

# **DVFA EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**Delaware State Fire School**

**June 14, 2009**

Call to order at 10:00 A.M. by President Warren F. Jones

Invocation offered by Rev. Robert Willms

Pledge of Allegiance led by DVFA PP William G. Walton, Sr.

Roll Call of Officers – Executive Secretary

- [X] Warren F. Jones, 16, President
- [X] Kevin L. Wilson, 45, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- [X] William F. Tobin, 89, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- [X] James L. Cabbage, Jr., 45, Executive Secretary
- [X] J. Allen Metheny, Jr., 51, Treasurer
- [X] Lynn Truitt, 14, New Castle County Director
- [ ] Mike Rains, 48, Kent County Director
- [X] Roland Walker, 80, Sussex County Director
- [X] Alan F. Robinson, Jr., 44, Past President
- [X] Charles W. Frampton, 11, Director, New Castle County
- [X] Charles H. Boyer, 46, Director, Kent County
- [X] Richard Toulson, 87, Director, Sussex County

All officers were present with the exception of Mike Rains.

## **Guests**

***Presentation of DVFA Scholarships by Chairman George Kerr assisted by President Warren F. Jones:***

Chris Jones Angerstien's Memorial Scholarship- Dominic Calvarese  
Delaware State Fire Chief's Scholarship- William R. "Tucker" Dempsey  
LADVFA Scholarship- Kathryn M. Loftin  
Delmarva Power Scholarship- Tammy L. Reeves  
Delmarva Power Scholarship- Eric Houvinen, Jr.  
Delmarva Power Scholarship- Amy Morris  
New Castle County Ladies Aux. Scholarship- JoAnne Kelleher  
Kent County Ladies Aux. Scholarship- Kylie Melvin  
Sussex County Ladies Aux. Scholarship- Carrie Rambo  
Minqvadale Fire Co. Joseph Hojnicky Scholarship- David J. Roberts, Jr.  
Wilmington Manor Fire Co. Vaughn "Shorty Watson" Scholarship- Charles C. Evans, Jr.  
Christiana Fire Co. Scholarship- Kyle M. Mench  
Greenwood Fire Co. Arnold Blankenship Memorial Scholarship- Kevin H. Donovan

DVFA PP Scholarship- Raymond Clark, Jr.  
 Hartly Fire Co. Morris King Memorial Scholarship- Jason McCain  
 New Castle County Ladies Aux Scholarship- Carissa Lancaster  
 VFIS Scholarship- Dennis R. Hitchens

## Report of Officers

### President Warren F. Jones

Date	Event	Hours	Miles
3/8/2009	DVFA Executive Meeting, Dover	6	98
3/10/2009	Sunset Committee Hearing, Dover	7	98
3/12/2009	NCCVFA Five Points	6	180
3/18/2009	KCVFA, Clayton	6	102
3/20/2009	Press Conference SAFER Grant, Dover	4	98
3/21/2009	Elsmere Banquet, Elsmere	8	200
3/24/2009	SCVFA Georgetown	4	38
3/25/2009	DEMSOC Meeting, Dover	6	92
3/26/2009	DSFCA Meeting, Harrington	6	70
3/30/2009	Public Safety Secretary Meeting, Dover	7	92
3/30/2009	Revolving Loan Fund Meeting, Dover	4	98
4/1/2009	IAAI Dinner, Washington, DC	6	249
4/2/2009	CFSI Washington D. C.	12	
4/7/2009	Site Selection Meeting Dover	6	98
4/15/2009	KCVFA, Little Creek	6	102
4/16/2009	DSFPC Meeting, Dover	6	98
4/18/2009	CVVFA Presidents Meeting, Branchville, MD	9	234
4/20/2009	40 Yr. Dinner, Cheswold	5	102
4/22 - 4/29 2009	FDIC, Indianapolis	42	1400
4/27/2009	Site Selection Meeting Dover	5	98
4/28/2009	SCVFA, Greenwood	6	62
5/6/2009	Rehoboth Meeting	6	22
5/7/2009	Gov. Prayer Breakfast, Dover	5	100
5/7/2009	DelMarVa Conference	4	10
5/12/2009	Governor Markel Meeting, Milton	2	30
5/16/2009	Rehoboth Picnic	6	10
5/18/2009	EMS Bike Ride, Georgetown	2	38
5/18/2009	Conference Committee Meeting, Dover	6	94

5/20/2009	KCVFA Meeting, Farmington	5	76
5/21/2009	DVFA Officers Meeting, Memorial	6	46
5/26/2009	SCVFA Ellendale	5	44
5/30/2009	Bob Dayett Viewing	6	200
6/2/2009	Bill Rodick Viewing	4	200
6/3/2009	Bill Rodick Funeral	7	
6/3/2009	Rehoboth Meeting	3	20
6/4/2009	Julia Mast Viewing	4	120
6/11/2009	NCCVFA Hockessin	6	220
6/13/2009	MSFA President's Dinner, Ocean City, MD	5	56
Totals	Events 39	249	4895

Respectfully Submitted by  
Warren F. Jones

My mileage, hours, and meeting attendance has been transmitted to the Executive Secretary electronically.

**Assistance to Fire Fighter Grants:** The White House came out and recommended the doubling of SAFER and a dramatic cut in the fire grants. I would like to entertain a motion under new business for this association to send letters to Vice President Biden, Rep. Stenny Hoyer, Majority Leader of the House, and to whoever else our out of state coordinator feels we should to restored the funds to the FY09 levels.

I would like to discuss some issues that have come about this past month.

**Funding:** We are working to on our Grant in Aid. Right now it still looks like we will be taking about a 15% hit. All of you need to contact your legislators to let them know your feelings. You folks in Kent and Sussex really need to mention your equalization funding. No one knows how this will all play out so we have to let our legislators know how you feel.

When we met with the Governor we specifically went over funding and the shortages we have incurred this year in our insurance monies. He told him us how much the state was short.

**Ambulances Insurance Premium Monies:** We still do not have a meeting date with the insurance commissioner for the explanation of our shortage there.

**Dues:** There was a motion this month in Kent County to decrease the dues paid to the DVFA. The motion failed overwhelmingly. But it is something I need to address.

First of all, our dues have not increased in quite a while and for the last couple of years we have used money from savings to offset our expenses.

Let me assure you, we all too well understand some of your financial difficulties. I don't think any of us had any idea about the size of the economic problem in our state and our country. Sure we knew that we last year the wanted to cut our Grant in aids but thanks to Bruce and our lobbying efforts that didn't happen.

It wasn't until late December early January that we really understood the full brunt of this situation. Who would have thought that the State would have been 800 million in the hole? Once we did, we took some steps to cut our expenses. We did that by eliminating our vice presidents from going to FDIC, we canceled Delaware Night at FDIC. We have canceled the Law and Legislative night.

Now is not the time for us to cut our budget in certain areas. Now is the time to promote our selves. The majority of our money comes from government. We need to get involved in the political events and if it means spending money to get involved then we need to do that. We need the legislators to know who we are and we need to know kind of support they will give us.

When we met with the Governor I gave him a list of items. I wanted an increase in the revolving loan fund, an increase in our state tax deduction, I wanted health insurance and free Medicare supplemental insurance for our people, I wanted the same benefits the National Guard receives for our people, I wanted free access to state parks and free fishing and hunting licenses and the list went on.

Now, I knew we were not going to get the money items on the list but someday the Governor will want to run for reelection and when he starts to think about that, he is going to think about that list. You know why he is going to think about our list, because every time I see him I am going to remind him and every time you see him you need to remind him as well.

Folks, now is the time for all of us to get involved politically with our local legislators. Jim, Bruce, Biff, Danny, Bobby, Larry and the DVFA officers will handle legislative hall. However, you need to let your local politicians know about the fire service.

Some of you are doing that. I know that Nor-Del had a meeting with all their legislators and I know that Rehoboth is planning a town meeting type of event. You need to start thinking about these things. If you need help we will help you.

And by the way, that includes the LADVFA as well. Ladies I know you know how to talk and some of you I know that first hand.

Now before you jump in to things, let me remind you, if this it is a state wide issue please coordinate it through the DVFA office, that way Jim, Bruce, Biff, Danny, Bobby, Larry and the rest of us know what is going on and can support it.

If you need help setting up or want us to attend any political events we have an excellent political savvy public relations guy in Dave Bonar, use him and use us.

**Budget:** When you look at our budget it is pretty fixed. Sure there are areas in our operating budget that could be cut, some of which we already did this year and we will look at them. The piece of the pie that could be sliced is the conference. Vice President Wilson has started to look at our budget to see if there is areas where we can reduce our expenses and he has done some preliminary work on the conference expenses including canceling the parade and even dramatically changing the conference altogether.

It is too late and would not be fair to the companies who have already booked hotel rooms, order items for the parade and so on to do anything this year. Contracts have been signed, items have been ordered, and monies have been budgeted and so on.

However, I have spoken to Kevin and Bill and we agree that we should do some major cuts in at least the next two year's budgets. The one thing you have to remember is, this is your budget. What even direction you want us to go in is where we will go.

We are going to go through the DVFA budget in July this year and not in August as year's past. We will prepare a budget or we may prepare two different budgets. We will distribute the budgets to you at the July Sussex County Meeting and the August New Castle County and Kent County Meetings. That way you will have time to take it back to your companies to and decide how to vote at the conference.

Next Issue:

**DVFA:** Somewhat along the same lines, this month one of our member companies was contemplating withdrawing their membership from the DVFA strictly because of financial reasons. I wrote a letter to that company President explaining the repercussions that might come from that and then I explained what the DVFA does. They read my letter on the floor and voted to continue their membership in the DVFA.

In doing so, it made me think that you all may not understand what the DVFA does so I am going to read to you some excerpts from my letter and embellish them a little.

The way the statues are written you could be in jeopardy of loosing your grant in aids monies. Also, the pension was written for members of the DVFA, so you would jeopardize any new members from joining or members who are not vested in losing out.

I am sure that some folks will tell you that could be a matter of interpretation. However, there is some case history for that interpretation. Long before I was involved with any associations another company considered the same thing. As a matter of fact, they refused to send in their dues. Eventually, when they learned the monies they would loose they changed their mind.

I also know that many years ago another company sued to join the association because the state would not give them any money until they were a member.

As I said, those items are subject to interpretation but I would like to tell you what the DVFA does for you.

The DVFA is the voice of the Delaware Fire Service and any time the fire service is challenged as a whole, it is up to the DVFA to answer that challenge. Sometimes we do that privately and sometimes we do that publicly, as we did last December when the News Journal printed the series of articles about us. Our response was prudent, truthful and in the words of Sal DeVivo, the former publisher of the News Journal, powerful.

The DVFA is the central point for assistance. When a company is faced with a tragedy or needs assistance on any issue, the DVFA is there for them. Just this past year, after the unfortunate death of Michelle Smith, the DVFA was in Delaware City to help. Just as soon as I got the word that she passed, I went home, packed some clothes and headed for Delaware City. I spent the next two days and nights working with them, consoling them, and helping them, as well as making sure the needed documents and procedures were completed so her family could qualify for federal benefits.

During this unfortunate incident we had two more of our people injured, one in Georgetown and the other in Harrington. I called my two vice presidents and had Kevin Wilson handle the Harrington incident and Bill Tobin handle Georgetown.

The DVFA is your voice to State Government. Our Executive Secretary is your full time lobbyist and has proved his value over and over again. He is in legislative hall anytime a fire service issue is debated or voted on. He meets regularly with the legislators; he serves on numerous State of Delaware Emergency Service and Home Land Security Committees. His acceptance and credibility in Legislation Hall is invaluable to the fire service. I have personally seen him in action and have seen his acceptance with the legislators. In these current economic times those relationships with the legislators could prove to be very fruitful.

In addition he stays abreast with the regional fire service associations to learn what other states are doing that could benefit the Delaware Fire Service.

As President of the DVFA, I also work with the legislators and with the executive branch. I serve on two state committees; DEMSOC and the Revolving Loan Fund Committee.

If you look at all the things the DVFA has managed to obtain for its members over the years the list is pretty impressive. I will just mention a few: Members Pension, Death Benefits, Tax Deductions, Grant in Aids, Insurance Substitutes, Equalization and leveling up monies for Kent and Sussex Companies, etc.

The DVFA is your voice to the Federal Government, as well. Because of our alliance with the CSFI and their support of initiatives like the Fire Grants, millions of dollars have come to the fire companies in the State of Delaware.

In addition to the CSFI, the DVFA works closely with the NVFC, IAFC, and the NFPA. Lou Amabili and Steve Austin serve on the board of the CFSI. Allen Metheny and Jim Monihan serve on the board of the NVFC. With the NFPA, Ken McMahon has served on the 1720 Standards Committee, Mike Vincent on the Fire Apparatus Standards and Ed Klima on the Motor Sports Standards Committee.

After the tragic death of Stephanie Calloway the DVFA, in conjunction with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission, lead the national charge for safer ambulances. The lobbying efforts, led by Ken McMahon, convinced the NFPA to form an Ambulance Standards Committee and we have been successful in placing Chief Bill Walton Jr. on that committee.

In this state, we lobbied hard with Secretary Mitchell for a fire apparatus and ambulance driving simulator and up until his departure and the current economic situation that simulator almost became a reality. We have already met with the new Public Safety Secretary to start our lobbying efforts again.

The DVFA is actively involved in public relations and public safety. As you know, our “Wake up Delaware” smoke detector and fire safety programs as well as our “Risk Watch” program has gained national prominence for the fire service in the State of Delaware. You have handed out thousands of smoke detectors and batteries and have had life safety taught to hundreds of our children in every school district in this state. We will never know how many lives have been saved because of these programs.

The DVFA doesn’t stop. Just recently we received a \$398,000.00 federal grant for Recruitment and Retention. Bringing new people into our service and keeping the good ones we have is our most important mission. We have committees working on this and will be actively promoting the Delaware Fire Service very soon.

The DVFA tries to stay abreast of new management and firefighter safety issues. That is part of some of the things the DVFA does.

We, the fire service in Delaware, need to be united now more than ever. If your company or any other fire company is having difficulties we need to know that so we can try to help.

In closing, let me say two things. We are working this budget issue and we will present you with a plan. Secondly, all of us need to remember the DVFA is not me, or Jim or Kevin or Bill or Allen or any of the directors. The DVFA is you and all the members of all the companies and through a democratic process we decide our major issues. Most importantly, the DVFA is those new people who I teach every year in Basic Firefighting Skills. The DVFA is also the young people who get our fire trucks and our ambulances on the street every day.

The DVFA is not the past. It is the present and it is the Future because you are the present and you and your members are the future. Thank you.

**First Vice President Kevin L. Wilson**

I attended 28 events, traveled 1506 miles and spent 211 hours on DVFA official business during the above time period

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin L. Wilson

**Second Vice President William F. Tobin**

3/12/09 nccffa fivepoints st 17  
3/18/ kcfa smyrna st 44  
3/19/09 scfa frankford st 76  
3/24/09 scfma georgetown st 77  
3/26/09 dsfca harrington st 48  
4/01+ 02/09 cfsi washington  
4/16/09 sfca memorial st 89  
4/28/09 scfma greenwood st 78  
5/20/09 kcfa farmington  
5/21/09 dvfa ex meeting memorial st 89  
6/4/09 mrs mast veiw clayton st 45  
6/8/09 pres hand book dover  
6/13/09 maryland fireman ass oc md

**Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr.**

Fellow Officers, Delegates, Alternates, Members, and guests,  
It gives me great pleasure to present the attached Treasurer's Report for the period March 7, 2009 through June 11, 2009. This report includes the DVFA Operations and the Conference Accounts.

Between now and the conference, I will prepare the financial records for the annual audit and work with the Officers and Budget Committee to develop the Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal 2010.

I wish everyone a safe and fun filled summer. If anyone has any questions, please see me.

**Executive Secretary James L. Cabbage, Jr.**

I have prepared and carried out the required duties and functions of the office since the last Executive Committee Meeting.

I have attended a Meeting with Governor Markell, meetings with the Governors Staff and numerous meetings with other state agency officials and Elected Officials, three DEMA – IMT meetings, two DHSTPWG meetings, two SFPC meetings, DVFA Officer's meeting, two 800 MHz meetings, two Homeland Security Meeting, DEMSOC Meeting, MISC meeting, two SIEC Meetings, NIMS meeting, two Site Selection Comm. meetings, two Joint Sunset Hearings, Joint Finance Comm. Meeting, , Five County Fireman's Assoc Meetings, DSFCA Meeting, DVFA Foundation Meeting and a Conference Comm. Meeting.

I also attended , SB#6 Bill Signing, CFIS Annual Dinner, Washington, DC, Rep. Mike Castle's Press Conference, FDIC – Indianapolis, IN, Governor's Prayer Breakfast, Del-Ma-Va Convention – Lewes, DE, Retirement events for Dickie Dempsey and Allen Metheny, CVVFA President's Council Meeting – Branchville, MD, and LODD Funeral for Chief Buck Clough – Sudlersville, MD..

During the months of March, April and May the position devoted 521.5 hours and traveled 2232 miles to support the Association.

**Motion by James Cabbage to accept the officer's reports and spread them upon the minutes seconded by Glenn Neese. Motion Carried**

## **Committee Reports**

1. ***State Fire Prevention Commission – Chairman Marvin C. Sharp*** thanked fire service for help during Joint Sunset Committee.  
He stated new committee will be coming from Joint Sunset Committee to include the presidents of the DVFA, DSFCA, DSAA, DSFPA and 3 public members  
Three Commissioners are reviewing title 16  
Four commissioners and 2 representatives from each county are working on developing Fire Fighter standards it will be the fire service reps to report to respective Associations and be a liaison between committee and fire service.
2. ***Advisory to State Fire Marshal – Grover P. Ingle***
  - DFIRS – Lily Medina resigned from her position effective May 15, 2009. Dave Wilson will be the Fire Department contact for NFIRS/DFIRS reporting and any system problems. Bob Borkowski will serve as his back up and Michael Chionchio will handle any Fire Department concerns or Administrative questions. Mike will be responsible for the oversight DFIRS program.
  - Fire Death- The fourth fire fatality of the year occurred on Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 20:51 hours in the 9000 block of Old State Road, Lincoln. Ellendale Fire Company responded and was assisted by Carlisle Fire Company. During fire suppression operations a victim was found deceased in the rear bedroom of the mobile home. The victim was home alone at the time of the fire and there were no working smoke alarms.
  - Proposed 2009 DE State Fire Prevention Regulations-Submitted to the Commission for their review at the May Commission meeting and a public hearing will be scheduled in the future.
  - FY 2010 Budget – Until the final budget is approved it will be difficult to say if any changes in the delivery of our services will be impacted. Even with the cuts from FY 09 and the proposed FY 2010 budget, the Office of the State Fire Marshal will be able to operate at our current service level. That does not mean there will not be challenges to delivering the core services.
  - Fire Team USA – The seminar will be held here at the State Fire School next Tuesday, June 16, 2009 and Wednesday June 17, 2009 beginning at 08:30. Those who have registered for the class should have received notice from Fire Team USA and there are still seats available. A second mailing to the Fire

Companies/Fire Chief's and Building Officials was sent electronically last Thursday

Jasper Lakey asked the Association to Congratulate Grover on HCR #11 honoring the nominees for the 2009 Delaware Award for Excellence & Commitment in State Service. This Group of 27 includes Delaware State Fire Marshal Grover P. Ingle.

**3. Advisory to DSFS –Robert P. Newman**

- Class attendance for the spring is at average or above
- Firefighter and Fire Officer Certification Testing, Test conducted- 17 FF I/II-3 FO I-5 FO II-4 Vehicle Technician
- Annual Planning and Evaluation Staff Meeting June 24-26, Three days to review the operation of the school
- For 2010 will be adding additional class time availability during weekdays and weeknights.
- Status of Budget, Reviewing program costs to maintain or improve cost recovery
- Weekday EMT- Program, 3 ½ weeks, start the past Monday- 40 students
- Reminder, Delaware Weekend is scheduled for October 10-11
- Protocols are required by June 30<sup>th</sup>, list has been sent to Fire Chiefs and Chief EMS Officers-149 still require the updated protocols
- DVFA AND DSFS Vehicle Extrication Challenge, September 12-13 at the Dover Center. Flyers have been passed out- additional information to follow. Craig Stephens is the point of contact.

**4. Advisory to DEMA –James E. Turner, III** On Friday morning a conference call was held with states of MD, PA, VA, WV to address dispatching of various types mutual aid upon request in a non-disaster declaration. Several years ago, PP Monihan reported that if a Fire Fighter dies in the line of duty on an out of state response, the next of kin is not eligible for the federal public safety officer benefit unless a signed mutual aid agreement is in effect between the jurisdictions. This issue is one of many identified and will be discussed in the future. The Executive Secretary and PP Monihan are aware of the dialog & DEMA will keep the DVFA abreast of further developments.

Homeland Security grant funding allocations will be announced/released Tuesday on a noon teleconference.

**5. Archives – Charles Emerson** Reported they would like pictures of the Vice Presidents of both men and ladies. We have no new applications for the Hall Of Fame from the companies we did have some questions about the procedure. All plates are up except 4 that had to be reprinted. We gave the staff at the Fire School a large plaque to be placed on a wall. This plaque is in addition to the heroic Hall of Fame. We talked to the Ladies Auxiliary about the Ladies Hall of Fame that has only 4 empty spots, enough for this year. A new plaque was placed in the archives budget for 2010.

## 6. *DVFA Conference– Tom D’Alessandro*

- All registration forms and Conference information is posted on the DVFA web site [[www.dvfassn.com](http://www.dvfassn.com)].
- Registration forms and payment are due no later than Friday August 14, 2009. NO EXCEPTIONS
- DVFA Conference logo items [t-shirts, Golf shirts, mugs, sweatshirts, umbrellas] are available for purchase online. The link is on the DVFA web site.
- Our 2009 Conference will have more training than ever before. Please take advantage of this opportunity!
  - Four days of fire training, including hands on
  - Five days of EMS training
  - Four CEU training tracks at the EMS training Monday-Wednesday
  - The inaugural Harvey Grant Vehicle Extrication Challenge September 12-13 @ DSFS
- There has been a lot of conversation about the DVFA Conference Parade on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Many Delaware families are looking for low cost or no cost, local events rather than to go away on an expensive vacation. Events like Newark Days and Separation Days have had record turnouts. While we’re all watching our budgets, this is no time to turn our backs on the communities we serve. There WILL be a parade this year. I will work closely with Dave Bonar and Jim Cabbage to get as much advance publicity in local and statewide media outlets as possible for the Conference and specifically the parade. Please make every effort to come out and join us!
- Thanks to my Conference Co-Chairs, Elmer Steele and Nick Sawyer and from the Ladies, Barbara Lewis, Mary Jane Hobbs and Sally Stevenson.
- Thanks to all the subcommittees and members of the Conference Committee who make our event a success each year, you do an outstanding job!
- Our next Conference Committee meeting is Monday, July 20, 2009 at the Dover Sheraton, 7:00 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## 7. **FEMA Grant (Wake up De) – Tom Mitten** reported their committees Meeting convened at 9:00am. Ten committee members attended.

Jeff Dennison reported regarding the planning for the 100,000<sup>th</sup> detector event included news that the Shelton family (11 fire deaths on Jan. 3, 2001) declined any opportunity to participate in any recognition event or have their home serve as the location for the event.

This led to discussion about alternate sites to conduct the event, as well as dates/times when it might best be held. The event is slated to be a News Conference designed to acknowledge the distribution of 100,000+ detectors and raise awareness to importance of working smoke detectors.

We decided to hold off until at least July to allow the state legislature to conclude its session (likely better news attraction for us).

With the Shelton’s decision not to participate, site discussion ranged from a specific fire station to more “neutral” sites, such as the Fire School campus in Dover (central location) or New Castle (media considerations).

Looking for fire companies to provide any WUD success stories and personnel, from “saves” to recruitments, as well as to having them take part in the 100K event. We also want to encourage fire companies to stage “companion events” on the date or around it, such as neighborhood canvas, open house, etc.

Senator Carper’s office contacted us to lend his support and tentatively plan to attend the event.

Detectors and batteries were recently ordered and there is adequate inventory in New Castle and Dover.

Claymont Fire Co. recently partnered with an Eagle Scout candidate on a canvas that resulted in more than 600 detectors being distributed (most were installed in homes).

Carbon Monoxide (CO) detector pilot program finally ready to implement, using libraries or other public gathering places/groups to partner in delivery of CO detector information that provides free detector for each participant.

Spanish version of Safety Bear DVD – translator has been selected and PO will be requested to get this done. Then Stonehouse Media will be contracted to create Spanish version and reissue DVD as bilingual disc.

Meeting concluded at 10:00am.  
Report compiled by Tom Mitten, Chmn.

**8. Finance & Auditing – George Pyott** stated all budget requests are due in by July.

**9. Fireman of the Year – Jim Cabbage** report for Chairman Carleton Carey, Chairman that the Fireman of the Year nominations needs to be postmarked by June 30.

**10. Out of State Coordinators – Steve Austin** Reported the MSFA will be meeting tomorrow at the OC convention center. 8:00 meeting with the Presidents Delegation. CVVFA is on Wednesday July 29<sup>th</sup> followed by a parade on Sat August 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a golf Tournament on Wednesday Afternoon that will cost \$5. Everyone is welcome. VSFA will be at the Hampton during August 12-14 West VA Convention will be the following week. Pennsylvania State FFA will be at the King of Prussia the 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> of September. The AFG cut 70% of 565 million dollars we received last year.

**11. Permanent Memorial – John Porter** Reported that the following firefighters are not listed on the Fallen Firefighters Monument in Dover Delaware.

**Firefighter George A. Rogerson**, age 55, died February 3, 1923. On January 31, 1923 at approximately 03:34 hours the Wilmington Bureau of Fire responded to an alarm of fire at Churchhill Road and Kennett Pike on the property of William duPont. The Fire Department was in service for five hours and forty-nine minutes. Although not feeling well, Firefighter Rogerson continued on duty working with his company. At 03:45 hours he had to be taken home where he died on February 3, 1923 from pneumonia.

**Assistant Chief George T. Crockett**, age 47, died August 3, 1923. Assistant Chief Crockett inhaled ammonia fumes, while engaging in firefighting activities at Amalgamated Leather Company located at 4<sup>th</sup> & Adams streets on or around August 1, 1923. Chief Crockett had to work an extended 48 hour shift and contracted pneumonia from which he succumbed to.

**Firefighter John S. Wadsley**, age 42, died November 12, 1938. While attending Firemen's School on November 10, 1938 Firefighter Wadsley suffered a heart attack. Firefighter Wadsley succumbed two days later at the Delaware Hospital from the heart attack.

**Firefighter Robert H. Graham**, age 50, died May 12, 1939. While responding to an alarm on May 10, 1939, Firefighter Graham was dislodged from the apparatus. Firefighter Graham fell to the roadway suffering a double skull fracture. Firefighter Graham died of head injuries the next day.

**Deputy Chief Daniel F. McGranary**, age 57, died December 23, 1945. At approximately 1030 hours on December 23, 1945, three unrelated alarms were received. Deputy Chief McGranary decided to respond to the most serious fire, which was a house fire at 524 McCaulley Street. Deputy Chief McGranary was found inside the house slumped into a chair, the apparent victim of smoke induced heart stoppage.

**Firefighter Charles H. Fullerton**, age 36, died August 12, 1950. At approximately 0430 hours an alarm was sounded for King Fabrics Company, located at 716 King Street. Firefighters battled the smoky blaze for 25 minutes before bringing it under control. Firefighter Fullerton became faint and staggered outside the building collapsing on the sidewalk. Fullerton's autopsy showed that he had inhaled so much smoke that it caused a breakdown of his lungs.

**Lieutenant Arthur A. Veal**, age 41 died, June 27, 1953. At approximately 0514 hours, an alarm was sounded for Maeson's Record Store, at #6 East 4<sup>th</sup> street. On arrival, the building was reported to be a mass of flames, taking three hours to get under control. After dragging hose lines into the building, there was a floor collapse. Lieutenant Veal was plunged into the cellar full of water. Lieutenant Veal was removed from the debris and was pronounced DOA at the hospital. Six other firefighters suffered injuries in the same fire.

**Deputy Chief Michael J. Kirlin**, age 57, died December 27, 1955. At approximately 0638 hours, an alarm was sounded for the 600 block of East 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Arriving companies found two houses on fire. Deputy Chief Kirlin directed operations, and was last seen running upstairs in the burning house. Chief Kirlin collapsed and was carried outside by his men. Officials said due to the smoke and exertion Chief Kirlin suffered a fatal heart attack.

**Firefighter Smith R. Simpkins**, age 44, died February 27, 1962. At approximately 2400 hours an alarm was sounded for 816 West Street. Arriving companies found a three story building with smoke pouring into the night air. Firefighter Simpkins was on the second

floor when he collapsed. He was carried to the sidewalk, and given oxygen. Firefighter Simpkins died at approximately 0200 hours. Doctors determined the cause of death being a smoke induced heart seizure.

**12. Recruitment – Pam Ingle** stated 66 Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary members met to discuss Recruitment issues. A discussion took place and an agreement was made to utilize the media for recruitment issues. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**13. Retention – Therese Flowers** A very successful Joint Open Forum was held on May 3, 2009 at Cheswold Fire Company. Presentations were given by both the DVFA Recruitment and Retention Committees. Sixty-six companies were represented. It is proposed that a Joint Open Forum be held at least annually.

President Jones has tasked the Retention Committee with developing a survey/questionnaire to collect data on Retention Issues and/or Solutions. The Committee must also devise a medium to deliver and collect this data. The initial consensus is the DVFA Website, County meetings, and faxing to all fire companies.

The Committee has picked up two new members from the DVFA and is still actively recruiting for additional DVFA members.

The next DVFA Retention Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at Dover Fire School.

**14. Resolutions – Bruce Ennis** read and presented a resolution to J. Allen Metheny, Sr. for his retirement from Kent County Emergency Management.

**15. Web Page – Kevin Wilson** stated we are working to get all the association officers added and photos on the web site. All the county fire associations' presidents were notified to begin to get that information. Please review the web site and if you see any corrections or addition please let me know so we can get the information updated.

**16. President's Handbook – Alan Robinson** stated the handbook will be ready for Conference 09 packets. Printed copies have been distributed to the committees (both this one and the VFD Employee Committee. Will have sections for the President (duties, responsibilities, meetings, organization structure, parliamentary procedures, important forms and dates. (most are found on the DVFA website.) Paid employees information and Legislative Procedure.

**17. Site Selection - Ted Doyle** – The committee has made every effort to provide you with information so that your Company/Department can make a rationale decision in choosing the site. A vote will be taken at the 2009 DVFA Conference. If any Company/Department has any questions regarding the information, please contact any member of the Site Selection Committee; Ted Doyle, Tom D'Alessandro, Barbara Lewis, Nick

Sawyer, Mary Jane Hobbs, Elmer Steele, Sally Stevenson. The three co-chairs for the DVFA and LADVFA Conference were appointed to serve on the Site Selection Committee.

On November 10, 2008, a copy of the conference proposal for 2011-2013 was sent to all committee members. Also included were suggested facilities who could submit a bid. The committee was asked to review the packet and make any changes or additions. The packets would be sent to Greater Wilmington visitors, Sheraton Suites Wilmington, Wyhdam Hotel Wilmington, Bank One Center Wilmington, Atlantic Sands Rehoboth, U OF D Conference Services, Sheraton Hotel Dover, Kent County Visitors, City of Rehoboth Beach, Rehoboth/ Dewey Chamber, Dover Downs Hotel.

The packets were sent out on 12-26-08 and were to be returned no later than 3-1-09. The Committee received six (6) responses. Sheraton Suites Wilmington- not enough space to handle, City of Rehoboth no dates available, Rehoboth / Dewey- no dates available, Kent County Visitors- will attend meeting, Dover Downs- Submitted bid, Sheraton Dover- Submitted bid.

On March 12, 2009 an information packet from Dover Downs and Sheraton was sent to each member of the Committee to review and develop any questions they may have for the two bidders.

The Sheraton and Dover Downs were notified to appear before the Committee on 4-7-09 to sell their facility. Prior to this meeting a basic menu for each event was sent to each bidder requesting prices so that a comparison could be developed so that the Committee had an idea on the food prices.

On April 7, 2009, Dover Downs and Sheraton made their presentations to the Committee. The Sheraton presentation was based on the previous years that the conference was at its facility but did not bring anything new for the conferences in 2011-2013. The Sheraton indicated that the room rates for 2011-2013 would be 109.00 plus tax. Dover Downs presentation indicated that they have more function space for our events, more sleeping rooms (325) so that attendees would not have to travel and more fire companies can be in the conference hotel. They indicated that they would provide complimentary secured general parking. Valet Parking for hotel guests at a cost of \$4.00 per stay where you could come and go as often as you wanted. Room rates for Dover Downs 2011-\$130, 2012-\$135, 2013-\$135. In their original presentation Dover Downs indicated that there would be no minimum night stay. The Sheraton later come back with a no minimum night stay.

Both Facilities indicated that there would be no charge for meeting rooms and conference space. Complimentary use of all in house audio-visual equipment. Both facilities will provide office space at the conference and meeting room space for the conference committee prior to the conference each year.

Those fire companies having a hospitality room can bring in their own food and beverages. The only thing that both facilities have asked is that you be discrete.

The mayor of Dover attended the presentation and has committed to provide the DVFA Conference Parade Committee the same as in the past.

After the presentations the committee met and determined that since Dover Downs was a first time bidder and the majority of the Committee had not toured their facility, as site visit would be arranged. The committee did not believe it would be necessary to tour the Sheraton since the conference had been there for 12 years.

On 4-27-09, the Committee, the LADVFA and DVFA Officers met at Dover Downs and toured the facility. We looked at each area that was suggested for each event and made some changes. All events would be on the first level of the conference center with the exception of the DVFA VIP Social on Friday afternoon. This event would be on the mezzanine. The locations of the various events that have continental breakfast, social hour, or meeting breaks would be within the room of the event which would be more secure from the general public. Although there is sufficient space to hold the State Fire Chiefs meeting at Dover Downs, the committee did not like the space and the meeting would remain at Cheswold.

The following is a cost presentation based on the costs from the Sheraton Conference 08 and costs from Dover Downs menu presentation. The total of each facility includes the food and beverages for all events, security guards for inside and outside exhibits, exhibit pipe and drape, sleeping rooms for DVFA use and gratuity. Keep in mind that the Association will be able to collect funds for exhibit space and registration for the EMS training sessions. The State Fire Chiefs event on Thursday evening is not included in the costs.

	Sheraton	Dover Downs
Food/ Bev Exhibit, Guard	\$108,381.25	\$120,004.25
Gratuity	\$21,676.25	\$22,440.79
Sleeping Rooms	\$15,696.00	\$18,720.00
Total	\$145,753.50	\$161,165.04

The Site Selection Committee met on May 18, 2009 to review the information submitted by both the Sheraton and Dover Downs. Presently the Sheraton is at Capacity for the events of the conference. Therefore, the Site Selection Committee is recommending that the DVFA Conference for 2011-2013 with option for two additional years be awarded to Dover Downs.

The recommendations is based on the below

- More Function space for the present events and additional events in the future
- More guest rooms for the member companies
- Ability to increase the attendance at the Fire Police Dinner
- Roving security in general parking
- Valet parking for registered hotel guests at \$4.00 per stay with the ability to come and go as you wish
- Location of various events that have continental breakfast, social hour, and meeting breaks will be in room of event which would be more secure from general public

- No minimum night stay for guest room

### **Recognition of Past Presidents – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Wilson**

Asked that all Past Presidents and President Emeritus stand and be recognized.

## **Affiliated Organizations/ Agency Representatives**

**Ladies' Auxiliary: President, Carol Walton** introduced the officers that she brought with her, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Lorraine Madden, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Janice Marvel, Sec Virginia Yeager, Asst Sec Joanne Catalino, Treasure Kim Figgs, and Assistant Treasure Lois Pearson. PP Barbara Metheny, Pat McCall, Catherine Jenkins, Joanne Tulowski. County Presidents Jackie Guzzo, Diane Severson, Karen Workman. She then thanked all other Aux members in attendance. She reported they were saddened by the loss of State PP Julia Mast. She then wished all Dads present a Happy Fathers Day, and wished everyone a healthy and safe summer.

**State Fire Chiefs, President John Fox** stated the next meeting will be at slaughter beach on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**State Fire Police: Charles Walls** stated the State Fire Police of the Year nominations be sent to Joe Zeroles.

### **State Ambulance Association: President Charles Evans, Jr.,**

- Next meeting June 25, 2009 Slaughter Beach again in conjunction with the State Chiefs. Meeting at 1900 hours
- Conference is coming up. 5 days worth of EMS training with lots of opportunities at a low cost to the companies. Instructor training, Basics and Beyond and EPC course over the weekend. Regular conference sessions for Mon, Tues, Wed, with breakout sessions each day. Lots of national speakers. All are encouraged to send there EMT's as 86% are still nationally registered so there getting all there hours somewhere.
- Attended the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride on Monday May 18, 2009 as it left PA for its trip through DE. Well attended by riders and personnel from DE. Thanks to Wilmington Manor, Odessa, Clayton, for providing food and water stops. Thanks to NCC and Sussex County Paramedics for the fine job supporting this ride also.
- Attended the EMS Memorial Service in Roanoke VA later that week. Again well attended by folks form the DE Fire Service. Beautiful ceremony as Michelle and Stephanie were honored on Saturday evening.
- Changed the Heroic EMT of the Year award to the Michele Newton Smith Heroic EMT of the Year award

Attended several meetings in NCC traveling a few miles and logging a few hours. Also kudos to my officers who assist me in attending meetings in their respective counties and keeping me abreast of all the EMS related issues in the State.

**National Volunteer Fire Council: E. James Monihan** *reported*

President Jones, it is indeed a pleasure to provide this information to the Association. We will outline the issues, and be happy to answer any questions

FIRST, congratulations to J. Allen Metheny on his re-election to another 2 year term as Treasurer of the Council.

The National Volunteer Fire Council is developing a Policy Statement addressing the issue of continuing pressure by the Union on its members who are Volunteers in their home community to resign from the volunteer Department. When completed this statement will be published and widely circulated.

Each State Training organization will receive a program titled "How to Write a Grant 101". This might be considered for our Conference.

Last year, only 3,000 Fire Prevention Grant requests were received in the AFG Program. There should be a lot more considering that there are over 30,000 Fire Departments in the country. One reason stated is the requirement for matching money and the Council is advocating dropping the match.

Research is very near in developing a device which will locate and monitor a firefighter in a building during a fire. Not a minute too soon

If you submit an AFG application for a vehicle, you must state that you already have SOP's or agree to develop them.

The SAFER program, last year, only received less than 500 requests in the Retention and Recruitment category. You need to look around and develop Your programs. REMEMBER you can request a grant for a Scholarship Program. ALSO, scholarships don't have to be limited to high school. You Might find that some of your people would be interested in education also, and it can help in Retention.

We need to be aware of the possibility of State Legislation that can be introduced to stop the provisions of the International Building Code which requires sprinklers in residences. The Home Builders' Assn. Wasn't successful in stopping its adoption and this is another route of attack.

Several important changes are being proposed for the AGF and SAFER Program, not all of which we agree with and we will keep you posted.

REMEMBER, in some ways, we are our own worst enemies, since we don't tell our story to the public that we serve. We assume that everyone understands what we do, and that's not true. I know that P R isn't necessarily the reason you joined the Fire Service, but it is VERY NECESSARY.

The Volunteer Responder Job Protection Act which will protect our job while we have been mobilized for up to 14 days is being reintroduced in the Senate by Senator Carper and in the House by Congressman Rob Andrews of New Jersey.

There are instances in the country that bring us to warn you to look carefully at INSURANCE POLICIES you may be considering. Some companies treat exposures differently, such as charging a volunteer firefighter more for life insurance or imposing a deductible.

It is preferable for our vehicle operators to have either a Class A CDL license, or at least a Class A NON-CDL license as opposed to relying on the waiver for Dept. vehicle operators. The reason being that the Feds are considering a change in rules that allow a wavered driver to drive TO the emergency, but NOT returning.

Mr. President, it has once again been a pleasure and privilege to represent the DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMENS' ASSOCIATION as your Delegate and Alternate On the Board of Directors of the National Volunteer Fire Council. Thank you for the opportunity.

## **Communications**

The following (14) fourteen communications were received and are summarized by the Executive Secretary:

- Letter from Volunteer Hose Co. opposing any requirements for certification of fire fighters or officers
- Letter from Bowers Fire Co., requesting that the DVFA look at reducing the Dues from the current amount of \$4000 down to \$3500 or \$3000
- Copy of the Site Selection Committee's report of June 12, 2009
- Letter from the Kent County Ambulance Association donating \$250 towards the cost of the 2009 EMS Conference
- Letter from the Delaware State Ambulance Association changing the name of the Heroic EMS person to the "The Michelle Newton Smith Memorial Award"
- Copy of letter from the Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association to the Attorney General requesting that the person charged with the death of Michelle Smith of the Delaware City Fire Co. be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the la
- Letter from the LADVFA inviting the Officers to their Executive Meeting on May 4, 200 at Cheswold

- Copy of the NFFF 2008 Annual Report
- Letter from the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Co. announcing their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities during 2009
- Thank You Letter from the CFSI for the DVFA's support in the 2009 Dinner
- Invitation to the DE COPS Inaugural Memorial Ride on May 9, 2009
- Invitation to the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Prayer Breakfast on May 7, 2009
- Copy of a letter from NFPA appointing William G. Walton, Jr. to the NFPA Technical Committee on Ambulances
- Thank you note from Melissa Kiser for the flowers she received after her recent Surgery.

**A motion was made by Jim Cubbage to accept the communication.  
Seconded by Jasper Lakey- Motion Carried**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None Reported

## **NEW BUSINESS**

First Vice President Wilson appointed the following:

Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association  
2010 Scholarship Committee:

Robert Powell, 83, Chairman  
George Kerr, 23, Co-Chair  
Rod O'Neal, 51, Co-Chair  
Robert Johnson, 22  
Carol Johnson, 22  
Patricia Kerr, 23  
John Pridemore, 45  
Rich Perillo, 11  
Fred Jester, 41  
Jim King, 77  
Bill Tobin, 89  
Ray Stevens, 88  
Barbara Metheny, LADVFA  
Ginni Tice Adams, LADVFA

Carol Johnson, LADVFA  
Steve Martin, DSF

**A motion was made by Tom D'Alessandro to accept the recommendation to change the name of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association to the Delaware Volunteer Firefighters Association after the 2009 Conference. Seconded by Jim Barlow.**

Bruce Ennis made a recommendation that all fire Company Representatives take this back to your home company to further discuss. President Jones stated the name change would be voted on at the 2009 Conference. Motion withdrawn.

**A motion was made by Jim Monihan to send a letter to the Congressional Delegation to change increase the current funding for the Assistance to Fire Fighter Grant Program. Seconded by Glenn Neese- Motion Carried**

**A motion was made by John Porter to add the nine names of LODD to the Fire Fighter Monument. Seconded by Lawrence Mergenthaler- Motion Carried**

Tom D'Alessandro asked that everyone recognize John Porter for all his hard work and research.

**A motion was made by Tom DiCristafaro to table any discussion on Rescue billing until after September. Seconded by Lou Amabili, Motion Carried.**

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Treasurer Metheny read bills totaling \$224,254.49

**Motion to pay the bills by Tom D'Alessandro Seconded by Jasper Lakey. Motion Carried.**

## **GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION**

President Jones reminded everyone there will be an unveiling of 2 names at the DVFA monument at 2pm today. Wayne Steen Sr, and Michelle N. Smith.

There is currently an opening for a part time DVFA Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Coordinator. Applications and Details are available on the DVFA Webpage.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was regularly moved by Charles Boyer and seconded by Lawrence Mergenthaler that the June Executive Committee Meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried. Pastor Bob Hudson offered the Benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM

**Respectfully submitted,**  
*Melissa R. Kiser*  
**Melissa R. Kiser**  
**Corresponding Secretary**

I hereby attest that this a true copy of the proceedings of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association Executive Committee Meeting held on June 14, 2009.

**Attest: *James L. Cabbage, Jr.***  
**James L. Cabbage, Jr.**  
**Executive Secretary**