

## DVFA Executive Committee Meeting

**December 8, 2002**

The December 2002 Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President Jasper Lakey at 10:00 a.m., followed by the Invocation by Rev. David Paul and the Pledge of Allegiance by Past President Mike Vincent. The roll call of officers by the Executive Secretary revealed all officers present, except Past President Dale Callaway and Charles Frampton.

Bruce Ennis, Chairman, Resolutions Committee, presented resolutions to the University of Delaware Emergency Care Unit congratulating them on receiving *the 2002 Leo R. Schwartz Emergency Medical Service of the Year Award* from the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, becoming the first college group to win this award; and thanking Delmarva Broadcasting, and its CEO J.H. "Pete" Booker, for being a valued partner in the distribution of smoke detectors and their help in laying the ground work for "Wake Up Delaware".

### Report of Officers

President Lakey: He attended 63 functions, spent 257.5 hours and traveled 4,660 miles representing the DVFA. He attended Rep. Mike Castle's press conference at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Dover, where Rep. Castle presented legislation that lowered the American flag on all Federal buildings to honor the fallen firefighters throughout the United States. The Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service was outstanding. He thanked all of those who attended and also Delmarva Communications for contributing \$10,000 towards the cost of bringing the families of fallen firefighters to Washington, DC for this service.

He attended the Governor's 800 radio press conference in Claymont for the completion of Phase One and for the Governor making a commitment to have in-building coverage on this system. He also attended the kick-off of the Fire Prevention Program at the Forewood Elementary School in Talleyville, where Conectiv and Lowe's provided smoke detectors to the students. Conectiv then gave the Fire Marshal's office \$5,200 to purchase special smoke detectors for handicap citizens. He then thanked both Conectiv and Lowe's for contributing to this program.

He attended, with the Governor, the kick-off of "*Make A Difference Day*" at the Dover fire station. There are many volunteers who help out at our fire stations throughout the state. They do make a difference.

He thanked all of those who assisted in making *Wake-Up Delaware* a very successful program. Over 15,000 smoke detectors and batteries were distributed.

He met with the Governor on December 3 to present the following DVFA priorities:

1. That there be no reduction in Grant-in-Aid monies and if possible, would like an increase.
2. Would like her support of the Thermal Imaging Camera Program, which the DVFA will be requesting the Legislature to restore.
3. Need BLS supplemental funding to support the increased requirements of the member companies in complying with H.B. 332, which was passed with no funding.
4. That funding be provided for the Revolving Loan Program

The Governor also was informed that the DVFA supports the following programs:

1. EMT-B training funding of \$100,000, which the Delaware Fire School needs in order to reimburse the fire companies.
2. Remove the hiring freeze of two positions in the Fire Marshal's Office and one position at the Fire School.
3. Asked for her support on the False Alarm legislation.
4. Asked that the 800 radio upgrades continue and in-building coverage is needed.
5. Asked for her support in providing funding for 24-hour service of the Delaware State Police helicopter throughout the State.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Sharp: He traveled 1,951 miles, attended 28 functions, and spent 188 hours representing the DVFA. He attended the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania Convention. He extended special thanks to Past President Elmer Steele on the fine job he accomplished as Chairman of the Conference and also thanked the *Wake-Up Delaware* Committee for their work.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Stevens: He traveled 3,614 miles, attended 27 functions and spent 150.4 hours representing the DVFA. He also attended the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania Convention and the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service.

Executive Secretary Cabbage: Prepared and carried out required duties and functions for the Annual Conference, attended the following events: Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania Convention, Governor's Fire Safety Conference, National Fallen Firefighter Memorial weekend activities, FEMA Grant Workshop, IAAI Board of Director's meeting and the FEMA National Preparedness Conference. During the months of September through November inclusive, the position devoted 656.5 hours and traveled 3,200 miles to support the Association.

Treasurer Metheny: He has provided a financial report to the 2002 Conference Chairman for his final report. For the 2002 Conference, the Association budgeted \$196,000, realized income totaling \$207,890 and disbursed a total of \$194,204, leaving a balance of \$13,686, which covered the prior conference's deficit balance. He thanked the Conference Executive Committee and all the sub-committees for a very successful 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

James Cabbage made a motion, seconded by C. Rod O'Neal, that all the officers' reports be accepted and spread upon the minutes. Motion carried.

DVFA Public Relations, William Metten: He announced that this is the sixth year of the *Delaware Fire Service News*. He then reviewed highlights of various events that occurred this past year. He announced that the next press release would include that Cheswold and Hockessin Fire Companies are donating fire trucks and equipment to a volunteer fire company in Crawford, TX in the next few weeks. He then presented a check from he and his wife to the *Partners-in-Progress* Program.

### Committee Reports

1. DVFA Conference - Warren Jones: Plans are proceeding very well. They have decided not to sponsor the fishing trip because of inclement weather the past three years. Exciting new plans will be forthcoming in March. There will be an ambulance at every conference meeting. It is extremely difficult to get people to man this for the whole conference. He would like a motion, under new business, to select times for ambulance coverage at conference.
2. Advisory to DEMA - Mike Rush and Jamie Turner: Complimented Joe Leonetti, who gave a great overview of the program. One of the concerns is that the Feds are going to be looking into what is being done with the money. *First Responder* has been defined as "any fire, police, rescue worker who can get to an incident within 20 minutes". Money will be spent for risk assessment through various agencies. First responders to compile a committee of operational personnel on how they are going to respond to weapons of mass destruction. A list of equipment, requirements for responding are needed. There will probably not be any additional funds until late spring.
3. Advisory to the State Fire Marshal - Willard Preston: There are two vacant positions. They are two deputies short in Sussex County. They will need the support of the fire service to have these positions restored. The final draft for the false alarm legislation is completed. He requested support from the DVFA for this legislation. DFIRS - Kent County is 100%; Sussex County is almost at 100% and New Castle County is coming along. He thanked everyone for their support of this requirement. *Wake-Up Delaware* is working and it does make a difference.
4. Advisory to the Delaware State Fire School - Joe Murabito: There is a little over \$100,000 in the EMT-B Program account. To meet the needs of the training, it will be necessary to dip into those funds. If this funding is not received, they will have to start charging for this program. Any more budget cuts could affect training. Since Mike Vincent was President, training for weapons of mass destruction (WMD) has been promoted. However, at this

time, 500 people are in need of training are not being trained in the State of Delaware. He asked the DVFA's endorsement beginning the fall of '03, to add a third weekend to the Basic Firefighting Skills training class for WMD training. He then returned a check in the amount of \$1,000, which the State Fire School won when they placed second in the float category of the Conference Parade.

5. Apparatus Standards - Bill Betts: A new ladder truck was inspected at Bowers Fire Co. and found to meet all requirements in order to receive Grand-in-Aid funding.
6. FEMA Grant (Wake-Up Delaware) - Robbie Robinson: Final FEMA report is almost complete, except for testimonial letters from key people. From the original \$150,000, \$134,274 has been spent. They are considering purchasing hearing-impaired smoke detectors, along with regular detectors with the remaining funds. To date, have distributed 15,000 smoke detectors this year. The October give-away far out-distanced expectations. All Delaware companies are to be commended for the success of this program. They should know in mid-December about the next grant allocation, since part of this new grant involves targeting the Hispanic community in becoming firefighters.
7. Law & Legislative - Bruce Ennis: The false alarm and the use of white lights for the Fire Police legislation will be introduced in the 142<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.
8. Resolutions - Bruce Ennis: In addition to the aforementioned resolutions, congratulatory resolutions will be prepared honoring the Wilmington Manor Ladies Auxiliary on its 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Claymont Fire Co.; and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Townsend Fire Co.
9. Life Safety - Sandy Young: All matching funds must be submitted by January 31, 2003. The State Poster and Essay Day presentations will be held on December 8 at the Fire School.
10. Out of State Coordinator - Steve Austin: Announced that Cheswold and Hockessin Fire Companies will be delivering retired fire trucks and equipment to a fire company in Crawford, TX. They hope to have media coverage before making the trip. He also announced that Hartly Fire Co. sent a truck to Olander, NC. They are looking for donations to assist Hockessin in transporting the truck to TX.
11. Partners-in-Progress - Kevin Wilson: They acquired \$40,000 last year and \$54,000 this year. They have developed a fire company folder and welcome any company who would like to donate. Their goal is to fully fund the conference with corporate sponsors.

12. WMD/Hazmat - Kevin Wilson: Equipment is out to bid. Will be presenting a report to the Chief's Association. \_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_ third account for WMD training. Requested DVFA's endorsement for WMD training. They will be developing training on the use of equipment.
13. Scholarship - George Kerr: The packets are ready; it will be necessary to sign for them. The open date for application are February 15-March 31, 2003.
14. Statewide Legislative Night - Rod O'Neal: Legislative Night will be held on March 36, 2003. There have been discussions on ways to save money for this event. They have looked at several places in which it could be held, i.e. Delaware Agriculture Museum, Sheraton Inn, Dover Downs, etc.. No decision has been made at this time. They are also considering limiting the number of invitations.
15. Delaware Volunteer Fire Dept. Employee - Lou Amabili: Last June, they were asked to conduct a survey. All companies responded to this survey. They have reviewed the report and found that the amount of employees has quadrupled since 1998. They need 100% of the companies to fill out the forms.
16. State Fire Prevention Commission - Willard Betts: He introduced two new commissioners, Robert Ricker and Dale Callaway.
17. Recognition of Past Presidents:
 

Roland Neeman, 48, 1968	Morris W. King, 51, 1977
E. James Monihan, 82, 1978	Raymond H. McCall, 6 & 12, 1979
Richard E. Ennis, 44, 1980	John E. Bare, Sr., 76, 1981
William G. Walton, Sr., 16, 1982	Lawrence Mergenthaler, 21, 1985
M. Frank King, 51, 1989	Elmer B. Steele, 81, 1993
J. Allen Metheny, 51, 1995	Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr., 22, 1997
Michael H. Vincent, 87, 1999	Stephen P. Austin, 7,8,& 9, 2000
James L. Cabbage, Jr. 45, 2001	

President Emeritus:

Louis J. Amabili, 19

Bruce C. Ennis, 44

**Affiliated Organizations/Agency Representatives**

Ladies Auxiliary, Pat McCall, President: Introduced LADVFA officers and Past Presidents in attendance. She announced that she had attended several affairs and meetings since September.

State Fire Chiefs, Mike Rush, President: He announced the officers for the year. He encouraged that all officers are on the same page. He has met with neighboring states chiefs' associations. He has also met with the President of the Maryland Association and they are planning to discuss issues affecting both Delaware and Maryland. They are greatly concerned about false alarm legislation, as they will be supporting it, as well as the white light legislation for the Fire Police.

State Fire Police, Harold Ennis, President: Announced officers for the year and offered his support in any way.

State Ambulance Association, Mike McMichael, President: They will be recognizing the University of Delaware Emergency Care Unit in achieving their national award. The Lt. Governor ride-along will be continuing. They are looking for direction in FAXing information to hospitals. The by-laws are being reviewed. Also, concerned about the issue of why there are six directors. They are looking into getting the Edin Program main server so that they will have access to the hospitals.

National Volunteer Fire Council, E. James Monihan, Delegate: He provided updates on the National Volunteer Fire Council activities, legislation, the 1-800-FIRELINE. He noted that it is important to get the BLS report to the hospitals.

International Association of Fire Chiefs, Steve Austin: There are big differences with the Association. They are requesting that Raymond Snead be appointed to the Valor Commission. They want to get the law changed. They have worked with the National Volunteer Fire Council in order to get Homeland Security in order to get a Recruitment & Retention bill nationally.

DVFA Foundation, Steve Austin: **Jim: Steve talked so fast I couldn't get it all, nor where he left off from the above report! The two reports ran together, unfortunately.**

State Emergency Response Commission, Bruce Ennis: Since the Commission on Hazardous Materials was established, they have met regularly.

DVFA Cruise Committee, Ray Stevens: Another cruise is planned for February 15-22, 2004, where they will be going to five ports of call.

### Communications

## **INSERT REPORT**

James Cabbage, Jr. made a motion, Mike Rush seconded, that all communications be received, spread upon the minutes and any business brought up under the proper order of business. Motion carried.

### Old Business

None

### New Business

Past President Steve Austin made a motion, seconded by Past President E. James Monihan, that a letter be sent to the President endorsing Raymond Snead to fill the vacant position on the Valor Commission. Motion carried.

Past President Steve Austin made a motion, seconded by Past President E. James Monihan, to request support from Senator Carper for funding for recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters on a national level. Motion carried.

Bruce Ennis made a motion, seconded by Rod O'Neal, that the resolutions submitted by the Resolutions Committee be adopted. Motion carried.

Bruce Ennis made a motion, seconded by Kevin Wilson, that the DVFA endorse the concept of the false alarm legislation being proposed by the State Fire Marshal. Motion carried.

Bruce Ennis made a motion, seconded by Kevin Wilson, that the DVFA endorse the use of white flashing lights by the State Fire Police, fire engineers and fire officers. Motion carried.

Past President Elmer Steele made a motion, seconded by Al Schmick, to allow the DVFA Executive Committee the authority to provide ambulance service to the Annual Conference, as deemed appropriate. Motion carried.

Bill Betts made a motion, seconded by Past President Lawrence Mergenthaler, that the Law and Legislative Committee seek Grant-in-Aid funding for the ladder truck, which was purchased by Bowers Beach Fire Co. Motion carried.

William Walton, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Rev. Dean, that the DVFA recommend to the State Fire Prevention Commission that the State Fire School be allowed to increase the Basic Firefighter Training to include Weapons of Mass Destruction to the curriculum. Motion carried.

Past President Roland Neeman made a motion, seconded by Past President Joseph W. Hojnicki, Sr., that the State Legislative Night be held at the Sheraton Inn. Motion carried.

Mike King made a motion, seconded by Jim King, that the DVFA support the Fire Marshal's efforts in order to fill two vacant positions and one position at the State Fire School. Motion carried.

### Payment of Bills

Tom D'Alessandro made a motion, seconded by Kevin Wilson, to pay the bills, as submitted by the Treasurer, J. Allen Metheny, in the amount of \$77,277.60. Motion carried.

**Good of the Association**

Jim King announced they are looking for rescue tools for companies who will be receiving fire equipment.

President Jasper Lakey presented a bronze helmet and certificate of recognition from the National Fallen Firefighters to Charles Emerson, Chairman, Archives Committee.

**Adjournment**

It was regularly moved and seconded that the December 8, 2002 Executive Committee meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Rev. David Paul offered the Benediction. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice S. Yerkes  
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 December 8, 2002.

Attest:

James L. Cabbage, Jr.  
Executive Secretary