

DVFA Officers meeting
Thursday, February 27, 2014
Hockessin (Sta. 19)
18:30 hours

DVFA ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

President Rich Toulson	(x)	Sussex County Director Ted Walius	(x)
1 st Vice President Anthony Guzzo	(x)	Sussex County Director Jay Jones	(x)
2 nd Vice President Joe Zeroles	(x)	New Castle County Director Lynn Truitt	(x)
Secretary Elmer Steele	(x)	New Castle County Director Dan Burris	(x)
Treasurer Allen Metheny	(x)	Kent County Director Glenn Gillespie	(x)
Executive Manager Warren Jones	(x)	Kent County Director Harold Brode	()
		Past Pres./Director Charles Frampton	()

Also in attendance;

LADVFA President Saralee Stevens	LADVFA 1 st Vice President Karen Majewski
DVFA Chaplain Bob Hudson	State Fire Police President John Hall
Sussex 1 st Vice President Steve Deery	DVFA Attorney Bill Preston
Fire Commission Chairman Dave Roberts	Fire Commissioner Ron Marvel
Hockessin President Dan Carrier	DVFA President Emeritus Lou Amabili

Meeting was called to order at 18:30 hours by President Toulson. Invocation was given by Chaplain Hudson. Pledge to the flag was given. Meeting was recessed for dinner served by the Hockessin Ladies Auxiliary. Meeting reconvened at 19:30 hours.

Welcome by Dan Carrier President of Hockessin Fire Co.

DVFA: President Toulson

- President Toulson thanked Hockessin for hosting this meeting and thanked the ladies for the delicious meal.

LADVFA: President Saralee Stevens (Karen Majewski)

- President Stevens stated that the next ladies executive meeting will be May 5th and will be held at Cheswold Fire Hall. She invited the officers to attend this meeting.

DSFCA: President Joe Morris (Stephen Maichle)

- Absent

DSFPA: President John Hall (Charles Morgan)

- John Hall stated that the Fire Police have been holding some training classes at the Fire school. They are also in the process of up-dating some of their procedures.

DSEMSA: President Sean Humphreys (Matt DeMarco)

- Absent

CVVFA: Jim Watson

- President Toulson reported that the President's Council meeting for Cumberland Valley will be held on Saturday, April 5th at the Seaford Fire Hall. They are planning a social event for early arrivals for Friday night at the station.

DVFA Attorney Bill Preston:

- President Toulson asked Bill to give the group an up-date on the Sheraton issue. Attorney Preston gave a pretty detailed report on the events that have taken place up to this point. Bill stated that the classification of the site has been changed with the City of Dover from a hotel to a dormitory. There have been numerous e-mails and phone calls between Bill and their attorney Michael Arrington. Bill thanked the officers and especially thanked Elmer for all of the information that was provided, so that a settlement could be reached. We were trying to re-coup \$41,500 from the Sheraton for the added cost that were incurred with the move to Dover Downs. Based on the offers and counter offers, a final settlement of \$36,000 has been offered and the payment is to be made on Monday, March 3rd, if we accept this offer. The only stipulation is that the DVFA is to draft a letter to the Sheraton stating that this is to be treated as a contribution/donation. Bill will draft the letter once we receive the check. Bill feels that we should take this offer and settle the account. If we continue, we will end up in litigation/court and that will cost the DVFA a large sum of money in legal fees. After some discussion, it was decided to accept the offer and put this issue behind us. Bill will attend the March 9th executive meeting and give the membership this same information.

Officer Reports:

President Rich Toulson:

- CFSI is May 1st in Washington. We have negotiated the price again this year to the tune of \$260.00 per ticket. President Toulson would like to have 200 of our members attend.
- Thanked the Recruitment & Retention committee for a good job regarding the ads, billboards, radio and TV advertising that has taken place.
- The Officers met with the Governor on January 30th.
- Discussed the possibility of getting our paid employees on the State health care plan.
- Touched on the EMS Task Force and the meeting that was held with Joint Finance.

1st Vice President Anthony Guzzo:

- No report. President Toulson covered everything.

2nd Vice President Joe Zeroles:

- No report. President Toulson covered everything.

Secretary Elmer Steele:

- Thanked everyone that helped with the Sheraton issue.

Treasurer Allen Metheny:

- Will be transferring \$1.7 million on Monday to cover the DVFA pension plan.
- Had a few issues with pension paperwork this year, but nothing major.

Conference Chairman John Stevenson:

- 2014 logo for souvenir items has been completed.
- Contracts for sleeping rooms are out. Get them back in ASAP.
- We have 250 rooms this year and they are about gone.
- Requested that everyone review their menus and guest list.
- Need to keep the cost down.

Fire Commission Chairman Dave Roberts:

- The Commission is reviewing protocols with the Ambulance Association.
- Addressing EMT complaints regarding not filling out reports in a timely manner.
- DEMSOC meeting raised questions on some EMT's working long hours.
- Commissioner Marvel thanked the fire companies for their participation when the commission needed info for the task force report.

Directors:

Past President/New Castle Director Charles Frampton:

- Absent

Sussex County Director Ted Walius:

- Thanked Bill Preston and Elmer Steele for leading the charge to resolve the Sheraton issue.

Sussex County Director Jay Jones:

- No report

New Castle County Director Lynn Truitt:

- No report

New Castle County Director Dan Burris:

- Discussed a piece of proposed legislation that would provide special funding by way of a tax for New Castle County. SYNOPSIS of the proposal; THIS BILL ALLOWS NEW CASTLE COUNTY TO CREATE A SPECIAL TAX ASSESSMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDING FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE, AMBULANCE AND/OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN SERVICES IN NEW CASTLE COUNTY.

A motion was made by Dan Burris and seconded by Anthony Guzzo that the DVFA support future legislation for a fire service tax assessment for New Castle County. Motion carried

Kent County Director Glenn Gillespie:

- No report

Kent County Director Harold Brode:

- Absent

Executive Manager Warren Jones:

- Talked about the EMS Task Force. Final report is in your packet tonight. Please take time to read it. There are 4 recommendations that came out as a result of the report;
 1. Adopt legislation to extend the current ambulance premium tax assessment to all health benefit plans that currently do not pay the assessment.
 2. Increase the ambulance premium tax assessment rate from .0015 to .0045
 3. Increase the Grant in Aid appropriations for maintenance of ambulances from \$4,500.00 per company to \$6,500.00 per ambulance.
 4. Adopt legislation to ensure health insurers raise their “allowable” rates to \$450.00 per run.
- Talked about Personal Injury Protection (PIP) and how that affects our money from the insurance companies.
- Talked with Senator Blevins and she is willing to support the 4 recommendations from the task force report.
- Bingo bill has passed and is waiting the Governor’s signature. This is in reference to paying out more money per game and increasing the total pay-out per night.
- Talked about the Recruitment & Retention program with emphasis on the following items;
 1. 2014 Advertising campaign – YouTube, Facebook, Billboards, Radio & TV ads.
 2. Website – Firefighter.Delaware.gov has had 2,492 visits since January 1st
 3. Facebook – Firefighter.Delaware.gov has had 2,300 “Likes” since January 1st
 4. Fire School Partnership – Will be working with the Basic Firefighting class and the Haz-Mat class in April to get the students involved in R&R. Plan to do some photo shoots and videos during the structural and vehicle rescue classes.
 5. National Volunteer Week – Tuesday, April 8th is Volunteer Firefighter Day at Legislative Hall. Will finalize times and get it out shortly. Fire Company open houses is set for Sunday, April 13th from noon to 4:00 PM
 6. 2014 SAFER sub-grant - \$40,000 available for distribution, had over \$142,000 requested. Received 7 applications from each County. Determination will be made by March 14th

7. State Fair Promotion – We have been offered sole sponsorship of the Friday (7/18) night rodeo at the Delaware State Fair in Harrington. There is a \$20,000 price tag on this event in order to be the sole sponsor. We will have booth space for R&R, space to display fire equipment, 400 tickets that can be given away as a promotion, etc.

A motion was made by Joe Zeroles and seconded by Jay Jones to support the rodeo, based on final approval of funding from DEMA for the \$20,000 sponsorship. Motion carried

Ron Marvel discussed the LODD of Joe Evans that happened in 2006. The family and the fire company are still in a battle with the State and the Feds over any kind of a settlement. There is an issue now regarding the Statue of Limitations. There was a lot of discussion regarding how you file and who you file with first. Most folks are under the impression that you file for Federal funds first and that if you receive Federal funds, you are not entitled to State funds. As of yesterday, we have been told that you can and should file for both Federal and State funds. There seems to be a lot of confusion on this issue. Warren and Ron will make the necessary calls and see if we can get a firm answer on this issue.

A motion was made by Joe Zeroles and seconded by Glenn Gillespie to support the Evans family with regards to LODD benefits for Joe Evans. Motion Carried

Chaplain Hudson gave the benediction

Meeting adjourned at 21:30 hours

Next Officers meeting will be May 22, 2014 at Farmington at 18:30 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Attest to and approved: Executive Manager Warren Jones