



## **DVFA OFFICER'S MEETING**

### **August 28, 2008**

### **Seaford Fire Museum**

President Ronald H. Marvel called the August DVFA Officer's Meeting to order at 1803 Hrs at his residence at 143 Pine Cove Road, Seaford and welcomed all who were present. DVFA Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr. offered the invocation.

#### **Attendance:**

President Ronald H. Marvel  
First Vice President Warren F. Jones  
Second Vice President Kevin L. Wilson  
Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr.  
Executive Secretary James L. Cabbage, Jr.  
Director Hal Barber  
Director Charles Frampton  
Director Charles Boyer  
Director Joseph Zeroles  
Director William Tobin  
Director Rick Clark, Sr.  
Director Alan F. Robinson, Jr., PP

LADVFA President Debbie Marvel  
LADVFA First Vice Carol Walton  
DSFPA President John Bare  
DSAA President Wendy Lowe  
DVFA PP Stephen P. Austin  
DVFA PP E. James Monihan  
DVFA Director Elect Richard Toulson

President Marvel then recessed the meeting for dinner at 1804 Hrs. After Dinner, President Marvel thanked the Ladies & Men of the Seaford Vol, Fire Dept, and Ladies Auxiliary for the delicious dinner and for their support during his tenure as President.

The Meeting was reconvened at 1915 Hrs at the Seaford Fire Museum where President Marvel led us in the Pledge to our Flag.

President Marvel then called on the following members and guests for reports and remarks:

**LADVFA:** President Debbie Marvel brought greetings from the LADVFA and thanked everyone for their support during her year. She then introduced her First Vice President Carol Walton.

**DSAA** President Wendy Lowe brought greetings from the State Ambulance Association and advised that they are planning Joint State Chiefs/Ambulance Association meetings in January and June of each year. Also that everything appears to be ready for the EMS Continuing Educational Seminars at the Conference. She advised that if anyone was attending the Southeastern event at Cheswold she needs their registration ASAP.

**DSEPA** President John Bare brought greetings from the State Fire Police Association.

**SFPC** Commissioner Alan F. Robinson distributed copies of the draft regulation that requires annual audits by the member companies as prescribed in HB #329.

**President Ronald H. Marvel** reported on the following items:

**SB #241** Reported that he has requested that the **DSFCA** to meet with Sen. Bruce E. Ennis and try to come up with a compromise piece of legislation...

**VOTER REGISTRATION** reported that Director Frampton is Chairing this important committee in this very important upcoming Election year. Companies still have time to get their Members registered to vote in 2008. Further, that we meet with candidates for elected office discuss their positions of first responder's issues.

**Media Requests** Advised that the News Journal is still working on their major story on the Delaware Fire Service. If your Department is contacted by their reporter, Mike Chalmers, please meet with him and answer his questions. If you need assistance our Public Relations Consultant will be glad to assist, just contact one of the Presidents, or the DVFA Office.

**Bethany Beach** Advised that the DVFA received a letter from the SCVFA Firemen's Association advising that the Bethany Beach proposal to have a referendum for the purpose of financing an emergency ambulance service was defeated by a vote 1 yes, 20 no and 1 absent at their regular monthly meeting on August 26, 2008 at Millsboro.

**First Vice President Warren F. Jones** reported on the following items:

**Statewide Legislative Night** After much review an evaluation his Recommendation would be to eliminate our Legislative Night. We have done many different events in an attempt to have our Elected Officials attend and the attendance is still very low. He would rather take the funds and build a network of Delaware Fire Service members who personally have contact with our Elected Officials on a regular basis. Further that we actively attend their events to let them know who the fire service is in Delaware by purchasing tickets to the fund raising events.

***Motion by Executive Secretary Cubbage, seconded by Director Barber to eliminate the annual DVFA Legislative Night and utilize a more hands on approach to Legislative Issues. Motion Carried***

**IRS 501(c) 3 Status** Advised that with the current IRS Regulations does not allow us to lobby and contribute funds to political campaign he would like to explore changing our status since the DVFA Foundation already has 501 (c ) 3 status.

***Motion by Executive Secretary Cabbage, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Wilson that the DVFA research the proper IRS status for our current level of political activity. Motion Carried.***

**President's Guide & Protocol Book** Reported that he has asked DVFA PP Robi Robinson to Chair a committee to compile a list of dates, places of events, meetings, dates that reports are due, etc. This book would be updated and distributed January of each year.

**DVFA PRESIDENTS & CHIEFS MEETING** advised that a meeting of Delaware Fire Company Presidents and Chiefs took place on Wednesday, August 27, 2008 with 42 fire companies represented. This was our first teleconference with sites at fire schools in Dover, Wilmington and Georgetown. He gave a brief summary and advised that neither proposal was approved by those in attendance. DVFA Officer's will review and look at alternative proposal.

**Recruitment & Retention** advised that for next year the duties and responsibilities of the R&R Committee will be divided in to Recruitment Only and Retention Only. Members will be listed on the Committee list at Conference and anyone wishing to participate should contact him.

**DVFA WEB PAGE** First Vice President Jones reported that he has had many comments on the appearance and content of the new web page, but reminded everyone that it was a "Work in Progress" and it will take Time to complete. The new Chairman for next year will be First Vice President Wilson.

**CONFERENCE 2008** Chairman Elmer B. Steele was working but President Marvel Thanked Elmer and his committee for all of their hard work and reported that most aspects for the Conference are ready. However he did advise that we would have to be very fluid on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Luncheon if Sen. Joe Biden, the Vice Presidential Candidate attends with certain requirements that the Secret Service would require. More will be forthcoming on this topic as required.

**WAKE UP DELAWARE/RISK WATCH** DVFA PP Alan F. Robinson was happy to advise that the DVFA was awarded a 2007 USFA FP&S Grant for \$362,500 of which a large portion goes to the "Wake up Delaware "program. Plans are underway for the fall fire prevention activities.

**DVFA FOUNDATION** Chairman Stephen P. Austin reported that the Foundation met on Monday, August 18, 2008 at the Kent County EOC. The next meeting will be April 27, 2009. All are Welcome.

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES** DVFA PP Austin advised that Congress is very quite at this time. However he has been actively involved in several issues on behalf of the Delaware Fire Service. Stated that he has been working with the DuPont Company on several issues and he is trying to get them involved with "Wake Up Delaware", He advised that he received a call in regards to Delaware's 800 MHz microwave system and problems with the Motorola's sub contractor. He met with executives of Motorola at the IAFC in Denver and it appears that Motorola has come up with a plan that will correct the problems and meet the specifications of the Division of Communications.

However, at the annual conference of the IAFF in Las Vegas, they have passed another resolution that brings back the two latter issue. No action is needed at this time as everyone is evaluating the resolution and trying to examine the effects it may have.

**FIRE CORP** Chairman E. James Monihan advised that the DVFA has again applied and received another \$5,000 Fire Corp Grant.

**NVFC** DVFA PP Monihan and Treasurer Metheny advised that Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins has again agreed to sponsor the NVFC "Junior Firefighter Program." PP Monihan again congratulated 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's daughter Ashley Wilson who was a winner of one of the 10 \$5,000 scholarships. He also reported that the PSOB Program guidelines are again being reviewed as is a review by John Hopkins University. He advised that the Elections for the NVFC will be coming up this year at their Fall Meeting.

***Motion by DVFA PP Monihan, Seconded by Second Vice President Wilson that the DVFA go on record supporting J. Allen Metheny, Sr. for another term as Secretary/Treasurer of the National Volunteer Fire Council. Motion Carried.***

**MISC ITEM** Executive Secretary Cabbage reported on the following items:

- Advised that the two new Dell desktops, server and new software Has been purchased and installed in the DVFA Office.
- Reported that that the specifications for the new Lap Top for the Executive Secretary is being prepared. This is the unit that was put on hold when we discovered that we had server problems. Also that The old lap top will be used for all conference activities.
- Reminded everyone of the Dover Downs/NFFF event on September 21, 2008 at the Monster Mile
- Advised that he has the tickets for the CFSI Event at the Washington Nationals Game on Wednesday, September 3, 2008

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

President Marvel advised that the bill signing for the Campus Fire Safety Bill will be on Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 1000 Hrs at Wesley College.

**CLOSING COMMENTS** President Marvel thanked everyone for their attendance and their participation in the Delaware Fire Service. He stated that we have been dealing with some very difficult issues and thanked them for their support.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Motion by Director Boyer, seconded by Director Frampton that we adjourn. Motion Carried.*

Meeting Adjourned at 2045 Hrs.

Respectfully submitted,  
*James L. Cabbage, Jr.*  
James L. Cabbage, Jr.  
Executive Secretary