

**DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
SEPTEMBER 9-14, 2002**

**DVFA & LADVFA OPENING CEREMONIES  
Thursday, September 12, 2002**

The opening ceremonies of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference were called to order by Master of Ceremonies, Warren Jones. All Past Presidents of the DVFA and LADVFA, along with Presidents Emeritus, were escorted to their seats. Mr. Jones stated that one year and one day ago our lives changed forever. The one thing that stood out was the American spirit. We intend to honor that spirit. With that, the procession of flags, led by the Sussex County Color Guard, entered the room, followed by the singing of the Star Spangled Banner by Rich Fernades. The Invocation was offered by Rev. Dave Paul and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Presidents Dale Callaway and Shirley Joseph.

A video presentation, entitled *An American Tragedy and the American Resolve*, which depicted the tragedies of September 11, 2001 and the courage and heroism demonstrated on that fatal day, was then illustrated.

Past President Lynn Rogers then introduced President Dale Callaway, making a special note that no one is exempt from tragedy, including our own President. President Callaway stated that we have come to celebrate our success, plan for the future and honor those who have passed on. He is proud to be a member of the Delaware fire service. He then introduced LADVFA President Shirley Joseph who proudly welcomed everyone to Conference 2002. It is an honor and a privilege to serve the LADVFA. It has been a time of awakening for our state and our country. There is a new awareness of the fire service in the community.

Carleton Carey, President, Dover City Council, welcomed everyone to the City of Dover, at which time he expressed best wishes for a terrific conference. The emergency service is an organization in which to be proud. You need to be honored every day.

Mr. Jones then introduced 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents DVFA and LADVFA, Jasper Lakey and Patricia McCall; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents, DVFA and LADVFA, Marvin Sharp and Nancy Green; DVFA and LADVFA Chaplains, Rev. David Paul and Lynn Dill; Chairman, Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission, Ken McMahon; President, State Chiefs Assoc, Joe Evans; President State Fire Police Assoc., Fred Bare, immediate Past President, Delaware Ambulance Assoc., Denise Dill. Conference Chairman, Elmer Steele noted that it was an inspirational and emotional ceremony this morning; thanked Warren Jones for serving as Master of Ceremonies and then introduced members of the Conference Executive Committee.

Past President, Steven P. Austin introduced the keynote speaker, James Shannon, President of the National Fire Protection Association. Mr. Shannon stated that he was particularly honored to attend Delaware's Conference. He is aware of the tremendous reputation of the Delaware volunteer association. Delaware has a greater reliance on volunteer firemen than any other state in the union. Fire departments all over America look up to Delaware. September 11, 2002 was a somber day in America. It is still painful to recall the events. It gave us a new meaning of courage. Seventy-five percent of the firefighters in America are volunteers. He recognized Representatives DiPinto and Lee and former Executive Secretary Jamie Turner in securing funds for the fire service. Delaware made sure smoke alarms were installed in every household. NFPA is an advocate for fire safety. You will see them more active than ever before. It is urgent for jurisdictions to adopt strong codes and to fund the enforcement which is necessary. You need to carry the message to the elders and the children that they will continue to fight for the lives of firefighters. He is committed to the volunteer firefighter in having the training, equipment and the support to do their jobs. We have learned that we are more vulnerable; but we know that we are more united. You represented the best qualities that America has to offer. He then honored your service and courage and

expressed his gratitude in the noble work that you do. In appreciation of his being the keynote speaker, President Callaway then presented him with a plaque.

President Emeritus, Bruce Ennis, Chairman, Resolutions and Civilian Recognition Award Committees, presented the Civilian Recognition Award to John Sherrill who saved the life of a lady whose house was on fire and was debilitated because of a hip surgery. He also presented resolutions to members of the fire service who had 50 years of service (8 in New Castle, 12 in Kent County, 15 Sussex County).

Charles Emerson, Chairman, Hall of Fame Committee, inducted the following into the Hall of Fame: Marty Rogalewicz (2001 Heroic Firemen of the Year); Joseph Brugleria (2001 Fire PolicemEAN of the Year); Edward Lewis (2001 Ambulance Attendant of the Year); Carroll Jester (2001 Fireman of the Year) and Past President James L. Cabbage, Jr.

Janice Marvel, President, Sussex Co. Ladies Auxiliary; Lynn Warner, President, New Castle County Ladies Auxiliary and Past President, Barbara Metheny inducted the following into the Ladies Hall of Recognition: 51 years of service – Elizabeth "Betty" Tull (Mill Creek); 28 years of service – Lynn Outten (Harrington); 60 years of service – Elsie Friedel (Bridgeville); and 43 years of service – Past President Julia Mast. They then unveiled a plaque containing the names of all the recipients of the *Ladies Hall of Fame Recognition*. This plaque was presented to Joseph Murabito for placement at the Delaware Fire School.

George Kerr and C. Rod O'Neal, Co-Chairs, Scholarship Committee presented scholarships totaling \$22,000 to the following:

- Chris Jones Memorial Award – Kristin Merring
- Past President LADVFA Award – Jessi Smith
- Delaware State Chief's Award – George Wallace
- Past Presidents Sussex Co. Ladies Auxiliary, Arnold Blankenship Award – Kenneth Daisy
- Memorial Scholarship, Kent Co. Ladies Auxiliary and Conectiv – Michelle Smith
- Ladies Auxiliary, New Castle Co. Firemen's Assoc., Bonnie Benschelter Award – Kristin King
- Past Chiefs' Club and Pruitt Award – Rebekah Quick
- Minquadale Fire Co., Joseph Hojnicky, Sr. Award – George Hughes-Strange
- New Castle Co. Firemen's Assoc. and Conectiv Award – Christopher Connell
- Sussex Co. Firemens Assoc. and Conectiv Award – Martin Evans

Carlton Carey, Chairman, Non-Heroic Firefighter of the Year Committee, presented the award to Norman Tate (Seaford). Representative Tina Fallon then presented him with a tribute from the House of Representatives.

Lynn Dill and Christina Reeder closed the Opening Ceremony by reading the introduction to the poem penned by Irving Berlin in 1918 and made famous by Kate Smith and then asking the audience join in singing *God Bless America*.

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

#### **2002 DVFA CONFERENCE 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE 82<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**

President Dale Callaway convened the business meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association at 11:30a.m. Rev. David Paul, Chaplain, offered the invocation, followed b the salute to the flag by Past President John E. Bare, Sr. A motion was made by Thomas D'Alessandro, seconded by Past President Roland Neeman, to accept the minutes of the June 9, 2002 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried.

### **Convention Appointments by the President**

1. Credentials: Charles Frampton, 11; Bob Lane, 55; and Donald Harkins, 84.
2. Sergeant at Arms: Ray H. Burton, 85; Matthew Dotterer, 85; Ken Pyle, 24; Charles Neel, 15; Larry Sipple, 42 and Kevin Twilley, 42.
3. Flowers & Telegrams: Edwin S. Barlow, 20; Roland Neeman, 48; and John E. Bare, Sr., 76.
4. Committee to visit Ladies Auxiliary Association Meeting: William G. Walton, Jr., 16; John E. Bare, Sr., 76 and Roland Neeman, 48.
5. Parliamentarians: Arthur I. Guessford, 24; Norman Batchelor, 83, and Morris W. King, 51.

No hats and no smoking in the room. In order to speak, rise and be recognized by the Chair. Prior to addressing the Conference, state your name and the fire company you are representing.

### **Roll Call of Officers, Delegates, Alternates and Past Presidents**

Director Harkins reported that all officers were present, 25 Past Presidents, 4 President Emeritus and that all 60 fire companies were registered. A motion was made by Past President James Cabbage, seconded by Past President Roland Neeman, that the Credentials Report be temporarily accepted in place of a roll call. Motion Carried.

### **Officers**

Dale A. Callaway, 85, President  
Jasper H. Lakey, 15, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Marvin C. Sharp, 42, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
J. Allen Metheny, P.P., 51, Treasurer  
Charles Frampton, 11, New Castle County Director  
Robert Lane, 55, Kent County Director  
Donald Harkins, 84, Sussex County Director  
Curt Gray, 18, New Castle County Director  
Clarence R. O'Neal, Jr., 51, Director, Kent County  
James W. King, 77, Director, Sussex County  
James L. Cabbage, Jr., 45, Immediate Past President/Executive Secretary

### **Past Presidents**

John V. Ryan, 20, 1961	Thomas V. Baker, Sr., 51, 1986
Clarence Schwatka, 26, 1964	Robert G. Sweetman, 9, 1988
Emanuel J. Harkins, 14, 1967	M. Frank King, 51, 1989
Roland Neeman, 45, 1968	Walton A. Johnson, Jr., 76, 1990
Arthur I. Guessford, 24, 1973	Edwin S. Barlow, 20, 1991
William Paskey, Jr., 48, 1974	Elmer B. Steele, 81, 1993
Morris W. King, 51, 1977	Harry E. Warner, Jr., 25, 1994
E. James Monihan, 82, 1978	J. Allen Metheny, 51, 1995
Raymond H. McCall, 6 & 12, 1979	Lynn J. Rogers, 85, 1996
Richard E. Ennis, 44, 1980	Joseph W. Hojnicky, Sr., 22, 1997
John E. Bare, Sr., 76, 1981	Donald W. Knight, 55, 1998
William G. Walton, Sr., 16, 1982	Michael H. Vincent, 87, 1999
Richard C. Mitchell, 86, 1984	Stephen P. Austin, 7, 8, 9, 2000
Lawrence Mergenthaler, 21, 1985	James L. Cabbage, Jr., 45, 2001

### **President Emeritus**

Louis J. Amabili, 19	Harvey H. Ryan, 20
C. Bryan Bennett, 87	J. Benjamin Roy, Jr., 43

Bruce C. Ennis, 44

Norman H. Tate, 87

William V. Roth, Jr

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jasper Lakey asked all Past Presidents to rise and be recognized. He noted that they are the backbone of this organization. He thanked them for their continued participation.

### **Introduction of Visitors with brief remarks**

Past President Stephen P. Austin, introduced the following out-of-state visitors: Larry Baldwin, President, Pennsylvania State Firemen's Assoc.; Gene Worthington, President, Maryland State Firemen's Assoc.; John Baty, Past President, West Virginia State Firemen's Assoc.; James Arrington, DelMarVa Volunteer Firemen's Assoc.; Dean Simpson, Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Assoc.; Bill Walton, International Association of Fire Chiefs; James Stockley, Virginia State Firefighters Assoc.; and Frannie Calhoun, Delaware Valley Fire Chiefs Assoc. President Callaway thanked all out-of-state associations for their support.

### **Reading of Communications**

Executive Secretary Cabbage advised that there were 25 pieces of correspondence, none of which requires and action by the membership. A motion was made by the Executive Secretary, seconded by Past President, Morris King, that the communications be accepted and be made part of the minutes on this annual conference. Motion Carried.

### **Report of Officers**

President Dale Callaway –

A motion was made by Past President Arthur Guessford, seconded by Past President Lawrence Mergenthaler, that the President's report be accepted and made a matter of record of this Association and the recommendations be brought up at subsequent meeting. Motion carried.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jasper H. Lakey – I submit to you my annual report for September 10, 2001 through September 8, 2002. I have attended 212 functions, spent 765.5 hours and traveled 13,153 miles representing the DVFA. I want to thank the New Castle County Firemen's and Fire Chief's Associations, and the Delaware City Volunteer Fire Company for all the support they have given me during the past year. He also announced the following legislative priorities: upgrading the 800 MHZ system; placing the thermal imaging program back in the program; and continued funding for BLS.

President Callaway asked the President of the LADVFA to approach the podium, at which time she expressed that she had a great year, appreciated all that the men have done for the ladies and then presented tokens of appreciation to the officers.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Marvin C. Sharp –

Treasurer, J. Allen Metheny – It gives me great pleasure to present the attached Treasurer's Report for the period of June 5, 2002 through September 7, 2002. My report includes both the Operations and Conference activities of the Association. I am pleased to note that due to the "Initiative 2000" program that was approved three years ago, the financial statues of the organization is improving.

I closed the books for both the operations and conference accounts as of June 30, 2002 and turned them over to our certified public accountants for the annual audit. In addition, I met with the Budget Committee and the Officers to develop the FY 2003 budget for approval today. You will get a full report on both of these items under the under the proper order of business from the Chairman of the Budget and Audit Committee. As of September 7, 2002, the balance in the Operating Account is \$233,684.35; the balance in the Conference Account in \$208,704.03.

If anyone has any questions, please see me. I thank you for the confidence you have in me to be your Treasurer and I look forward to continuing to serve the DVFA. Hopefully, everyone will have an excellent Conference.

Executive Secretary, James L. Cabbage, Jr. – It is my duty and privilege to submit my report on the activities of the office.

The minutes of the June Executive Committee meeting were dispersed at the respective County meetings. The office is in receipt of all registration information for all conference activities and the information has been forwarded to the respective committee chairs. I have coordinated and disseminated information to you and to the Conference Executive Committee members.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to former Executive Secretary James E. Turner, III for his assistance and guidance and wish him the very best in his new duties as the Director of the Delaware Emergency Management Agency.

The name Turner is still alive and well at the office. Kim Turner, our part – time office clerk, is a dedicated, efficient and extremely talented young college student whose sole goal is to assist the DVFA in any way she can. She manned the office on a daily basis during the time Jamie left on May 31<sup>st</sup> and when I started on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Her determination and spirit are a breath of fresh air each day. She has spent many endless hours in preparing for this conference and I thank her for her support.

The last nine weeks have been chaotic, challenging and enlightening and I thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

I would be remiss if I did not congratulate President Callaway on a strenuous, challenging and tough year. Nevertheless, your leadership exemplified your skills as a leader and the DVFA had a very **successful** year under your leadership.

I hope everyone has a great conference!

A motion was made by Past President James L. Cabbage, Jr., seconded by Past President Lawrence Mergenthaler, to accept all reports as written, and that any recommendations requiring action be brought up under the proper Order of Business. Motion Carried.

### **Reports of Affiliated Associations**

National Volunteer Fire Council, J. Allen Metheny, Alternate – announced that the Chairman was attending a meeting in Alaska.

State Fire Chiefs Assoc., President Joe Evans – announced that Jon Hanson retired Chief of Oklahoma Fire Dept. is to be the guest speaker at the Chiefs Meeting.

State Fire Police Assoc., incoming President Harold Ennis – thanked everyone and hoped they had pleasant meetings.

State Ambulance Assoc., incoming President William McMichaels – announced that the next meeting is October 30, when the State Medical Director will be the speaker.

Fire Prevention Commission, Kenneth H. McMahon – announced that Bob Palmer's term had expired in August; Walton Johnson was appointed to fill that vacancy, but the appointment was rescinded.

1720, Kenneth H. McMahon – It is back into a 3 – year rotation; are not requesting comments, not going to change until after comments are received. The next meeting is in December.

A delegation from the LADVFA arrived, at which time they brought greetings from the Ladies, and sent their love and best wishes for a successful conference. They are honored to serve. They extended congratulations to Norman Tate for his dedication to the Fire Service; to the DVFA for a job well done and extended best wishes to the incoming officers.

State Fire Marshal, Willard F. Preston, III – announced that through the “Wake Up Delaware” campaign, the amount of fire deaths has been reduced and public awareness is on the rise. Going to need help in getting the false alarm legislation passed. DFIRS reporting is now at 77%; however the remaining 23% is needed. This is very important, especially in trying to get legislation passed. He announced that Richard Ward had been promoted to Assistant Fire Marshal.

State Fire School, Joseph Murabito – announced that the budget has been cut a little bit and that Phil Young had retired. They have been working this summer to enhance the inflammable gas prop.

### Committee Reports

Finance and Budget, George Pyott – Books have been audited and found to be in order. They have met with the officers in preparing the proposed budget of \$1,317,000.

DVFA Foundation, Past President Stephen P. Austin – The Foundation has been organized pursuant to the corporation laws of the State of Delaware. The following individuals will serve on the Board of Directors: Stephen Austin, James L. Cabbage, Jr., Raymond Stevens, Nancy Hooper, J. Allen Metheny and (L.G. – don’t know whose initials these are); Laird Stabler, III, and Eugene Bayard. An election was held, at which time the following will serve: Stephen P. Austin, Chair; James L. Cabbage, Jr., Vice-Chair; Raymond Stevens, Treasurer; Nancy Hooper, Secretary. They are applying for a 503 account and once all accounts are open, they will be open for business. Operating and Endowment Accounts will be set up. Jeffrey C. Siegrist from Provident presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to the Foundation.

National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, Past President – Stephen P. Austin – The Preston Group took all their advertising off TV on September 11 and pledged to match donations up to \$10,000. Other donations total approximately \$1,700 and they are now looking for corporate donations.

Wake Up Delaware, Warren Jones – Thanked all the companies for their flags at the Opening Ceremony. The next event will be October 26 at the October Chiefs’ meeting in all counties, at which time smoke detectors will be available. He asked all companies to check their inventory reports. The Delaware Office of Volunteerism is assisting. October 26 is “Make A Difference Delaware” (will need help distributing the smoke detectors).

### Nomination of Officers

President, Jasper H. Lakey – Delaware City (letter received) – Nomination by: Charles Need, seconded by William McMichaels, both of Delaware City. Past President Arthur Guessford moved, Past President Roland Neeman seconded, that nominations for the Office of President be closed. Motion carried.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Marvin C. Sharp – Carlisle (letter received) – Nominated by: Donald Evans (Carlisle), seconded by Fred Jester (Camden – Wyoming). Past President Roland Neeman moved, Charles Neel seconded, that nominations for the Office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President be closed. Motion carried.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Raymond T. Stevens, Jr. – Selbyville (letter received) – nominated by: Howard Pepper, seconded by Braesure Lynch, both of Selbyville. Kevin Wilson moved, seconded by C. Rod O’Neal, that the nominations for the Office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President be closed. Motion carried.

Treasurer, J. Allen Metheny – Hartly (letter received) – Nominated by: Raymond Morris, seconded by Clarence R. O’Neal, both of Hartly. Alan Robinson moved, seconded by Steve Hudson, that nominations of Treasurer be closed. Motion carried.

Director, Kent County (3 years) – (letter received) – Nominated by: Clarence R. O’Neal (Hartly), seconded by Thomas G. Ruppert (Clayton). Kevin Wilson moved, seconded by Past President Morris King, that nominations for Director, Kent County be closed. Motion carried.

### **Unfinished Business**

None

### **New Business**

A motion was made by Warren Jones, seconded by Tony Suppe, to approved the recommendations of President Callaway. Motion carried.

A motion was made by George Pyott, seconded by Norman Amendt, to adopt the FY 2003 budget. After considerable discussion on questions raised by Past President, Richard Ennis, motion carried.

A motion was made by Bruce Ennis, seconded by Norman Batchelor, to adopt the resolutions presented during the opening ceremony, along with the following additional resolutions: to the U.S. Postal Service; John Reedy of the Delaware Air National Guard, and Raymond Snead and Ken Dox of the Washington, DC Firefighters Assoc. and make them apart of the minutes in the proceedings of this Conference. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Past President Joseph Hojnicky, Sr., seconded by Curt Gray, to have the Executive Secretary cast unanimous ballots for the Offices of President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Treasurer and Director for Kent County. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Past President J. Allen Metheny, seconded by Past President Morris King, to pay the bills submitted by the Treasurer, which totaled \$168,568.10. Motion carried.

Past President Elmer Steele, Conference Chair announced that the fishing trip, which had to be cancelled, is now scheduled in October (date to be announced at a later date).

### **Good of the Association**

After a short discussion, Past President Arthur Guessford made a motion, seconded by Norman Batchelor, that the Conference dates for 2003 be September 22-27, 2003. Motion carried.

President Emeritus, Lou Amabili announced that BLS financial statements are required, by law, to be filed. He is hoping to make a presentation at the next DEMSOC meeting in September. On the Employee Survey, 3 companies from Kent County and 10 companies from Sussex County have NOT submitted their report. New Castle County companies have all responded.

There being no further business, Conference recessed until 8:30 am, Friday, September 13, 2002 for the Memorial Service.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
**Friday, September 13, 2002**  
**8:30 a.m.**

**DVFA and Ladies Auxiliary Choir**  
Directed by Mario Padovani  
Accompanist: Celeste Epstein  
Drums: Kevin Brown, Seaford Fire Company

**Opening Remarks:** Reverend David Paul, Chaplain  
**Invocation:** Deacon Carl Dean, Chaplain

**Words of Comfort**  
Lynn Dill, Chaplain, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA