

**DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
3rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**OPENING CEREMONIES  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1997  
REHOBOTH BEACH CONVENTION CENTER**

Conference Chairman, J. William Bell welcomed everyone to the Opening Ceremonies of the 3rd Annual Conference. He then recognized and honored the Ladies Auxiliary on the 60th anniversary of the Association. The U.S. Continental Army Band from Ft. Monroe, VA provided a musical presentation, followed by the advance of colors by the Sussex County Fire Police Association. The U.S. Continental Army Band played the National Anthem, followed by the invocation by Chaplain, Walt Lamon and the salute to the flag by Past President Lynn Rogers.

Mr. Bell introduced President of the DVFA, Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr. and President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Barbara A. Lewis, followed by a welcoming address by President Hojnicky and President Lewis. Mr. Hojnicky presented the Ladies Auxiliary with a plaque of congratulations and appreciation for their 60 years of dedicated service to the firemen in the State of Delaware.

Steve Austin ,Out-of-State Coordinator, introduced Capt. Harley Shuford from the Asheville, NC Fire Dept. who spoke about and showed a video of an apartment fire in Asheville, NC which was set by arsonist. He then introduced Erin Conklin, who was one of the victims of this arsonist's match. She gave a slide presentation of the horrors of this deadly fire. Mr. Hojnicky presented Erin with a State of Delaware clock; Barry Beck presented her with the 1st *Civilian Recognition Award*. Bill Bell presented Mr. Shuford with a plaque for his assistance.

The following Delaware fire service officials, leaders and distinguished guests were introduced: Sam Cooper, Mayor of

Rehoboth Beach; Melissa Escaro-Niess\* (sp?); Carol Everhart, Rehoboth/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce, who presented an *Appreciation Award* from the Chamber. William Bell recognized the following Ladies Auxiliary Conference Co-chairs: Patricia McCall, B.J. Caniford, Eleanor Raye Warrington, and Barbara F. Bell. President Hojnicky presented each of these ladies with a dozen red roses. President Hojnicky presented Rehoboth Beach Chief Chuck Snyder with a gift certificate in appreciation for his untiring efforts at Rehoboth Beach Convention Center .

The following corporate sponsors were recognized: Delaware River and Bay Authority; Mellon Bank; CIBA-GIGY; A.H. Angerstein Co.; Chemical Industry Council; Professional Associates; Doctors for Emergency Services, Allsafe Fire Equipment; Sussex County Council;; Five Points, Holloway Terrace, Goodwill, Minquadale and Wilmington Manor Fire Companies; Motorola Communications; Artisans Bank; PNC Bank; City of Rehoboth; Volunteer Fire Insurance Co.; Provident Insurance Co.; Star Enterprise; Tierney Group; Harvey Smith Funeral Homes; Goodwin's Seafood; MBNA-DEL; and Sprint Printing. Cash donations in the amount of \$41,000 have been collected.

Mike Owens and Larry Sharp, Delaware River & Bay Authority, were presented with a plaque of their outstanding contributions and efforts in making for a successful conference. Standard Distributors, Pepsi, J.Montgomery and Print Shack were also recognized for their efforts in the gold tournament.

President Hojnicky presented Secretary Jamie Turner with a plaque in grateful appreciation for his outstanding dedicated service to the Association.

Ray Krett, Chairman, Resolutions Committee, presented resolutions to the following firemen who have served the volunteer fire service for 50 or more years:

(Exhibit A)

Robert Romig, Chairman, Hall of Fame, announced that the following members of the DVFA had been inducted into the Hall of Fame for the year 1996:

Fireman of the Year.....Elmer Ennis  
Heroic Fireman of the Year.....Greg Adkins  
Ambulance Attendant of the Year.....Chris Johnson  
Fire Policeman of the Year.....Russell H. Fernandes, Sr.  
DVFA Past President.....Lynn Rogers  
Nominees by the Committee..... Linwood J. Rogers  
Harry T. Pusey  
(posthumously)

George L. Kerr, Jr. and C. Rod O'Neal, Co-Chairs, Scholarship Committee, announced the following Scholarship winners:

Ladies Auxiliary of Kent County Firemens Assoc. to:  
Edward G. Graves, Jr. (Cheswold)

Ladies Auxiliary of Sussex County Firemens Assoc. to:  
James C. Iannucci (Claymont)

CIBA, INC./Minquas Fire Co. to:  
Kimberly M. Malcom (Minquas)

Ladies Auxiliary of the DVFA to:  
Tara L. Metheny (Hartly)

CIBA, INC./Christiana to:  
Ann M. Nelson

Joseph H. Hojnicky, Sr./Minquadale Fire Co. to:  
Donna E. Smallwood (Minquadale)

A.H. Angerstein, Inc./Elsmere Fire Co. to:  
Michael J. Spadea (Elsmere)

Ladies Auxiliary of New Castle County Firemens Assoc. to:

Christopher Sutton

Barry I. Beck, Chairman, Civilian Recognition Award Committee, presented awards to the following individuals for saving the lives of Delawareans: Benjamin Dorsey, Dawn Worthy, Mary Rich, Suzanne Sibley and Gina Smithyman. They were also presented with a resolution honoring them for their heroic actions.

Carleton Carey, Chairman, Fireman of the Year Award, presented this award to Kevin L. Wilson (Clayton) and Albert B. Lane (Marydel).

The Opening Ceremonies recessed at 11:00; followed by the joint Press Conference. The regular order of business re-convened at 11:50 by President Hojnicky.

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1997 DVFA CONFERENCE  
3rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### **CALL TO ORDER**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1997

The Third Annual Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Conference was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by President, Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr. The Invocation was offered by Chaplain, Walt Lamon, followed by the salute to the flag by 1st Vice President Donald W. Knight.

A motion by Jasper Lakey, seconded by Past President George Diamond that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as written. Motion carried.

The officers of the DVFA Ladies Auxiliary were escorted to the podium, at which time President, Barbara Lewis requested the DVFA to continue their support of the Pre-school Fire Prevention Education

Program and the Recruitment and Retention Program. She reported that the total receipts for the year were \$1,503,778.67, with cash and other donations to firemen amounting to \$465,998.49. 1st Vice President Barbara Metheny and 2nd Vice President Bonnie Workman extended congratulations on the 77th Annual Conference and that the DVFA has their continued support.

**Convention Appointments by the President:**

1. Credentials: These are: Jon Cottrell, 26, Carroll B. Jester, 52 and James W. King, 77.
2. Sergeant at Arms: Robert Johnson, 22, J. Wallace Hudson, 45, and Willis Matthews, 70.
3. Flowers & Telegrams: Edwin S. Barlow, 20, William R. Carrow, 45, and John E. Bare, Sr., 76.
4. Committee to visit Ladies Auxiliary Association Meeting: Harry E. Warner, Jr., 25, George A. Diamond, 55, and Elmer B. Steele, 81.
5. The Parliamentarians are: Arthur I. Guessford, 24, Norman Batchelor, 83, and Morris W. King, 51.

**Roll Call of Officers, Delegates, Alternates  
and Past Presidents.**

Dale Callaway, reported that all duly authorized companies are registered with the Conference. He also reported that all elected and appointed Officers were present. The following members were designated as Delegates and Alternates for their respective Fire Companies:

**Delegate and Alternate**

**New Castle County**

**Company**

**Delegate**

**Alternate**

<b>Aetna</b>	<b>Charles W. Wollaston Joseph Bukowski</b>	<b>Michael J. Cook Edward Klima</b>
<b>Brandywine Hundred</b>	<b>William McCracken Thomas Finocchiaro</b>	<b>Richard Perillo Gordon Day</b>
<b>Christiana</b>	<b>Tillio A Suppe Ken McMahon</b>	<b>Robert G. Stinemen Wes Cave</b>
<b>Claymont</b>	<b>John E. Handlin William C. Kelly</b>	<b>Tom DiCristofaro Eric J. Haley</b>
<b>Cranston Heights</b>	<b>Don Parks Paul Perrone</b>	<b>Todd Francia Jim Scholl</b>
<b>Delaware City</b>	<b>Jasper H. Lakey Charles Neel</b>	<b>Robert C. Costango, Sr. William A. McMichael, III</b>
<b>Elsmere</b>	<b>Warren L. Jones George B. Giles</b>	<b>John L. Mitchell, Sr. Patrick L. Giles</b>
<b>Five Points</b>	<b>Francis E. Williams, III Paul Shavack</b>	<b>Todd Mitten Donald Zulinski</b>
<b>Good-will</b>	<b>Thomas Clayton J. David Majewski</b>	<b>Curtis Gray Daniel A. Young</b>
<b>Hockessin</b>	<b>Anthony Guzzo Richard Ridgeway</b>	<b>Barry I. Beck Wayne J. Ferrante</b>
<b>Holloway Terrace</b>	<b>J. William Bell William J. Maxwell, Sr.</b>	<b>James E. Romano Paul H. Maxwell</b>
<b>Mill Creek</b>	<b>Leslie McCourt John P. Fox</b>	<b>W. Dean Simpson Francis J. Cahoon</b>
<b>Minquadale</b>	<b>Charles J. Heckler, Jr. Charles Taylor</b>	<b>Donna Smallwood Robert Johnson</b>
<b>Minquas</b>	<b>Michael A. Saggione M. David Douglas</b>	<b>J. Robert Blyman, Jr. George L. Kerr, Jr.</b>
<b>Odessa</b>	<b>Frank Gant</b>	<b>Dave Harwell</b>

	Tim Lynch	Wayne Riale
Talleyville	Joseph Vattilana Jeffery Miller	Daniel L. Kiley Harry E. Warner
Townsend	Harry J. Bright Keith B. Shoemaker	Montque Martinez Keith Knotts
Volunteer Hose	Daniel P. Burris, Sr. Franklin H. Bailey, Jr.	Kevin Reinke James Craig
Wilmington Manor	Jeffrey D. Tillinghast James A. Watson	John C. Wilson, III Bruce Galloway
Port Penn	Glenn A. Taylor Dale A. Bendler	Sean Johnston Amy Trowbridge
Belvedere	Webster Trotter, Jr Marvin Trotter	Darrell Dye Vaughn Rider

*Kent County*

North Bowers	Leon Shahan Jeff Dennison	Raymond Plymire Charles Foraker, III
Camden-Wyoming	H. Glenn Neese Richard G. Winchell	Lea Pravitz Harold C. Scott, Jr.
Carlisle	Marvin Sharp William Baker	William Chandler Charles B. Stevenson
Cheswold	Kenneth E. Clendaniel Jeffrey Eisenbrey	Nick Sawyer Edward Graves
Citizen's Hose	Arthur Ricker Alan F. Robinson, Jr.	P. Francis Hartnett B. Franklin Morris, III
Clayton	William C. Donavon, Jr. Rodney W. Whalen	Robert L. Lightcap Kevin L. Wilson
Robbins Hose	Terry Whitham William Hurley	William C. Triesler Jonathan Osika
Farmington	Ronald Vincent Joe Zeroles	Jack Bradley Carl Legates

<b>Felton</b>	<b>Charles O. Smith Herman Wagner</b>	<b>Joseph Sherwood Charles Bostick</b>
<b>Frederica</b>	<b>Willard Betts Rev. David G. Paul</b>	<b>Steve White Darren Jones</b>
<b>Harrington</b>	<b>William R. Outten Darrin Simpson</b>	<b>Leroy Calhoun Ira H. Huffman</b>
<b>Hartly</b>	<b>Steven Conners Denise Fox</b>	<b>Clarence R. O'Neal, Jr. Raymond Morris</b>
<b>Houston</b>	<b>Carroll B. Jester Robert H. Yerkes, Jr.</b>	<b>William E. Harvey Jr. Harry K. Lindale</b>
<b>Leipscic</b>	<b>Maurice K. Sipple, Jr. Samuel S. Boots</b>	<b>James F. Sipple Gerald Brennan</b>
<b>Little Creek</b>	<b>Michael Bundek Edward Angwin</b>	<b>Butch Grow Scott Bundek</b>
<b>Magnolia</b>	<b>Robert Lane Larry Hollinger, Sr.</b>	<b>George A. Diamond Ralph Satterfield</b>
<b>Marydel</b>	<b>Albert V. Lane Ralph Rossi</b>	<b>Garrey Madden John Reedy</b>
<b>South Bowers</b>	<b>David B. Legates William Webb, Jr.</b>	<b>Dennis Dean, Jr. Joseph Yonker</b>

**Sussex County**

<b>Bethany Beach</b>	<b>Wilbert Powell, Jr. Richard Parrett, Jr.</b>	<b>William Mills Willis Matthews</b>
<b>Blades</b>	<b>Wayne Chaffinch Wayne Thompson</b>	<b>Brian Calloway Freeman Carter</b>
<b>Bridgeville</b>	<b>Jonathan R. Hastings John T. Cannon, Jr.</b>	<b>Mahlon Baker Joseph Evans</b>
<b>Dagsboro</b>	<b>Kevin Sagers Mike Hough</b>	<b>Lindley Hudson Ronn Carey</b>



<b>Delmar</b>	<b>Robert F. Jones Joseph Morris, Sr.</b>	<b>Monroe Lecates John I. Morris, Sr.</b>
<b>Ellendale</b>	<b>Elmer Ennis Ted Walius</b>	<b>Norman Jones Lawrence Sammons</b>
<b>Frankford</b>	<b>Leroy Hooper Russell Hooper</b>	<b>Robert Tribbitt Robbie Murray</b>
<b>Georgetown</b>	<b>James W. King Robert Ricker</b>	<b>Ira Hitchens Rodney Marvel</b>
<b>Greenwood</b>	<b>Finley B. Jones, Jr. Donald E. Donovan, Jr.</b>	<b>Roy L. Peterman Elmer A. Titus</b>
<b>Gumboro</b>	<b>David Dixon Fred Bare</b>	<b>John Downes Chester Downes</b>
<b>Indian River</b>	<b>Alice M. Bruce Gordon H. Edwards</b>	<b>Steven C. Deery, Jr. Patrick C. Miller</b>
<b>Laurel</b>	<b>Clifford "Biff" Lee Jeff Hill</b>	<b>Elmer B. Steele William Hearn</b>
<b>Lewes</b>	<b>A. Wallace Evans William H. Stevenson, III</b>	<b>Louis S. Rickards Craig R. Stephens</b>
<b>Millsboro</b>	<b>Dwight Taylor Richard Ward, Sr.</b>	<b>John Shockley James Keenan</b>
<b>Millville</b>	<b>Donald Harkins Roger Hitchens</b>	<b>Norman Amendt Augusta Thomas</b>
<b>Milton</b>	<b>J. Ralph Jefferson Ray H. Burton</b>	<b>Dennis J. Hughes John F. Bushey</b>
<b>Rehoboth Beach</b>	<b>Dawn Lynch Robert Shinn</b>	<b>John Futcher Floyd Savage</b>
<b>Seaford</b>	<b>James Mitchell Tony DiCarlo</b>	<b>Richard Toulson Steven Mayer</b>
<b>Selbyville</b>	<b>Raymond T. Stevens, Jr. Richard Duncan</b>	<b>Kenneth Madera Howard Pepper</b>

Slaughter Beach

Edward Carey  
Norman Rust

Dick Caldwell  
John Watson

Roxana

Guy C. Hudson  
Wayne Bennett

Jeff Lynch  
Robert Grover

*Past Presidents*

- [ ] Granville T. White, 81, 1957
- [ ] John V. Ryan, 20, 1961
- [ ] Clarence Schwatka, 26, 1964
- [ ] E. Reynolds Bradley, 44, 1965
- [ ] William T. Lowe, 82, 1966
- [ ] Emanuel J. Harkins, 14, 1967
- [ ] Roland Neeman, 48, 1968
- [ ] Arthur L. Jones, 78, 1969
- [ ] Arthur I. Guessford, 24, 1973
- [ ] William Paskey, Jr., 48, 1974
- [ ] Ralph T. Hynson, 78, 1975
- [ ] Morris W. King, 51, 1977
- [ ] E. James Monihan, 82, 1978
- [ ] Raymond H. McCall, 3, 6 & 12, 1979
- [ ] Richard E. Ennis, 44, 1980
- [ ] John E. Bare, Sr., 76, 1981
- [ ] William G. Walton, Sr., 16, 1982
- [ ] William R. Carrow, 45, 1983
- [ ] Richard C. Mitchell, 86, 1984
- [ ] Lawrence Mergenthaler, 21, 1985
- [ ] Thomas V Baker, Sr., 57, 1986
- [ ] Robert G. Sweetman, 7, 8 & 9, 1988
- [ ] M. Frank King, 51, 1989
- [ ] Walton A. Johnson, Jr., 76, 1990
- [ ] Edwin S. Barlow, 20, 1991
- [ ] George A. Diamond, 55, 1992
- [ ] Elmer B. Steele, 81, 1993
- [ ] Harry E. Warner, Jr., 25, 1994
- [ ] J. Allen Metheny, 51, 1995
- [ ] Lynn J. Rogers, 85, 1996

### **President Emeritus:**

- [ ] Louis J. Amabili, 19
- [ ] Fr. Paul E. Burke, 20
- [ ] Rev. James B. Doughten, 78
- [ ] C. Bryan Bennett, 87
- [ ] Harvey H. Ryan, 20
- [ ] J. Benjamin Roy, Jr., 43
- [ ] Bruce C. Ennis, 44
- [ ] Norman L. Tate, 87

### **Introduction Of Visitors with brief remarks**

Out-of-State Coordinator, Stephen P. Austin introduced the following visitors: CFSI Exec.Director, Bill Webb; Chief Ronnie Bobblett, Nelson County, KY Fire Dept.; Division Chief, Cindy Sears, Metro Dade, FL Fire & Rescue Dept.; Board Chairman, Jim Reardon, Keystone Fire Chiefs Assoc.; Past President, Earl Moser, PA Firemens Assoc.; President, Phil Horbert, Int'l. Assoc. of Arson Investigators; President, Ray Truax, Delaware Valley Fire Chiefs Assoc.; Vice President, Steve Heefner and attorney, Howard Cohan of the Cumberland Valley VFA; President, Norman Rice, VA State Firefighters Assoc.; Ed Lance, International Assoc. of Fire Chiefs; Chief Paul Hartstein, Camden Co.,NJ Fire Marshal; Jonathan Ranson, Hyattsville, MD VFC; and Rob Book, Senator Roth's office.

### **Reading of Communications**

The following Communications have been received:

- letter of nomination form Clayton Fire Co. for James E. Turner, III, as Secretary and requesting that William R. Carrow be re-appointed as Assistant Secretary.
- letter from the Ladies' Auxiliary of the DVFA thanking this Association for the donation of the banner presented at the last Executive meeting.
- memo from Barry I. Beck to the President reporting on the selection of Civilian Recognition Awards and requesting

clarification of financial allocations concerning the purchasing of plaques.

- letter from New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Assoc. nominating Stephen P. Austin for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Randy Roberts to fill the balance of Director Austin's term.
- copy of the contract consummated between the Sheraton Dover Conference Center and the DVFA.
- copy of a letter from Hockessin Fire Co. to the Fire Prevention Commission voicing their concern on transporting minors to local medical facilities.
- letter from Walton A. Johnson, Jr., requesting the dates of the next three Conferences and subsequent response by Memorandum
- letter from New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Assoc. requesting feedback on the transporting of a minor when they are not hurt or forcing the minor to go to the hospital when they opt to refuse; can the minor sign a refusal form; and the ramifications to the Fire Company and the Ambulance Attendant if the minor refuses treatment and later goes to the hospital with injuries. This letter, with an attached letter from the New Castle County Ambulance Association, was referred to the State Fire Prevention Commission for their review and report.
- letter of thanks from the Northam family expressing their appreciation for flowers and support during their bereavement of their husband and father, W. Jack Northam.
- copy of a letter to the Conference Liaison Committee from Memorial Ladies' Auxiliary requesting permission to sponsor a trophy for the Conference parade.
- letter from Andrew J. Sedar requesting information and the appropriate forms for the DVFA Scholarship program, (referred to the Scholarship Committee).

- an acknowledgment of receipt of funds for a Scholarship at Eastern Kentucky University in the amount of \$1,500.00.
- message of regret from James A. Burns, New York State Fire Administrator indicating his commitment during our Conference and thanking the Association for the invitation.
- letter from Firemen's Assoc. of Pennsylvania inviting the President to their annual Convention scheduled for September - 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> in Norristown, PA.
- letter from the Burn Foundation thanking the Assoc. for our cooperation in their recent attempt to reduce the impact of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 concerning hospitals with burn centers.
- letter from Jan R. Jurden, Young, Conway, Stargatt & Taylor, lauding this Assoc. for initiating a newspaper for the Fire Service in Delaware and informing us of their willingness to support this endeavor in the form of pro bono public activities.
- copy of the minutes of the Mutual Relief Assoc.'s August meeting, which indicates that a letter will be sent to incoming President Knight concerning the expenses for the DVFA's Legislative Night.
- letter to all DVFA Elected Officers with attachments from DEMA which provides updated Oil & Hazardous Substance and State Emergency Response Contingency Plans, with the relevant Annexes requesting that the plans be reviewed and comments submitted within 30 days of receipt for their Agency's review; subsequent written response by the President with a letter from this Assoc. requesting that an additional 30-day extension be granted due to timing and allowing for dissemination of this information and proposed changes.
- letter from the Chair of the Fire Prevention Committee of the Kent County Fire Chief's Assoc. requesting the Recruitment & Retention Committee provide a display at their Fire Prevention

Expo on Saturday and Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, (referred to the Recruitment & Retention Committee).

- letter from the Conference Liaison Committee enclosing updated pages for the Conference Liaison Guidelines and requesting permission and funds to distribute the updates to the Officers and Past Presidents of this and Ladies Auxiliary Associations, Fire Companies and Ladies Auxiliaries.
- letter from Clayton Fire Company requesting Recruitment & Retention Committee support during their Open House on Monday, October 6, 1997,(referred to the Recruitment and Retention Committee).
- letter from Magnolia Fire Company endorsing Donald W. Knight as President.
- letter from DEMA acknowledging receipt of the letter requesting additional time to comment on Draft plans and annexes, while extending the time frame an additional thirty days.
- letter from Norman Amendt, Chairmen, Mutual Relief Association inquiring as to who sponsors the Legislative Night, the method of paying the total bill, how invitations are distributed and the subsequent division of the total bill paid by each Assoc. and response by President Hojnicky and submittals from all Companies outlining their Delegates and Alternates with substitutes from Christiana, Mill Creek, Minquas and Little Creek Fire Companies for this Conference and the next three (3) Executive Committee meetings.

A motion by Past President Richard Ennis, seconded by Jon Cottrell, that the Communications be accepted and referred to the proper committee for action. Motion accepted.

### **Reports of Officers**

**President Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr.:**

**To my Fellow Officers, Delegates, Alternates, and distinguished guests of the "Third Annual Conference" of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association:**

**It is with extreme pleasure and a deep sense of humility that I submit this annual report for your consideration, as your President for the years 1996-1997. This report complies with the provisions of the Constitution and By-laws of our Association.**

**It has been an honor and privilege to have served as the 77<sup>th</sup> President of our great Association. How quickly the time has passed! It is hard to believe that three years ago, I assumed the office of Second vice-president. Now my term as President is coming to an end. This time last year, after taking the oath of office as your President, I promised you that my goals as your President would be "learn from the past, work for a better future".**

**In order to achieve this goal we developed a plan of action for the following specific areas:**

- Strive for and improve upon our current Fire and Emergency Medical Service system.**
- Sustain the continuing efforts to "level up" both Kent and Sussex County Fire Service funding in the legislature.**
- Improve upon, with the support of our Mutual Relief Association, the insurance coverage for our members.**
- Continue to support the needs for the 800 mhz. Communications system for all of the fire service.**
- Provide proactive leadership required to plan, sustain, defend and improve upon the needs of this Association and more importantly, you and your individual, regional and county Organizations and Fire Companies.**

**In submitting this, my final report as your President, I realize that all of the goals and objectives previously established did not or will not be accomplished in the short period of one year. I have done my best to meet and address the challenges and responsibilities placed upon our Association, with the support of my fellow Officers and members. These accomplishments are a direct result of the collective hard work of you and this Association. These results are strictly due to your dedication and**

**perseverance. Many of you have supported these goals and challenges which we have encountered, deliberated and implemented during the past year. The outcome of these deliberations was always in the best interest of our volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Service which we provide throughout our State. I humbly and heartily thank you for all for the support you have provided during this and the preceding two years.**

**Since my installation as President, I have represented this Association at 150 different events. These include: meetings, banquets, legislative nights, out of state meetings, as well as meetings with Governor Carper and other State Officials. I have attended all of the regular Executive Committee and Officer meetings of this organization during my term. I have traveled a total of 16,078 miles in the performance of these duties. A complete itinerary of the events are attached to this report.**

**To summarize my responsibility in the discharge of my duties on your behalf during the last three years, I have attended 375 meetings and traveled a total of 33,473 miles in the discharge of the performance of my duties.**

### **Recommendations**

**These recommendations are submitted for your consideration:**

- 1. Continue the efforts within our Legislature in seeking additional "leveling up" funds for both Kent and Sussex Counties.**
- 2. Recommend to our Mutual Relief Association that they investigate the need, requirements and financial resources required to establish for our membership a "group life insurance policy." Mutual Relief shall provide a report to this Association no later than next year's Conference.**
- 3. Investigate methods to increase the current Pension System monthly payments. This could be a combined effort between the Fire Companies, Mutual Relief and additional State funding.**
- 4. You have heard the miles your President has traveled. I recommend to this Association, that we provide a vehicle for the use of the President, during his or her term in Office**
- 5. The time has come to increase the amount of expense monies that are allocated to the DVFA Officers for travel expenses.**



6. We should continue to support the efforts of our Voter Registration committee. Each county should strive to support member of the volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Service who desire to serve and hold office in either State, County or local government.
7. Continue to support the Congressional Fire Service Institute dinner each April as strongly as the Delaware Fire Service has in the past.
8. With the new 800mhz. radio system being tested and implemented in the foreseeable future, on a statewide basis it is time for a state wide paging system. The system should allow our Dispatch Centers to alert members of alarms, without simulcasting on the current low band radio system. The days of siren use are quickly becoming a past practice. We should urge and strongly seek the development of a modern method of alerting our members.

### Appreciation

In closing, words can not express the appreciation, gratitude and thanks to the Officers, the Conference committee and the Executive Committee members. Their efforts and time commitments are greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten. Extreme appreciation is extended to the members of the New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association for allowing me the privilege of serving you during the last three years. I will never be able to repay you for your support and the kindness you have shown to me and the members of my family.

To the members of the Delaware Volunteer Fire Service, I challenge you to continue to support and take a proactive role in the administration and operations of our Fire and Emergency Medical Services. We have an important tradition and obligation to maintain and up hold! Not as the most important "Political Party" in Delaware. But, to provide the finest level of protection and services that we would expect for our family in time of need. The Service should be timely, competent and professional. The identical level of service should be available and provided to every citizen and visitor within the borders of our State! We brag about our Service. We should be able to proudly exclaim: We have the most efficient volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Service in the Country!

Barbara Lewis, President of the Ladies' Auxiliary, DVFA, has been a frequent traveler with us. She and her Officers throughout the year were very supportive. The ladies have certainly assisted in making this year a success.

A special acknowledgment and thanks to our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Donald W. Knight for his support and personal endeavors on behalf of this Association. He has represented this Association and his County well. As I yield the gavel to Don, I can assure you that he will rule with equality, firmness, friendliness and justice.

Finally, To my wife Irene, my entire family and my Fire Service family, the Officers and members of the Minquadale Fire Company and Ladies' Auxiliary, I recognize and thank you for the tremendous support, respect and love in allowing me to be "shared" during my term of office in this great Association.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph W. Hojnicky Sr., President

A motion by Past President Arthur Guessford, seconded by Joe Heckler, to accept the President's report and spread upon the minutes of the Association and that recommendations be brought up under the proper of business. Motion carried.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Donald W. Knight**

Fellow officers and members of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association, I hereby submit for your review, my report for the fourth quarter as the First Vice-President of the DVFA I have attended 54 functions, 195 hours, and traveled 2,118 miles representing the DVFA and the fire service. The Itinerary is attached (Exhibit B).

#### **Annual Report**

To my fellow Officers, Delegates, Alternates and distinguished guests of the "Third Annual Conference" on the seventy-seventh anniversary of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association:

I hereby submit for your review, my report as first vice-president of the DVFA for the 1996-1997 year. Since my installation as first vice-president.

I have attended 213 functions representing the DVFA and the fire service. I have traveled a total of 8,504 miles and utilized 812.5 hours in performing these duties. A complete itinerary is attached.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the first vice-president of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association during the past year.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the officers and members of the Magnolia Fire Company (Station 55) for their support and assistance during the past year. Also, to the Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association membership, I extend a "thank you" for the confidence you placed upon me to serve and the support that you have offered throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald W. Knight,  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Michael H. Vincent  
(Exhibit C)

Secretary James E. Turner, III  
(Exhibit D)

A motion by James King, seconded by Past President George Diamond to accept all reports as written, and that any recommendations requiring action be brought up under the proper order of business. Motion carried.

Treasurer J. Allen Metheny  
(Exhibit E)

A motion by James King, seconded by Richard Ward that the Treasurer's report be accepted as in written form. Motion carried.

#### Reports of Directors

Stephen P. Austin, New Castle County  
(Exhibit F)

James L. Cabbage, Jr., Kent County  
(Exhibit G)

Dale A. Callaway, Sussex County  
(Exhibit H)

Lynn J. Rogers, Past President

**(Exhibit I)**

**Reports of County Presidents**

**Jon B. Cottrell, New Castle County  
(Exhibit J)**

**Carroll B. Jester, Kent County  
(Exhibit K)**

**James King, Sussex County  
(Exhibit L)**

**Reports Of Affiliated Associations**

**National Volunteer Fire Council, E. James Monihan  
(Exhibit M)**

**Fire Prevention Commission - Greg Haley**

Mr. Haley thanked the DVFA for its cooperation, especially with the 911 legislation, the EMS Partnership, new VLS regulations and the H proposal. There will be an increase from \$75,000-\$100,000 to upgrade fire prevention. (?)

**Committee Reports**

**Permanent Memorial - Charles. O. Smith**

Charles Smith reported that a wreath had been placed at the Memorial and one from the Fire Chiefs Assoc. All bills are paid.

**Finance and Auditing - George Pyott**

George Pyott reported that the Association books had been audited by a C.P.A. (Exhibit N). A transfer of \$17,175 from the Savings Account was necessary, which is an increase of \$4,750.

**Conference Liaison - Charles Honey  
(Exhibit O)**

**Partners in Progress - J. Allen Metheny  
(Exhibit P)**

**Resolutions - Raymond M. Krett, Jr.  
(Exhibit Q)**

A motion by Raymond M. Krett, Jr., seconded by Past President Richard Ennis, that all resolutions be adopted and spread upon the minutes. Motion carried.

The following delegation from the DVFA Ladies Auxiliary arrived to extend greetings for a successful Conference: Past Presidents Joanne Tulowitzki, Jean Marvel and Dorothy Dill.

President Hojnicky presented Robert Romig, Chairman, Archives Committee, with plaques acknowledging 60 years of dedicated service of the DVFALA and honoring the DVFA Secretary, James E. Turner, III with the Award of Excellence.

**Archives - Robert C. Romig  
(Exhibit R)**

**Law & Legislative - John L. Mitchell, Sr.  
(Exhibit S)**

**Out-of-State Coordinating - Stephen P. Austin  
(Exhibit T)**

**Recruitment & Retention -Kevin Sagers/Tony Suppe  
(Exhibit U)**

**Statewide Legislative Night - James L. Cabbage, Jr.  
(Exhibit V)**

**Scholarship - George L. Kerr, Jr./Clarence O'Neal, Jr.**

**(Exhibit W)**

**Supplemental Funding - Stephen P. Austin  
(Exhibit X)**

**Statewide Voter Registration - Hal Barber  
(Exhibit Y)**

A motion by Richard Ennis, seconded by C.O. Smith, that the above reports be made a part of the Conference and spread upon the minutes. Motion carried.

**NOMINATION OF OFFICERS**

Nomination of President - George A. Diamond placed the name of Donald W. Knight in nomination for the office of President for the ensuing year, seconded by Larry Hollinger.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Norman L. Tate placed the name of Michael H. Vincent in nomination for the office of 1st Vice President for the ensuing year, seconded by Ronald H. Marvel.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Charles Wollaston placed the name of Stephen P. Austin in nomination for 2nd Vice President for the ensuing year, seconded by Raymond H. McCall.

Secretary - William R. Carrow placed the name of James E. Turner, III in nomination for Secretary for the ensuing year, seconded by William C. Donovan, Jr.

Treasurer - Clarence R. O'Neal, Jr. placed the name of J. Allen Metheny in nomination for Treasurer for the ensuing year, seconded Steve Connors.

Director, Sussex County (3 Years) - James W. King placed the name of Dale A. Callaway in nomination for Director, Sussex County for the ensuing 3 years, seconded by Ralph Jefferson.

Director, New Castle County (1 year) - J. William Maxwell placed the name of Randy Roberts in nomination for Director, New Castle County for the ensuing year, seconded by Paul Maxwell.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion by Richard Ennis, seconded by Larry Hollinger, to approve the recommendations in President Hojnicky's report. Motion carried.

A motion by George Pyott, seconded by Richard Ennis, that the proposed budget, as submitted by the Finance and Auditing Committee, be adopted. Motion carried.

1st Vice-President Knight outlined his legislative priorities which consisted of (1) Seek and support implementation of the "Equalization Funding Program" identified by the Association's Supplemental Funding Committee to improve funding parity; (2) Continue the necessary funding to complete the 800 mhz (mobile and portable) radio system for the Fire Service; (3) Continue the Grants-in-Aid and leveling-up programs with increases and (4), Hold the Statewide Legislative Night on March 25, 1998. A motion by John L. Mitchell, seconded by William Stevenson, that the Association adopt the legislative priorities of 1st Vice President Knight. Motion carried.

Tony Suppe and Kevin Sagers addressed the members on the Recruitment and Retention Committee Workshop, which will be held at the National Fire Academy on November 1 and 2. A motion by Richard Ennis, seconded by Past President George Diamond, to accept the report of the Recruitment & Retention Committee, with the recommendation that all fire companies participate. Motion carried.

A motion by Jamie Turner, seconded by Past President E. James Monihan, to have the President cast unanimous ballots for the offices of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director, Sussex County (3 years) and Director, New Castle County (1 year). Motion carried.

A motion by Past President E. James Monihan, seconded by Past President George Diamond, to request support our Congressional delegation in opposition to the Wireless Privacy Act, particularly the portions which would affect scanners which are used by the volunteer fire service nationwide. Motion carried.

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Treasurer, J. Allen Metheny, submitted the following bills for approval:

#### **(Exhibit Z)**

A motion by Past President Richard Ennis, seconded by Past President George Diamond, that the bills submitted by the Treasurer be allowed and paid. Motion carried.

### **Good of the Association**

Ron and Ricky Marvel presented the Association with a framed 1948 stamp, which was issued for the Volunteer Fire Service; this being the only one ever issued. He and his brother recently secured this from an estate in the Seaford area. This was donated for the Archives for the Fire School.

Stephen P. Austin announced that the Governor's Fire Safety Conference will be held on October 3 and encouraged attendance. He also thanked Past Presidents E. James Monihan and J. Allen Metheny for securing \$10,000 to be used for a first-class Recruitment and Retention Program.

1st Vice President Donald W. Knight announced that the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial service will be held on October 5, 1997 in Emmitsburg, MD.

There being no further business, a motion by Arthur Guessford, seconded by Larry Hollinger, that the meeting be



recessed until 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 26, 1997. Motion carried.

## **DVFA & LADIES AUXILIARY MEMORIAL SERVICE**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1997  
REHOBOTH BEACH CONVENTION CENTER**

The Memorial Service was convened at 9:30 a.m. The Service was preceded by an organ prelude by Alberta Favinger and a processional by the DVFA Volunteer Firemens and Ladies Auxiliary Choir, which was directed by Michael McHugh. Opening remarks were offered by Chaplain Walt Lamon, followed by the Invocation by Rev. Dave Paul; *Words of Comfort* by Eleanor Shewbrooks and Robby Sweetman; and a solo by Michael McHugh.

The Memorial Crosses were unveiled by DVFA President Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr. ; DVFALA President Barbara Lewis; Delaware State Fire Chiefs Assoc. President, William Walton, Sr.; Delaware State Fire Police Assoc. President Karl Walters; and Delaware State Ambulance Assoc. President Marty Krasavage.

A choral arrangement was presented by the DVFA Choir, followed by Readings by the State and County Ladies Auxiliary Presidents: Barbara Lewis, Ann Marie Krystopolski, Alberta Morris and Debbie Marvel.

The Memorial Panorama, which is edited and produced by the Delaware State Fire School, was introduced by DVFA Secretary Jamie Turner and DVFALA Secretary Virginia Yeager. The Panorama listed the members of the DVFA and DVFALA who have answered their last call to our Service.

### **AETNA HOSE, HOOK & LADDER**

Clyde M. Crow, Sr.  
Louise List

Elva T. Jester  
Earl Lynch

Harry McClary  
William E. Morgan, Jr.  
Bayard O. Perry

Joseph Moore  
Elma Nester  
Millard F. Ritchie

E. B. Wright, Jr.

**BELVEDERE FIRE CO**  
Alverda Covington Redd

**BOWERS FIRE CO**  
Lulu Wilkins

**BRANDYWINE HUNDRED FIRE CO**

Richard H. Baldwin  
Richard K. Harrington

Eloise Desmond  
Stella T. Lepinski

Joseph H. McCartney

**BRIDGEVILLE FIRE CO**  
Virginia Ray

**CAMDEN-WYOMING FIRE CO**

Clyde J. Bethard

H. Kline Lingo

**Carlisle**

William F. Warrington

**CHRISTIANA FIRE CO**

Robert Allcorn  
Elmer Crossan

Thomas Clabaugh  
Margaret Kelley

Medford L. Marshall

**CITIZENS HOSE CO**

Harold H. Deakyne

Ann Mitchell

John E. Shetzler, Sr.

**CLAYMONT FIRE CO**

Edwin M. Anderson, III  
Margaret Jackson

Dorothy Hannum  
Myrtle Peters

**CLAYTON FIRE CO**

Reba M. Davis

Clarence R. O'Neal, Sr.

**CRANSTON HEIGHTS FIRE CO**

Harry E. Reinhart

**DAGSBORO FIRE CO**

Helen Mitchell

Karthryn Timmons

**DELAWARE CITY FIRE CO**

Frank W. Schroeder

**DELMAR FIRE CO**

Debbie Baker

Phillip Seth Baker

Oscar L. Porter

**ELLENDALE FIRE CO**

William G. "Pete" Manlove

Millard R. Walls, Sr.

**ELSMERE FIRE CO**

Albert A. Catalogna, Jr.

Robert L. Barnes

Janice Taggert

**FARMINGTON FIRE CO**

Roger J. Wix

**FELTON FIRE CO**

Georgia Palmer

Agnes Sipple

Albert Warren

**FIVE POINTS CO**

Morris Gibson

Donald Robinson

Steven Tucker

**FREDERICA**

Benjamin Markowitz

**GOODWILL FIRE CO**

Elizabeth Cochran  
David A. Kennedy

Frances Gaworski  
William J. Gott

Joe Leonard

**GUMBORO FIRE CO**

James E. Wharton

**HARRINGTON FIRE CO**

Eugene Anderson  
Lillian Black

Ruth Billings  
Ernest Hammond

**HARTLY FIRE CO**

Lawrence Dixon, Sr.

J. Harry Legar

John W. Pearson, Sr.

**HOCKESSIN FIRE CO**

Pauline F. Cannon  
Catherine F. Creeden  
Wallace Gebhart

Eleanor Cloud  
Edward J. Gebhart, Jr.  
John P. Gormley

Charles J. Kelly, Jr.

**HOUSTON FIRE CO**

Havard T. Smith

**LAUREL FIRE CO**

Norman C. Hastings  
Wayne Lowe

Blanche Joseph  
W. Jack Northam

**LEIPSIC FIRE CO**

C. Rodney Fox

John F. McGowan, Jr.

John (Jack) Scott

**Little Creek**

William "Dick" Haggerty  
Robert J. Sullivan

Mary Jane Short  
Jacob W. Zimmerman

**Magnolia**



Ethel Quillen

Nelson Quillen

Wilson Wilgus

**SEAFORD FIRE CO**

Anna Penuel

Leroy Wheatley

**SELBYVILLE**

Dorothy Pepper

**TALLEYVILLE FIRE CO**

Patricia Hague

William A. Hague, III

Martha Hayes

Willard F. Preston, Jr.

Edward M. Ryan

**TOWNSEND FIRE CO.**

Edna Howell

**VOLUNTEER HOSE FIRE CO**

Lillian "Mom-Mom" Campbell

Wesley Daubert

**WILMINGTON MANOR FIRE CO**

Senator Robert Conner

Ernest Rehal

Margaret Schnee

*After a Moment of Silence, "Taps" was played by the U.S. Army Band, followed by the Benediction by Chaplain Howard Eck.*

**DVFA LUNCHEON**

**RUDDERTOWN CONVENTION CENTER, DEWEY BEACH**

Following the Memorial Service, lunch was served. Master of Ceremonies was President Emeritus Norman L. Tate. A welcome was extended by Mr. Tate, followed by a musical presentation by the U.S. Continental Army Band and Invocation by Chaplain Rev. David Paul. Mr. Tate announced that the luncheon was in honor of Past President E. Reynolds Bradley and in memory of Jack Northam (Laurel) and Roger Wix (Farmington), two very active Conference people.

Mr. Tate announced that Mellon Bank was the sole sponsor of the luncheon. He welcomed Donna Cuffee from Mellon Bank, who extended their appreciation to the Association for all its accomplishments. She then presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to President Hojnicky. Mr. Hojnicky then presented Mellon Bank with a plaque of gratitude and appreciation for their many contributions to the Association.

Attorney General Jane Brady gave special thanks to Delaware's volunteer fire service for coming to her rescue during two accidents in which she was involved this past year. She also extended her gratitude to the Greenwood Fire Co. for their assistance during a trip to Washington, D.C.

Governor Thomas R. Carper presented an update of the financial condition of the State of Delaware; he hopes to recommend further reductions for the taxpayer. There are over 300,000 businesses that are incorporated in the State of Delaware; welfare is down dramatically; toxic emissions are down; he thanked both parties of the General Assembly for the cooperation they both shared this year; and he is enormously proud of the volunteer firemen and its ladies auxiliaries.

Senator Roth reiterated that it is always a pleasure to attend this Conference; everyone in the State of Delaware feels safe and secure with the service that the volunteer firemen provide. The IRS does not fully understand the meaning of the word "service" - what he has found is an office which is abusive in the treatment of its taxpayer; it is a troubled agency that too often takes the approach that the typical American is a tax cheater and nothing is further from the truth. The IRS should be a volunteer organization that treats the taxpayer equally. Senator Roth pledged that he will not be satisfied until all law abiding citizens are treated in a friendly, civil manner. We all have the right of respect. He is proud of the tax cut that has been granted; a tax relief has been provided for education. Senator Roth recognized President Hojnicky, who served as Co-chair of the CFS caucus, with a certificate of appreciation.

Senator Biden lauded Senator Roth for his perseverance with the IRS investigation; he appreciates the work of the volunteer fire service and the many friendships that he has formed throughout the years.

Jeff Dayton of Representative Castle's office, presented a tribute to President Hojnicky for the fine work he has accomplished this year. Insurance Commissioner Donna Lee Williams spoke about how much she appreciates the work of the volunteer fire service. Auditor Thomas Wagner apologized for not making some of the fire service meetings this past year; asked each fire company to use his report in their fund raising efforts; and thanked Mellon Bank for their support.

Other honored guests in attendance were: former Governors David Buckson and Sherman Tribbitt; Senators George Bunting, Robert Voshell and Nancy Cook; Representatives John Schroeder, Bruce Ennis, Chuck Welch, Charles West, Shirley Price, Robert Quillen, George Carey and Biff Lee; New Castle Co. Executive Thomas Gordon; Secretary of Public Safety, Karen Johnson; New Castle Co. Police, Col. John Cunningham; Chief, City of Wilmington, Jim Wilmer; Director, Division of Public Health, Dr. Greg Sylvester; Sussex County Council, Finley Jones and Lynn Rogers; Sussex County Administrator, Bob Stickels, who presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 which is to be used towards the Memorial Service; Emergency Operations, Joe Thomas; Delaware State Fire School Staff; State Fire Marshal's Office; State Fire Prevention Commission members; and the following Past Presidents: Arthur Jones, John Bare, Morris King, Frank King, Richard Mitchell, Elmer Steele, Harry Warner, William "Ace" Carrow, Raymond McCall, Richard Ennis, William Lowe, Lawrence Mergenthaler, J. Allen Metheny, Lynn Rogers, Roland Neeman, William Walton, Sr., William Paskey, Clarence Schwatka.

FEMA Director Rita Calvan reiterated how much she appreciated the work of the volunteer fire service and she saluted the families who support the firemen. CFSI Executive Director Bill Webb stated that Delaware brings the largest group to Washington every year; he presented a photograph to President Hojnicky which was taken at the annual meeting and thanked him for his support.

Chairman, Delaware Fire Prevention Commission, Greg Haley presented a resolution of appreciation to Past Presidents Lynn Rogers and J. Allen Metheny for their work with the Commission.



Special thanks were extended to Carol Everhart of the Rehoboth/Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce; Director of Sales, Ruddertown Karen Zakarian; Delaware River & Bay Authority Larry Sharp; Rehoboth Beach Mayor, Sam Cooper and City Manager, Greg Ferese; Rehoboth Beach Chief, Chuck Snyder; and Dewey Beach Mayor, Bob Frederick, who presented a proclamation designating the week of September 24-27, 1997 as "*Fire Prevention Week*". Also, thanks were given to Conference Co-chairs Bill Bell and Marvin Sharp.

President Hojnicky presented Bill Bell with a clock of the State of Delaware in appreciation of his dedicated work with the past three Conferences. President Hojnicky also lauded Norman Tate and Marvin Sharp as unsung heroes. Norman Tate thanked Jim Cabbage, Steve Austin, Dick Mitchell and Jack Ryan for their tiring hours of support.

Out-of-State Coordinator, Steve Austin recognized the following out-of-state guests: Chief Ronnie Bobblett, Nelson County, KY Fire Dept.; Harley Shuford, Asheville, NC Fire Dept.; Board Chairman Jim Reardon, Keystone Fire Chiefs Assoc.; Past President Earl Moser, Firemens Assoc. of PA; President Phil Horbert, International Assoc. of Arson Investigators; President Ray Truax, Delaware Valley Fire Chiefs Assoc.; members of Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemens Assoc. the Maryland State Firemens Assoc., the Berkeley Springs, WV Fire Dept; and the Volunteer Fire Company of Halfway, MD; President Norman Rice, VA State Firefighters Assoc.; Chief Fire Marshal Bert Parker, Del. County, PA Firemens Assoc.; Director Joe Deeny, Del. Valley Fire Chiefs Assoc.; Chief Paul Hartstein, Camden Co., NJ Fire Marshal; 2nd Vice President Lee Butcher, NJ State Fire Chiefs Assoc.; Kenneth Farrall, Fire Marshal of Newark; Vice President Tony O'Neill, National Fire Prevention Assoc.; Past Exec. Director Pat Patterson, CFSI; Executive Director Bill Webb, CFSI; Division Chief Cynthia Sears and Officer Natalie Duran, Metro Dade Fire & Rescue Dept.; Asst. Chief Raymond Lehy, Baltimore City Fire Dept.; President Vaughn Donaldson, Permian Basis, TX CISM Team; Harley Shuford, Asheville, NC Fire Dept. and Erin Conklin, Asheville, NC.; Rob Book, Senator Roth's office; Gregg Gross, Congressman Castle's office; Kevin Smith, Senator Biden's office; Leon Wegman and George Greenley, Chairmen Convention '88 & '91.

President Hojnicky publicly thanked everyone who participated in the Conference and how much it was a pleasure to serve as President of this organization. He announced that every firefighter is now insured with the new blanket insurance policy under the Mutual Relief.

The luncheon was concluded at 2:45 p.m. The benediction was offered by Chaplain Rev. David Paul.

## **INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 1997**

### **REHOBOTH BEACH CONVENTION CENTER**

Past President and Master of Ceremonies, M. Frank King called the Conference to order and requested that all officers of the DVFA and DVFALA be escorted to center stage.

Presidents Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr. and Barbara Lewis reconvened the Conference at 5:00 p.m. The invocation was led by Eleanor Shewbrooks, followed by the Pledge to the Flag, which was led by President Hojnicky. Past President Frank King asked that all Past Presidents to stand and be recognized, as they are the backbone of these organizations.

Presidents Hojnicky and Lewis jointly thanked the members of the DVFA, their respective fire companies and auxiliaries and their families for all the support they received this past year. All their time and dedication was sincerely appreciated.

Past President Sally Stevenson installed the following officers of the DVFALA for 1997-98, with Alberta Morris serving as Marshal:

President.....	Barbara Metheny (Hartly)
1st Vice President.....	Bonnie Workman (Bridgeville)
2nd Vice President.....	Eileen Doyle (Brandywine Hd.)
Secretary.....	Jackie Guzzo (Hockessin)
Asst. Secretary.....	Pam Ingle (Goodwill)
Treasurer.....	Betty Taylor (Harrington)
Asst. Treasurer.....	B.J. Caniford (Little Creek)

Past President M. Frank King installed the following officers of the DVFA for 1997-98:

President.....	Donald W. Knight (Magnolia)
1st Vice President.....	Michael H. Vincent (Seaford)
2nd Vice President.....	Stephen P. Austin (Aetna)
Secretary.....	James E. Turner, III
Treasurer.....	J. Allen Metheny (Hartly)
Director (3 years).....	Dale A. Callaway (Milton)
Director (1 year).....	Randy Roberts(Holloway Terrace)

President Barbara Metheny remarked that she is looking forward to this new experience; would like more auxiliary members to become involved with the Pre-school Fire Safety Education Program; encouraged as many auxiliaries as possible to participate in the upcoming Recruitment and Retention seminar at Emmitsburg, MD. Another goal is to help increase Scholarship money; she believes the relationship between the State Ladies and the State Firemens Assoc. has become a partnership. Our fire service is one of the best in the nation; we need to keep it #1.

President Donald W. Knight stated that he was privileged to serve this great organization and pledged his full support to move this organization forward in the coming year. He will continue our commitment of working with, and involving, our Ladies Auxiliary with our many programs. They are a vital part of this Association. He then presented each of the incoming and outgoing officers of the DVFALA with flowers; introduced his family, the Magnolia Fire Co. and its Ladies Auxiliary, the family of Mary Louise Conley and Levy Court Commissioner, Jack Peterman. He announced his priorities for the ensuing year; stressed working together as a team; plans to appoint an ad hoc committee to explore the feasibility of a full-time Administrative Assistant to the DVFA. The fire service today is a business, a huge business, and must be approached as such. Financial management of this Association will be a priority issue next year. Fiscal responsibility is a trait that he has practiced and

managed at Station 55. The time has come to update the Constitution and By-laws.

President Knight announced the following appointments:

Assistant Secretary.....	William R. Carrow (Clayton)
Legislative Lobbyist.....	John L. Mitchell (Elsmere)
Chaplain.....	Rev. David Paul
Assistant Chaplains.....	Howard Eck (Five Points) Walt Lamon (Clayton) Rev. Hudson (Millsboro)
Nat'l Vol. Fire Council.....	E. James Monihan (Lewes)
Alternate.....	J. Allen Metheny (Hartly)
Out-of-State Coordinators.....	Stephen P. Austin James Cubbage (Clayton) Dale Callaway (Milton)
DE Children Fire Safety.....	Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr.
Foundation	(Minquadale)
Sargeant-at-Arms.....	Robert Johnson (Minquadale) Ira Huffman (Harrington) Willis H. Matthews(B.Beach)
Parliamentarians .....	Arthur Guessford (Odessa) Morris King (Hartly) Norman Batchelor(Millsboro)
Alternate.....	Willard Betts (Frederica)
Photographers.....	John Deputy (Carlisle) Leroy Calhoun (Harrington) Edward Klima (Aetna) Charles Snyder (Rehoboth)

President Knight urged everyone to attend the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service; welcomed any ideas or recommendations on improving the DVFA or Conference; thanked Frank King for serving as Installing Officer for the DVFA; and is looking forward to working with each and every one. He also extended deepest sympathy to the family of Mary Louise Conley and

to Past President Hojnicky in the loss of his aunt during this Conference.

Barbara Lewis was presented with her Past President's pin by her daughter, Vicki. Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr. was presented with his Past President's pin by his wife, Irene.

Past President Sally Stevenson thanked Virginia Yeager, retiring Secretary, for her dedication for the past nine years. She was pinned with the Past Secretary's pin by her mother.

Gifts were bestowed to the incoming officers of the DVFA and DVFALA by their respective fire companies, Ladies Auxiliaries, families and friends.

Past President Barbara Lewis moved and seconded to close the DVFALA Conference. Motion carried.

### **GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Bob Johnson asked that a car and credit card be provided the President of the DVFA each year.

There being no further business, Donald Knight moved and seconded to close the 1997 DVFA Conference. Motion carried. Conference '97 closed at 6:30 p.m. The benediction was delivered by Chaplain Robert Sweetman, Jr., followed by the retiring of the colors by the Sussex County Fire Police Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice S. Yerkes  
Recording Secretary  
Conference '97