate Ed Klima's Auto Racing Committee report with these minutes.

Good of the Association

Past President Ennis suggested that a telephone chain be established to inform members of the illnesses, deaths, etc. President Austin will contact Past President Barlow with this request.

Russ Pickett announced that he will be establishing a "Memorial" page in the near future. He will be working with Dave Paul on this matter so they can honor the firemen locally, nationally and worldwide.

Adjournment

It was regularly moved and seconded that the December Executive Committee meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The Benediction was offered by Rev. Art Titus. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20.p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice S. Yerkes
Janice S. Yerkes
Corresponding Secretary

I hereby attest that this is a true copy of the proceedings of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association Executive Committee meeting held on December 12, 1999.

James E. Turner, III
Attest: James E. Turner, III, Secretary