

DVFA EXECUTIVE MEETING
Delaware State Fire School

June 8, 2008

Called to order at 10:00 A.M. by President Ronald H. Marvel

Invocation offered by DVFA Chaplain, Pastor Bob Hudson

Pledge of Allegiance led by DVFA PP M. Frank King

Roll Call of Officers – Executive Secretary

- [X] Ronald H. Marvel, 87, President
- [X] Warren F. Jones, 16, 1st Vice President
- [X] Kevin L. Wilson, 45, 2nd Vice President
- [X] James L. Cabbage, Jr., 45, Executive Secretary
- [X] J. Allen Metheny, Jr., 51, Treasurer
- [X] Rick Clark, Sr, 26, New Castle County Director
- [X] Joseph Zeroles, 47, Kent County Director
- [X] William Tobin, 89, Sussex County Director
- [X] Alan F. Robinson, Jr., 44, Immediate Past President
- [X] Charles W. Frampton, 11, Director, New Castle County
- [X] Charles H. Boyer, 46, Director, Kent County
- [X] Harold Barber, 70, Director, Sussex County

Guests

Mike Rush was called up by President Marvel to present the new DVFA Banner.

Charlie Emerson was then called up and presented the old banner to be entered into Archives.

LADVFA President introduced all officers present. She then called up Karen Workman from Sussex County Ladies and presented a check in the amount of 500.00 for DVFA Scholarships. Mickey Decino from the New Castle County Ladies and presented a check in the amount of 1,000 for DVFA Scholarships and also a check in the amount of 500.00 in memory of the Past Presidents of NCC. Diane Severson came up and presented a check in the amount of 1,000.00 for Scholarships also.

Checks were then presented to Ray Stevens Treasured of the DVFA Foundation. Ray then thanked the ladies as well as Jim King who had given him a check for 500.00 as well as Rich Perillo who has given several contributions to the foundation.

Report of Officers

President Marvel- These months have been very busy for me and my family. The fire service has gotten a tremendous amount of my time. The learning curve is one of great patience and understanding. I hope that all the members feel that I have given fair judgment and treatment to all situations.

I have enjoyed being the President of the DVFA and hope the next few months are as fruitful as the last few.

Since our last meeting I have attended all the functions requested of me by this association. I have traveled over 3,100 ground miles and attended over 25 events. If anyone has any questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

Congratulations to Kevin Wilson's Daughter who was awarded one of the 10 scholarships in the county from the NVFC.

Always remember being part of the solution is much more productive than being part of the problem.

First Vice President Jones- Since the last meeting I have attended 32 functions and devoted 203 hours and traveled over 5,100 miles.

Second Vice President Wilson- During the period March 1, 2008 through May 31, 2008 I attended 26 meetings, spent a total of 118 hours on association business, and traveled 1847 miles. At this time all committees that I am involved with are working.

Treasurer Metheny – Fellow Officers, Delegates, Alternates, Members and Guests, It gives me great pleasure to present the attached Treasurer's report for the period March 8, 2008 through June 6, 2008. This report includes both the DVFA Operations and the Conference account.

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 2009.

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

Executive Secretary Cubbage has 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 Minner's Staff and numerous meetings with other state agency officials and Elected Officials, three w/DEMA in regards to FY-09 Funding issues, two DHSTPWG, three SFPC meeting, two DVFA Officer's meetings, 800 MHz meeting, three Homeland Security Meetings, two DEMSOC Meetings, MISC meeting, two SIEC Meetings, two NIMS meetings, NIMS Seminar, DEMA

Communications Seminar, Meeting w/Chief Bundek – Sta. #54, Three County Fireman’s Assoc Meetings, a DVFA Foundation meeting and a Conference Comm. Meeting. I also attended the Governors Prayer Breakfast, the Bond Bill Hearing, the Sen. Adams Tribute Diner, CFIS – Washington, DC, FDIC – Indianapolis, IN, Cumberland Valley Vol. Firemen’s Assoc. President’s Council Meeting – Hudson, NY, and the IAAI Foundation Board Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

During the months of March, April and May the position devoted 471.5 hours and traveled 2569 miles to support the Association.

Executive Secretary’s Misc. Items:

- Reported that the Funeral Expenses for eligible members of the fire service and ladies aux. are not subject to Federal Withholding taxes
- Copy of the current Legislative update has been provide to all members present

Motion made by Jim Cabbage to accept Officers Reports and that they be spread upon the minutes. Seconded by Tom D’Alessandro. Motion Carried

Delaware Fire Service News – Warren F. Jones - New Addition will be coming out soon. There is a new section titled ask the Candidates. If anyone has any questions for them please send them to Warren and he will be sure to ask and post responses.

DVFA Public Relations David L. Bonar- During the past quarter I counted 321 news stories in various periodicals on the Delmarva Peninsula that were related to the volunteer fire service. Facilitated and briefed members of the executive board in dealing with requests for television, newspaper and radio interviews.

Met with the Executive Board to discuss the need for the legislative reception outside Legislative Hall in Dover, After much discussion the group decided not to hold the event as a means of showing out respect for the lack of money in the State at the present time. An Alternative date will be selected to hold a smaller gathering and we will visit the legislators to discuss our needs for the next fiscal year.

Discussed, with members of the Executive Board whether we should or should not respond to opinion pieces in the newspapers that are occasionally critical of the fire service. After lengthy discussion it was the discussion of the board to refrain form meeting with, or discussing with reporters or columnists out position in regards to financial problems experienced in some fire companies.

Discussed with Vaughn Rider of Belvedere, a plan of action, should he be contacted by the media in regards to the investigation into alleged misuse of company funds. Discussed press release with Office of the Attorney General and State Auditor, in the wake of a criminal investigation into the matter. Reviewed the press release and made

sure it was sent out to all Executive Board members as soon as it was released to the media. Helped monitor legislation, assisting Executive Secretary James Cubbage and continue to monitor Grant In Aid funding plans by legislature. Composed, circulated and advised Executive Board on how to approach legislatures regarding legislative funding for our various efforts. (Note- several legislative issues remain on the table this session, which will deal with Fire Company funds, how they are monitored and how possible misuse should be dealt with.

Attended several meetings with Executive Board to review the DVFA Media policies as well as other issues facing the Volunteer Fire Service. As always, remain on call 24/7 to assist the DVFA in any means possible.

DVFA Legal Counsel - John F. Brady, Jr.- has been in contact with the Officers. John was in the hospital for 10 days, Thank you to Jim Monihan who came to see him everyday! He is happy to be back John will also be on a statewide tour and don't be surprised if he pops into your firehouse.

Committee Reports

1. **State Fire Prevention Commission – Chairman Marvin C. Sharp** – Introduced all Commissioners who were present. He stated the commission would be using e-mail a lot more as communications to help save money on the budget for postage. He also wanted to make aware of the seatbelt law for the fire service. IT'S THE LAW!
2. **Advisory to SFPC for EMS – Doug Butler**- Stated the EDIN system is currently down and they are working to get it back up and running. The Commission is going to be providing a recommendation to improve this.
3. **Advisory to State Fire Marshal –Grover P. Ingle**- Its been very busy over the last few months. There have been 5 fire deaths this year and 3 of those had working smoke detectors in the home. Congratulations to the staff for the good article in the paper recently. There currently are no legislative issues this year from his office. The Fire Marshal's office is looking forward to assisting in any way they can.
4. **Advisory to DSFS –Robert P. Newman**- they are currently beginning construction on the sprinkler Prop. Class attendance for the spring is at average or above. Firefighter and Fire Officer Certification Testing, Test conducted this week- 16 ff I/II – 12 FO I-3 FO II. Annual Planning and Evaluation Staff Meeting- June 18-20, Held offsite, Held Three days to review the operation of the fire school. Fire Chief's Survey, Majority of the Chiefs support a Delaware Standard for FF and FO. Status Budget- advised a plan for a 8% reduction for FY09. Will review costs of programs for possible adjustment of fees. Jay Myers has left employment with the school. Will look to fill the position based on the 2009 budget information. They do not expect any planning monies for the Sussex

Division, however it is very much needed. Fire Officer I to be conducted at the Divisions- this fall.

5. **Archives – Charles Emerson** – As many may have noticed there are several items missing in the display cabinets at the fire school. That's because the Historical Society has these items in their exhibit in NCC. Please come out and see it if you haven't already. Hall of fame nominations are now closed as of this meeting.
6. **Critical Incident Stress – Lynn Truitt**- Everything for conference is set up. The NCC team has a new clinical director due to retirement. Wished everyone a cool and stress free summer.
7. **DVFA Conference– Tom D'Alessandro**- Advised us that Elmer could not attend due to work. The dates for conference are Sept 8th- 13th. Sunday through Wednesday are the days for EMS. 3 months from today we will be at conference. And 2 months from today all conference forms are due. **ABSOLUTLY NO EXCEPTIONS.** July 21 is the next conference committee meeting and everyone is welcome to attend. Please note the memorial service deadline is now August 8th also. It's an extension from previous years. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HONOR THOSE YOU HAVE LOST.** Dates for 2009 are Sept 14-19th. Provided Nascar schedule doesn't change. Site Selection will also be meeting and be going out for bids for when the contract us up at the Sheraton.
8. **FEMA Grant (Wake up De) – Tom Mitten**- 9 members of the committee were at the meeting today. Next WUD day is Saturday, November 1, 2008. Robi Robinson suggested that we explore bringing Diabetic Screening services to several fire stations in each county for the Nov. 1st WUD day. Robi will make contact and report back. Our supplier has begun providing a new detector, smaller in size than prior model but at same unit cost. The new model is also packaged 6 to a box, vs. 12 to a box for older model. Based on feedback from attendees at the NFPA Conference, we would do well to focus attention on fire service personnel installing detectors and replacing batteries in residences. Several DE Fire Companies have been doing this but we should consider doing more to promote installation. There is no liability to the Fire Companies for installing detectors or batteries. Having smoke detectors in homes is the law in Delaware. The Safety Bear DVD continues to draw positive reviews and interest around the country. Copies acquired through the grant are being given away free of charge, except for shipping and handling. We are exploring a marketing arrangement to offer the DVD for a fee, with proceeds being divided between the DVFA and the Children's Fire Safety Foundation. Our previous efforts regarding creation of a costume of the "Detecta" smoke detector character from the DVD fell by the wayside and need to be revived. Tom will move this forward and report back. We want to have the character costume ready for fall. We are anxious to find out the status of our grant application and our financial status going forward.

9. **Finance & Auditing – George Pyott**- Meeting in August for formulate the new budget. Money is tight. Please put in a request buy July 21, 2008.
10. **Fire Corp – E. James Monihan** – Submitted a grant for 5,000 scholarships. There were 10 winners from all over the Country.
11. **Fireman of the Year – Carleton Carey**- Nothing has been received for firemen of the year! There should be at least one hero in each fire department. More information is available on the web page.
12. **Law & Legislative – Bruce Ennis**- Thanked Executive Secretary for all his support at Legislative hall. HB 329 is a result of Executive order 99 bill did pass the house on April 15th. It's being put in the Senate Agenda. Fire Service survived the first round of cuts for the Joint Finance Committee. The State Treasurer has a new Auditor and is going strike the current writing since they are not political. Currently looking into a new bill for Line of Duty Deaths Benefits for EMTS. As its currently stated Ambulance Attendants are currently covered in Senate Bill 294. This new bill would cover EMTS.
13. **Life Safety – Guy Hudson** –Most Companies are currently asking, where there Fire Prevention Money is. Well the answer is I Allen Metheny's hands. The State has tried to hang on to that money as long as they could. You should be receiving the money around the first of next week. Please Deposit it ASAP. Please have a fire safe summer.
14. **Out of State Coordinators – Steve Austin**- Reminisced on the Retired DVFA Banner, He remembered walking behind it with 2 other DVFA Members and believes they are the only one's to have marched behind it. Next Wednesday 8:00 Convention Hall at Ocean City looking to go over to the Presidents Council Meeting. The Fundraiser for CFSI is a baseball game. 75.00 includes the social event. Phillies vs Nationals. The International Association of Fire Fighters has advised us the former Congressman Sherwood Boehlert has moved from Utica NY to Rehoboth Beach. Sherry was a former Chairman of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus. We have contacted Chuck Snyder and will make arrangements to ask the Congressman to lunch with the Rehoboth and DVFA Officers and later invite him to the DVFA Luncheon.
15. **Scholarship – George Kerr**- Thanks for the sponsors for the Scholarships. They met in April and had 28 scholarship applications and they picked 19 winners.
16. **WMD/Hazmat – Joe Leonetti**- Sunday is the executive meeting at Fire school. Our meeting starts at 0900. Unfortunately fire school has decided that they are going to test all fire school instructors for FF1 and FF2 that day. So I along with all the other instructors will be testing at 0900.Nothing has changed since our last meeting. We are waiting for DEMA to start ordering the limited equipment for the 07 and the maintenance has started for the 08 year. If anyone has any questions that need to be answered please email me. We have a few small problems and working them out. One was an unauthorized expenditure, which is being looked at

as we speak. Hopefully we will receive more money in the coming year, however that may be just some hopeful wishing. I want to meet with Law Enforcement in the next couple of months so we can start looking at combining our caches of equipment.

17. **Web Page – Warren Jones-** It's been 8 months since the development of the new web page. Please remember there is a lot of information and will continue to be a work in progress!

18. Recognition of Past Presidents – 1st Vice President Jones

- [] Clarence Schwatka, 26, 1964
- [] Emanuel J. Harkins, 14, 1967
- [X] Roland Neeman, 48, 1968
- [] Arthur I. Guessford, 24, 1973
- [X] E. James Monihan, 82, 1978
- [X] Raymond H. McCall, 3, 6 & 12, 1979
- [X] Richard E. Ennis, 44, 1980
- [X] John E. Bare, Sr., 76, 1981
- [] William G. Walton, Sr. 16, 1982
- [X] Lawrence Mergenthaler, 21, 1985
- [] Thomas V. Baker, Sr. , 57, 1986
- [] Robert Sweetman, 7, 8 & 9, 1988
- [X] M. Frank King, 51, 1989
- [] Walton A. Johnson, Jr., 76, 1990
- [] Edwin S. Barlow, 20, 1991
- [] Elmer B. Steele, 81, 1993
- [] Harry E. Warner, Jr., 25, 1994
- [X] J. Allen Metheny, 51, 1995
- [] Lynn J. Rogers, 85, 1996
- [X] Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr., 22, 1997
- [X] Michael H. Vincent, 87, 1999
- [X] Stephen P. Austin, 7, 8 & 9, 2000
- [X] James L. Cabbage, Jr., 45, 2001
- [] Dale A. Callaway, 85, 2002
- [] Jasper H. Lakey, 15, 2003
- [X] Marvin C. Sharp, 42, 2004
- [X] Raymond T. Stevens, 88, 2005
- [] Kennard L. Pyle, 4 & 24, 2006
- [X] Alan F. Robinson, Jr., 44, 2007

President Emeritus

- [X] Louis J. Amabili, 19
- [] C. Bryan Bennett, 87
- [] J. Benjamin Roy, Jr., 43
- [X] Bruce C. Ennis, 44

[] Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Affiliated Organizations/ Agency Representatives

State Fire Chiefs: **John Fox, Vice President**
June 26th at Slaughter Beach is the next meeting. August 8th is also the deadline for the Fire Chief's Award to be given at Conference.

State Fire Police: **John E. Bare, President**
More information about the move over law will be at the next Executive Committee meeting. August 12 in Selbyville is the next State Fire Police Meeting.

State Ambulance Association: **P.J. Gosch, 2nd Vice President**
Opened up Membership to private Ambulance Companies. Still looking for EMS Coverage during conference if anyone is interested contact Jean Forest. Next State meeting during Wednesday Banquet, nothing formal, nomination and install officers.

National Volunteer Fire Council: **E. James Monihan, Delegate**
Met in January and will be meeting again in August.

State Emergency Response Commission: **Bruce C. Ennis, Delegate**
Will be meeting next week.

Communications

The following (18) eighteen communications were received and are summarized by the Executive Secretary:

- Letter from the Kent County Fire Police Association opposing the proposal of the Dover Fire Department on the use of Blue Lights.
- Letter from Chairman Sharp, SFPC advising that they will be polling the fire departments in regards to oversight instead of the DVFA proposal for the establishment enforcement policies
- Copy of a letter from the Hartly Fire Company endorsing J. Allen Metheny, Sr. for Office of Treasure of the DVFA
- Letter from the Milton Fire Department endorsing William Tobin for the Office of Second Vice President of the DVFA
- Letter from the Roxana Vol. Fire Co. endorsing Rich Toulson for the position of DVFA Three Year Director from Sussex County

- Thank you letter from the NFFF for our recent donation
- Letter from Delmarva Power advising that they were sponsoring three \$1500 scholarships
- Letter from the LADVFA inviting the Officers to their Executive Meeting on May 5, 2008 at Cheswold
- Copy of a letter from Christiana Fire Co to Blue Shield of Delaware requesting an increase in ambulance transport fees
- Letter from the DEMA in regards to FY-05 procurements
- Thank you letter from the Delaware Community Foundation for our donation the Thurman & Hilda Adams Charitable Fund
- Invitation to the Sussex County 2008 EMS Awards Banquet
- Invitation to the Bethany Beach Fire Company Ambulance Agreement Signing May 8.2008
- Invitation to the Burn Foundation Golf Tournament
- Thank you note from DVFA PP M. Frank King for all of the cards, calls and visits during his recent illness
- Letter from DVFA PP Walton Johnson in regards to a replacement tag
- Invitation to the Officers for the events at the MSFA Convention in Ocean City
- Thank you note from DVFA PP Joseph W. Hojnicky for all of the cards, calls and visits during his recent illness

Motion by James Cabbage to accept communications and spread them upon the minutes. Seconded by Tom Mitten, Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

By Law Change, changing the term of the Immediate Past President, Motion by Charlie Frampton, to be brought up at the present time Seconded by Joe Zerolles. Motion Carred.

Voice Vote to accept the bylaw change, passed. Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

First Vice Present Jones Appointment of the Scholarship Committee. He thanked the committee for all they do. He stated he would be keeping the same committee with one new appointment. He would like to Appoint Vice President Wilson to the committee.

Motion by James Monihan, Seconded Joe Day that the DVFA bestow an Honorary Life Membership to Kevin Smith. Motion Carried.

Motion by Tom D'Alessandro, Seconded by Tom Mitten that the DVFA Approve the proposal for the promoting and marketing the SafeTBear DVD' Motion Carried

Motion James Cabbage, Seconded by Dean Simpson that DVFA endorse the change to ICC Code requiring Residential Fire Sprinklers and send a Resolution in favor of same to the ICC. Motion Carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Treasurer Metheny read bills.

Motion to pay the bills by Tom D'Alessandro, Seconded by Charlie Boyer. Motion Carried.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

John Fox Stated the Charity Gold outing will be on June 26th at 20.00 a head. They too will be honoring Kevin Smith at the Conference.

Wake Up Delaware workshop in NCC. Call Tom Mitten with Any questions. Sat is Fire Service Day at Wilmington Blue Rocks. Tickets are 12.00 a person and there will be a BBQ. Activities start at 1:00 and game starts at 6:00. Call 888-2015 for tickets

June 28th 9-9:30 Ellendale Open house.

Presidents and Chiefs Meeting on June 10, 2008 here at the fire school. Chiefs and Presidents need to attend. If you cannot attend please send a representative.

Mr. & Mrs. Smith Brought a new Fire Fighter into the world.

P.S.O.B. # for line of duty death for Joe Evans. It took 3 years and 9 months.

Pastor Bob Hudson stated he was presented a senate resolution from the state of Maryland for 15 years of service. He also received a resolution from the DELMARVA Firemen's association. He loves what he does..

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved by **Ray Stevens** and seconded by **Joe Hoinicki** that the December Executive Committee Meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried. Pastor Bob Hudson offered the Benediction. The meeting was adjourned at **11:28 am**

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 8, 2008.

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