

DVFA OFFICER'S MEETING

February 16, 2009

Clayton Fire Company

President Warren F. Jones called the February DVFA Officer's Meeting to order at 1827 Hrs at the William R. Carrow Memorial Hall of the Clayton Fire Co., and welcomed all who were present. He then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag and DVFA Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr. offered the invocation.

Attendance:

President Warren F. Jones
First Vice President Kevin L. Wilson
Second Vice President William F. Tobin
Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr.
Executive Secretary James L. Cabbage, Jr.
Director Alan F. Robinson, Jr., PP
Director Charles Frampton
Director Charles Boyer
Director Richard Toulson
Director Lynn Truitt
Director Michael Rains
Director Roland Walker
DVFA PP E. James Monihan
DVFA PP Ronald H. Marvel

LADVFA President Carol Walton
LADVFA First Vice President Lorraine Madden
LADVFA Second Vice President Janice Marvel
LADVFA Secretary Virginia Yeager
LADVFA Asst. Sec. Joanne Catalino
LADVFA Treasurer Kim Figgs
LADVFA Asst. Treas. Lois Pearson
DSFPA President John P. Fox
DSFPA President Robert G. Stineman
SFPC Marvin C. Sharp, Chairman
SFPC Robert Ricker
SFPC David J. Roberts

President Jones then recessed the meeting for dinner at 1830 Hrs. After Dinner President Jones thanked the Ladies of the Clayton Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary for the delicious dinner.

The Meeting was reconvened at 1902Hrs.

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

LADVFA: President Carol Walton brought greetings from the LADVFA and introduced her Officers that were present. She stated that the R & R Committees are working hard. She then invited everyone to the May 4th LADVFA Executive Committee Meeting.

DSFCA President John P. Fox brought greetings from the State Fire Police Association and advised that the next meeting of the Chiefs will be on March 26, 2009 at the Harrington Fire Company.

DSAA President Robert G. Stineman advised that they are still in the process of issuing new ID Cards for the State Fire Police. The Quarterly Meeting of the State Fire Police was held on February 15, 2009 at the Delaware State Fire School and an excellent Class was offered on proper positioning of vehicles, cones, flares, & flags at motor vehicle collisions.

SFPC Chairman Marvin C. Sharp thanked the DVFA Officers for their request of the Attorney Generals Formal Opinion on the distribution of training records by the DSFS under the Freedom of Information Act Requirements. He discussed and thanked the DVFA for their support for the proposed certifications requirements for the Fire Service as it was presented to the fire service on Wednesday, December 10th at the Kent County Fire Chief's Meeting in Milford. He stated that the SFPC is reviewing comments, changes and additions that have been submitted to the SFPC. He further advised that the Joint Sunset Committee Hearing on the SFPC, DSFS and OSFM will be held on Wednesday, March 4th @ 5:00 PM at Legislative Hall.

Vice Chairman Robert Ricker stated that they have another meeting with the JSC tomorrow to review the Draft Report. The Public Hearing procedures have been posted and you have to request to speak prior to the start of the Hearing. He advised that the SFPC and their Attorney General are also in the process of reviewing their powers and all sections of Title 16, Chapter 66 of the Delaware Coded that relates to the SFPC.

President Warren F. Jones reported on the following items:

Training Records Reported that Sen. Bruce C. Ennis and other Members of the General Assembly had asked the Attorney General for a **Formal Opinion** on the release of student training records from the Delaware State Fire School. In a letter dated February 5, 2009 from State Solicitor Lawrence W. Lewis, he stated "***Therefore, These records are not exempt from public disclosure. However, as there is no legitimate public interest in personal information such as home address and social security numbers, they may be redacted before the records are released.***"

Senate Bill #6 Stated that Sen. Ennis has introduced SB #6 which was the compromise legislation on the use of Blue Lights and wig wag lights. It passed the Senate on January 29, 2009 and has been sent to the House.

State Budget Stated that he is very concerned about the financial situation that the State is in and the effect it may have on our Grant in Aid. He wanted every fire company to take this in consideration as they prepare their yearly budgets.

Inaugural Parade Thanked everyone for their efforts to allow the DVFA to participate in Presidential Inaugural Parade on January 22, 2009. Even though it was extremely cold everyone did an excellent job and they represented the nation's fire service in a very professional manner showing their pride and dedication.

FDIC Stated that the DVFA has had an extremely difficult problem trying to find an adequate facility to host the Annual Delaware Night at FDIC. As some of you may know the Hyatt tried to close down our event last year and threatened the DVFA with charges for bringing in food and beverages. Since that time every hotel that the DVFA and the Housing Service Provider for FDIC has contacted have had extremely high room rates and all have charges for bringing in food and beverage. The DVFA has had contact with Provident Insurance, the event's sponsor and have discussed them hosting some type of Leadership Meeting.

Motion by Executive Secretary Cubbage, Seconded by DVFA PP Alan Robinson that the DVFA cancel the 2009 Delaware Night at the FDIC in Indianapolis.. Motion Carried.

President Jones has also discussed a limited number of DVFA Officer's attending the 2009 FDIC.

Motion by Director Walker, seconded by Director Frampton that DVFA President Jones; Executive Secretary Cubbage and Treasurer Metheny attend the 2009 FDIC. Motion Carried.

First Vice President Kevin L. Wilson reported on the following items:

Inaugural Parade Thanked President Jones for his coordination & planning in this historic event.

Strategic Planning Summit Reported that the DVFA Strategic Planning Summit was held on January 25, 2009 at 0900 Hrs at Clayton Fire Co. to discuss current issues facing the fire service and time tables and time frames to deal with resolving these issues. The rough draft notes have been prepared and will be sent to the participants for their review and comments.

DVFA Web Page Stated that several changes are being made and that the committee will be adding some new features. A banner crawler has now been installed to display new items on the web page.

DVFA Memorial Advised that he has been in contact with Ken Clendaniel, Chairman of the Memorial Committee and a tentative date of June 14th at 2 PM has been set for the unveiling of Wayne Steen & Michelle Smith's name on the Memorial. More details to follow.

Second Vice President William F. Tobin reported that the Sussex County Fire Company Presidents and Chiefs have developed a Leadership Counsel to deal with fire service issues. He also gave brief update on the preliminary draft of the President's Handbook that he and PP Alan Robinson are working on.

Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr. advised that all but one company have submitted their pension forms for the year. A penalty will be imposed on the delinquent company. He observed a large increase in errors on the submissions this year.

Conference 2009 Chairman Thomas D'Alessandro's report was read by President Jones. Chairman D'Alessandro reported that the Committee continues to make progress and he will have a full update after the February 23rd Conference Committee Meeting.

Wake up Delaware Chairman Tom Mitten's report was read by PP Robinson. Chairman Mitten reminded everyone that there will be NO statewide distribution event for the Spring. We will support local departments with detectors and batteries. We have an adequate supply of bilingual door hangers for companies to utilize in the canvas efforts. The fire safety minute radio messages are being well received and they are finalizing a pilot program for the distribution of CO detectors.

DVFA FOUNDATION Vice Chairman Cabbage reported that the Foundation met on Monday, August 18, 2008 at the Kent County EOC. The next meeting will be April 20, 2009. All are Welcome.

Federal Legislative Issues Executive Secretary Cabbage reported for PP Stephen P. Austin. Advised that they are monitoring the Stimulus Bill for opportunities for fire service, as it is written there is a possibility for funding of fire station construction. CFSI is soliciting new members of Congress to join the Fire Caucus, it is very important to maintain the largest caucus on the Hill. Outreach is underway to develop a staff contact for Vice President Biden. Urged a large turnout for the CFSI Dinner on April 2nd stating it is very important for the future of CFSI and as well as Delaware's status as a national fire service leader.

FIRE CORP Chairman E. James Monihan advised advertising is being placed in the Weekly Newspapers in the upcoming weeks urging Delaware Citizens to join Fire Corp. He stated that 20 Delaware Fire Companies have signed up to participate in this program which is very low on a national average.

NVFC DVFA PP Monihan reported that the NVFC Board of Directors meet at the NVFC Office in Greenbelt, MD on January 16 & 17, 2009. He advised that they are also watching the Stimulus Package very closely to see what funds can to assist the Volunteer Fire Companies Across the nation. He advised that the match in the SAFER Grant would be eliminated when hiring personnel.

MISC ITEM Executive Secretary Cabbage reported on the following items:

- Reviewed the Legislative Report
- Discussed the purchase of Inaugural Parade DVD for the archives
- Advised of the Dick Dempsey Retirement Dinner of March 6th
- Discussed the lease on the DVFA Office copier
- Discussed a possible upgrade of the DVFA Office phone system
- Advised that AA Melissa Kiser will be out on medical leave – March 11 to March 26
- Advised that AA Melissa Kiser will be out on Vacation – April 06 to April 10

DVFA Name Change Chairman Monihan stated the committee is making progress but wanted to know if the name change would affect the DVFA Foundation. The consensus of the Officers is that it would also include the Foundation.

SFPC Standards A brief discussion was held on the proposed SFPC Standards for the Fire Service and the oversight of the Fire Service in the Future.

CLOSING COMMENTS President Jones thanked everyone for their attendance and their participation in the Delaware Fire Service. He thanked everyone for the thoughts and prayers at the loss of this Mother.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting Adjourned at 2026 Hrs.

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