

Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association

Officers Meeting

November 18, 1997

President Knight convened the meeting at 6:30 P. M. in the Social Hall of the Magnolia Fire Company. The meeting was recessed for dinner. Dinner was served by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Magnolia Fire Company. The meeting was reconvened at 7:17 P.M.

The President once again welcomed everyone to the meeting. He requested that the members of the Magnolia Ladies Auxiliary and Fire Company receive the accolades from the Officers and visitors for a delicious meal.

A visual roll call revealed that all DVFA Officers were present with the exception of Director Hojnicky who was attending the Fall Conference of the National Fire Protection Association. The 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents and the Secretary of the LADVFA were also present, welcomed by the President and invited to bring greetings. They responded by thanking the Officers for the invitation and wished them well in their deliberation. It was noted that President Barbara Metheny was excused due to her attendance at the Kent County Ladies' Auxiliary meeting. Also in attendance were: Ron McLucas, Chair of the Recruitment & Retention Committee, R. Anne Emerson, Chair of Mutual Relief, her husband Charles and Ted Doyle.

Ron McLucas presented a summary of the Recruitment and Retention Committee and Long Range Plan. It was reported that the Workshop expenses totaled \$8,461.85 excluding one speaker's expenses. These expenses were paid from the DVFA accounts without utilizing the funds paid by the Companies participating in this very successful event. He further reported that the Committee meets the last Monday night of the month at Leipsic. It was regularly moved by Steve Austin and seconded by Mike Vincent that the funds collected by this Committee be refunded to the Companies and that this action be announced at the Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried. Treasurer Metheny requested that Charles Emerson provide him with the names of Companies and the names and addresses of individuals that submitted monies to the Committee. President Knight directed that the Committee compile a report of the activities at the Recruitment & Retention Committee Conference, which will be submitted to the members at the Executive Committee meeting. He further directed that the Committee offer a proposal to host another workshop in Delaware. Director Lister reported that the Fire Service Day at

the Christiana Mall would be rescheduled to the spring instead of October. This date is to be determined. Copies of the written Recruitment and Retention Committee report are attached.

Ann Emerson, Mutual Relief reported that the new Insurance policy was adopted and placed in effect on 9/25/97. Information packets have been provided to Companies that have signed up for this policy. Two Companies are currently not participating. Mutual Relief will meet with these Companies and others to work out any problems, prior to the Executive Committee meeting. Kyle Gebhart, Smyrna, is the local agent for Provident Insurance. Each Company has 60 days to pay the bill after the bill has been sent. Two Companies have requested that Mutual Relief evaluate their policies against the Policy provided by Provident. The Mutual Relief Advisory Committee has been contacted on this issue.

The representatives from the LADVFA were again recognized for any report. They responded by once again thanking the President for the invitation.

Jamie Turner, DEMA/DEOP Committee, provided a summary of the report of this Committee. The Draft has been submitted to the County Fire Chiefs Presidents for additional action at their meetings. A copy of the Draft report is attached.

1st Vice President Vincent reported on the 800mhz issue in Sussex County. The County has received \$2.3 million for radio purchases. The County Chiefs Radio committee is studying this issue and a decision will be made on how many radios each Fire Department will receive. It is apparent that the County will require additional radios. The monetary figure that is required to complete the radio purchase would be presented to the Joint Finance Committee.

The President reported upon the meeting attended by 1st Vice President Vincent, Treasurer Metheny, Director Cubbage, Ray Stevens representing the Supplemental Funding Committee and himself with Senator Cook of the Joint Finance Committee Co-chair. There was a difference in opinion among those present on how the supplemental funding recommendations were to be implemented. It was agreed that the difference between New Castle County insurance rebate over the prior year would be the recommendation presented to Senator Cook. The compromise would be the difference in the increase received by New Castle County companies less the increase received by Kent and Sussex

County companies. The Supplemental Funding Committee will meet prior to the Executive Committee meeting to clarify this issue. Once this issue is settled, Senator Cook will be notified.

The president reported that subsequent meetings with Representative Davis, Brian Bushweller and Governor Carper will be scheduled and the supplemental funding recommendations will be proposed and a request for their support will be tendered. The tentative meeting date with the Governor is December 12, 1997.

The Executive Secretary Research Committee has been appointed. Lynn Rogers will serve as the Chair. This committee will investigate, define the duties, guidelines and offer funding recommendations for this position. It is hoped that a preliminary report can be offered at the next Conference. If the Association members agree to this proposal, it will be the duty of the Officers to interview prospective candidates for this position.

The President announced that he had appointed E. David Bailey, MD as the DVFA representative to the State EMS plan workgroup. Dr. Bailey is an active member and Ambulance Attendant at Aetna. He is also finishing his residency at Christiana Hospital in Emergency medicine. He stated that he has no problem with speaking on behalf of the Fire Service. Letter of this appointment will notify the Office of Emergency Medical Services.

President Knight also reported that the Emergency Room physicians would be mounting a campaign for around the clock service for the State Police Trooper Medic unit. The DVFA needs to actively support this issue. State Police currently have the equipment, but need the manpower to support this effort. This issue will be brought up at the DEMSAC meeting. A quick review of serious trauma cases received by medical treatment facilities reveals that these incidents occur in the area of 1:30 A. M. and 7:30 A. M. The triple fatality incident in Christiana last week precipitated this action. The Trooper Medic was not available until later in the incident. It was suggested that a public relations campaign be initiated. The original theory behind the total coverage was that a helicopter be stationed in Dover. This concept would provide a Trooper Medic unit anywhere in the State within 25 – 30 minutes. It was regularly moved by Director Cabbage and seconded by Treasurer Metheny that the DVFA support the concept of implementing 24 hour coverage of the Trooper Medic unit within the State of Delaware. Motion carried.

The purple light issue has reemerged. Director Mulhern contacted President Knight concerning this issue. The State Funeral Directors Association has approached the Secretary of Public Service requesting her support in implementing and passing this bill. President Knight referred this issue to the President of the State Fire Police for their review and

comments. He was directed to determine the position of the Fire Police and communicate this to the DVFA via letter. It was recommended that the Fire Police meet with Funeral Directors Association representatives to develop a compromise.

The minutes of the September 30th Officers meeting were made available to the Officers. It was regularly moved by Director Roberts and seconded by 2nd Vice President Austin that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Eileen Doyle reported that Conference 98 would be meeting with Police Department officials to develop a working relationship for the Conference parade and parade route.

The President reported that Howard Eck, due to his health, required assistance. Vice President Austin, Directors Roberts and Lister were delegated the responsibility of securing assistance in the form of another Chaplain to assist Chaplain Eck.

Steve Austin reported that Senator Roth and Representative Castles' offices were receiving phone calls concerning the proposed changes in Fire Prevention regulations addressing sprinklers. It was reported that the Fire Prevention Commission was currently on a fact-finding mission to address this specific issue. It was stated that the DVFA should support the Commission in this endeavor.

Treasurer Metheny reported that Conference income was approximately \$200,000.00 with expenses approximately \$170, to \$175,000.00. He is waiting for bills from the Conference Chairman.

Steve Austin reported on Congressman Weldon's hearing on Terrorism and 1st Responder Training. The hearing was based upon testimony from DOD, FBI, FEMA, and other Federal Agencies. The Fire Service will have the opportunity to address this issue in a field hearing tentative scheduled to be held in Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

The Secretary reported that the Officers received copies of the Conference minutes, printouts of the Committee members in alphabetical order and by committee appointments. The Officers were requested to review the Conference minutes and offer any comments or criticism to the Secretary no later than 11/28/97. The minutes will be complete when the Conference financial statement and DVFA Essay and Poster winner information is provided.

Assistant Secretary Carrow reported that the Committee appointment letters would be mailed by the end of tomorrow.

Director Cabbage inquired if the discussion on the conduct of the Sergeant-at-arm had been complied with. The President reported that this issue had been dealt with.


Director Lister and Yocum reported that they had personal change of addresses. The Secretary requested that Directors Lister and Yocum obtain updated names, addresses, home and work phone numbers for their respective County, Chiefs, Fire Police and Ambulance Associations. Director Clendaniel was requested to obtain the names, addresses and phone numbers for the County Ambulance and Fire Police Associations.

The Secretary requested that the Officers strongly consider the advisability of appointing Committees during August. This would allow the President to officially appoint the Committees at the Conference and would distribute the workload for the Secretary's office.

Treasurer Metheny reported that the Partners in Progress Committee would be meeting at Clayton on December 2, 1997.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,


**James E. Turner, III
Secretary**

Attachments