

DVFA Executive Committee Meeting

March 14, 1999

President Michael Vincent called the March 1999 DVFA Executive Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Art Titus offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Past President Donald Knight. Roll call of officers by Secretary Jamie Turner revealed all officers were present.

Approval of Minutes: A representative from Rehoboth Beach Fire Co. questioned under New Business, under the voting procedures for the change in the by-laws, the roll call should indicate that the tie was due to Past Presidents and officers voting. After discussion, Dan Burris moved, Norman Tate seconded, to accept the December 13, 1998 meeting minutes, as corrected. Motion carried.

President Vincent introduced Bill Webb, Director, CFSI who reminded everyone of the National Fire Emergency Service dinner in April; Senator Roth is the Chairman of the caucus and he hoped as many as possible will attend. The national press will also attend. Technology will become available to every fire company free of charge. Legislation: The Pascrell/Weldon bill, which is a 5 billion dollar grant program that will help the fire service and people in industry. NVFC will increase funding from \$2,000,000 to \$10,000,000. Press conference will be held on fire-safe cigarette legislation, in order to bring about needless deaths that are caused by smoking. Congressman Weldon will be in attendance at the FDIC dinner in Indianapolis.

Report of Officers

President Vincent reported for the 2nd quarter that he attended 54 functions, 265 hours and traveled 4,639 miles.

President Vincent submitted status reports on the following:

- EMS Report - The State Committee has been meeting to review the Fitch report in its entirety; they have dealt with six care issues. The public is allowed to attend the meetings. Caucus items will be reviewed and recommendations made. The next meetings are March 26, April 9, 16 and 23 from 12:00-5:00 p.m. in the Main Conference Room, Public Safety Bldg. No one can address any of the issues at these meetings. There will be a separate public meeting to address concerns. The goal is to have it completed by April 30 and in the hands of the Governor.**
- Executive Secretary - The same committee has been re-appointed; State of Delaware hiring practices will be followed; hope to have it finalized by the June Executive Committee meeting.**
- Voting Procedures - After review by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, a mistake was made about changing the voting procedures per company; the vote was tied and was then placed on the table. After**

review by the Constitution & By-Laws Committee, and conferring with the Parliamentarians, any vote of this Assoc. that pertains to changing of the Constitution or the By-Laws, there are two (2) votes per company. There are no votes of the Past Presidents; there are no votes of the table officers. The first reading requires a simple majority; the second and final reading requires two-thirds approval.

- Delaware Night at the FDIC - will be Saturday night from 5:30-8:00.
- Boat Ride at the Conference - The Executive Committee of the Conference has scheduled the boat ride for Wednesday night with the Past President's dinner being on Tuesday evening. The boat ride cannot be changed.

First Vice President Austin reported for the second quarter that he attended 28 events, traveling 1,320 miles. His itinerary is in written form, with copies provided to the Officers.

Second Vice President Cabbage reported for the second quarter that he attended 28 functions, 101.5 hours, and traveled 1,245 miles representing the DVFA. His itinerary is in written form with copies provided to the Officers.

The Treasurer reported the following balances in Association accounts:

DVFA Checking.....	5,548.93
DVFA Credit.....	4,088.09
DVFA Pension.....	101.82
DVFA Money Market.....	1,483.68
Merrill Lynch.....	224.52
Conference 96 Surplus.....	43,255.00
Conference Investment.....	68,000.00
Conference Checking.....	5,786.64
Conference Money Market Account.....	551.66

Secretary Turner – Introduced Russ Pickett, Assistant Secretary; recommended by his Company and appointed with permission of President & Vice Presidents; Minutes of the December Executive Meeting have been completed and distributed; Conference 1999 Proceedings have been completed and are being proofed. Jamie Turner moved, and it was seconded, that the reports of the officers be received and be made a portion of the minutes of this meeting. Motion carried.

Ron Marvel introduced John Fannin, Delaware Children's Fire Safety Foundation, who explained their purpose and goals. They have been successful with the Dept. of Education and private schools in providing a web page on fire safety education (called "Safety Bear's Web Page") which will be on the State Intra-Net for schools; negotiations are being completed with NFPA to have a copyright license. Specific skills will be taught, i.e. 911 simulators, etc., also, a "Safety Bear" chat room will be available soon. He requested if the DVFA would sponsor a website in order for the kids to get closer to the fire service (the cost would be in the range of \$1,000-\$2,000). He would like the fire service to take a stronger role. Sandy Young asked if the DVFA would be eligible for matching funds. Treasurer Metheny replied the Fire Prevention Committee would have to approve it.

Committee Reports

1. Advisory To Mutual Relief - Harry E. Warner, Jr. - Insurance issue: Spoke with the State VFIS on group life insurance policy. It's a term policy. The premium is predicated on the age and the numbers. It will take 2-3 months to complete; the information will be available in disk form to any interested vendor. The finalized report should be available by the next meeting. It will be a blanket State price, based on the ages and numbers.

**2. Advisory To State Fire Prevention Commission for Ambulance Service
Dr. E. David Bailey reported on updates on EMS issues including the State EMS Committee meetings, Ambulance Advisory Committee meetings, EMT-B training, and ambulance billing.**

The State EMS committee has had 4 meetings since late January. Our first task has been to form a consensus on which portions of the Fitch report we consider important and necessary for an optimal EMS system in our state. The following is a list of consensus we have reached.

1. Most Dispatch Centers currently do an adequate job collecting data on EMS calls. Many do not collect the same information, and the data collected does not always meet the needs of the Volunteer Fire Service for monitoring our performance on response times and scratches. The data that is collected is not always easily usable by the Fire Service.

- 2. The data collected does not reflect the time from the public or Fire Service perspective. Many portions of data are currently not available to accurately determine scratch rates or key portions of the response time interval.**
- 3. QA/QI of Priority Medical Dispatch is good in many centers but is not universal to all centers. Many centers use different systems to do their QA/QI.**
- 4. NAEMD accreditation standards should be used for conducting QA/QI in Medical Dispatch Centers.**
- 5. Early defibrillation is often not available prior to the arrival of the Fire Department Ambulance or Paramedics.**
- 6. Additional AEDs are needed to better serve the public and meet the goal of providing defibrillation to patients within 6 minutes of arrest.**
- 7. Public Access Defibrillation should be considered a key element in providing early defibrillation to patients in cardiac arrest.**
- 8. Currently, BLS medical direction is dependent upon variance reports with limited systemic components. This is felt to be due to the time constraints placed on the BLS Medical Director and the limited data available to provide accurate systemic QA/QI.**
- 9. Eight hours a week is not enough time for the Medical Director to provide meaningful oversight, QA/QI, or protocol development. The committee recognizes that the current BLS Medical Director has volunteered many hours of his own time beyond the 8 hrs a week, but that more time is needed to provide medical direction for BLS.**
- 10. There are currently no BLS protocols for patient care, however, the protocols along with a system for monitoring patient care and providing QA/QI for patient care is currently being developed.**
- 11. On a non-systemic basis, there already exists several prevention activities in the Delaware EMS system.**
- 12. Prevention is an integral part of an EMS system, at all levels, by all involved.**
- 13. Some prevention programs need to be offered at the state level, these include, but are not limited to CPR, seat belt use, child restraint use, and driving under the influence.**
- 14. While the ALS and BLS data provided to the OEMS is not wholly accurate, it may suggest that response times may be longer than ideal.**

The EMS Committee will be meeting again on March 26th at which time we will begin the recommendations for our EMS system. After discussion with the committee, it was felt that the proper course would be to open the meetings to the public. We on the committee feel that we have made good progress and are working well together. The atmosphere is positive, and we hope that we can continue the spirit of productive dialog in the environment of an open meeting.

The Ambulance Advisory Committee has met 3 times since the beginning of the EMS Committee meetings. We are discussing each of the care improvements, acknowledging the input of various fire companies that have responded to the committee with regard to EMS issues facing the Fire Service. The following is a summary of our findings and suggestions for the future of EMS in the Fire Service.

- 1. The financial state of the Fire Service in the Fitch report does not accurately reflect our current financial incomes or costs for providing EMS service.**
- 2. Those involved in providing EMS service feel that the Fire Service is committed to providing transport service and improving our care to the community. Most feel strongly that we should stay in the transport service because we are in the best position to provide quality care to our communities.**
- 3. The committee does not feel that the report benchmarked us accurately against like systems around the country. This causes inaccuracies in cost for care and response times.**
- 4. Many feel that Priority Medical Dispatch delays dispatch. There currently exist substantial time delays between the dispatch of ALS and BLS, reflecting badly in our perceived response times.**
- 5. We believe that ALS and BLS should be dual dispatched, and that there should be agreements between districts for dual dispatch or on the road dispatch for critical calls. If we are to be the first to the scene to provide timely care, we need timely notification, and delays between ALS and BLS dispatch are not in the patients best interest.**
- 6. BLS crews should be provided with call information at the time of response, the same as ALS routinely receives from dispatchers.**
- 7. Data from secondary PSAPs to county PSAPs needs to be rapid and seamless.**
- 8. The committee feels that data should be available from the dispatch centers on a monthly basis, providing us with the information necessary to change and adapt our current response practices. This data should include chute times, response times, scratch rates, and peak times. This data should also be available separately for cardiac arrests.**

9. Dispatchers need to tone out calls, especially critical calls, within thirty seconds. The committee feels that the data necessary to dispatch a call is available early on and PAI and additional data can be gathered after dispatch.
10. Rapid response should be available for those patients in cardiac arrest. The method of providing rapid defibrillation will be dependent on the district, and several models including police first responders, AED equipped duty vehicles and first run pieces, and rapid first responders from home were all suggested. It is felt that rapid response should be done on all delta calls that may progress to cardiac arrest.
11. Our goal should be for a 0% scratch rate. We realize that that this may not always be realistic but feel that the public expects and deserves nothing less. Given this, if a response is being made to a non-emergent call, and a critical call comes in, the ambulance should be redirected to the more critical call.
12. Our scratch rates should be provided for both non-emergent and emergent calls. While we realize that all patients require the best response possible, we must be able to monitor our performance on the critical calls as well as the overall performance.
13. We are able to work on chute times. We all agreed that in order to provide rapid response, we would need to have an in-house crew available. Many suggestions were made regarding how to ensure in-house crews for EMS calls. Full time paid crews may not work for every department at all hours. Most believed that given the realities of life for most volunteers, including 2 jobs and family commitments, some sort of monetary compensation was inevitable. Other ideas include taking units home to on call crews and on-road dispatches with the primary company also being toned out.
14. We do not have control over the response portion (10-8 to 10-2), of our response times. Long response distances and traffic in some districts, limits the response times for that district. These are demographic dependent and not easily altered.
15. Concern was raised regarding the effect of diversion policies on transport and turn around times. The fire service needs to work with the hospitals to develop a divert policy taking into consideration difficulties for all those involved, including our need for quick turn around times.
16. As data collection becomes more demanding, we must ensure that data entry does not become a big burden to our crews, increasing turn around times.
17. We do not feel that the chief's law will be effected by the changes in EMS, and that the chief should still maintain control over a scene, with EMS providing the best possible patient care.

The committee also discussed issues involving training and third party billing. We feel that HCFA will mandate one EMT-B per ambulance but do not know if they will require two. We will face this issue if and when it arises.

With regard to ambulance billing review and monitoring, no one outside of Delaware monitors or regulates the billing practices of ambulance services, and feel this would be difficult and unrealistic at this time.

The committee feels that the third party payers will likely begin monitoring, regulating, and capping fees paid to ambulance services. This will mean little increase in the revenue available to ambulance providers, and may mean a decrease in reimbursement.

With regard to training, many feel that EMT-B training is going well. Given that, the committee also feels that improvement is still possible. While many of the veteran members are doing well and passing the NREMT-B exam, younger members are having difficulties. Speaking with Doug Poore of Kent County EMS, this seems to be due to a high functional illiteracy rate among the younger providers statewide. New teaching methods need to be developed to meet this training challenge. The committee also feels that training needs to be more fire service based, with practical emphasis being placed on issues of importance to the fire service EMS provider.

Discussion arose regarding the certification status of veteran members of the fire service. It was the feeling of many members of the committee, including veteran members who have taken NREMT-B, that "grand fathering" was not realistic given the new demands placed on EMT-Bs including trauma triage and future treatment protocols. Some suggested that veteran members may be able to challenge the exam, while others suggested a special bridge course for experienced providers, taking into consideration their previous experience while acknowledging their need for some further didactic training.

Finally, we are probably all aware of the recent changes in the HCFA ambulance staffing requirements. Included with this report is a copy of the letter sent from the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) regarding this issue and their ongoing discussion with HCFA to resolve this dilemma. The conversations between the OEMS and HCFA have been promising, however a final resolve to this problem may take 7-8 weeks. During that time, it is the belief of the office of EMS that we will continue to be reimbursed for services, but this is not in writing. This will be resolved in 7-8 weeks, with written confirmation by 3/19/99. The OEMS states that the staffing requirement is only one aspect of the new requirements and strongly urges all providers to review the other regulations.

3. Advisory to the State Fire Marshal - James L. Cabbage, Jr. - Charles Stevenson retired December, 1998; Richard Ward has been appointed Chief Deputy Fire Marshal for Sussex Co.; the office manager in New Castle County is Judy Harrington. Two vacant positions will be filled in the near future. Interviews for the Juvenile Intervention position will be completed soon. The new office is

progressing very well, with occupancy expected by the next Executive Committee meeting. A tentative dedication is scheduled for September. Representatives Terry Spence and Nancy Wagner have requested a "*Fire Service Appreciation Day*" at Legislative Hall sometime in late April or May and would like to have uniformed fire service personnel in attendance.

4. Advisory to the State Fire School - Joe Murabito - reported on behalf of the Committee that the Fire School was working on the following projects: Ladder tower update, Underground Storage tank upgrades, Compressor donation, Computer system update, radio inventory progress, attendance at FDIC, New van, Hallway floor repair, New Castle tractor shed, Joint Finance Committee presentation, CFSI Dinner attendance and EMT- B update.

5. Communications - Harry E. Warner, Jr. - The system is 100% installed; there are problems in all three counties; will be meeting with Bruce Ennis to address these issues.

6. Computer Technology - Mike Hojnicky - Russ Pickett maintains the web page. Y2K - the Governor signed Executive Order 58, which convened the Y2K Contingency Planning & Coordinating Council. This Council must put together the draft contingency plan for the State of DE by June 30, 1999 and must be submitted to the Governor by September 1, 1999. Council task is to identify what is the responsibility of the participating agencies that deal with public safety. There will be a briefing at the Fire School on April 25 from 9:00-12:00 on what the Y2K issue is and what does it mean to the fire service; will be reviewing a report from Montgomery County, MD fire service who did an analysis of their whole department issues and what the impacts were.

7. Constitution & By-Laws – Warren F. Jones - By-Laws changes will be brought up under New Business. The By-Laws need to be completely reviewed for possible reorganization or update. If everyone concurs, they will proceed and should have a report ready by the December meeting.

8. Critical Incident Stress Management - Kevin L. Wilson - They are looking at having someone from Pittsburgh to speak on a multiple incident fatal fire at the Conference. A representative from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation will also give a presentation on their program. He attended a workshop on March 4 in Washington, DC on developing a stress management program for fire chiefs throughout the country.

9. 1999 DVFA Conference – Norman L. Tate - All information is due to the committee on July 15. The Conference begins on Thursday, September 16; the meeting of Past President's and LADVFA will be held on Tuesday night; Wednesday is *Entertainment Day*, with the Conference beginning on Thursday. Past President Guessford stated that in order to schedule meaningful seminars, meetings, education, recreation, etc., consideration must be given to extending the number of days of the annual conference.

10. Fire Prevention – Sandra Young - Will be receiving 100% of the 50% of matching funds; 49 organizations have applied for matching funds, 40 of which are the volunteer fire service.

11. Fireman of the Year - Carlton E. Carey, Sr. - All applications must be submitted by June 30, 1999.

12. Law & Legislative - Bruce Ennis gave an update on HB 59 (Workmen's Comp for Haz-mat members when called to an accident or incident); HB 64 (\$1,000 tax credit); the State Treasurer has contacted him concerning legislation that would increase the death benefit from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

13. State Muster - Jim Watson reported that some companies do not want to get involved and instead, are considering a *Firemen's Day*. They do not feel they can put on a statewide muster at this time. A survey will be going out soon to all companies.

14. Permanent Memorial – Charles O. Smith - All work is to be completed by April 1; are considering a re-dedication later.

15. Recruitment & Retention – Ken Pyle - A letter has been sent to each company and ladies auxiliary asking them to join their meetings. They are working on a presentation "Recruitment & Retention - Looking into the Future"; would like to have a presentation at the Conference; working on a questionnaire for the ladies auxiliaries, trying it out in New Castle County first.

16. Scholarship - George L. Kerr, Jr. announced that a member of the Committee has passed away (J. Ralph Jefferson). The deadline for applications is March 31. The following presentations were made to the Scholarship Committee: LADVFA President Bonnie Workman presented a check in the amount of \$1,000; New Castle Co. Ladies Auxiliary President Carol Johnson presented a check in the amount of \$500; Past Chief's Social Club, Jim King donated \$500 cash; Christiana Fire Co., Karl Walters, Christiana Fire Co. presented a check in the amount of \$500 in memory of Bonnie Benshalter.

17. State Fire Prevention Commission – Carlton E. Carey, Sr., Chairman – reported that a public hearing was held on proposed fire lane changes; will be reviewing input received at their next meeting; met with the JFC on February 10 requesting funds for the EMS training upgrade; requested funds for the existing personnel bridging up to EMT-B national register and also a request for new personnel coming into the system (approx. 150 people annually at a cost of \$82,500); \$494,000 requested for people bridging up from ambulance attendant or emergency technician to the EMT-B national register. He requested that the DVFA send a letter supporting this request. The Health Care Finance Admin (HCFA) required that each ambulance should have one EMT on board in order to be paid for Medicare patients.

Chairman Carey recommended that fire companies should continue to bill for the Medicare patients (there is nothing in writing yet). They are coming up with a payment procedure, which is to be in place by January 2000.

President Vincent reported on the following:

- 800 MHz - received a letter from Secretary of Public Safety, Brian Bushweller, who is concerned about questions from the media in not being able to hear calls. Public Safety will give them access to hear what is being dispatched and will allow them to purchase, through the State, a 800 Mhz radio to monitor only and the State will control the channels they are allowed to monitor.
- Children's Fire Safety issue - need to make a recommendation by the June meeting.
- Goal of having a re-dedication of the Permanent Memorial the second Sunday in June, immediately following the Executive Committee meeting.

18. Recognition of Past Presidents:

<input type="checkbox"/> John V. Ryan, 20, 1961	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clarence Schwatka, 26, 1964
<input type="checkbox"/> William T. Lowe, 82, 1966	<input type="checkbox"/> Emanuel J. Harkins, 14, 1967
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roland Neeman, 48, 1968	<input type="checkbox"/> Arthur L. Jones, 78, 1969
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arthur I. Guessford, 24, 1973	<input type="checkbox"/> William Paskey, Jr., 48, 1974
<input type="checkbox"/> Morris W. King, 51, 1977	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. James Monihan, 82, 1978
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond H. McCall, 3,6,12,1979	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard E. Ennis, 44, 1980
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John E. Bare, Sr., 76, 1981	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William G. Walton, Sr., 16, 1982
<input type="checkbox"/> Richard C. Mitchell, 86, 1984	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lawrence Mergenthaler, 21, 1985
<input type="checkbox"/> Thomas V. Baker, Sr., 57, 1986	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert G. Sweetman, 7,8,9, 1988
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Frank King, 51, 1989	<input type="checkbox"/> Walton A. Johnson, Jr., 76, 1990
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edwin S. Barlow, 20, 1991	<input type="checkbox"/> George A. Diamond, 55, 1992
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elmer B. Steele, 81, 1993	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harry E. Warner, Jr., 25, 1994
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J. Allen Metheny, 51, 1995	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lynn J. Rogers, 85, 1996
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr., 1997	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald W. Knight, 1998

President Emeritus:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Louis J. Amabili, 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Paul E. Burke, 20
<input type="checkbox"/> Rev. James B. Doughten, 78	<input type="checkbox"/> C. Bryan Bennett, 87
<input type="checkbox"/> Harvey H. Ryan, 20	<input type="checkbox"/> J. Benjamin Roy, Jr., 43
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bruce C. Ennis, 44	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Norman L. Tate, 87

Affiliated Organizations/Agency Representatives

Ladies' Auxiliary President, Bonnie Workman introduced the LADVFA officers in attendance. She requested that information concerning the

Washington trip and information on matching funds be shared with the Ladies. She announced that there were a few Christmas ornaments still available and that the new ones can now be purchased.

State Fire Chiefs President, Elmer B. Steele met on March 2 to discuss their concerns at Conference '99, which were then forwarded to Norman Tate. Their next meeting will be on March 25 with Don LeBlanc from the National Fire Protection Association as the speaker. He will speak on national certification and professional development.

State Fire Police President, Joseph Brugleria thanked 2nd Vice President Steve Austin for the fine job at the National Fire Police Summit in Halfway, MD; have negotiated with the Fire School to provide training to fire departments one in each county who will be qualified to teach a basic fire police course in its own county. There will be information forthcoming on a safety program for bicyclists and pedestrians.

State Ambulance Association President, Charles White reported that they were in the process of re-writing the by-laws.

National Volunteer Fire Council Delegate, E. James Monihan submitted the following updates: developing human resource training; have e-mail updates available; participating in HCFA fee setting negotiations for ambulance service; the blue ribbon panel report is being addressed by Chief Marinucci. He urged everyone to give them a chance. Congressional agenda: A bill will be introduced by Pascrell/Weldon to appropriate funds to the fire service; seeking sponsors for Helping Hands legislation; FLSA Act hearing was held and is being re-introduced; legislation to restore the flame retardant standards for children's sleepwear; two bills to create a Medal of Valor for public safety officers; HR 438 would enhance and expand 911; HR 539 would establish 911 as the universal phone number; legislation (Community Safety Act) to provide a safe harbor to permit hospitals to restock ambulances; HR 718 - permit volunteer fire and EMS organizations to generate tax exempt bonds for ambulance and buildings to house them; SR 84 which would exempt taxes for families of public service officers killed in the line of duty; opposes HR 391 - Paper Work Reduction Act for small business.

President Vincent reported on Thermal Imaging Cameras; three that were to be presented to the Fire School fire training facilities would be better utilized by the fire companies. Will request permission from the Bond Bill Committee to allocate funds for the Fire School cameras be allocated to cameras for the fire companies. It is proposed that the project be completed on a year-by-year until all Departments have received these cameras.

Communications

The following Communications were received and are summarized by the Secretary.

- Minutes of Mutual Relief Meeting – November 23, 1998
- Minutes of Recruitment & Retention Meeting – December 13, 1998
- Copies of letters to Editor – News Journal from President Vincent, DVFA and President Suppe, NCCVFA – December 14, 1998
- Memo to Fire Company Presidents with attached Fitch Report requesting Fire Department action – December 18, 1998
- Robbins Hose Company replacing an Alternate – December 22, 1998
- Delaware City Fire Company appointment of Alternates & Delegates – December 23, 1998
- Fax from Minguadale Fire Company appointing Delegates & Alternates – January 5, 1999
- Elsmere Fire Company comments on Fitch Report – January 10, 1999 referred to Ambulance Advisory Committee
- Cheswold Fire Company recommending Russ Pickett as Assistant Secretary, DVFA – January 11, 1999
- Talleyville Fire Company comments on Fitch Report referred to Ambulance Advisory Committee – January 14, 1999
- Hartly Fire Company comments on Fitch Report referred to Ambulance Advisory Committee – January 15, 1999
- Memo from Treasurer Metheny submitting comments on Fitch Report referred to Ambulance Advisory Committee – January 15, 1999
- Memo from William Metten providing news media releases and letters to the editor for the period of September 1998 through December 1998 – January 21, 1999
- Memo from Volunteer Hose Company appointing Delegates & Alternates dated January 27, 1998

- **Undated letter from Camden-Wyoming Fire Company announcing Officers for 1999**
- **Goodwill Fire Company appointing Delegates & Alternates – January 28, 1999**
- **Letter to Vice President Warren G. Collisi, Michigan State Firemen's Association responding to information request from Vice President Austin – January 25, 1999**
- **Recruitment & Retention Committee minutes – January 25, 1999**
- **Gary Cox, Dagsboro Fire Company requesting a copy of By-Laws of this Association – January 31, 1999**
- **Harrington Fire Company appointing Delegates & Alternates – February 10, 1999**
- **Felton Fire Company requesting clarification on how Fire Departments are notified of important Association votes received January 31, 1999 and response by Secretary on March 1, 1999**
- **Aetna Hose Hook & Ladder Company appointing Delegates & Alternates**
- **Rehoboth Beach Fire Company appointing Delegates & Alternates – February 16, 1999**
- **Rehoboth Beach Fire Company requesting current copy of Constitution & By-Laws of this Association – February 18, 1999**
- **Minutes of February Mutual Relief Meeting – February 22, 1999**
- **Sussex County Volunteer Firemen's Association requesting that the DVFA investigate funding to support Basic Life Support Ambulance Service to support hiring or offsetting costs for Ambulance Attendants on a statewide basis. Referred to Law & Legislative Committee.**
- **Metten Associates news releases for the periods of January & February 1999 – March 2, 1999**

It was moved by Jamie Turner, and seconded, that the Communications be received and be made a portion of the minutes. Motion carried.

Old Business

A motion by David Haines, seconded by Warren Jones, to remove the By-Laws change from the table. Discussion ensued as follows: Past President Mergenthaler requested a meeting of the Past Presidents, Presidents Emeritus and the three Presidents at the head table. Parliamentarian Guessford replied that in order to make decisions on this issue, you must follow a chain of command. The document that has precedent over all others is the State Charter, then the Constitution, then the By-laws, and then Roberts Rule of Order; then motions from the floor. He then read from the Constitution, Section 7 which states: "All officers, their appointees, including Committeemen appointed by the President, and all Past Presidents shall be empowered with a vote at any Executive Committee meeting". The By-laws, Section 7, states "Two votes per company". However, the Constitution overrides the By-laws. Therefore, the vote that taken in December is a legitimate vote; was declared a tie. After lengthy discussion, President Vincent asked the Secretary to obtain a copy of the Charter. Therefore, David Haines made a motion, Warren Jones seconded, to withdraw the motion until research of the Charter is complete. Motion carried.

New Business

First Vice President Austin reported on Federal legislation; Weldon/Pascrell Firefighter FIRE Act (\$1,000,000,000 for 5 years direct to the fire service). He requested support from the DVFA for the following: There needs to be a letter from the DVFA to the Consumer Product Safety Commission; Fire Safe Cigarette Act develop standards for a self-extinguishing cigarette. Steve Austin moved, Jon Cottrell moved that the DVFA support this legislation and that letters be sent to our Congressional delegation. Motion carried.

Past President Mergenthaler moved, Past President Metheny seconded, that the DVFA support the Law and Legislative report to increase the burial expense from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Motion carried.

Past President Monihan moved, Joe Vattilana seconded that the DVFA support HR 438 and HR 539. Motion carried.

Past President Monihan moved, Jon Cottrell seconded that the DVFA support HR 557 and HR 718. Motion carried.

Past President Monihan moved, Willard Betts seconded that a letter be sent to our congressional delegation opposing HR 391. Motion carried.

Warren Jones thanked President Vincent for appointing him Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee; however, he has another problem with the "*Constitution*" part of the Constitution & By-Laws regarding the changes in the collection of dues. These changes must be made at the annual conference. Parliamentarian Guessford replied that there is nothing in the Constitution or By-

Laws that states that there is a penalty for non-compliance. President Vincent announced that there will be clarification of this at the June meeting. Treasurer Metheny was concerned that there are functions that have been approved by this Association that are taking place at this time and are not going to be able to continue if we do not get the increase in dues.

Past President Monihan moved, Kurt Gray seconded, that in lieu of implementation of the Constitution and By-Laws changes passed at the last meeting, that each company be assessed an amount equal to the changes adopted at the last Executive Committee meeting on a one-time basis. Past President Hojnicky suggested using the word "donation" instead of "assess"; Parliamentarian Guessford replied that if a Department refused to pay the assessment, there is no means to make them pay. After lengthy discussion, motion carried.

Tom DiCristofaro made a motion that each company and each ladies auxiliary be given 6 tickets each for the ferry ride at the Conference. After discussion, he agreed to bring this up at the June meeting.

Ron Marvel moved, Norman Batchelor seconded, that the Association prepare a resolution in memory of J. Ralph Jefferson and have it presented to his family. Motion carried.

President Vincent announced that Ray Krett has resigned as a delegate to the Mutual Relief from New Castle County and that Dan Burriss has been appointed to fill the unexpired term.

First Vice President Austin announced that Monti Hudson has been appointed to the Scholarship Committee to fill the term of J. Ralph Jefferson. The balance of the Committee was reappointed.

Payment of Bills

John L Mitchell	4,000.00	CTH, Inc.	1,700.00
Rogers Signs	130.00	NVFC	300.00
Jen Mor Florist	37.50	Visa Card	121.60
Shane Quality Press	26.00	DSFS	288.00
Bruce Shockley	2,000.00	Action Quick Print	45.45
Del Fire Service News	1,200.00	Bill Metten & Assocs.	2,384.20
Visa	783.12	Wilmington Trust Co	1,237.50
Bruce Shockley	3,500.00	Jackie Guzzo	33.00
DSFS	705.00	Visa	548.10
Wyoming Concrete	68.19	Jackie Guzzo	19.80
James E. Turner, III	220.39	Citizens Hose Co Aux.	250.00
Del Fire Service News	1,200.00	Wilmington Trust Co	10.89
DSFS	100.80	Shane Quality Press	26.00
Rogers Signs	134.50	Bobola Farms	35.00

Jackie Guzzo	9.99	Janice Yerkes	100.00
Dale Callaway	125.00	Charles Emerson	793.00

Charles O. Smith, moved, Kurt Gray seconded, that the bills of the Association be paid. Motion carried.

Good of the Association

Barry Beck announced that he had tickets to a "Firefighters Day and Night" Blue Rocks game on July 10. Tickets are \$6, with \$1 going to the Burn Foundation and 50 cents of each ticket sold will be donated from the stadium. Checks are to be made out to "NCCVFA Rocks".

The 2nd Annual Pumper Pull will be held on July 10 at 3:30 p.m.; registration fee is \$50. Deadline for registering is June 19.

Jim Watson announced that there will be a New Castle County fire muster on June 27 at the New Castle County Training Site.

2nd Vice President Cabbage reported that Citizens Hose responded to a fire that occurred at the same site 50 years ago in 1944.

Adjournment

It was regularly moved by Past President Guessford and seconded that the March Executive Committee meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The Benediction was offered by Rev. Art Titus. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice S. Yerkes

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 March 14, 1999.

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