



DVFA OFFICER'S MEETING

November 27, 2006

President Alan F. Robinson, Jr. called the November DVFA Officer's Meeting to order at 1832 Hrs at the Social Hall of Citizens' Hose Co. and welcomed all who were present. DVFA Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr. offered the invocation.

Attendance:

President Alan F. Robinson, Jr.
First Vice President Ron Marvel
Second Vice President Warren F. Jones
Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr.
Executive Secretary James L. Cabbage, Jr.
Director Kevin L. Wilson
Director Charles Frampton
Director Charles Boyer
Director PP Ken Pyle
DVFA PP E. James Monihan

LADVFA President Florence Legates
LADVFA First Vice President Debbie Marvel
LADVFA Second Vice President Carol Walton
LADVFA Secretary Virginia Yeager
LADVFA Asst. Secretary Joanne Catilino
DSFPA President Joseph Zerolos
DSFCA President Tucker Dempsey
DSAA President Allen Post
NCCVFA First Vice President Vaughn Rider
EMS Advisory Comm. Chairman Doug Butler

President Robinson then recessed the meeting for a delicious dinner served by the Citizens' Hose Co. Ladies Auxiliary at 1834 Hrs.

Meeting was called back to order at 1915 Hrs., whereby President Robinson led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag. President Robinson then thanked the men & women of the Citizens' Hose Co. Ladies Auxiliary for a wonderful meal.

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

LADVFA President Florence Legates brought greetings from the LADVFA and introduced her Officers that were in attendance. She thanked everyone for their support and encouragement and wished every one a joyous Holiday Season.

DSFCA President Tucker Dempsey brought greetings from the DSFCA and offered his support to the DVFA Officers.

DSFPA President Joe Zeroles brought greetings from the DSFPA . He discussed the lack of progress in the issuance of new Statewide Fire Police ID Cards, which has been issued through the Sussex County Sheriff's Office. Due to the recent elections the project is on hold. The Sussex Sheriff –Elect has pledged his support to this project.

DSAA President Alan Post also brought greetings for the DSAA.

DVFA CRUISE Admiral Ken Pyle reported that the DVFA cruise has been planned for the Western Caribbean for February 4 – 11,2007. It is not too late to book this cruise, anyone interested please contact him.

BLS FUNDING REPORT PP Ken Pyle advised that the DEMSOC Funding Sub Committee prepared the new report in an attempt to secure additional funding for BLS. He apologized to the DVFA for sending this request out without their knowledge, but time was an important consideration. There was considerable discussion on the form and companies not reporting in a timely manner that is prescribed by DEMSOC. The new form will be presented at the next DEMSOC meeting for final approval.

CONFERENCE 2006 1st Vice President Warren F Jones reported that as Chairman he thought that the Conference went very well and again thanked all committee members for their hard work. He was especially pleased with the Dover Sheraton for a smooth transition after a major remodeling project. All comments and suggestion have been forwarded to the Conference 2007 committee for review and consideration.

CONFERENCE 2007 Chairman Kevin L. Wilson reported that the committee held its first meeting at the Dover-Sheraton on Monday, November 20th and that most of the committees are set. Two major Committee Chairman changes are Walt Reynolds handling Refreshments and Gordon Davis taking over Hot Training. Anyone is welcomed to the next conference committee meeting on January 15th at the Dover-Sheraton.

DVFA WEB PAGE First Vice President Ron Marvel reminded everyone if any materials need to be updated or corrected please contact the DVFA in writing or by email with the changes. Do NOT contact the web master directly. He is also attempting to have all of the Conference 2007 forms added in the near future.

TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER President Robinson reported that one of the licensed vendors is having disputes with several organization over cost sharing at functions, also there is a possibility that there could be several changes in operations of events with some changes in regulations. They have not been published at this time. DVFA has representation at all Gaming Commission meetings in an attempt to keep the members abreast of any proposed changes to Texas Hold'em rules and regulations.

WAKE UP DELAWARE/RISK WATCH President Robinson advised that the fall "Wake Up Delaware" held on October 28th was a huge success. He advised that he would attempt to adequate copies of the Safety Bear DVD for the member companies at the Executive Committee meeting. After a short discussion:

Motion by 2nd Vice President Jones, Seconded by Director Frampton to have 100 Safety Bear DVD's prepared and the cost to be incurred from the "Wake Up Delaware" grant. Motion Carried.

DVFA SUMMITT President Robinson reported that the dates for the DVFA Summit would be on January 26, 27 & 28, 2007 at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. The DVFA Chair Officers have held two Town Meetings in New Castle and Kent Counties. The Sussex County Meeting date is December 5, 2006 at 1900 Hrs at Sta. #77, Georgetown. All registrations must be received by December 20, 2006. President Robinson advised that the meetings have been very informative and that three major areas have been addressed:

- A group to oversee the fire service, possibly changing the authority of the State Fire Prevention Commission
- Pro-active General Assembly
- Improved BLS funding.

EDIN ISSUES President Robinson stated he has heard many concerns that there has been a lack of progress in improving the EDIN system. A lengthy discussion followed with EMS Advisory Committee Chairman Doug Butler relating several issues and concerns of the providers in Sussex County. Allen Metheny discussed the EDIN Users Committee issues and concerns and recommended that Sussex County bring their concerns to the next DEMSOC Committee meeting on December 6th. He also advised that effective January 1, 2007 completed EDIN reports will be able to be faxed to the hospitals.

SAFER GRANT Executive Secretary Cabbage advised that on November 11, 2006 the DVFA was awarded a Safer Grant for Recruitment and Retention for \$134,950. The proposal submitted to the USFA was for a Four-year program, however they only funded year one of the grant for Strategic Planning ONLY. With that being the case, the Executive Secretary has prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Strategic Plan that has to be finalized with the Chair Officers as it relates to time frames. After a short discussion:

Motion by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Boyer to approve the issuance of a RFP for a Strategic Plan for Recruitment and Retention. Motion Carried.

NVFC Treasurer Metheny gave an update on the NVFC Fall meeting in Bend, Oregon. He advised that the NVFC Exec. Officers will be meeting on January 18-19, 2007 to discuss Congressional Leadership and the Fire Caucus Leadership.

FIRE CORPS PP Jim Monihan advised that he is going to again contact all Delaware Fire Companies encouraging their participation in the Fire Corps program. He again has applied for a grant to assist Fire Corp. Only 8 of the 61 Departments have signed up to participate, with only 2 signing up after Senator Carper's letter. To date the following companies have signed up to participate in Fire Corp:

***Christiania
Delaware City
Volunteer Hose
Lewes***

***Carlisle
Hartly
Little Creek
Magnolia***

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES Executive Secretary reported on the following items for PP Austin who is representing the Fire Service at the National Traffic Incident Management Conference in California:

- Fire Caucus Leadership: I will be attending a workshop on December 13th in Washington to review leadership openings on the Fire Caucus. The retirement of two of the Co-Chairs, Sen. Sarebanes and Rep. Boehlert and the defeat of Rep. Weldon and Sen. DeWine mean on half of the leadership must be replaced
- Following a precedent set several years ago the CFSI Dinner ticket prices are reviewed every 3 years. Due to an increase of prices at the hotel, ticket prices will rise \$25 to **\$275**
- Retirement of IAFF Local 36 President Ray Sneed, District of Columbia Fire Dept. Seldom has a union official done so much for the right of firefighters to Volunteer during their off hours. A retirement event is being planned.

Motion by Executive Secretary Cubbage, Seconded by Director Wilson That the DVFA purchase several tickets to this event and that President Robinson present a suitable gift. Motion Carried

- Senator Carper who as minority member of the Senate Homeland Security Comm. and Governmental Affairs Committee enjoyed considerable influence now that he is in the majority and should receive a sub-committee chairmanship. Steve has met with staff looking for the Senator to take an even higher profile on fire service issues
- Has major concerns regarding the re-banding of the 800 MHz system radios based on cost overrun and slow progress in the Washington, DC. Area. Has attended several meetings on this issue as well as an effort to obtain more frequency allocation for public safety usage.
- Reminded everyone that the new Majority Leader of the House of Rep. Steny Hoyer is an Honorary Member of the DVFA
- Discussions are taking place regarding honoring DVFA Honorary Member Curt Weldon. NO plans have been formulated at the present time.

DVFA FOUNDATION Vice Chairman Cubbage that the next Foundation meeting will be on Monday, April 16, 2007 at the Kent County EOC. The Foundation's books have been audited and that that brochure outlining the Foundation activities was placed in the Conference Packets.

ADVOCATES FOR FIRE BASED EMS Executive Secretary Cubbage reported that PP Steve Austin has been selected as Co-Chairman with Chief Denny Compton as Chairman. PP Jim Monihan represents the NVFC on this Committee. Their next meeting is scheduled for December 12th. They are preparing a Big Room Presentation for April 19, 2006 @ 0830 Hrs at FDIC. More details will be provided at the Executive Committee Meeting.

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTER RUN Director Wilson gave a brief report on the half marathon race and thanked everyone who assisted especially the LADVFA. The preliminary report indicates that the DVFA will be able to donate \$2,500 to the NFFF.

RETIREMENT OF CHIEF FORD The retirement celebration for WFD Chief Jim Ford will take place on Friday, December 29, 2006 @ 1230 Hrs at the Wilmington Public Safety Bldg.

Motion by Executive Secretary Cubbage, seconded by Director Wilson that President Robinson present a suitable gift to Chief Ford. Motion Carried

MISC ITEM Executive Secretary reported on the following items:

- Reported that the Chair Officers have had considerable discussions on the creation of the position of DVFA Legal Counsel. President Robinson and the Executive Secretary interviewed a possible candidate for this Position. This position would be similar to the position of our Public Relations Firm to assist when requested. After a short discussion

Motion by Executive Secretary Cubbage, seconded by Director Wilson to offer the position of DVFA Legal Counsel to John F. Brady, Esq. With a budget line of \$1,500. Motion Carried

- Advised that the DVFA vehicle, one of the surplus NCC Police vehicles lost its brakes during Conference 2006. To have the brakes repaired was estimated at \$2,500. As previously approved President Robinson ordered the vehicle to be sold. George H. Hoffeker, Inc of Smyrna towed the vehicle to its location, stored the vehicle and assisted in the sale of the vehicle with NO charge to the DVFA. The vehicle was sold for \$550 in early November and the insurance was cancelled
- Reported that DEMA is in the process of creating IMT, Incident Management Teams that would be training to assist Fire Departments and Municipalities in Long Range Incidents. 18 Individuals have submitted applications and are Now going through the review process at DEMA.
- Advised that DEMA is in the process of finalizing the reimbursement policy for payment of volunteer fire service personnel during training and exercises. When finalized will be distributed to the member companies.
- Dates for Conference 2007 will be September 10th to 15th, 2007
- Dates for FDIC in Indianapolis will be April 16th to 21st, 2007 with Delaware Night being held at the Hyatt on Friday, April 20, 2007
- Date for the CFSI Annual Dinner will be March 29, 2007 at the Washington Hilton
- Reminder to all Officers that photos for the Conference Book will be taken at the Executive Committee Mtg. on December 10, 2006

- Discussed the ongoing computer system problem at the DVFA Office and are still waiting for the review of the possible vendor contract for this project
- Advised of the conflict with the date for the 2007 Legislative Night with CFSI and the possibility of a new location and date. Further information will be forthcoming when all details are finalized.
- Report that the DVFA is in the process of having the DVFA Logo colorized and digitized.
- Reported that the USFA 2006 Fire Prevention & Safety Grants (Wake Up Delaware) application period will open on December 4, 2006 and will close At 5 PM EST on January 12, 2007
- Offered congratulations to two Delaware Fire Companies who received 2006 USFA Assistance to Firefighter Grants:
 - Townsend – Sta. #26 - \$133,950 Operations & Safety – 4th Round
 - Greenwood – Sta. #78 - \$181,996 Operations & Safety – 6th Round

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS Treasurer Metheny reported that there are several pieces of old, outdated, and either unrepairable or cost prohibitive office products:

- Original laptop that was utilized by Treasurer, unable to repair
- Fax machine purchased for President Knight, unable to repair
- Typewriter donated by State Farm Insurance, cost prohibitive to repair

Motion by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Boyer that Treasurer Metheny Be authorized to dispose of and clear the DVFA inventory of a lap top computer, Fax machine and typewriter. Motion Carried

CLOSING COMMENTS President Robinson thanked everyone for their attendance and their participation in the Delaware Fire Service and for their encouragement, assistance and dedication. Further advised that he would announce at the Executive Committee meeting that He did not expect long repetitive reports that rehashed old business and that if reports needed to be distributed that the committee chairman should make adequate copies for all in attendance.



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