

Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association Officers Meeting

November 22, 1999

The November Officers meeting was convened by President Austin at 6:35 P. M. Invocation was offered by Chief Chaplain David G. Paul. The meeting was recessed for dinner served by the Clayton Fire Company Ladies' Auxiliary. The meeting was reconvened at 7:29 P.M.

The following Officers were present: President Austin, Vice Presidents Cabbage and Callaway, Secretary Turner, Assistant Secretary Pickett, Treasurer Metheny, Directors Lakey, O'Neal, King, Suppe, Wilson and Stevens. Also in attendance were Anthony Guzzo, President-elect, New Castle County, David G. Paul, DVFA Chief Chaplain, Past President A. I. "Ike" Guessford, Conference 2000 Chair; Leon Wegman, DVFA Sergeant-at-Arms, President Doyle, Vice President Joseph, and Treasurer Stevens, LADVFA; President Ingle, State Chiefs; President Bukowski, State Fire Police and President Bowman, State Ambulance Associations.

President Austin reported that Greg Holley was currently hospitalized in Christiana Intensive Care Unit due to an illness that occurred while training at the Fire School. There are no visitors permitted except family at this time. Past President Charles Burton, MSFA, is currently hospitalized and has serious health problems. President Austin directed Chaplain Paul to contact Ed Barlow, Sunshine chair to send cards, when appropriate.

The President requested if there were additional agenda items. Two additional areas to be addressed were Y2K problems and the acquisition of laptop computers.

Director King reported that there was a large amount of equipment being stored at Georgetown's Fire Station and the Town Hall. Chief Consalo, Magnolia Fire Company may have resources available to assist in transporting the equipment to North Carolina. King has been in contact with Paul Miller, Executive Director, North Carolina Firefighter's Association concerning the donations to the relief effort. It was noted that Bunting's Garage, Dagsboro, transported Dagsboro's rescue and other fire fighting equipment to North Carolina. Director King will contact Chief Consalo, Director Wilson will make contact with the Delaware Motor Transport Association for supplemental transportation needs. Treasurer Metheny reported that the relief request had collected approximately \$4,000.00 to date. Senators Roth and Biden have been contacted to coordinate with North Carolina Senators to have a presentation ceremony in Washington near the end of January. The equipment deadline is Thanksgiving weekend with all equipment being moved by as soon as possible. The monetary relief fund is to remain open until December 31.

Director Suppe reported that New Castle County has received money for the local Fire fighter fund. The cut-off date is by Christmas with presentation to the respective families. It was noted that Claymont donated \$100.00 for each family. The New Castle County Officers offered to assume responsibility for distributing the funds to the affected families.

President Austin reported on the Executive Secretary search. He reported that the Association had received six resumes, which have been turned over to Lynn Rogers, Chair of the committee. This committee will meet on November 29 to review and rank the applications. There was discussion on how to ratify the final decision once the President and Vice Presidents have completed the interview process. The consensus was that the Chair Officers convene a special Officer meeting to convey their recommendations for approval. It was regularly moved by Jasper Lakey and seconded by Kevin L. Wilson to approve this consensus. Motion carried.

President Austin commended Russ Pickett, Webmaster on the outstanding efforts displayed in the renovations to the DVFA Webpage. Discussion ensued on the establishment of a review process for data/information placed on the DVFA page. It was decided that Committee

Chairs would review and approve any information before release on the web page. It was regularly moved by Kevin Wilson, seconded by Ray Stevens, that materials submitted by any DVFA Officer, Committee chair, President, or their designee from any other State Association be authorized for submittal and placement on the DVFA Web page. Motion carried.

The Secretary reported that Christiana Fire Company had submitted a letter requesting the Association strongly consider changing the name of the Association from Firemen's to Firefighter's. A copy of the letter has been faxed to Warren Jones, By-Laws Chairman for committee review and action. President Suppe further reported that the County Association had also received an identical letter concerning New Castle County's By-Laws with identical action taking place within their Association. Brief discussion on pro's and con's were outlined with no formal action being taken.

President Austin reported on the activities of the DEMSOC committee to date. Dr. E. David Bailey, MD, Ambulance Advisory Committee to the Commission and himself have been attending. There is a stipulation that if a representative is absent for two meetings, they lose their voting privilege. The DVFA Officers are encouraged to attend these meetings. The meetings are scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of the month, commencing at 10:00 A. M. Therefore, the meetings will be held on November 24 and December 22, 1999; January 26 and February 23, 2000. The meetings are held at the Public Safety Building Conference Room, Second floor. The State Fire Commission EMS Implementation Plan, Draft #4 consists of forty pages has been developed. There are many areas of discussion, which warrant the attention of the Delaware Fire and EMS service. President Austin has directed that the Ambulance Advisory Committee meet on December 6 to discuss this plan. The Secretary was directed to secure copies of the Draft plan and mail them to the DVFA Officers and Ambulance Advisory committee members. This report will be mailed on 11/26/99. Chairman Carey has replaced Commissioner MaGee on DEMSOC. It was announced that Kent County 911 has been requested to beta test the computerized EMS program, based upon receipt of a new computer. There are requirements for the development and implementation of Prevention and Financial Plans. The President will confer with the Ambulance Advisory Committee, President Bowman and Ray Stevens to develop draft financial reporting forms. It was reported that Delaware is paying to each entity providing BLS a sum of \$28,000.00. The statewide Hospital Diversion policy was discussed. New Castle County has no problems with the proposal, Kent General cannot divert and Beebe and Nanticoke have worked out an agreement on this policy. It was agreed by consensus that the President sign-off on this policy. Director Stevens reported that this policy is in its fourth draft.

The President reported on the status of the 800Mhz-radio system. The testimony offered on behalf of the DVFA has been posted on the DVFA Webpage. There were two requests offered. The first dealt with the "temporary coverage area fixes." The fixes should be only temporary and not permanent. The Hartly and Rehoboth areas are "busing out." The other problem area is near the Hilton area in Claymont. Second the issue of talk around channels for emergency scene use. This stipulation is not a wise use for public safety operations or an effective alternative for the Delaware Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services. Finally, there is a definite need for in-building coverage statewide. The NFPA Standards Council has recently released Standard 1221, that refers to Emergency Service communications. The standard is presently being reviewed.

President Austin reported on the Fire Service's relationship with the News Journal. It is felt that there are still serious problems with the Journal's perception of the volunteer Emergency Services. Additional articles will be published in the future. A brief explanation of the Wayne Township, Indiana Fire service problem was provided.

The CFSI Dinner dates will be Wednesday, May 3, 2000, Wednesday, April 25, 2001 and Thursday, April 18, 2002. The envelope stuffing for invitations is tentatively scheduled for January 15, 2000 at 9:00 A.M. at Station 9. This is subject to room availability.

The President and Vice Presidents will take their LADVFA counterparts to Dinner. The Dinner will be at the Blue Coat Inn on December 13, 1999 was the agreed upon date.

President Austin reported on the Bulk electric purchase. Fire Departments who are not involved in receiving electricity from a municipality are eligible. A committee consisting of Harvey C. Smith, Jr., Robert A. Taylor, and Rick Duncan has been appointed to investigate this issue and offer recommendations to the members.

Vice President Cabbage reported on the proposed DVFA Foundation. The elected table officers are to meet with Jan Jurden to discuss the potential of establishing a foundation, research and seek approval from the membership for the Foundation's implementation.

President Austin reported on the status of Mutual Relief. It has been reported that the expenses are exceeding the amount of claims, current rate of return on investments is a problem. It was agreed that the Association required input from the Advisory Committee and Chairman Warner. Tony Guzzo commented upon their investment strategies and reducing the number of Trustees. He reported that Robert Shinn, Rehoboth, attends every meeting. It was suggested that Mellon Bank be asked to assist Mutual Relief in supporting the management of funds for rate of return. It was further suggested that the President meet with the DVFA appointed Mutual Relief Trustees.

The President reported on the current Hepatitis C situation. The Philadelphia Fire Department problem is a local issue. Testing and the procurement of test kits was addressed. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Secretary Sylvester, Department of Health and Social Services soliciting input and requesting that a Health representative investigate this issue. Further, request that the Health Department offer suggestions on the proper applications of universal precautions and health engineering control techniques, when emergency responders are responding to calls.

Past President Guessford, Conference 2000 Chair reported that the committee has held two meetings to discuss and implement organizational procedures. Marvin Sharp has agreed to assume the Souvenir committee chair and the merchandise will be ordered immediately after the first of the year. All committees will be finalized by the end of the year. The Conference is the last week in September. The Past President's Dinner is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday night. The Conference Site Selection committee deliberations/status was discussed. President Austin will contact Mike Vincent and request that this committee offer a recommendation at the March Executive Committee meeting. Several active firefighters have come forward and wish to offer input on the Conference and it's training sessions. The elected table officers will meet with these members in the future.

The President directed that the Secretary research, develop and provide to the Resolutions Committee the following resolutions:

- 80th Anniversary - Cranston Heights Fire Company
- 75th Anniversary - Brandywine Hundred Fire Company
- 75th Anniversary - American Legion Post #14 Ambulance Service
- 50th Anniversary - Aetna Hose, Hook & Ladder Ladies Auxiliary

President Austin reported that the Law & Legislative committee would be meeting for the purposes of planning how to effectively deal with financial issues and to develop a procedure for the distribution of Association funds. Included in this procedure will be the agreement on how financial distributions are to be documented and the associated accountability. When the committee has finalized its deliberations, the committee will meet with the DVFA Officers.

The Tobacco fund issue was discussed. It was suggested that the Risk Watch program be purchased and provided to every elementary school classroom and that a copy be provided to every fire station in the state. In addition, standard annual funding should be established for funding to the Burn Foundation. Other funding areas may include, but not be limited to purchase and delivery of AED's to every Fire Department. It was regularly moved by Director O'Neal and seconded by Director Lakey that the recommendations be approved and offered to Dr. Sylvester for his consideration. Motion carried.

It was reported that the Delaware Fire Service News requires additional articles from Kent County. Frank Ballek, Sr., and Kevin Wilson are regularly providing articles for the newspaper. Kevin Wilson will investigate and determine if there are other members available in Kent County to support the Fire Service News.

Delaware has collectively purchased forty-three bricks for the National Fallen Firefighters Delaware Section. A listing of Departments contributing to this effort will be developed. It was reported that Senator Roth will be making a special presentation to the Mousely & Northam family. The President, Vice Presidents and Kevin Wilson will attend this affair. There will be a beta presentation entitled "Taking Care of Our Own" at the Fire School on February 19, 2000. The program is sponsored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. A basic training program for Critical Incident Stress Management will held at the Fire School on February 18 and 20, 2000. The President reported that a letter signed by Grover Ingle as President of the Chiefs and President Austin will be sent to each Fire Chief inviting them to attend and participate in this program.

Registering the Association Seal as a trademark was discussed. Registering of the Seal was deferred until the By-Laws revisions have been approved.

The Secretary reported that he had located a Past President's Book. The last entry was Past President Metheny. After discussion, the Assistant Secretary was delegated the responsibility of generating a biographical questionnaire be distributed to the Past Presidents for their action. When returned, the Past President's book will be updated.

The Secretary recommended that the Association purchase a multi-user licensed Office suite software package. The Association purchases one copy of the software and manual in addition to identifying the number of users required. It was regularly moved by Kevin Wilson and seconded by Jasper Lakey that the Secretary be authorized to purchase the software. Motion carried.

The Treasurer reported that approximately \$4,000.00 had been collected for the North Carolina Relief effort, State Franchise taxes had been paid. Conference 99 expenses were approximately \$15,000 - \$17,000.00 more than receipts and the Conference Financial report will be released at the December Executive Committee meeting. Rehoboth Beach has not paid the balance of their dues. President Austin received a copy directed to President Vincent dated June 12, 1999 and has responded to their concerns. The Secretary was directed to research the minutes to determine if the \$1800.00 dues addition was listed as voluntary.

Vice President Cabbage reported that Citizens Hose Company has been invited to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Ireland in 2001. He requested that the Association support Smyrna's fund raising efforts to meet this goal.

Director Stevens reported the Sussex meeting would convene at 7:00 P. M. at Laurel. Fire Prevention Essay awards will be presented.

Director Suppe thanked everyone for their support during the past year. Dottie Neal, TV 28, will have a special program on 12/19/99 for Poster/Essay contest Award winners. He cautioned those present on the use of governmental funding for full-time personnel.

Director O'Neal commented upon the current transfer and correlation of information electronically by the Officers. He recommended that the Association purchase Laptop computers with Internet accounts for the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. It was reported that there were no funds allocated in the Budget for the purchase of this equipment. President Austin directed the Secretary send letters to George Pyott, Ray Stevens, and Clarence Schwatka, members of the Finance and Budget Committee outlining the Officers support for this endeavor and request that this item be considered in next year's Budget.

President Doyle congratulated the Officers on the outcome of this meeting and their endeavors to date. She reported that the LADVFA is striving to increase their fundraising capability to ultimately benefit the Fire Service. She introduced her second Vice President, Shirley Joseph, and Treasurer Sara Lee Stevens.

Grover Ingle reported that the Chiefs Association would hold their first meeting on 1/27/2000. The Chiefs Officers will be holding a workshop on 11/29/99 to establish goals and set objectives for the coming year. Attended the NFPA meeting representing the State Chiefs Association. He stated that one of his primary goals is to entice and motivate younger Chief Officers to attend and participate in the Chief's Association. He reported on the recent Y2K status meeting and the Fire Service's role in response to and potential for responses within communities to Y2K incidents.

Keith Bowman reported that the Ambulance Association meeting format has changed. They will meet on 11/29/99 at Cheswold. There will be a speaker, Mike Schnyder; State EMS Office who will address the members on the proposed EMS electronic reporting issues. The following meeting will be 2/29/2000 at Station 17. The speaker will be Dr. Ed Dickerson and 5/30/2000 at Station 78. The meeting will be devoted to discussing EMS trends and issues. He suggested that the Ambulance Association have a Conference Dinner. Gary Ludwig, Retired Deputy Chief, St. Louis Fire Department has been asked to be the speaker.

Joe Bukowski reported that the Fire Police Association met yesterday with approximately 100 members in attendance. 50 attended the training seminar immediately following the meeting. All County Associations are now providing and teaching the Fire Police Basic Course on a local, as needed basis. The Fire Police are also reviewing their by-laws. They are also preparing for Y2K issues. Howard Eck was honored as Chaplain Emeritus. They are endeavoring to co-host, with Fire Chiefs a workshop to address issues that require modifications in Delaware Code, Title 16.

The Fallen Firefighters Foundation letter was referred to the Chief Chaplain for further study and action.

The next meeting of the 800Mhz radio Legislative Committee will be held on 11/29/99 at 1:00 P.M in Legislative Hall. Chairman Dick McCoy, DVFA Communications Committee, & Harry Warner, Past President will represent the Association at this meeting.

The President reported on the following dates of interest

3/4/2000 - Delaware Night @ FDIC - There have been 135 rooms reserved at the Hyatt.

3/22/2000 - Law & Legislative Night

4/1/2000 - Five States Meeting, Gettysburg, PA

5/3/2000 - CFSI Dinner

5/12/2000 - DELMARVA Association Convention meeting

6/19/2000 - Maryland State Firemen's Association Conference

8/17/2000 - West Virginia Firemen's Association Conference - Charleston, WV

8/17/2000 - Virginia State Firemen's Association Conference - Hampton Roads, VA

8/24/2000 - Cumberland Valley Firemen's Association - Newport, PA

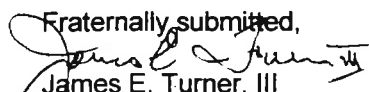
8/25/2000 - Five States Meeting, Newport, PA

10/8/2000 - Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service, Emmitsburg, MD

The next Officers meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 12, 2000 at Clayton.

There being no further business to claim the attention of the Officers the meeting was adjourned following the Benediction offered by Chief Chaplain Paul at 10:22 P. M.

Fraternally submitted,


James E. Turner, III
Secretary