



**DVFA Officers Meeting  
Wednesday, August 29, 2018  
Brandywine Hundred (Sta. 11)  
18:30 hours**

A total of 22 officers and guests were present tonight. All DVFA officers present except Kent County Director's Ryder and Brittingham. Sussex Director Jester was represented by his 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Hunter Holland.

- President Perillo called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed everyone to Brandywine and thanked everyone for coming.
- Invocation by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jay Jones
- Pledge to the Flag by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bill Betts
- Recessed for dinner at 6:35 PM

President Perillo called the meeting back to order at 7:00 PM, brought the Brandywine ladies out and the caterer and thanked them for the meal that was prepared tonight. A round of applause was given to thank them. (See Presidents report regarding the meal)

**ASSOCIATION REPORTS:**

LADVFA: President Lynn Warner:

Thanks for the invitation. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Gentry and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Workman are with us tonight. Thanked President Perillo and his Officers for a great year.

DSFCA: President Andy Hall:                      Absent                      Medical emergency at home.

DSFPA: President Cheryl Kelly: Thanked everyone for their support this past year.

DSEMSA: President Amy Yonko: Thanked everyone as well for their support. She voiced her concerns about Officers not knowing when or where they are supposed to be during the year. Need a handbook on the duties/responsibilities for someone new that is going through the "chairs" of the various associations.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

President Rich Perillo discussed the following: **(copied and pasted from original written report)**

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you all for traveling to north Wilmington this evening. I hope you have enjoyed your meal. I have learned that some of you enjoy crab cakes and I too enjoy steak and potatoes.

I would like to thank our Ladies Auxiliary for preparing our salads, hordes, deserts and for serving the meal. Since I do not have contacts like our Past President Walius, who had taken us on C5 practice fuel trip from Dover Air Base and like your incoming first Vice President Jay Jones, who had the contact for you all to go to Washington DC, all I can offer you is this catered dinner. This is my gift to you.

I cannot thank you all enough for your guidance and hard work throughout this year. I believe together we have had a successful year moving our Association forward. I thank each one of you for the value you believe in this Association. From the Ladies selling our Souvenirs, our active committee members, my co-pilot travel companion to every Officer of your respective Association, again I thank you for your hard work and dedication. Without the guidance of our Executive Manager and yes, Warren is the one we have learned that has the answers to 99% of our questions, thank you for your help, invaluable.

Bill, Jay and Director's, what can I say guys. You are the best. It has been my honor to serve with you.

Secretary Steele, thank you for everything you do including your work with the conference. Treasurer Pyott, thank you for stepping up, taking the time for the challenge you knew you had ahead of you.

Assistant Treasurer Whitham, thank you too for getting involved, assisting Mr. Pyott and looking in to our future.

Conference Committee Chairs and committee members, thank you all for the hours you have invested in this for those that will attend can enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Bill, Jay and Dan, I do not need to wish you and your Officers any luck for I know that you all will do a great job and continue to do what you think is best for the Delaware State Fire Service. President Warner, thank you and your Ladies for everything you have done and continue to do for our fire service. I have enjoyed working by your side.

I would like to apologize for the lateness of the arrivals of our souvenirs. It is my hope that these items sell. We need to come up with a schedule for the Ladies that will be selling these items during the conference. Madam President, your assistance will be appreciated with this processe

Speaking of the souvenirs, when did we start allowing the State Ladies President to purchase items for the conference? Document what items can be purchased how much can be spent on this purchase and purchased by whom, how much should the item or items can be sold for? If this is something that will continue, we must have this documented for the future.

<sup>we</sup> need to apologize to you for not having the Fire Company Presidents hand books completed this year. It was a goal of mine but it did not come to fruition. I do know that our incoming Officers will have this taken care soon and I thank them for this.

I hope that our Association completes a travel budget for our Executive Manager for this person is not an Officer of the Association. I also hope that our membership reverses the number of Officers they allow to attend the Congressional Fire Serve Institute dinner in Washington DC,

Past President Ed Barlow had told me that our Governor prefers to have meeting with fewer of the DVFA Officer's. The last meeting we had with the Governor it was Past President Barlow, Executive Manager Jones and myself. This is what the Governor wants in the future, three or four from the DVFA.

My articles in the Fire Service News Paper were or are not penned to alarm or anger anyone. I have composed these hoping to awaken some of our membership. We must look towards the future, yes, remembering our past but thinking ahead. Where do we go from here? How do we sustain the service we currently have? Is it realistic to that?

During my term, I have constantly called our fire service the volunteer/combination fire service. I do know that in New Castle County every department has hired someone for EMS, which normally applies to their apparatus too. These are part and full time career staff and yes, some of our companies hire their own members. I do not know if every department in Kent and Sussex Counties have career staff. If they do not, I imagine they will in the near future.

We all know that volunteerism is dying and for us to continue the service our residents expect and deserve some companies have had to hire more people to fill that void. Where will this funding come? Will our State and County Government supplement those that need this? If they do give more funding for career staff could there be restrictions? The old saying, watch what you ask for?

Yes, I am concerned for the Delaware State Fire Service. I do not have the answers but I do hope that when we have our round table discussion at the conference our fire service leadership, the fire companies Presidents and Chief's attend and have an open and honest dialogue and possible come up with some solutions.

To each one of you this evening, thank you for the help, your guidance and for working alongside with me. I cannot thank you enough.

My travel log will be completed prior to our conference and sent to Secretary Steele for your and the memberships review.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bill Betts discussed the following: **(copied and pasted from original written report)**

Since the June Executive Meeting, I had the pleasure of attending the Maryland Officer's Banquet in Ocean City, MD on June 16<sup>th</sup>, and their opening ceremonies on Monday June 18<sup>th</sup>.

I also attended the last day of the Legislative session on Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup>, but left at 2 am on Sunday due to a family commitment in Maryland.

I attended the Cumberland Valley Association in Fair Play, Md, on August 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> with 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Jay Jones, Secretary Elmer Steele, Past-President Ted Walius, and Executive Manager Warren Jones. Warren put on the only Power Point Presentation at the President's Council, and it was well received by the members from the other states, especially on the money we are getting from the traffic violations.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, Past-President Ted Walius returned to West Virginia for their State Conference in Canaan Valley. West Virginia has 418 fire companies, and 55 counties, and there were 86 delegates and 6 alternates in attendance. Most of their discussion was on funding for their Workman's

Compensation package. This was Bill and Ted's second excellent vqege to West Virginia.  
*ADVENTURE*

At the end of my second year in the chairs, I feel that we have made excellent progress in righting the DVFA ship, but we are not resting on our laurels, and we are looking for more improvements to be made in the following years.

I want to commend Terry Whitham and the Finance Committee chaired by Danny Burris for developing next years budget that is approximately \$25,000 below our assets.

I have enjoyed working under Ted and Richard, and I am looking forward to working with Jay, Dan, and Penny next year

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jay Jones: Gave his travel schedule, including events and miles. Wants to do something to recognize younger members. Something to get them involved, since they will be the future officers of the fire service.

Secretary Elmer Steele: Thanked President Perillo and the Officers for a great year. Looking forward to the coming year.

Treasurer George Pyott: Gave information on the balance sheets of the Association. These numbers are only for the past 3 months. A full report will be available for Conference.

Assistant Treasurer Terry Whitham: This has definably been a learning experience. Looking forward to the coming year.

Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission Ron Marvel: Nothing to report at this time. Are there any questions for him or the Commission??

Conference Chairman Charlie Frampton: Looking forward to Conference. It has been a learning experience.

DVFA Foundation Steve Austin: Foundation has been really busy. Have some new members on board. Ron O'Neal has assumed the Treasurer duties as Ray Stevens has chosen to retire.

Out-of-State report by Steve Austin: Steve is giving up some of his duties and responsibilities. Trying to get some younger members involved. Seems like the only ones traveling anymore is the Officers. Need to get our younger folks out to meet with National leaders. As a note: Mike McMichaels has been appointed to the National EMS Advisory Council. Need to keep watch on this Council because they don't always act on behalf of fire-based EMS issues.

Mutual Relief Steve White: Their financial report will be sent out before the Conference for everyone's review. Working on new contracts, bound to be some premium increases. Working on their by-laws in order to address the issue of the 3 non-fire ambulance companies becoming members of Mutual Relief.

### **Director reports:**

Past President/Director Joe Zeroles: Enjoyed the past 8 years.

New Castle County Director Dan Carrier: Thanks to President Perillo and the Officers. Enjoyed being a Director and now look forward to going through the DVFA chairs.

New Castle County Director Dave Majewski: We will be voting for a Director at our meeting next week. Currently have 3 members seeking the nomination. Thanks for including me in the discussions.

Sussex County Director Ron O'Neal: Enjoyed my first year as a Director. Need to finish the handbook.

Sussex County Director Terry Jester: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Hunter Holland represented Terry tonight. Expressed his congratulations to the Officers on a good year.

Kent County Director Ken Ryder: Absent

Kent County Director Michael Brittingham: Absent

Executive Manager Warren Jones discussed the following:

- Roundtable: Survey was sent out. Results are in your packet. Due to the number registered, the roundtable session will be moved upstairs to the Diamond Room on Wednesday afternoon.
- Conference: Updated numbers for the events are in your packet.
- Memorial Dedication: Discussed buses, chairs, handicap area, port-a-potties. *A motion was made to rent chairs and port-a potties for the event. Motion carried*  
Warren will check on buses or other ideas for transportation. (maybe fire company vans)
- Tax Intercept Program: Some discussion
- Network for the Good: Appears to be a scam
- FDIC: Preferred1 is no longer doing the housing for FDIC. They are handing their own.

After some discussion, *A motion was made and seconded to grant Honorary Membership status to Retiring State Auditor Tom Wagner for his dedication to the Fire Service. Motion carried*

There being no other business to come before the group, President Perillo adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

***Elmer B. Steele***

Elmer B. Steele, Secretary  
Delaware Vol. Firefighter's Assoc.

Attest to: Warren Jones, Executive Manager