

**DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
SEPTEMBER 22-27, 2003**

**DVFA & LADVFA OPENING CEREMONIES  
Thursday, September 2, 2003**

The Opening Ceremonies of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference were called to order by Master of Ceremonies and Conference Chairman, Warren Jones. All Past Presidents of the DVFA and LADVFA, along with Presidents Emeritus, were escorted to their seats. Mr. Jones reflected on the traditions of the fire service. Delaware is well known and well respected throughout this great country of ours. He then introduced the current officers of the DVFA, President Jasper Lakey; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Marvin Sharp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Raymond Stevens; and LADVFA, President, Patricia McCall; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Nancy Green and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Joyce Figgs. He extended a special thank you to Past President John (Jack) V. Ryan, Jr., who was celebrating his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Education has taken another level this year with almost 500 people participating in seminars, workshops, and hands-on training. The camaraderie has been overwhelming. Today is the day we honor our people and thank them for their service. He then introduced the Presidents of the following Associations: Mike Rush, Jr., State Fire Chiefs Assoc; Harold Ennis, Sr., State Fire Police; Mike McMichael, III, State Ambulance Association; Chairman, State Fire Prevention Commission, Kenneth McMahon; State Fire Marshal, Willard F. Preston, III, and Director, State Fire School, Joseph Murabito.

The colors were presented by the New Castle County Color Guard. The National Anthem was sung by the Thomas McKean High School choir, followed by the pledge of allegiance, which was led by Presidents Jasper Lakey and Patricia McCall and the invocation was offered by Rev. David Paul. Mr. Jones noted that we want to honor a special group --- the people and faces in our Delaware fire service. September 11, 2001 affected all our lives. The choir followed by singing *America the Beautiful* and the *Voice of Freedom*.

President Jasper Lakey welcomed everyone to the Opening Ceremonies. The young people here today are an inspiration to the future of our country. We are here for the camaraderie. He asked everyone to enjoy the conference. LADVFA President Patricia McCall welcomed everyone, thanked the Conference Executive Committee and wished everyone a great conference. Mr. Jones acknowledged the Executive Committee for their hard and dedicated work during the year.

Past President Steve Austin introduced keynote speaker, Dr. Harry Carter (internationally known fire protection consultant from New Jersey). Dr. Carter noted that the fire service has been his life - his whole family is involved. We are a special kind of people. In the volunteer fire service, we have to be ready. Why are there so few faces of young people in the fire service? The young people want the older firefighters to spend

some time with them to teach them common sense things. They need to learn from the older firemen. There are some serious problems facing the fire service. There has to be a spark to bring the young people into the fire service. What will the world be like 100 years from now? Somebody has to take your place.

Warren Jones encouraged everyone to support and thank the exhibitors and sponsors who are attending this year's conference.

President Emeritus, Bruce Ennis, Chairman Resolutions Committee, presented resolutions to the following 50 Year Members: **New Castle Co:** STA 11 - Robert T. Peterson; STA 15 - Waldemar W. Poppi, Sr.; STA 17 - G. Robert Bossert, William A. Lewis, Sr. ; STA 22 - George Blundt, Cullen Edwards, Sr., Edward Hojnicky, Sr.; **Kent Co:** STA 43 - O. Lewis Collins, James A. Johnson, Wilbert Kipp, Charles W. Reynolds, Jr.; STA 44 - George E. Bradley, Merrill E. Brittingham. David L. Jacobs, James A. Mood, Leon F. Morris, C. Albert O'Neal, Jr. and George D. Whaley; STA 46 - James E. Hurley, Jr. and John M. Hurd, Jr.; STA 52 - John F. Sapp and Richard A. Yost; **Sussex Co:** STA 76 - Hurley Littleton, Ray W. Wells; STA 81 - Lawrence Elliott, Frank Ward; STA 82 - Ralton Dennis; STA 86 - Dennard Quillen.

Civilian Recognition Awards were presented to the following: Adam Meadows, Michael Fields, Jeremiah Deputy, Eileen Honaker, Kirk Blackbird and Lloyd Golt.

The following were inducted into Hall of Fame by Charles Emerson: Norman Tate (Seaford); Naomi Rickards (Lewes); David Snell (Marydel); Derrick Brode (Harrington), Kenneth Brode (Harrington); William Lewis (Five Points) and Past President, Dale Callaway (Milton).

The following were inducted into the Ladies Hall of Recognition by Lynn Warner: Beulah Schwatka (Townsend); Kathleen Montague (Harrington); Janet Lee (Laurel); and Past President Shirley Joseph (Ellendale).

George Kerr and C. Rod O'Neal, Co-Chairs, Scholarship Committee, presented scholarships to the following:

- Chris Jones Memorial Award - Nelson Bunting
- LADVFA Past Presidents Memorial Award - Kristin King
- Delaware State Chiefs Award - George Wallace
- Past Presidents Sussex Co. Ladies Auxiliary,  
Arnold Blankenship Award - Gabriella Evans
- Kent Co. Ladies Auxiliary, Hartly and Cheswold  
James Roy Memorial Scholarship - Jesse Smith
- New Castle Co. Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship - Lori Stone
- Minquadale Fire Co., Joseph Hojnicky, Sr. Award - George Hughes-Strange
- Christiana Fire Co., Bonnie Benshelter and Eric Skabicki Award - Kristin Marin
- Past Chiefs Club and Pruitt Award - Wade Walton

- Conectiv: Stephanie Calloway, Michelle Smith and Amy Trowbridge

Carleton Carey, Chairman, Fireman of the Year Committee, presented awards for Non-Heroic Fireman of the Year to Raymond H. McCall (Christiana) and Charles A. Austin (Aetna).

Christina Reeder closed the opening ceremonies by singing *God Bless America*, at which time the U.S. Marine Band marched into the room, accompanied her and then played several patriotic selections to a standing ovation.

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **2003 DVFA CONFERENCE**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

#### **83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention**

President Jasper Lakey convened the business meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association at 11:45 a.m. Rev. David Paul, Chaplain, offered the invocation, followed by the salute to the flag by Past President Morris W. King. President Lakey noted that the Opening Ceremony was outstanding.

A motion by Past President James Cubbage, seconded by Past President Edwin Barlow, to accept the previous minutes as written. Motion carried.

### **Conference Appointments by the President**

- Credentials: Richard F. Weaver, 20; H. Glenn Neese, III, 41; and Charles H. Snyder, 86.
- Sergeant at Arms: Ken Pyle, 24; Charles Neel, 15; Steve Ellingsworth, 42; J. Wallace Hudson, 45; Hal Barber, 70 and Matt Dotterer, 85.
- Flowers & Telegrams: Edwin S. Barlow, 20; Donald Knight, 55; and John E. Bare, Sr., 76.
- Committee to visit Ladies Auxiliary Association Meeting: William G. Walton, Sr., 16; John E. Bare, Sr., 76 and Roland Neeman, 48.
- Parliamentarians: Morris W. King, 51, Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr., 22 and Norman Batchelor, 83.

### **Conference Ground Rules and Conduct**

**No Hats and No Smoking in the Hall.** In order to speak, rise and be recognized by the Chair. Prior to addressing the Conference, state your name and the fire company you are representing.

Richard Weaver, Credentials Committee, reported that there was 100% participation from all fire companies in the State. A motion by Richard Weaver, seconded by Past President Lawrence Mergenthaler to accept the Credentials Report as the roll call. Motion carried. Participants not registered as Officers, Past Presidents, Guests, Delegates or Alternates are requested to sign the Attendance Book.

Past President, Steve Austin, submitted the following Out-of-State Coordinators Report: Visitors in attendance are from Rhode Island, West Virginia and Virginia. He introduced Immediate Past President of the West Virginia Firemens Assoc., Danny Goodwin; Immediate Past President of the Cumberland Valley Firemens Assoc., C. J. Bens; and from the DelMarVA Firemens Assoc., James Rowley. A motion by Past President, James Cubbage, seconded by Past President Edwin Barlow, to accept this report as the Interim Report of out-of-state visitors. Motion carried.

The following delegation from the LADVFA brought greetings and congratulations to the Conference Committee, which they are enjoying immensely: Past Presidents Peg Scarpitti, Marie Moore, and Sally Stevenson.

### **Reading of Communications**

**INSERT**

A motion by Past President James Cubbage, seconded by Past President Edwin Barlow, that the communications be accepted and spread upon the minutes. Motion carried.

### **Report of Officers**

President Jasper Lakey: I have attended 61 functions, spent 281.5 hours and traveled 5,183 miles for the DVFA. For the year, I have attended 272 functions, spent 1,119.5 hours and traveled 21,967 miles representing the DVFA. The following are some of the functions and events I have attended.

I would like to thank all those companies that have invited Louise and me to your banquets and appreciation nights. We really had a great time and will never forget the friendships that we made. I would like to touch on a few things that made me proud to be your President: Attending the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service held in Washington, DC. It was an outstanding program.; our meetings with the Governor and the support that she gave the fire service during the past year in a time of financial difficulties; the working together of our fire companies to give the best emergency service to the citizens of Delaware.

By the Millville Fire Co. putting an ambulance in the Bethany Beach Fire Co. station during the summer months to help with the EMS service; the Lewes and Rehoboth Fire companies opening up Station #3 on Rt. 24 as a joint station, which may be a first in

the nation; the Talleyville, Claymont and Brandywine Hundred Fire Companies going together in their EMS service to protect their district, and many more like situations from our service.

To the *Wake-Up Delaware* Committee for the countless hours they have spent in giving away more than 15,000 smoke detectors to our citizens to keep them safe. To the DFVA partnering with the State Office of Volunteers to encourage all Delawareans to participate in community service. To all those who attended the Governor's Fire Safety Conference, fire prevention should remain our number one priority.

To of those who went to Crawford, TX to present some fire apparatus to the Crawford Vol. Fire Co., and the other fire companies that presented fire apparatus to other states that need assistance. Delaware is a small state, but it has a big heart when it comes to helping those that need help.

To those who attended the DVFA Legislative Night, it was a great success. To those who attended the *Support Our Troops Rally* held in Dover on March 30 in weather that was against us, but we still showed up. To those who attended the FDIC and attended the Delaware Night Reception, we had more than 600 in attendance. To attend out-of-state conferences and hear the good things that these State associations say about the Delaware fire service and the way we run our Association. These are just a few of the things that made me proud to be your President.

I want to thank all the Past Presidents of this Association for the help that you have given me over the past year. It is you, the Past Presidents, who have made this Association one of the best in the country.

I have a few recommendations that I would like for the DVFA to continue to address:

1. Continue to improve on the 800 radio system, to the point of getting in-building coverage.
2. Continue to seek funding for our EMS service and training.
3. Have a lapel pin and ribbon for the uniform made up for the Heroic Fireman of the Year Award winners. I suggest that Mike Rush be made Chairman of the Committee.
4. Have a ring designed for the Past President and be presented to all of the Past Presidents of the DVFA. I suggest that our new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President be made Chairman of this committee.
5. Continue requesting that the Fire Marshal and the Fire School staffing be removed from the hiring freeze.

I want to thank the officers and members of the Delaware City Vol. Fire Co. and Ladies Auxiliary for all the support that they have given to me over the past year. No one can run for this office without the support of your fire company.

To the officers and members of the New Castle Volunteer Firemen's Assoc. for their support. To the Kent County and Sussex County Firemen's Assoc. for all the recognition that you gave to me when I attended your meetings. To Marvin, Ray, Allen and Jim, thanks for all the support that you have given to me during the past year.

To the Membership: Thank you for allowing me to serve you during the past year. It has been the highlight of my life. God bless you all.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Marvin Sharp: I have attended 37 functions, including fire prevention events, DVFA officer, county and my company meetings. I have traveled 2,821 miles and have spent 181 hours doing so. To date, while serving as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, I have traveled 21,356 miles and spent 1,483.5 hours representing the fire service. Donna and I have, and will attempt to, attend as many of the fundraisers that you sponsor. We enjoy seeing old friends, as well as making new friends. We would also like to thank the many companies that have extended an invitation during this past year to your annual banquets and ladies night.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their time and effort to make this conference the success that it has been so far. Special thanks go out to the members who have served on the committees with countless hours of work, worry and sweat. To the many members that attended the seminars the past 3 days, thank you for attending and making them a success. They can only improve with your participation and honest critique of them.

I hope all members of the DVFA will continue to support both FDIC and CFSI. Remember, attending this allows the fire service of Delaware to stay on the cutting edge.

Jasper, you have worked many long hours over the past 12 months representing the DVFA, keep up the good work. I have enjoyed serving as your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, even when we didn't quite agree on something. Thank you for being open-minded.

Thank you to my LADVFA colleague, Nancy Green. Nancy, you have been wonderful to work and travel with. Your hard work on the local, county and state level shows that you lead by example in whatever you undertake.

I could not close this report without thanking the members of the Carlisle Fire Co. officers and members. You have been nothing but a class act. You are a great group of dedicated public servants.

I thank you for the honor of serving as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the DVFA. God bless you and God bless our troops as they defend our freedom that we all enjoy daily.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Raymond T. Stevens: I would like to submit my fourth quarter report to the Officers and members of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association covering the months of June, July and August 2003 as follows:

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Meetings attended since June 1, 2003 ..... | 34     |
| Miles traveled .....                       | 4,497  |
| Number of Hours .....                      | 236.50 |

**Recap of Quarterly Reports:**

| <u>First Quarter.</u> | <u>Sept.</u> | <u>Oct.</u> | <u>Nov.</u> | <u>Totals</u> |               |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Meetings Attended     | 3            | 14          | 10          | 27            |               |
| Miles Traveled        | 894          | 1,475       | 1,245       | 3,614         |               |
| Number of Hours       | 55.00        | 45.25       | 50.00       | 150.25        |               |
|                       |              |             |             |               | <b>Y-T-D</b>  |
| <u>Second Quarter</u> | <u>Dec.</u>  | <u>Jan.</u> | <u>Feb.</u> | <u>Totals</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
| Meetings Attended     | 11           | 15          | 9           | 35            | 62            |
| Miles Traveled        | 1,320        | 1,493       | 525         | 3,338         | 6,952         |
| Number of Hours       | 60.00        | 61.00       | 32.50       | 153.50        | 303.75        |

**Y-T-D**

| <u>Third Quarter</u> | <u>Mar.</u> | <u>April</u> | <u>May</u> | <u>Totals</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Meetings Attended    | 18          | 16           | 10         | 44            | 106           |
| Miles Traveled       | 1,606       | 2,667        | 967        | 4,240         | 11,192        |
| Number of Hours      | 71.50       | 140.0        | 38.0       | 249.50        | 553.25        |

**Y-T-D**

| <u>Fourth Quarter</u> | <u>June</u> | <u>July</u> | <u>Aug.</u> | <u>Totals</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Meetings Attended     | 15          | 9           | 10          | 34            | 140 **        |
| Miles Traveled        | 1,416       | 668         | 2,413       | 4,497         | 15,689 **     |
| Number of Hours       | 63.50       | 29.50       | 143.50      | 236.50        | 789.75 **     |

**Annual Conventions and Conferences Attended:**

I had the pleasure of attending, (along with other DVFA officers) the;

- a. Maryland State Firemen's Convention in Ocean City, MD.
- b. West Virginia Firemen's Convention in Vienna, W. VA., and, the
- c. Virginia State Firemen's Conference in Roanoke, VA.

We enjoyed the friendship and warm hospitality given to us at each of the conventions. We also extend very warm greetings to those guests from other states attending our conference. Should you need anything, don't hesitate to ask.

**Governor Minner's Annual Picnic:**

I, along with the other chair officers had the pleasure of helping with Governor Minner's annual picnic in August. According to Marvin, the Governor was very appreciative of our showing up to help at the affair.

**Georgetown Fire Company's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, I attended and presented to the Georgetown Vol. Fire Co, a resolution from the DVFA recognizing them on their 100 years of dedicated service and commitment to the citizens of Georgetown.

**Insurance Premim Taxes, (Fire & Casualty)**

Fiscal Year 2003's insurance premium taxes, (statewide, including the City of Wilmington, NCC, Kent and Sussex Counties) was up by a grand total of \$2,031,647 or 14.2 percent above Fiscal Year 2002's funding.

This coupled with our **not losing any funds in this year's Grant-In-Aid Bill** speaks well for the fire service here in Delaware during tight budget times everywhere.

Once again, we need to thank Representatives Biff Lee and Bruce Ennis for all their hard work on behalf of the DVFA.

**RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENTS:**

I would like to take just a moment to recognize;

Mike Rush, President, State Fire Chief's Association

Mike McMichael, President, State Ambulance Association

Harold Ennis, President, State Fire Police Association

Gentlemen, you have done an outstanding job as leaders of your respective associations and I commend you for all of your hard work and dedication during this past year.

**Table Officers:**

To Jim Cabbage, Executive Secretary, and Allen Metheny, Treasurer, I have enjoyed working with you during this past year and look forward to next year.

**Chair Officers:**

To my fellow chair officers;

President Jasper Lakey, and

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Marvin Sharp

This has truly been a rewarding year for me. Each of you has taken me under your wing and guided me throughout the year. We have logged many miles and hours together in achieving what was necessary for the good of the DVFA. To each of you, I thank you for your time and patience in showing me the ropes, so to speak, as you both have prepared me to progress through the chairs of the DVFA.

Marvin, as incoming President, I pledge my support to you in our pursuit of the goals, objectives and mission of the DVFA and our member companies. I look forward to working with you.

Jasper, as out-going President, I would like to say that you have done an excellent job at the helm. You have steered the DVFA in the right direction and the Association will reap the rewards of your leadership during this past year. You have set a standard that both Marvin and I can only hope to achieve during our terms of office. In traveling and



attending meetings with you throughout the year, you have displayed a truly fine example of kindness, and caring for others around you. I can truly say, that you are a man of principle, but has a tender heart. God bless you in your future endeavors and please stay close to the phone.

**Selbyville Volunteer Fire Co.**

I would like to take this moment to sincerely thank the Officers and members of the Selbyville Volunteer Fire Co. for their support this past year. Without their help and support, I could not have started through the chairs of the DVFA.

Treasurer, J. Allen Metheny, Sr.: It gives me great pleasure to present the Treasurer's Report for the period June 1, 2003 through September 15, 2003. My report includes both the Operations and the Conference activities of the Association. I am pleased to note that due to the "Initiative 2000" program that was approved four years ago, the financial status of the organization is improving.

I closed the books for both the operations and conference accounts as of June 30, 2003 and turned them over to our certified public accountants for the annual audit. In addition, I met with the Budget Committee and the officers to develop the FY 2004 budget for approval today. You will get a full report on both of these items under the proper of business from the Chairman of the Budget and Audit Committee.

If anyone has any questions, please see me. I thank you for the confidence you have in me to be your Treasurer and I look forward to continuing to serve the DVFA. Hopefully, everyone will have an excellent Conference.

Executive Secretary James L. Cabbage, Jr.: It is my duty and privilege to submit a brief report on the activities of the office.

The office is in receipt of all registration information for all conference activities and the information has been forwarded to the respective committee chairs.

A copy of legislative activities affecting the fire service was distributed at each respective county meeting and was self-explanatory. I also interact with legislators, the Minner administration, and their staffs on a regular basis to assist in improving the Delaware fire service.

It has been a very trying year with the problems we have had with our web page and our computer systems, but I am happy to report that both are well on their way to being operational.

The only constant in the office is our part-time administrative officer, Kim Turner. Her dedication, enthusiasm and support are appreciated more than she will ever know by the entire fire service.

A motion by Past President James Cubbage, seconded by Joseph Vattilana, to accept all reports, as written, and recommendations requiring action be brought up under the proper order of business. Motion carried.

### **Reports of Affiliated Associations**

National Volunteer Fire Council, J. Allen Metheny, Sr.:

**\*INSERT**

State Fire Chiefs - Edward M. Rush, Jr.: It has been wonderful to serve as President this past year. He thanked Past President Steve Austin for arranging the speaker for the Chiefs meeting and Cheswold Fire Co. for hosting the meeting. He will submit his report at the Chiefs meeting. He noted that J. Allen Metheny and Jim Cubbage do a lot of work behind the scene and deserve a lot of credit.

State Fire Police - Harold Ennis, Sr. - No report

State Ambulance Assoc. - W. Michael McMichael - Thanked the officers for their support; announced that William Trowbridge is now the President of the Ambulance Assoc.

DVFA Foundation - Past President Steve Austin - Announced that accounts have been established. If anyone would like to make a donation in memory of someone, there is an endowment account established for this purpose. They are working on a golf tournament. This money will be wisely invested.

Mutual Relief Assoc. - Daniel P. Burris, Sr. - No report

State Fire Prevention Commission - Kenneth McMahon - (1) DFIRS is 100% compliant across the State. Need to continue to turn in reports. (2) Governor's Fire Safety Conference is Friday, Oct. 3. (3) Delaware will be hosting the Mid-Atlantic Commissioner's Conference in Rehoboth Beach on Oct. 16-18. (4) We have signed a memo of understanding with Mid-Sussex Rescue Squad to enhance information sharing between them and us. A financial advisory group has been assigned to them. (5) H.B. 308 - the Commission continues to monitor and keep in contact with DVFA on status of this bill. We have gone on record as opposing the legislation regarding the EMT's. (6) **\*Mike Sniedum (sp?)** from EMS, who has worked with Eden since its inception, has taken a position in another state. We have informed DEMSOC and OEMS how important it was to fill this position as soon as possible. (7) As part of HB 332, a Data Assessment Committee was required. This Committee is to be composed of one from each county, is to meet twice a year to go over data and make sure HB 332 requirements are being met. To my knowledge, although we have the names for the committees, they have not met yet. This needs to happen to meet the requirements of HB 332. (8) Commissioner Daugherty was in hospital recently. He is home and doing well.

1720 Committee - Kenneth McMahon - (1) 1720 2003 Edition is out for public comments until Oct. 10. (2) Committee will meet in December to over comments. (3) 1720 2003 Edition was passed out to all companies in February and March. (4) New edition will be voted on at NFPA Conference in May in Salt Lake City. (5) At this time, no company has asked any questions about this standard.

State Fire Marshal - Willard F. Preston, III - Had a very successful year; thanked the DVFA for all the help he has been given, especially with the hiring freeze.

State Fire School - Joseph L. Murabito - They are financially stable; are able to provide training at no additional cost. They have added several new courses; continue to promote certification throughout the State; working very hard with the *Wake Up Delaware* Program; training firefighters in the use of weapons of mass destruction. He was glad to be a partner in the seminars presented at Conference.

### **Committee Reports**

Finance and Audit - George Pyott - Books have been audited by Raymond F. Book & Co. and found to be in order. The budget has been prepared for 2004; attempted to honor all requests. The budget is in the amount of \$1,337,288, of which \$277,788 is the operating budget. They were able to fund the Ladies Auxiliary Pre-School Fire Prevention Program; the start-up of a new web page; the office of the Executive Secretary with a one-time expense of \$10,000 for purchasing and setting up new computer, and extra expenses incurred by the Conference. The Executive Secretary and his assistant do a tremendous amount of work. Money has been transferred from savings to balance the budget.

Delaware Fire Service News - Sal DeVivo - Today is a day of mixed emotions. The newspaper is going into its 7<sup>th</sup> year. It has grown tremendously during this time. The Delaware fire service has made this newspaper one of the best in the nation. He is passing on the "writing pen" to Warren Jones and Tom Metten. He thanked everyone for being a "first class act".

Life Safety Committee - Guy Hudson - Fire prevention is right around the corner; schools should have their packets; annual awards ceremony will be in December.

### **Nomination of Officers**

President - Marvin C. Sharp - (letter received) Nominated by: Steve Ellingsworth, seconded by John McKenzie, both of Carlisle. A motion by Tom Cristoforo (Claymont), seconded by Richard Winchell (Camden), that the nomination for President be closed. Motion carried.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Raymond T. Stevens, Jr. (letter received) Nominated by: Howard Pepper, seconded by Bob Eckman, both of Selbyville. A motion by Guy Hudson

(Roxana), seconded by Walt Reynolds (Lewes), that the nomination for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President be closed. Motion carried.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Kennard L. Pyle (letter received) Nominated by: Sue Merring (Odessa), seconded by Brian Burge (Volunteer Hose). A motion by Jim Barlow (Wilmington Manor), seconded by Tom D'Alessandro (Christiana), that the nomination for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President be closed. Motion carried.

Treasurer: J. Allen Metheny (letter received) Nominated by: Clarence R. O'Neal, Jr., seconded by Billie Fisher, both of Hartly. A motion by Clint Morris (Hartly), seconded by Dave Snell (Marydel) that the nomination for Treasurer be closed. Motion carried.

Director, Sussex County (3 years): James W. King (letter received) Nominated by: Robert Ricker, seconded by Rodney Marvel, both of Georgetown. A motion by Walt Reynolds (Lewes), seconded by Richard Ward (Millsboro), that the nomination for Director, Sussex Co. be closed. Motion carried.

#### **Unfinished Business** - None

#### **New Business**

Jim Barlow (Wilmington Manor) is concerned with Conference being held at the Sheraton every year, as various fire companies are increasingly being evicted from their rooms to make room for the military. This makes it very difficult for these companies to find other rooms in the Dover area. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Jim Barlow, seconded by Tom D'Alessandro, urging the incoming President to appoint a Site Committee to look into finding another place to hold the Conference. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Sharp noted that this is being researched; but added, that it would be very, very difficult to move the Conference to some other area. However, he hopes to have a final report by the December meeting. Past President Hojnicky felt that the date needs to be maintained no matter where it's held. Richard Winchell had a problem with terminating with the Sheraton. After lengthy discussion, motion carried.

A motion by Kenneth McMahon, seconded by Past President Lawrence Mergenthaler, that the recommendations of the President be accepted. Motion carried.

A motion by Kenneth McMahon, seconded by Jim Barlow, that the incoming President's recommendations be accepted. Motion carried.

Bruce Ennis, Chairman, Resolutions Committee, submitted the following resolutions for approval: Honoring the men and women of the Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office on the occasion of 50 years of dedicated service to the State of Delaware and the volunteer fire service of Delaware. Awarding "*Civilian Recognition Awards*" to the following individuals who have rendered outstanding and dedicated service to their community, their County, their State and the Volunteer Fire Service: Adam T. Meadows,

Wilmington, DE; Michael Fields and Jeremiah A. Deputy of Felton, DE; Alene Honecker and Kirk Blackburn of Beebe Medical Center; and Lloyd Golt of Milford DE.

A motion by Past President James Cubbage, seconded by Walter Reynolds, that all resolutions submitted by Resolutions Chairman, Bruce Ennis, be accepted. Motion carried.

A motion by George Pyott, seconded by Robert Yerkes, Jr., that the budget for FY 2004 be adopted. Motion carried. Past President Richard Ennis requested a comparison be made from year to year of the budget.

There being no contest, a motion by Tom D'Alessandro, seconded by Kenneth McMahon, to have President Lakey cast unanimous ballots for the offices of President, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Director for Sussex County for 3 years. Motion carried.

### **Payment of Bills**

Treasurer J. Allen Metheny submitted the following bills for payment:

**INSERT**

A motion by Tom D'Allesandro, seconded by Robert Romig, to pay the bills which have been submitted by the Treasurer. Motion carried.

President Jasper Lakey paid tribute to Kim Turner for her work during the past year. She was invaluable. He also urged everyone to please visit the exhibitors and thank them for attending the Conference.

Warren Jones, Conference Chairman, stated that he appreciated that approximately 500 people participated in the first three days of the Conference.

### **Good of the Association**

Jamie Turner, Director, DEMA, thanked everybody who assisted in any way with the flooding and with hurricane Isabel. They are opening up a Disaster Resource Center in Georgetown and St. Marks Methodist Church. They have close to 150 people from FEMA in Delaware now. He asked fire companies to document expenses during Isabel. The Feds will reimburse 75% of expenses.

Past President Joseph Hojnicky urged all member companies to attend the Mutual Relief meeting.

Ken Clendaniel invited everyone to join them in celebrating Cheswold's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Alan Robinson announced that smoke detector give-aways will be held on Oct. 22. He needs to know how many each company will need. He also announced that the Houses are at each fire school in the State for use.

There being no further business, the meeting recessed until 8:30 a.m., September 26, 2003 for the Memorial Service. The benediction was offered by Rev. David Paul.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Friday, September 26, 2003

8:30 a.m.

The Sheraton Conference Center  
Dover, Delaware

**IN MEMORY OF OUR  
VOLUNTEER FIREMEN  
AND  
LADIES AUXILIARIES**

**DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
AND**

**LADIES AUXILIARY CHOIR**

Directed by: Michael McHugh

Accompanist: Celeste Epstein

Drums: Kevin Brown, Seaford Fire Company

**Memorial Service**

**Opening Remarks** - Reverend David Paul, Chaplain

**Invocation** - Deacon Carl Dean, Chaplain

**Words of Comfort**

Betty Burge, Chaplain, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA

Rev. Arthur Titus, Chaplain

**Choral Arrangement**

**Unveiling of the Crosses**

Jasper Lakey, President, DVFA

Pat McCall, President, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA

Michael Rush, President, State Fire Chief's Association

Harold Ennis, President, State Fire Police Association

Mike McMichael, III, President, State Ambulance Association

Assisted by the DVFA and LADVFA Chaplains

## **Choral Arrangement**

### **Readings by The Ladies Auxiliary Presidents**

Pat McCall, President, Ladies Auxiliary, DVFA  
Vicki Knotts, President, Ladies Auxiliary New Castle County  
Debbie Zeroles, President, Ladies Auxiliary Kent County  
Saralee Stevens, President, Ladies Auxiliary Sussex County

## **Choral Arrangement**

### **Introduction of the Memorial Presentation**

Jackie Guzzo, Secretary, Ladies Auxiliary, DVFA  
James L. Cabbage, Jr., Executive Secretary, DVFA

### **The Memorial Presentation**

Edited and Produced by: **Delaware State Fire School**

### **Moment of Silence**

**Taps** - Firefighter Paul Eichler, Robbins Hose Co.  
**Benediction** - Reverend Robert J. Webster, Chaplain  
**Musical Selection** - Lt. Craig Weldon, NCC Police Dept.

### **Recessional**

## **DVFA LUNCHEON**

Master of Ceremonies, Past President Stephen P. Austin, welcomed everyone to the 2003 DVFA Luncheon. He announced that the luncheon was dedicated in memory of Past President E. Reynolds Bradley, and in honor of President Emeritus, Norman Tate. Pat Ward, CEO, Citizens Bank, presented a check in the amount of 10,000 to the DVFA. They value the relationship Citizens Bank has with the DVFA and want to be a good partner with the Delaware fire service.

Distinguished guests in attendance were: Senator Joseph Biden; Senator Thomas Carper; Congressman Michael Castle; Governor Ruth Ann Minner; Lt. Gov. John Carney; Attorney General Jane Brady; State Treasurer Jack Markell; State Senators Steve Amick, Dori Connor, Nancy Cook, Gary Simpson, John Still; House Speaker Terry Spence; Representatives Joseph Booth, Richard Cathcart, Joseph DiPinto, Bruce Ennis, Ben Ewing, Tina Fallon, Melanie George, Bethany Hall-Long, Gerald Hocker, Biff Lee, Peter Schwartzkopf, Stephanie Ulbrich and Nancy Wagner; Mayor Jim Hutchison; Kent and Sussex Counties Administrators, Robert Stickels and Robert McLeod.

Past President Austin announced the following award recipients for 2003: Heroic Emergency Medical Technicians of the Year: Denise Dill (Millville), Jeff Evans (Aetna) and John C. Wilson (Wilmington Manor); Firemen of the Year: Raymond H. McCall, Jr. (Christiana) and Charles W. Wollaston (Aetna); Outstanding Emergency Medical Technician: Dawson B. Hollinger (Magnolia); Fire Police Officer of the Year: Fred Bare (Gumboro); Heroic Firefighter of the Year: Wayne Ingram (Carlisle).

Governor Ruth Ann Minner presented the following remarks: It is a pleasure to be here. She is honored that her grandson was made Heroic Fireman of the Year. She related stories about him and his involvement with the fire service over the years. Firemen give of their time; she tells other Governors how good our fire service is in Delaware. The Fire School is outstanding; our firemen are well-trained. She needs to say thank you for all of the good you have done across the state. We will do all we can to support you. Her office and the General Assembly works well together - that makes a difference. She announced that an application with the Department of Homeland Security has been approved for funding for the radio system at Rehoboth in the amount of \$2,400,000. She will recommend to the General Assembly that a portion of the \$50,000,000 be used for the next phase of the 800 MHz system. This should be ongoing until this is completed and it is the best in the country. She is committed to help make these improvements.

Bruce Ennis presented resolutions to the following individuals: State Fire Marshal, Willard Preston honoring the men and women of the Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office on the occasion of 50 years of dedicated service to the State of Delaware and the volunteer fire service of Delaware; and Civilian Recognition Awards to Adam Meadows, Michael Fields, Jeremiah Deputy, Lloyd Golt, Alene Honecker and Kirk Blackburn.

President Lakey thanked everyone for all that has been done for him during the past year as President of the Association. He introduced the Delaware City Fire Co. members in attendance and thanked all the firemen in the State. He then paid tribute to Bill Webb, Director, CFSI, for being DVFA's biggest "cheerleader". He then presented him with a plaque making him an "Honorary Member of the DVFA".

\* Senator Biden congratulated President Lakey on his successful year. He announced that the fire caucus is working hard (lost the fight in Committee) in trying to make sure that funding is not cut. He is worried that this is a big mistake. He supported the \_\_\_\_\_ Fire Act, which provides for us to retain folks. It looks like it is being funded. We are going through a different period of time. We need to re-adjust how the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ He wants to avoid what is happening now regarding the first responders. This Act has the same capability as the "Cops Act".

Senator Carper noted that there is no greater honor than to serve this Association. He made reference to the reorganization of agencies into the Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS), i.e. taking the Fire Administration out of FEMA and putting it under the DHS. He



reviewed the grants that go to fire companies, noting that the applications are reviewed by firefighters. There is a great system. He has had the honor of going up and down the State looking at the storm damage and noticing the spirit of community and how we help our neighbors in Delaware - it is overwhelming. There were representatives from the states of Washington and Oregon helping us in our time of need. Delaware sets the example of helping a neighbor in need.

Congressman Castle commended President Lakey on being one of the most outstanding people in our State. He presented a tribute to him from the U.S. House of Representatives, which appeared in the *Congressional Record*, commending him for his service to the State of Delaware. Delaware's delegation works very hard in getting things done for Delaware. 911 has unleashed the real change in Delaware. They are being asked to provide \$87,000,000,000 for the military to aid in re-establishing Iraq. The Dept. of Homeland Security was the right way to go. We still have problems in Delaware with lines and trees still being down. Look at all you do in saving lives, saving injuries to the citizens in Delaware. He then honored Mr. Bill Chandler (92 years of age) commending him with 70 years of fire service, who has held almost every office at Carlisle Fire Co. He has had a tremendous career in helping the people in the Milford area. He then presented him with a tribute and pictures taken when he attended the CFSI dinner in April.

Lt. Gov. Carney noted that he has had a tremendous experience riding with the ambulance through the State. He is impressed with how you serve the residents that are in need every day, 36 days a year.

State Treasurer Markell noted that he also has been riding with the ambulance. It has changed his way of thinking about the fire service. The reason you focus on the big issues is the small issues that you deal with every day.

\* Attorney General Brady had another commitment but left a note that her office will co-sponsor legislation on CISM training for crisis response.

Mayor Hutchison noted that there is nobody more important than the volunteer fire service in the State of Delaware. Thank you for your service to the citizens of Delaware. There is nobody who does it better. Please come back to the City of Dover for your next Conference; we're proud to have you.

Executive Director, CFSI, Bill Webb thanked President Lakey for his work during the past year. He presented a certificate thanking the Delaware fire service.

Past President Austin announced that Citizens Bank and Conectiv would match any monies collected for the National Fallen Firefighters Assoc. and the DVFA Foundation. Past President Austin introduced fire service guests from Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. Terry Thompson, President, Maryland State Firemens Assoc. presented President Lakey with a gift from their Association. He noted that the relationship that Maryland has with Delaware cannot be surpassed.

There being no further business, Rev. David Paul offered the benediction.  
Conference 2003 recessed at 2:45 p.m.

## **JOINT INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

### **DVFA and LADVFA**

Friday, September 27, 2003, 5:00 p.m.  
Sheraton Hotel, Dover, DE

Master of Ceremonies  
Jamie Turner

Processional

### **Introduction of Officers**

#### **Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association**

President Jasper H. Lakey with Ivy Costango,  
President, Delaware City Ladies Auxiliary

President-elect Marvin C. Sharp & his wife Donna

1st Vice President-elect Raymond T. Stevens and his wife Sara Lee,  
LADVFA Treasurer

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-elect Kennard Pyle

Treasurer J. Allen Metheny DVFA Past President and his wife Barbara  
LADVFA Past President

Director James W. King was absent representing the Association at the Pennsylvania  
State Firemen's Association Annual Convention in Concordville, PA.

#### **Ladies Auxiliary Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association**

President Pat McCall and her husband Raymond H. "Jim" McCall,  
DVFA Past President, and 2003 Firemen of the Year recipient

President-elect Nancy Green and her husband Joe

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-elect Joyce Figgs and her husband, Lacey

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-elect Barbara Rossitter escorted by her father Jack

Secretary Jackie Guzzo escorted by her husband Anthony

Secretary-elect Virginia Yeager escorted by Sara Curry

Assistant Secretary Jane Williams escorted by Debbie Martin

Treasurer Sara Lee Stevens

Assistant Treasurer Sue Morris escorted by daughter Kelly

Invocation

Betty Burge, LADVFA Chaplain

Pledge to the Flag

President Jasper H. Lakey

Presidents McCall & Lakey reconvened 2003 Annual Conference meetings. Past Presidents of the DVFA and LADVFA were asked to please stand and be recognized.

LADVFA President Pat McCall submitted the following outgoing remarks: It was an honor and a pleasure to serve the LADVFA. She thanked Christiana Fire Co. and Ladies Auxiliary, the New Castle County Ladies Auxiliary for their confidence and support, and Kent and Sussex Counties for their help, hospitality and support. She attended many banquets, parties, Company ladies nights, etc. and thanked everyone for their hospitality and many kindnesses extended to her. They will be remembered forever. She thanked the Conference Executive Committee -- their leadership was outstanding. She then congratulated all the officers for their accomplishments during the year. Outgoing secretary, Jackie Guzzo, was her left and right arm; her service was appreciated. She wished the incoming officers all the best.

President Lakey then presented his outgoing remarks as follows: He reiterated that it had been a great year. He congratulated President McCall on her outstanding year and also for her support and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Nancy Green and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Joyce Figgs for their friendship and support. He and Jim Cubbage had some trying moments during the year, but everything worked out. He also thanked Kim Turner for her help. He also thanked Mike Rush, Mike McMichael, Howard Ennis and Delaware City Fire Co. and Ladies Auxiliary. No one can go through the chairs without the support of its fire company. You must have the support of your family. He then thanked everyone for all that has been done for him during the past 3 years.

Installation of Officers

Ladies Auxiliary Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association  
Installing Officer: Past President Marie Moore

Marshal: Betty Taylor

Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association  
Installing Officer: Past President Donald W Knight

**2003-2004 OFFICERS**

DVFA

President: Marvin C. Sharp  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Raymond T. Stevens, Jr.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Kennard Pyle  
Executive Secretary: James L. Cabbage, Jr., PP  
Treasurer: J. Allen Metheny, P.P.  
Director, New Castle County: Curt Gray  
Director, Kent County: Clarence R. O'Neal, Jr.  
Director, Sussex County: James W. King

LADVFA

President: Nancy Green  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Joyce Figgs  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Barbara Rossitter  
Secretary: Virginia Yeager  
Assistant Secretary: Jane Williams  
Treasurer: Saralee Stevens  
Assistant Treasurer: Sue Morris

President Nancy Green submitted the following remarks: She was honored and proud to represent the LADVFA. We are faced with a decline in recruiting new members. She is looking forward to working with Joyce and Barbara. She thanked her family for their support, Harrington and Farming Fire Companies and their ladies auxiliaries for their support. She is dedicating this year to Kathryn Derrickson and B.J. Caniford.

President Marvin C. Sharp presented the following remarks: He stated that he is proud to be President of the DVFA. He has large shoes to fill. Charles E. Varney, the first President of the DVFA for the years 1921-23, and a member of Carlisle Fire Co., recognized a need to represent the Delaware Fire service. There is one living person at Carlisle who served with Mr. Varney and that is Mr. William Chandler. His year will be based on three letters: **C, F, and C**. The first **C** reflects on the way things were when he first joined the fire service; the **F** is for family - it's hard to be in the fire service without the support of family. Need to thank our families for being understanding and supportive. He then thanked his wife, mother, sister, daughter and granddaughter with a presentation of roses for each.; and the final **C** is for challenges. Recruitment and retention is being challenged to find people to ride in the ambulance, the constraints with people who have to work. He recognized the Carlisle Fire Co. and ladies auxiliary. It is a

great feeling having them support you. He then recognized Ken and Lisa Brown and Past President Donald Knight, Steve Ellingsworth, John McKenzie, his son-in-law. He thanked everyone for the honor and privilege of serving as President of the DVFA. He dedicated his year to his father, Walter H. Sharp, who gave over 45 years to the Carlisle Fire Co.

President Lakey presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ray Stevens for the DVFA Foundation. He also presented flowers to the officers of the LADVFA.

Past President McCall was presented her Past President's pin by her husband, Raymond H. "Jim" McCall.

Past Secretary Jackie Guzzo was presented her Past Secretary's pin by her husband Anthony.

Installing officer, Past President Donald W. Knight and President Marvin C. Sharp presented the Past President's pin to Jasper H. Lakey, at which time Ivy Costango, President, Delaware City Ladies Auxiliary, pinned him.

There being no further business to be brought before Conference 2003, President Sharp and Past President Pat McCall, entertained a motion that LADVFA Conference 2003 and DVFA Conference 2003 be adjourned.

Rev. David Paul offered the benediction. Conference 2003 adjourned at 6:15 p.m.