

Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association Officers Meeting

March 1, 1999

The March Officers meeting of the DVFA was convened by President Vincent at 7:00 P.M. Treasurer Metheny offered the invocation. A visual rollcall indicated that the following were present: President Vincent, Vice Presidents Austin and Cabbage, Secretary Turner, Assistant Secretary Pickett, Treasurer Metheny, Directors Lakey and O'Neal. Vice President Guzzo represented Director Suppe and Vice President Stevens represented Director Marvel. President Workman, Vice Presidents Doyle and Mast, Secretary Guzzo and Christine Morrow represented the Ladies Auxiliary Association. Also present were E. David Bailey, MD, Norman L. Tate, Harry E. Warner, Jr. and Anne Emerson. The following Directors were absent and not represented Callaway, Sharp & Knight. It was reported that Past President Knight was hospitalized and Director Sharp was sick. The meeting was suspended for dinner served by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Seaford Volunteer Fire Department at 7:00 P. M.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:28 P. M. by the President. The members present thanked the Seaford Ladies for the delicious meal.

Past President Warner, Chair of the Advisory Commission to Mutual Relief apologized for the tardiness in completing the Committee's assigned duties. Chairman Emerson, Mutual Relief Association reported that all correspondence and records pertaining to the Life Insurance issue had been turned over to the Mutual Relief Advisory Committee. The Committee has contacted Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services (Deb Thomas) and Provident Insurance (C. J. Benz) concerning the life insurance following adoption of Past President Hojnicki's recommendation by the Association. He will be conferring with the Treasurer concerning the ages of and numbers of people involved in this project. The Committee needs this information before releasing a request for proposal. The policy will be guaranteed. Individual members will have the option to increase their coverage. After a cursory review, the proposal appears to be more expensive on a statewide versus a local basis. It is the intent of the Committee to have the figures available at the June Executive meeting for members' consideration. A question was raised as to whom this policy was to cover. It is the Committee's position to research and provide data on the proposal and not to determine whom was to be covered.

President Vincent questioned Ms. Emerson, Chair of Mutual Relief on financial allocations to Provident Insurance. She responded that Mutual Relief did in fact pay a portion of the bill, which is derived from their investments in addition to Company payments.

DVFA Officers meeting
March 1, 1999

The President recognized Norman L. Tate, Chair, Conference 99 who provided an overview of the proposed Agenda for Conference 99. The Committee has met with the Presidents of DVFA & LADVFA before the December Executive Committee meeting and provided them with the same overview.

The Conference Executive Committee has met since that meeting and recommends the following:

1. The Past Presidents' Dinner be held Tuesday evening, commencing at 6:00 P.M.
2. The CISD Conference, Golf tournament & Fishing trip are scheduled for Wednesday. Golf locations being considered are Seaford Country Club, Jonathan's Landing, Maple Dale & DAFB Golf clubs.
3. The Ferry trip be reinstated and will be held on Wednesday evening, commencing at 6:00 and will be completed by 10:00 P. M. There will be tickets issued to the men and women of each department.
4. There will be a landlubber's social at the Sheraton during the same period as the Ferry trip.
5. Thursday activities will consist of:
Registration & Exhibits open at 7:30 A.M.
Opening Ceremonies – 8:30 A. M.
Women's luncheon – Noon
DVFA Meeting – 1:00 P. M.
Mutual Relief Meeting – 3:30 P.M.
State Chiefs Meeting – Cheswold – 6:30 P.M.
Fire Police Meeting – Sheraton – 6:30 P. M.
6. Friday Activities will consist of:
Registration – 7:30 A. M.
Memorial Service – 8:30 A. M.
DVFA Luncheon – Noon time – Large room
Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting – 1:00 P. M.
Installation – 4:00 P. M.
Officer Gift giving – 6:00 P. M.
Presidents' Reception – 8:00 P. M.
7. Saturday – Parade

DVFA Officers Meeting
March 1, 1999

Following questions, answers & discussion it was regularly moved, seconded and passed that the Past Presidents Dinner be held Tuesday evening, the Ferry Boat trip and Landlubbers' social be held Wednesday evening and the balance of the agenda be approved as presented.

E. David Bailey, M. D., Ambulance Advisory Committee chair reported on the Committee's findings, recommendations and actions taken to date. A complete copy of the report will be incorporated within the March Executive Committee meeting minutes. Howard Cohen's comments on the recently released HCFA regulations were distributed and reviewed.

President Vincent reported on the status of the Thermal Imaging Camera issue. The Bond Bill Committee allocated funds for the purchase of three cameras for the Fire School. Following discussion with Director Murabito and the Commission, a consensus was agreed to that the funds for these three cameras are utilized to place more cameras in the field. A letter is forthcoming from the Fire School confirming this action. Each County Chief Association appointed members to sit on a statewide committee to determine an equitable distribution of the cameras. They have met, completed their assignment and recommend that four cameras be distributed in each county over a 5-year period. This will allow for the potential placement of a camera in every Fire Station in Delaware, including Wilmington.

Treasurer Metheny reported on the current financial management status. It was regularly moved, seconded and passed that the Treasurer be authorized to transfer funds from the excess Conference funds for use in the Association General funds.

A discussion ensued on the awarding of 50-year membership certificates for members serving with different companies over this time span. It was regularly moved, seconded and passed that the Association change the wording of the award to recognize 50-years of service within the Delaware Fire Service.

The Secretary received a letter from Felton Fire Company concerning notification of workshops and feedback on meeting information. The Secretary requested comments on the proposed response. It was regularly moved, seconded and passed that the response be sent to Felton.

A question was raised as to when the Conference contract expires. It was reported that a committee would be appointed to investigate and offer appropriate recommendations to the membership for their consideration following this conference.

DVFA Officers meeting
March 1, 1999

Delaware night at FDIC is setup with the exception of the Hotel room. Vice President Cabbage has room confirmation for the Presidential suite. However, there is a discrepancy with the room. This will be further investigated and there will be a location for the event. A motion will have to be made to draw funds against the budget for this affair. Provident and Pennewell Corporations are also financially supporting this event.

Law & Legislative night invitations have been sent to all concerned. All arrangements have been made with the Sheraton Conference Center.

The CFSI Dinner is Wednesday, April 21. All invitations have been sent to Fire Companies & Ladies Auxiliaries. Hotel rooms will be tight. Dave Paul will offer the Invocation and Benediction.

Steve Austin reported on federal issues affecting the Fire Service. These included Counter terrorism. Currently there are 150 cities receiving training. Delaware is being considered for additional training and equipment. A national committee addressing CISD and Fire fighter Grief training has been established. Kevin Wilson is representing Delaware. An advanced "pilot" training course may be provided at the Fire School. The Pascrell funding bill is still up in the air. Will be meeting with Pascrell & Curt Weldon Wednesday evening to discuss this issue. This legislation may end up providing grants to Fire Departments for Health and Safety issues. HCFA has established an ambulance billing task force. Three of the eleven members have Fire Service affiliations. They have not given up on extrication & stabilization issues for Fire Departments not providing Basic Life Support services.

Senator Roth will be inviting the Table Officers and NVFC representatives to meet with him before the CFSI dinner. Date is to be established.

It was suggested that a meeting be established with Rep. Castle and his staff to solicit more support for Fire Service issues.

It was regularly moved, seconded and passed that the Secretary send letters to Consumer Product Safety Commission Chair endorsing children's sleepwear standards and a letter to the Delaware Congressional delegation soliciting their support in making these standards a reality and supporting the Volunteer Fire Assistance Act. Copies of the letters are to be forwarded to the NVFC.

DVFA Officers Meeting
March 1, 1999

The President reported that a letter was received from Secretary of Public Safety Bushweller concerning a draft policy on Public and media access to the 800 MHz radio system. It was agreed that the letter be referred to the Communications Committee.

Vice President Cabbage reported that Reps. Spence and Wagner desire to host a Fire Service Recognition Day at Legislative Hall. Originally, they wanted to have this day on 3/16, 3/17 or 3/18 or the following week. DVFA has proposed that the event be held in early April or May. It was regularly moved, seconded and passed that the DVFA pursue and support this event.

Cabbage also reported that Concord, Alabama is dedicating their new Fire Station on 4/10/99. The Officers authorized Cabbage to have either a resolution drafted or a plaque made for presentation to the Fire Department. Travel for this event will be taken from his expense account.

Treasurer Metheny reported that he has delivered a check to the pension office for payment for the DVFA Pension program. He reported that active membership is continues to decline.

There was a recommendation offered that this Association should rededicate the Memorial Monument. It was decided that the Dedications should be held on Sunday, June 13, following the June Executive Committee meeting at 1:00 P. M. C. O. Smith should be recognized for dedication and long-time service to this project. It was determined that Past President Knight would determine what the program is to be and whom is to be invited. It was regularly moved, seconded and passed that the seven Directors be appointed as the Committee to plan this event with Director Knight as the Chair.

The status of the Constitution & By-Laws and the Executive Director Committees was questioned. The President will contact the respective Committee Chairs and direct them to have their Committees to complete their respective assignments. The By-Laws Committee is to review and update the Constitution and By-Laws. The Executive Director Committee is to complete the job requirements and develop a Job specification sheet and advertisement for this position.


The Secretary introduced Russ Pickett who has agreed to serve as the Assistant Secretary. He distributed reports consisting of the Officers, Executive Committee members and Legislative members. He requested that any changes be provided to him as soon as possible.

DVFA Meeting Minutes
March 1, 1999

Director Lakey discussed the Minquas Fire Company letter and their efforts on changing the Constitution and By-Laws to reflect one vote per company with no Officers voting.

There being no other business to claim the attention of the Officers, it was regularly moved, seconded and passed that the meeting be adjourned following the Benediction.

The Benediction was offered by Treasurer Metheny. The President declared the meeting adjourned at 10:07 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Turner, III
Secretary