**Report on 137th Meeting of Firemen’s Association State of Pennsylvania Conference, September 22, 2016 by DVFA 2nd VP Bill Betts**

Due to scheduling conflicts of the DVFA President Walius, and 1st VP Perillo, I drove out to the FASP Conference on September 21st which ended up being a 7-hour trip. DVFA Out-of-State Coordinator Steve Austin had procured me a hotel room for 2 nights at the Hyatt Place in Washington, PA at the Meadows Casino and Racetrack Complex.

I met up with Steve Austin, Jerry Daniels, and Griff Baelis of Aetna, and Past President Hobie Howell of the Cumberland Valley Firemen’s Association, who were attending to man the Traffic Responder Booth at the Conference. We had dinner with a lot of networking on the different facets of the Fire Service.

On Thursday morning, Steve hooked me up with the PA Out-of-State Coordinator, and I got my credentials for the Conference. I attended the Opening Ceremonies, in which I had the honor of introducing the DE members in attendance, and I also put in a plug for the Eastern Division Conference in Rehoboth, DE next May. I also attended the General Session and Memorial Service. I also obtained copies of their budget, which I can share with the newly developed Oversight Committee of the DVFA. I attended the luncheon with all of the Out-of-State guests. During the luncheon, I sat with the Maryland delegation of President Mike Davis, and Past-Presidents Johnnie Roth and Bob Cumberland. We were also joined by Ernie Rojhan of the Pennsylvania Fireman News. We had a great discussion on the progress of the Residential Sprinkler Bills in Pa and MD, and the Maryland delegation stated that they were going to be challenged to keep their current legislation when the General Assembly convenes in January.

I attended the PA Pierce Manufacturer’s (Glick) show that evening, and met many more contacts with Reds Flegal of West Grove, PA.

After breakfast fire conversation on Friday morning with the Aetna members and Hobie Howell, I drove back home for 7 hours.