

**DVFA Executive Committee Meeting  
Sunday, December 8, 2019, 10 AM  
Delaware State Fire School  
“A Look in the Rear View”**

**As I start to key in this report I’m again reminded about “how quickly time goes by”. I’m reflecting of course on the last 3 months since we left our Conference at Dover Downs. Fast forward to now as we are looking at Christmas and the New Year just ahead... you can see where the time has gone.**

**So at this point I need to compile a report to cover where I have been and what has transpired since I was installed in my new position. As I review and scan my report that covers meetings, miles and the hours it appears I’ve been busy doing a few things. For the most part much of it has been travelling to and attending the many various meetings statewide that are part of what we do. These trips to meetings are in large part about delivering information, gathering thoughts and feelings about our volunteer fire service and what/how we are doing.**

**The single, biggest amount of time has gone to being involved, following and participating in Recruitment and Retention in one way or another. At this point we have had 3 meetings of the R&R Task Force established by the Joint Resolution at Leg. Hall. Additionally our trip to VCOS in Clear water, FL really brought home the point to me about how serious this problem is. By the course content, the agenda and the speakers soon brought this problem/topic to the forefront for me. This is by no means just a Kent, Sussex or New Castle problem it is a nationwide problem and it is massive from coast to coast and all areas in between.**

**We here in Delaware are focused on finding out what is going to work for and help us. Some companies, groups and individuals have been in an ongoing process to identify their problems and determine the best path forward. The R&R Task Force has been fortunate to be given some information and reports that have already generated facts, thoughts and conclusions. This is only one small step forward...we have many more to go.**

**This is going to take the cooperation of the volunteer fire service statewide, our associations and the state of Delaware working in tandem to even begin to identify, propose and implement solutions to our problem here in Delaware. What I've said here is not anything new to most of us but we must continue the discovery process and propose solutions because failure is not an option!**

**In conclusion, I'll continue to be present going into calendar 2020 to do my share to help develop our process and help propose solutions to this problem. We will have to do this and deal with other problems known and unknown.**

**I'll summarize my report by the activity items noted....report my attendance for 22 events, travelled 723.5 miles ....and 90 hours in-service. At least these are the ones recorded for this quarter who knows what lies ahead!**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Ken Ryder  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
DVFA**

**Copy:  
Elmer Steele, Secretary  
Warren Jones, Executive Director  
My E-File**