

**Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
December 14, 1997**

President Donald W. Knight called the December 1997 Executive Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The invocation was led by Walt Lamon, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Past President George Diamond. Secretary James Turner reported that all officers were present, with the exception of Director James Lister.

Reports of Officers

The reports of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President were submitted in written form. The Treasurer's Report was submitted by J. Allen Metheny, a copy of which is attached (Exhibit A). He also announced that monies submitted for the Recruitment & Retention Seminar at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg would be refunded, as sufficient funds were available in the NVFC Grant to cover the total cost of the seminar. Secretary James Turner reported that "Conference 1997 Proceedings" have been completed and forwarded to the printer, with the exception on the 1997 Conference Financial Report, which will be presented at this meeting for approval; and the Poster and Essay Award winners, which are to be announced later. Letters of Committee appointments have been mailed to all members, with each fire company receiving two copies each. With all reports submitted, Secretary Turner moved, Robert Johnson seconded, that reports of the officers be accepted and approved. Motion carried.

Rod O'Neal introduced Ken Barber of Fastnet Internet, who will be providing Internet service to the DVFA. Mr. Barber explained that he has submitted a petition for review by the Committee. It will be up to the individual companies to open up the worldwide web at their expense. Past President Joseph Hojnicky asked him to translate on a layman's level. Mr. Barber explained that it would cost \$326 for the first year and \$167 for every year thereafter for each company to access the Internet. The individual cost for members is \$155.45/year, or \$12.95/month. Payments are annual; there will be 24 hours-a-day service.

Ed Klima introduced Coach Mike Brey from the University of Delaware, who announced that there would be a "*Firefighters Day*" basketball game at 1:00 p.m. on February 8, 1998. Delaware will be playing the University of Maine. Tickets will be \$6-\$8; the University will refund a portion of this fee which will be donated to the Burn Foundation.

Committee Reports

Advisory to State Fire Prevention Commission for Ambulance Service: Lee Pravitz announced that new suggested regulations have been published; the main concern is the manner and matter in which the ambulance report forms are being submitted to the EMS office; need to avoid losing services to the private ambulances.

Advisory to the State Fire Marshal: Dan Kiley reported on the fire debris analysis; the need to continue with the data system upgrade; the part-time Juvenile Prevention Program to assist John Lattomus; seeking an easement from New Castle County for record plan approval. He announced the following staff changes: Don Donovan has retired; interviews are being conducted at the present time; Ray Harrington is to retire in January; Jerry Bell will be leaving the Georgetown office. He also announced that they are pursuing Fire School & Fire Marshal employee upgrading; only 45% are reporting in the DFIRS Program; the Fire Officers Program is still in place (which speaks to fatal fires); Canine Program - one has been retired; Bill Bush has the present one; Code enforcement action will deal with instructing people to call 911, in addition to pulling the alarm.

President Knight announced that the DVFA received a letter from the State Fire Prevention Commission requesting support for an increase in the Fire Prevention Matching Funds money.

Advisory to the State Fire School: Joe Murabito presented the annual report. He announced there is a lot of discussion of ambulance regulation upgrade; working on upgrading Training Administrators; New Castle County Center is completed, with the exception of the driveway; and the Emergency Care Program. He has met with the Recruitment & Retention Committee in developing a 12-hour program.

Apparatus Standards: Bill Betts announced that Bethany Beach had submitted a request for inspection of a rescue boat, which has been inspected and approved.

Archives: Bob Romig distributed the guidelines for nominees into the Hall of Fame; everything is up date with the Past Presidents.

Critical Incident Stress Management: Kevin Wilson announced that two speakers have been confirmed for Conference '98; will be requesting an increase from DVFA from \$500 to \$700; Beebe Hospital has a new CISM Team.

Delaware Emergency Operations Plan: Report submitted by Jamie Turner, which is attached. (Exhibit B).

1997 DVFA Conference: Bill Bell announced that \$165,100 was budgeted; they exceeded the budget by 2.99%. There was increase in the Chiefs and Fire Police meetings, and the Ladies hospitality; however, a profit of \$35,860.06 was realized from Conference '97. William Walton thanked the Committee for the outstanding job at the Chiefs' meeting.

1998 DVFA Conference Liaison: Marvin Sharp announced that they had met with the City of Dover and Kent County Tourism and are being courted by Dover Downs. A "*Slots Tournament*" is being considered, as well as gift certificates at the Dover Mall; there are still rooms available at several motels; the agenda is close to being finalized. The Fire Police meeting will be held in Cheswold; there will be 3 golf tournaments. The deadline for packet information is April 16, 1998; the deadline for the registration of delegates/alternates is August 1, 1998. December 31, 1997 is the deadline for receiving parade concerns/complaints. A draft budget has been adopted.

Fire Prevention: Sandra Young announced that matching funds and requests are due January 31, 1998. State winners will be awarded this date.

Fireman of the Year: Carlton E. Carey announced that anyone whose name was previously submitted, and not selected, was encouraged to apply again.

Law and Legislative: John Mitchell announced that a meeting was held with the Governor on December 12 to discuss DVFA's priorities; March 25, 1998 will be Legislative Night; supports the statewide trooper medic throughout the State; supports the increase from \$75,000 to \$100,000 for fire prevention.

Newsletter Advisory: Bob Romig announced that the Committee approved the recommendation by Kevin Wilson that the local municipalities receive copies of the *Newsletter*; he needs a list of the Partners-in-Progress; the ads were down with the latest issue; the Director of the statewide EMS will be offered the opportunity to write articles; he urged all Committees to submit articles also.

Out-of-State Coordinators: Steve Austin announced that March 21, 1998 has been tentatively scheduled as "*Delaware Day*" in Indianapolis; CFSI dinner will be held on April 30, 1998; the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will be held on October 4, 1998.

Partners-in-Progress: Allen Metheny discussed the progress of securing a vehicle for the President of the DVFA; they are looking for a partner to pick up the cost of possibly leasing one.

Permanent Memorial: C.O. Smith announced a Christmas wreath would be placed at the Memorial.

Recruitment & Retention: Ron McLucas announced that the Kyle Petty tape will be available after the first of the year; Joe Murabito announced that an Emergency Services seminar will be held in each county, along with retention information; received good representation at Emmitsburg; a seminar is being planned in Delaware in the near future.

Scholarship: The President of Minquadale Volunteer Fire Co. presented the Scholarship Committee with a check in honor of Past President Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr. Information packets will be distributed at each County meeting in January. The time frame for submitting nominees is February 15-March 31, 1998.

Supplemental Funding: Steve Austin reported that equalization money will be the number one priority for the Joint Finance Committee when they meet for budget hearings.

State Fire Prevention Commission: Newly elected Chairman, Carlton Carey, announced that Greg Haley had resigned from the Commission. He had applied for a position in State government and felt it would be a conflict to continue to serve on the Commission. Carlton announced that they had received a lot of feedback from apartment owners; the Commission felt they could not fulfill. An official report will be forthcoming. The Commission is requesting additional funds for the new medical director because of the increased hours. They are asking that payment for these funds come from the Fire Prevention Commission instead of the Division of Public Health. An increase to \$100,000 for fire safety education is also

being requested. The Governor's Fire Safety Conference was a great success with a good attendance; an additional \$10,000 is being requested. He urged everyone to not forget to document his or her programs. They have also requested a part-time Administrative Assistant.

The following Past Presidents were in attendance: Roland Neeman, Arthur I. Guessford, E. James Monihan, Richard E. Ennis, William G. Walton, Sr., Morris W. King, William R. Carrow, Lawrence Mergenthaler, Elmer B. Steele, J. Allen Metheny, George A. Diamond, Harry E. Warner, Jr., Lynn J. Rogers, and Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr.

Affiliated Organizations/Agency Representatives

LADVFA President, Barbara Metheny announced that the Ladies are now holding Executive Committee meetings; money has been taken out of a Money Market and deposited into the State savings account where it will earn more interest. She thanked the Recruitment & Retention Committee; need to look at communications and she extended appreciation to the members of the Ladies Auxiliaries.

State Fire Police President, Kenneth Collins announced that Executive and State meetings had been held. A representative of the purple light for funeral directors was a guest speaker. He reported that the State Fire Police does not support this request.

National Volunteer Fire Council Delegate, E. James Monihan reported that they are working with the Rural Community Action Program; looking to change the agency source of funding in order to protect the grant; have prevailed on the "Privacy Act"; FLSA - have consulted with the Board; Volunteer Firefighter Enhancement Act - hopefully, it will be passed this year; Delaware has been selected by the Council to have a web page made for it; NVFC has been designated a seat on the Board of Visitors of the Fire Academy. The Tobacco Program has been advertised; 1-800-FIRE-LINE has been taken nationwide - to be accomplished by the year 2000; VIP at Emmitsburg is very important; continuing to watch NFPA 1200.

President Knight announced that DVFA has a seat on the State Emergency Response Commission (Rep. Bruce Ennis has been re-appointed to this seat.) He also announced that the DVFA was offered a slot on the EMS Planning Committee and that Dr. David Bailey was been appointed to that position. Steve Blessing, Paramedic Administrator, informed President Knight that they would be rejuvenating the EMS Council. Keith Bowman, J. Allen Metheny and Rona Todd have been appointed to this Council.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following Communications were received and are summarized by the Secretary: Thank you notes from Erin Conklin, Conference Opening Ceremony thanking the Assoc. for its hospitality while she was visiting Delaware; from the family of Mary Louise Conley expressing appreciation for the support during their loss; from President Knight thanking the Assoc. for flowers, cards, calls and support during his hospitalization; from Jane Neel, President, Delaware City Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary expressing appreciation for the donation of the banner to the LADVFA; letters from Volunteer Hose Co., Cranston Heights and Five Points Fire Companies requesting information on the Conference parade results (referred to Committee); from Delaware City Fire Co. informing the Assoc. of appointment of delegates and alternates for the balance of 1997; from Millsboro Fire Co. informing the Assoc. of the establishment of ambulance service to the Millsboro Fire District (copy forwarded to Law & Legislative Committee); from EMS Director William Stevenson requesting the DVFA appoint a representative to work on a State EMS Plan work group; from Harvey C. Smith, Jr. thanking the Assoc. for appointments to DVFA committees and requesting to be excused from attendance at this meeting; from Kent & Sussex County Fire Chief's Associations informing the Assoc. of their receipt of the DEMA Committee report and voicing their respective Chief's Assoc.'s support for adopting this report as presented at their meeting; copies of minutes from Partners-in-Progress and Recruitment & Retention Committees meetings; letter, signed by Frances E. William, III President and Chief Paul G. Shavack, Five Points, expressing displeasure and formally registering a complaint regarding the judging of apparatus during the last Conference parade (copies sent to Chair & Co-chairs of these committees); letter to Presidents Knight and Metheny requesting that an individual be nominated to serve as Grand Marshal of the Conference 98 parade with a deadline of August 1; letter from the State Fire Prevention Commission requesting DVFA support for increasing the Fire Safety Education Fund from \$75,000 to \$100,000; letter from Ladies Auxiliary of the New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Assoc. thanking the DVFA for the purchase of the State Ladies' banner; letter from Rep. Charles W. Welch, Majority Whip, Delaware House of Representatives, informing the President of three pieces of proposed legislation addressing the recommendations of the Bingo Task Force report (referred to Law & Legislative Committee).

The Secretary, at the direction of the appropriate officer, issued the following communications: Notice to all Committee Chairs concerning external fund raising efforts (copy attached to Committee member printouts provided to respective Committee chairs); letter of thanks to Senator Roth for hosting the brunch during Conference and thanking him

for the support offered through his office by Rob Book; letter to Congressman Weldon expressing the concerns of the DVFA concerning terrorism, U.S. Fire Administration and National Fire Academy interface with subsequent training to the Fire Service; letter to support Gov. Carper concerning his appointment of the Acting Secretary, Dept. of Health & Social Services; letter to Dr. Greg Sylvester congratulating him on this appointment; letter forwarded to William H. Stevenson, IV, EMS Director, announcing the appointment of Dr. E. David Bailey as DVFA representative to State EMS Planning work group; letter to Karen L. Johnson, Chair, State Emergency Response Commission re-appointing Bruce C. Ennis as DVFA representative to that commission.

James E. Turner moved, William R. Carrow seconded that the communications be accepted and brought up under the proper of business. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Jamie Turned moved, Jeff Eisenbrey seconded, that the DEMA Committee Report be approved and a copy forwarded to Sean Mulhern, Director of DEMA. Motion carried.

Kenneth Collins moved, Carroll Jester seconded, that the DVFA not support the use of the purple lights for funeral directors. Motion carried.

J. Allen Metheny moved, Lawrence Mergenthaler seconded that the DVFA support continuous Trooper Medic service throughout the entire state. Motion carried.

E. James Monihan moved, Roger Hitchens seconded that the DVFA support increasing the State Fire Prevention Fire Safety Education Fund to \$100,000. Motion carried.

Robert Hitchens moved, Kevin Wilson seconded, that the DVFA go on record in support of upgrading of the State Fire Marshal's and Fire School's staff. Motion carried.

Rod O'Neal moved, Lawrence Mergenthaler seconded, that the DVFA seek legislation in order to secure background checks. After discussion, motion was defeated.

Rod O'Neal moved, J. Allen Metheny seconded, to give the Committee the authority to move forward on the Fastnet Project and forward information to individual companies. Motion carried.

Ed. Klima moved, Robert Romig seconded, to designate February 8, 1998 as "Firefighters Day" at the University of Delaware basketball game. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills

Treasurer Metheny read the paid from the Conference to date which totaled \$16,608.26. John Behorner moved, Robert Romig seconded, to pay the bills of the Association. Motion carried. The bills read are as follows:

Vaughn Donalson	\$510.50	Natalie Duran	\$ 14.25
James E. Turner, III	362.00	Raymond F. Book	2300.00
Robert Romig	47.91	Susan Maroudos	70.00
Chuck Snyder	375.00	State Fire School	156.00
New Castle Coutny CISD	48.00	M & M Trophies	1040.73
Jen Mor Florists	35.00	Sandrose Trophies	389.00
A T & T	21.93	Edward F Lewis	207.00
Kohut Electric	137.00	Copy Craft	266.00
Carolyn Walton	34.32	Chuck Snyder	193.00
Visa	206.75	Guest Svcs-NFA	1522.25
NETC-NFA	3740.00	Steve Ennis	72.00
Training Associates	487.64	Rogers Signs	299.00
Floral Occasions	35.00	Shane Quality Press	173.50
Shane Quality Press	21.36	Ron McLucas	21.36
Visa	347.62	Donald W. Knight	80.31
Janice Yerkes	75.00	John Mitchell	1391.85
Floral Occasions	38.00	Ron McLucas	84.11
James E. Turner, III	124.93	State Fire School	159.40
CTH	1228.00	Shane Quality Press	48.50
Academy Printing	53.15	DE Children's Fire Safety Foundation	111.00

A motion was made and seconded that the meeting revert back to Old Business. Motion carried.

Morris King moved, Charles Honey seconded, that a Resolution honoring Citizens Hose Band for its 50th year of dedicated service be adopted. Motion carried.

John Fox moved, Morris King seconded, to return to the regular order of business. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Norman Batchelor moved, Morris King seconded, that the December Executive Committee meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Chaplain Walt Lamon offered the benediction. The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Janice S. Yerkes
Corresponding Secretary**

I hereby attest that this is a true copy of the proceedings of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association Executive Committee meeting held on December 14, 1997.

**Attest: _____
James E. Turner III
Secretary**

Attachments