



## **DVFA OFFICER'S MEETING**

### **May 31, 2005**

President Raymond T. Stevens called the May DVFA Officer's Meeting to order at 1836 Hrs at the Social Hall of Citizen's Hose Company of Smyrna and welcomed all who were present. DVFA Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr. offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag led by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Kennard L. Pyle.

#### **Attendance:**

President Raymond T. Stevens  
First Vice President Kennard L. Pyle  
Second Vice President Alan F. Robinson, Jr.  
Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr.  
Executive Secretary James L. Cabbage, Jr.  
Director Thomas D'Alessandro  
Director Warren F. Jones  
Director Nick Sawyer  
Director Clarence R. O'Neal, Jr.  
Sergeant at Arms Frank Gant

LADVFA President Joyce Figgs  
LADVFA First Vice President Barbara Rossister  
LADVFA Second Vice President Florence Legates  
LADVFA Treasurer Janice Marvel  
LADVFA Secretary Virginia Yeager  
LADVFA Asst. Secretary Joanne Catalino  
Conference Chairman PP Elmer B. Steele  
DSFCA President Rodney Marvel  
DSFCA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President James Watson  
Conference Site Selection Chairman Ted Doyle  
Fire Corps Chairman PP E. James Monihan  
LADVFA Past President Eileen Doyle  
NCCVFA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jerry Brennan  
DSAA Past President Mike McMichaels

President Stevens then recessed the meeting for a delicious dinner served by the Citizen's Hose Co. Ladies Auxiliary at 1837 Hrs.

Meeting was called back to order at 1914 Hrs and First Vice President Kennard L. Pyle thanked the Smyrna Ladies for a wonderful meal.

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

**LADVFA** President Joyce Figgs brought greetings from the LADVFA and Introduced LADVFA First Vice President Barbara Rossister, Second Vice President Florence Legates, Treasurer Janice Marvel, Secretary Virginia Yeager and Asst. Secretary Joanne Catalino. President Figgs thanked President Stevens for the Hospitality.

**DSFPA** President Stevens advised that DSFPA President Alan Carey was not able to attend and asked everyone to keep President's Carey's wife in their Prayers due to her serious illness.

**DSFCA** President Rodney Marvel reported on the following:

- With the possible election of Ron Marvel to DVFA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President the DSFCA will be seeking a new Treasurer for 2005-2006
- Have appointed a River Committee to assist with Homeland Security Issues, any company having a 20 foot boat or larger is being asked to assist
- At the next DSFCA Meeting DSP Major R.L. Hughes will be present to discuss Traffic Enforcement of the Red Light Photo Enforcement Law as it relates to firefighters
- They have recently appointed a Standardization Committee
- Have been meeting with DNREC to work out several possible problems
- Next DSFCA Meeting will be on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Sta. #89 – Slaughter's Beach

**CONFERENCE 2005** Chairman Elmer B. Steele reported on the following:

- Hot Training will be conducted at the DSFS on the Saturday and Sunday preceding Conference 2005
- Everything is coming together very well, all committees are working very hard
- All Conference information and registration information has been posted on the DVFA web page
- The Conference Logo has been approved and can be forward by the DVFA Office
- Looking for someone from NCC to sell Conference Souvenirs
- The number of training seminars during the Conference has been scaled back
- The next Conference Committee meeting will be at the Dover Sheraton on Monday, July 18, 2005

**CONFERENCE SITE SELECTION** Chairman Ted Doyle reported on the following

- Committee has been working since December 2004
- RFP was send out to interested parties in January 2005
- RRP were due back to the Committee by March 1, 2005
- RFP were received from the following
  - Sheraton/Dover
  - Rehoboth/Dewey Chamber
  - Wyndham Hotel/Wilmington
- Several weeks after the deadline Bank One of Wilmington submitted a proposal which was rejected due to the date
- On April 29<sup>th</sup> communication was received from Rehoboth/Dewey Chamber withdrawing their RFP

- The committee also received and updated RFP from the Wyndham stating that they were going to partner with Bank One on the RFP
- The Committee met on May 3, 2005 had presentations of RFP's by the Sheraton and the Wyndham
- The Bids were as follows:
  - Sheraton/Dover \$103,136.00
  - Wyndham/Bank One \$176,821.00

Chairman Doyle reported that the recommendation is for the Conference to stay in Dover at the Sheraton for 2006, 2007 & 2008. He also further recommended that the packets be distributed prior to the Executive Committee meeting to the Companies and that a vote be taken at the June Executive Committee Meeting.

***Motion by Treasurer Metheny, seconded by Director O'Neal that the we accept the Committee's report and that a vote on their actions be taken at the June 2005 Executive Committee meeting. Motion Carried.***

**DVFA WEB PAGE** 1st Vice President Kennard L. Pyle reported that Conference 2005 has been added to the web page and asked everyone to check their sections to see if any materials needed to be updated or corrected.

**DVFA PAST PRESIDENT'S RINGS** 1st Vice President Pyle advised that Past President's Harry Warner & John Bare's rings have been ordered and will be distributed at the June Executive Committee Meeting. Past President Walton Johnson & President Emeritus Spuck Bennett chooses not to participate and elected not to receive rings.

**DVFA CRUISE** 1st Vice President Pyle advised that next years DVFA Cruise will be February 4<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006 from San Juan traveling to the Southern Caribbean. He briefly discussed the organizational meeting that was held at Carlisle Fire Company with Uniglobe Travel to discuss details and incentives. One port of call has been changed from Caracas to Isla Margarita

**WAKE UP DELAWARE/RISK WATCH** 2<sup>ND</sup> Vice President Alan F. Robinson, Jr. reported that the next "Wake Up Delaware" will be on Saturday, October 29, 2005 from 0900 to 1400 Hrs.

**RISK WATCH** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Robinson reported that the State Fire Prevention Commission has been in negotiations to have the Risk Watch Program moved from Division of Public Health to the Delaware State Fire School.

***Motion by Executive Secretary Cubbage, seconded by Director D'Alessandro to endorse And recommend the move of the Risk Watch Program. Motion Carried.***

**TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER** 2<sup>ND</sup> Vice President Robinson reported on the meeting with the Delaware Gaming Commission and asked NCCVFA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Gerald Brennan to discuss the changes to the Draft Legislation. Executive Secretary Cubbage advised he would present the changes to Rep. Lee & Rep. Ennis. They hope to have the bill introduced later in the week.

**FIRE CORPS** Chairman E. James Monihan reviewed the minutes of the of the May 25<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting and discussed in brief detail the plans of the committee for the project. He would like to have the opportunity to schedule a Fire Corp Seminar during the 2005 Conference with National Fire Corp Director Shawn Stokes giving a presentation to our members. The Committee's next meeting will be on June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Executive Committee Meeting.

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES** DVFA PP Stephen P. Austin was excused and his report was given by Executive Secretary Cabbage covering the following items:

- Discussed the creation of ***EMS Administration*** within the Department of Homeland Security

***Motion By Executive Secretary Cabbage, Seconded by DVFA PP Monihan that the DVFA Oppose the creation of a separate EMS Administration in the Department of Homeland Security. Motion Carried.***

- Advised that Bill Jeneway and his staff at VFIS are busy working on our ***Safer Grant Application***. A meeting will be forthcoming with the DVFA Chair Officers to finalize several questions & project goals. First Vice Pyle will serve As coordinator on this project
- Discussed the alarming rate of LODD Deaths in 2005 and a project initiated by the IAFC for a ***National Stand Down Day***. The day would emphasis safety measures of our members. This would be a joint project of the DVFA, the DSFCA and the SFPC.

***Motion by Director D'Alessandro, seconded by Director Jones that the DVFA endorse and participate in the National Stand Down Day for Safety on June 21<sup>st</sup>, Motion Carried.***

Executive Secretary reported that President Stevens has met with the Medical Society of Delaware and is working on a voluntary Heart Screening Program for our members. This is in conjunction with the Healthy Heart program sponsored by the NVFC

**DVFA FOUNDATION** Vice Chairman Cabbage reminded everyone that all scholarship funds are being handled thru the DVFA Foundation and all checks for scholarships should be sent to DVFA Foundation Treasurer Ray Stevens. Also that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DVFA Foundation Golf Tournament will be held at the Shawnee Country Club in Milford on September 28<sup>th</sup>..

**DEMSOC/EDIN** President Stevens reported on many of the issues relating to the EDIN reporting system and the BLS community's displeasure with the system and the Office of EMS. He advised at the last DEMSOC Meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup> this was a major topic of conversation as it has been at many meetings. A DEMSOC/EDIN Task Force has been appointed to look at ALL of the aspects of the pre hospital reporting.

**ISO** President Stevens stated that he and DSFCA President Marvel have signed a joint letter requesting the Fire Companies assistance in updating the records for ISO, similar to what was just completed in Maryland.

**HOB RYAN DINNER** President Stevens advised that he has received several complaints about The Hob Ryan 40 year dinner. He stated that he is very appreciative to the Cheswold Fire Co. Auxiliary for their leadership since DVFA PP Emeritus Lou Amabili is not participating in the Event. He thinks that the DVFA in conjunction with the LADVFA and Cheswold should appoint a committee to handle this yearly event.

***Motion by Executive Secretary Cabbage, seconded by Treasurer Metheny to make a recommendation to First Vice President Pyle that he consider appointing a committee to host the annual Hob Ryan Dinner. Motion Carried.***

**NEW CASTLE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE** Executive Secretary Cabbage discussed the devastating news of the realignment of resources at New Castle County Air National Guard Base that was announced on May 13<sup>th</sup>. With the Air National Guard providing a vital link in the protection of the citizens of Delaware; the closing of the base will create a void that will be difficult if not impossible to fill.

***Motion by Executive Secretary Cabbage, seconded by Director D'Alessandro to send a letter to Governor Minner and our Congressional Delegation opposing the closure of the New Castle County Air National Guard Base. Motion Carried.***

**LODD – WATER WITCH FIRE COMPANY** Executive Secretary Cabbage reported on possible LODD death that occurred on March 21, 1904. Patrick Dougherty was employed by the City of Wilmington as a driver on a Horse-drawn Chemical Wagon owned by the Water Witch Fire Company. Executive Secretary was contacted by Steve Dougherty the great grandson of Patrick Dougherty. Mr. Dougherty gave the details of the incident to Mike Lowe at the DSFS and myself. I discussed this issue with Chief Ford, WFD at the DSFCA Meeting in Felton on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Even though this event took place before the creation of the WFD as we know it today. Chief Ford assigned Firefighter John R. Porter to research this LODD death. On May 23<sup>rd</sup> Fire Fighter Porter provided his report to Chief Ford and myself.

The brief facts are that Patrick Dougherty was employed by the City of Wilmington as a driver on a horse –drawn chemical wagon owned by Water Witch Fire Company from 1899 to 1902. On December 26, 1902 while responding to Willard Hall Public School #28 at Eight & Adams Sts. While responded to Call Box #8, at the corner of VanBuren St & Park Place the Chemical Wagon collided with a pole and upset throwing the Driver – Patrick Dougherty and Engineer - John H. Maxwell from the wagon severely injuring both. Both men were taken to their homes.

Mr. Dougherty died of an aneurysm of the Aorta on March 21, 1904 as a result of the injuries sustained in the accident on Dec 26, 1902.

I concur with the findings of Fire Fighter Porter and feel due respect and honors need to be provided for Driver Patrick Dougherty of the Water Witch Fire Company.

***Motion by Executive Secretary Cabbage, seconded by Director Jones to recommend to the DVFA membership on June 12<sup>th</sup> that Patrick Dougherty be considered a LODD and his name with appropriate ceremonies take place at the DVFA Memorial. Motion Carried.***

**LEGISLATIVE ISSUES** Executive Secretary Cabbage discussed the following issues:

- DVFA Legislative Night was held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and the total cost was \$6,719.10. Assessments to each County Association and Mutual Relief Assoc. were \$1,343.82 each
- HB #18 relating to EMT's Suspension by the SFPC has passed the House and is on the Ready List in the Senate
- HB #163 removes the requirement for active fire fighters who claim the \$400 tax credit from keeping proof of expenditures, In House committee
- DSFS Instructors Business License requirements are still in negotiations with the Division of Finance and State Personnel
- JFC Budget, it appears that the two additional positions for the DSFS & OSFM will be approved
- It is too early to know what Grant-In-Aide will be, but we should receive at a minimum of a 3% increase

**MISC ITEMS** Executive Secretary reported on the following items:

- The DVFA Funeral Committee was asked to participate in the services for Raymond Henry Morris, Sr. – Sta. #51, Hartly on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>
- The DVFA Funeral Committee was also asked to participate in the services for DVFA PP Donald W. Knight – Sta. #55, Magnolia on Thursday and Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.

An outstanding job was done by all of the committee members.

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR D'ALESSANDRO** Director D'Allessandro reported on the following:

- Advised that NCCVFA will be awarded \$25,000 for the Presidential Freedom Scholarship Grant Program by the NCC Government
- Reported that an Americore Grant, with a max of 20 persons will also be available
- Reported that the NCCVFA is working on a Hometown Hero's First Time Home Buyers Loan Program for our members in New Castle County
- Statewide Personnel Committee will be meeting in the near future
- At the next NCCVFA Meeting a Financial Best Practices Seminar will be held
- On June 12<sup>th</sup> will be NCC Government goes to School Day at the DSFS in New Castle

**National Association of EMT'S** DSAA PP Mike McMichaels reported that Delaware has over 100 members of the National Association of EMT's and the 27 states have Chapters. After a short discussion:

***Motion by Treasurer Metheny, seconded by Director Sawyer that the DVFA recommend that Delaware form a chapter of the National Association of EMT'S. Motion Carried***

**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE AMBASSADOR** DSAA PP Mike McMichaels reported on his upcoming trip to Russia as a People to People Ambassador to asses the EMS Capabilities in Russia during a Haz Mat Incident.

***Motion by Director D'Alessandro, seconded by DSFCA President Marvel that the DVFA Donate \$1,000 to help defray the cost of Mike McMichaels trip. Motion Carried***

**COMMENTS** President Stevens thanked everyone for their participation. He stated he wanted to recognize and congratulate the following DVFA members on their recent elections:

John E. Bare, Sr., DVFA PP on his election as President of the Del-Mar-Va Volunteer Firemen's Association at their annual convention in Cambridge

James C. Watson, on his election as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Eastern Division, International Association of Fire Chiefs at their annual meeting in King of Prussia

***Motion by Treasurer Metheny, seconded by Director O'Neal that we adjourn. Motion Carried***

Benediction was offered by Treasurer Metheny

Meeting adjourned at 2125 Hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

***James L. Cabbage, Jr.***

James L. Cabbage, Jr.  
Executive Secretary