



DVFA OFFICER'S MEETING November 29, 2007

President Ronald H. Marvel called the November DVFA Officer's Meeting to order at 1835 Hrs at the Elsmere Fire Company Social 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 William Tobin
Director Alan F. Robinson, Jr., PP

LADVFA President Debbie Marvel
LADVFA First Vice President Carol Walton
LADVFA Second Vice President Lorraine Madden
DSFCA President Charles Snyder
DSAA President Wendy Lowe
DSFPA President John Bare
DVFA PP E. James Monihan
DVFA PP Steven P. Austin

President Marvel then recessed the meeting for dinner at 1837 Hrs.

President Marvel reconvened the meeting at 1911 Hrs and thanked the Ladies of the Elsmere Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary for the delicious dinner.

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

LADVFA President Debbie Marvel brought greetings from the LADVFA and introduced her First Vice President Carol Walton and Second Vice President Lorraine Madden. She brought greetings from the LADVFA and thanked everyone for their assistance and is looking forward to the Holiday Season.

DSFCA President Charles Snyder brought greetings from the DSFCA and advised that the next meeting of the State Fire Chiefs would be a joint meeting with the Delaware State Ambulance Association on January 24, 2008 at Volunteer Hose Company in Middletown. He advised that the State Fire Chief's Association Officers had met and set committees and worked on several projects.

DSAA President Wendy Lowe brought greetings from the State Ambulance Association and discussed the Joint Chiefs/Ambulance Association meeting in an attempt to increase the attendance at the DSAA meetings.

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 further stated that the DSFPA is working on a policy to handle any violation of this By-Law. President Snyder, DSFCA stated that they wrote a letter of support on the position of the DSFPA on carrying weapons.

President Ronald H. Marvel reported on the following items:

DVFA WEB PAGE 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.

MRSA advised that this form of Staph Infection is very serious and that everyone needs to be attentive to the risk and ensure that proper procedures be followed for cleaning of equipment and personnel.

NATIONWIDE INSURANCE advised that an insurance company had dropped a Fire Police Officer after being involved in a MVC. They stated it was because he was using his personal vehicle for fire police duties. After contact with Matt Denn, State Insurance Commissioner a letter was received from Nationwide reinstating the individual and stating that it was an error caused by a key stroke error and in no way that he being a Fire Police Officer was the cause of the original letter.

EXECUTIVE ORDER #99 stated that the Advisory Committee recommended a Review Audit for each individual fire company and that the DVFA would support the drafting of Legislation by the State Fire Prevention Commission

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. The old banner is showing its age.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION stated that he and the Officer's are 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.

PENSION & IRS ISSUES reported that the DVFA & LADVFA Officers met with the Pension Advisory Committee and David C. Craik, State Pension Administrator who advised that the IRS has advised that the DVFA Pension funds need to be separated from the State Pension Funds for IRS purposes. There should be no major difference in interest that the funds will gain in the future. The State Pension Office will be introducing Technical Corrective Legislation in 2008 to correct this issue.

BETHANY BEACH AMBULANCE stated he has met with Bethany Beach and the State Fire Prevention Commission and discussed the financial issues and possible alternatives.

PP ROBINSON'S RECOMMENDATIONS advises that the only recommendation that will need action is the recommendation to increase the Revolving Loan Fund. He is turning this request over to the Law & Legislative Committee for further action.

President Robinson's Recommendations:

- He would like to have the capability to have the reports for the DVFA Executive Committee Meeting digitized so it can be posted on the web page
- Limit the number of committees that a person can serve on during the year
- Need to strengthen the relationship with the State Fire Prevention Commission and have Unified Goals for the Fire Service
- A summit or workshop needs to be held to discuss the future of the fire service in Delaware
- Actively lobby the State Legislature for additional funds for the Revolving Loan Fund

DVFA FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM invited everyone to attend the Fire Prevention Program on Sunday Afternoon at the DSFS after the Executive Committee Meeting.

DVFA LEGISLATOR'S APPRECIATION EVENING First Vice President Warren F. Jones reported that the event will take place on Legislative Mall in front of Legislative Hall on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at 6:00 PM. He discussed the event and advised that 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 would take place on Sunday, January 27, 2008 at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. There will be two facilitators to discuss the following issues: Administrative – Chief Gregory Cade, US Fire Administrator and Operations – Chief David B. See, Chief of the Salisbury Fire Dept.

CONFERENCE 2007 Chairman Kevin L. Wilson advised that the Conference went very smoothly with a minimum of issues. Planning is well underway for the 2008 Conference which will be September 8 – 13, 2008 at the Dover/Sheraton.

WAKE UP DELAWARE/RISK WATCH DVFA PP Alan F. Robinson advised the DVFA “Wake up Delaware “ program was another success. He stated that the DVFA has again applied for a USFA Fire Prevention Grant in the amount of \$377,500 to assist with the Wake Up Delaware/Risk Watch Programs.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES DVFA PP Steve Austin reported on the following items:

- Advised that two friends of the Delaware Fire Service are fighting serious health issues

Karen Brennan, PP Virginia State Firefighters Assoc Ladies Auxiliary, of Fredericksburg Is fighting cancer

Mike Wieder, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, and the editor of IFSTA who had the “Move Over Push Cards” printed for the Delaware State Fire Police Is also Fighting Cancer.

PP Austin and President Marvel each asked to keep Karen and Mike in our thoughts
And prayers.

- Reminded everyone that the 20th Annual CFSI Dinner will be held at the Washington Hilton on Thursday April 3, 2008. Many special events are being planned and the event schedule will be forth coming
- Reported that he has had several meeting with Motorola officials discussing future operating issues and their participation in the DVFA Partners in Progress Program
- Discussed the IMT Train the Trainer program at the DSFS & curriculum development meeting for “Highway Safety Issues” with Del Dot officials
- Advised the Federal Appropriations Bills will hopefully be passed before the Congress adjourns for the Holiday Break.
- Stated that the Fire Based EMS Coalition is watching several EMS appropriations Bills that are currently before Congress.
- Advised that applications for the USFA Fire Prevention and SAFER Grants have increased Substantially, therefore making awarding of grants more challenging.
- Advised that the CVVFA is having a “Reputational Risk Symposium “at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia on Saturday, December 1, 2007

DVFA FOUNDATION Chairman Austin 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 Fire Corp ran ads in all thirteen (13) Dover Post owned Newspapers in Delaware and had several ads on TV. He thanked the DVFA Public Relations Consultant Dave Bonar for his tremendous support.

NVFC Treasurer Metheny reported on the following:

- NVFC is moving their National Office to a new facilities in the Greenbelt, Maryland area
- Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins has agreed to sponsor the NVFC “Junior Firefighter Program” with a pledge of \$389,000, which includes 10 \$5000 scholarships and local Store special events

PP Monihan, NVFC Legislative Chairman Report on the following:

- Volunteer Protection Act has been introduced, it has a reduction of tax exempt benefits
- Working with DOJ in regards to LODD deaths and lack of decisions on heart/stroke case back load.
- Job Protection Act has passed the House and is in the Senate
- Briefly discussed the NVFC eight (8) priorities

MISC ITEM Executive Secretary Cabbage reported on the following items:

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Advised that the current Chairman of the Mutual Relief Advisory Comm. is listed as Karl Walters, However, He is now a member of Mutual Relief and Cannot serve in that position.

President Marvel appointed Joe Zeroles, Farmington as Chairman of Mutual Relief Advisory Committee and removed Karl Waters and replaced him with John Smith of Elsmere.

- As a joint initiative with the SFPC, the SFPC will be mailing out the 2008 listing of Company Officers. When received they will distribute to the DVFA, DSFS & OSFM. This is done to reduce paperwork by the fire companies
- Requested that President Marvel charge the Resolution Committee with developing a Protocol for Resolutions, President Marvel will charge the committee.
- Advised that our HP Color Copier is in need of repair and the cost of repair is more that the unit is worth. Requested that the HP Color Copier be removed from the DVFA Inventory and a new unit purchased.

***Motion by Director Boyer, Seconded by Director Frampton
That the HP Color Copier be removed from the DVFA inventory
And a replacement purchased. Motion Carried.***

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Second Vice President Wilson advised that he has sent a Fire Safety News Release out to the Media

Director Boyer advised that the KCVFA Fire Prevention Program will be at Felton on Sunday, December 2nd

Director Tobin reported on the passing of Past Chief Donald Sipple of the Georgetown Fire Co.

PP Robinson discussed the hope of an improved working relationship with the SFPC and advised that the SFPC and the DVFA Chair Officers will be meeting on December 17th to discuss several issues.

CLOSING COMMENTS President Marvel thanked everyone for their attendance and their participation in the Delaware Fire Service. He then made the following comments:

- Thanked PP Robinson for his leadership
- Stated that we are off and running, and thanked First Vice President Jones and Second Vice President Wilson for the continued support
- Advised that Dave Bonar, DVFA Public Relations Consultant has had some minor health issues and is rapidly recovering and thanked him for his support

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting Adjourned at 2046 Hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Cabbage, Jr.

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Executive Secretary