



DVFA OFFICER'S MEETING

February 25, 2008

President Ronald H. Marvel called the February DVFA Officer's Meeting to order at 1833 Hrs at the Clayton Fire Company in the William R. "Ace" Carrow Memorial Hall and welcomed all who were present. DVFA Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr. offered the invocation and President Marvel led the Pledge to our Flag.

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 Rick Clark. Sr.
Director Alan F. Robinson, Jr., PP

DSFCA President Charles H. Snyder
DSFCA First Vice President John P. Fox
DSFPA President John Bare
DSAA President Wendy Lowe
DVFA PP Elmer B. Steele
DVFA PP E. James Monihan

President Marvel then recessed the meeting for dinner at 1835 Hrs.

President Marvel reconvened the meeting at 1905 Hrs and thanked the Ladies of the Clayton Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary for the delicious dinner.

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

DSFCA President Charles Snyder brought greetings from the DSFCA and advised that the State Fire Chief's Association is working on several projects.

DSAA President Wendy Lowe brought greetings from the State Ambulance Association and thanked everyone who attended the Joint Chiefs/Ambulance Association meeting. It was one of there largest attendance at a DSAA meeting.

DSFPA President John Bare brought greetings from the State Fire Police Association and discussed their By-Law that passed prohibiting any Fire Police Officer from carrying any firearm in the performance of their duties as a Fire Police Officer. He stated that the DSFPA policy to handle any violation of this By-Law is being finalized. President Bare stated that the DSFPA would be writing a letter opposing the letter from the Dover Fire Department in regards to use of Blue Lights by individual members.

President Ronald H. Marvel reported on the following items:

EXECUTIVE ORDER #99 provided a copy of draft legislation that will be introduced in the General Assembly to allow the SFPC to create regulations for the enactment of Executive Order #99.

HB #251 discussed the possibility of strengthening Title 16, Chapter 66, Section 6647 of the Delaware Code as it relates to Volunteer Fire Fighters who have committed certain felonies.

E-Z PASS discussed the problems some individuals and fire companies have had with E-Z Pass and advised every fire department that does not have E-Z Pass to get it for their vehicle that utilize DE Rt. #1

VOTER REGISTRATION reported that Director Frampton is Chairing this important committee in the upcoming Election year. You will be hearing a lot more about getting your Members registered to vote in 2008

NEW DVFA BANNER advised that Second Vice President Wilson and Mike Rush are working on a new Banner for the DVFA.; hope to have it by the June Executive Committee Meeting. The old banner is showing its age.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION stated that he and the Officer's are still looking at separating the Recruitment & Retention Committee into two separate committees with new visions. This will be a topic for discussion, and he wants everyone to think about it and we will discuss.

CFSI advised that the 20th Annual CFSI Dinner will be held at the Washington Hilton on Thursday, April 3, 2008. He has tasked the Director's to contact the Companies in their County and ascertain who will be in attendance.

FDIC stated that the Annual Delaware Night at FDIC in Indianapolis would be held on Friday, April 11, 2008 at the Hyatt. We will be in a new Hospitality Room for this event. All DVFA Officer's will be allowed to wear white DVFA Logo Shirts and blue dress slacks instead of Coat and ties.

JOE EVAN – LODD reported that the DVFA and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation assisted the Bridgeville Fire Company in completing all the necessary paperwork so it can be filed with the Department of Justice for their review and hopeful approval.

MAY DVFA OFFICER'S MEETING advised that it will be on May 29, 2008 in Seaford, dinner will be at the Marvel Residence and the meeting will be at the Seaford Fire Department

DVFA LEGISLATOR'S APPRECIATION EVENING First Vice President Warren F. Jones reported that the Legislature will be out of session on the date that we originally selected. The event will now take place on Legislative Mall in front of Legislative Hall on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 6:00 PM. He discussed the event and advised that Corrected Invitations will be sent out in the near future.

DVFA PRESIDENTS & CHIEFS MEETING First Vice President Jones advised that a meeting of all Delaware Fire Company Presidents and Chiefs took place on Sunday, January 27, 2008 at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. He gave a brief summary and advised the DVFA Officer's will have a Workshop to discuss the topic issues.

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.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE Second Vice President Kevin L. Wilson reported the Committee would be meeting to prepare findings on several issues, policies and procedures

CONFERENCE 2008 Chairman Elmer B. Steele advised that the Committee is hard at work and the dates for the 2008 Conference will be September 8 – 13, 2008 at the Dover/Sheraton. All forms will be on the Web Page by May 1, 2008 and all registrations are due in by August 8, 2008.

WAKE UP DELAWARE/RISK WATCH DVFA PP Alan F. Robinson advised the DVFA "Wake up Delaware" program will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2008 from 0900 to 1400 Hrs. at all Delaware Fire Stations.

DVFA FOUNDATION Vice Chairman Cabbage advised that the Foundation met on Monday, August 20, 2007 at the Kent County EOC. The next meeting will be April 07, 2008. All are Welcome.

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 Methenay advised that Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins has agreed to sponsor the NVFC "Junior Firefighter Program" with a pledge of \$389,000, which includes 10 \$5000 scholarships. He further reported on the issue of the IRS taxing LOSAP programs in many of the states. Even though the DVFA Pension does not fall under these provisions:

Motion by DVFA PP Monihan, Seconded by Second Vice President Wilson that the DVFA go on record supporting the efforts of the NVFC to eliminate the paying of taxes on LOSAP Programs. Motion Carried.

C-VENT PROPOSAL Treasurer Methany discussed the proposal from C-Vent, a vendor that assists with event planning, record keeping, and associated operations for planning of major events, similar to our Conference. He advised that Executive Secretary Cabbage, Administrative Assistant Kiser and himself participated in a videoconference and demonstration of the program. It was agreed that the system would be very helpful for conference and other events sponsored by the DVFA it appears to be cost prohibitive at the present time.

MISC ITEM Executive Secretary Cabbage reported on the following items:

- Presented the 2008 DVFA Legislative Priorities for review and comment:

2008 DVFA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Grant In Aide Request an increase in funding of a minimum of 1-3% over last years appropriation

Revolving Loan Program Provides an additional \$2,000,00 funding for the fourth year of this successful program

BLS Supplemental Funding Provide critical funding to support the increased requirements of the member companies in complying with HB #332

Cancer Presumption Legislation Passage of HB #166, a Fire Fighter Cancer Presumption Law which will protect firefighters from occupational diseases

Increase in Mutual Relief Benefits Passage of HB #192, which allows an increase in weekly benefit and death benefit the DVFA & LADVFA Mutual Relief Assoc., may pay

Scholarship Program Implementation and funding of a scholarship program for our members to assist with recruitment and retention

800 MHz Radio Program Continue funding and support of the 800 MHz Next Generation Project to provide IN -BUILDING coverage throughout Delaware.

State Police Helicopter Continue to provide funding for the 24/7 ALS Helicopter service provided by the Aviation Section of the Delaware State Police

State Fire Prevention Commission, State Fire School and State Fire Marshal. Support State Fire Marshal's \$85,000 for planning money to build and addition to the Georgetown Office to give back the Fire School the use of their two classrooms.

Emerging Funding Issues With the Increased demand for services in apartments, townhouses, and multi-family dwelling, our need for services and funding issues needs to be reviewed and addressed on a periodic basis.

Motion by Director Frampton, Seconded by First Vice President Jones to adopt the 2008 DVFA Legislative Priorities. Motion Carried.

- Discussed the issue of withholding taxes from the Funeral Expenses that the DVFA members receive upon their death. Have been in contact with the Pension Office and the Insurance Coverage Office and are awaiting the review of the IRS status by their Legal Counsel
- Advised that the VFIS Recruitment and Retention reports are being distributed at the County Meetings by the County Directors
- Reported that a new HP Color Copier and supplies were purchased for under \$700 to replace the old HP which was removed from the Office Inventory.
- Reported that the Executive Secretary is going to purchase a new Lap Top and wireless card in the near future. The existing Lap Top will be used for all Conference activities.
- Discussed the proposal and future presentation at the NCCVFA Meeting by the Cost Recovery USA program.

President Marvel is concerned by this issue and will discuss it at the DVFA Executive Committee Meeting

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

DSFCA President Snyder discussed the Ocean City Fire Department issued and advised everyone to watch it very closely.

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 this year and thought that everyone was participating in the process of solving them.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by First Vice President Jones, seconded by Director Frampton that we adjourn. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 2133 Hrs.

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

