

MEMORANDUM

To: Delaware Volunteer Fire Fighters Association

From: Jay Jones, 1st Vice President, DVFA

Date: November 29, 2018

RE: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019 – 1 st. Vice President Report

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For the 1st quarter of 2019, I have traveled 3,122 miles, on 33 events, spending 164 hours serving and representing the DVFA.

First, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped make this past conference successful. It truly does not just take one person, but an entire village to pull that off. Since the conference, we have completed the President's Leadership Handbook and it is now available online. We have also worked on updating the DVFA Officers Guidelines. Both are living documents and are a continuous work in progress that we should continue to update. The handbooks should be a helpful resource to provide support to our fire service leaders today and in the future.

Since this past election, we have several new legislators, which we are currently meeting with to educate them on the Delaware Fire Service and to show them their role that they play within the system. The new DVFA informational video that was produced has now been released and can be found on YouTube and the home page <http://dvfassn.com>. We have received wonderful feedback from the video, from not only within the fire service but from the public and legislators which was a goal of ours.

We have presented our legislative agenda to all legislators and have met with the governor and everyone seems very receptive to our items this year.

I attended several conferences this quarter. The Pennsylvania State Conference and Volunteer and Combination Officer Section of the International Fire Chiefs Association (VCOS). VCOS, although it was not as good as prior years, this conference is still the best with the most seminars that benefit us as volunteer and combination departments. Covering wide ranges of material such as leadership, combating negativity, updated reports on PTSD and cancer within the fire service, recruitment and retention, knowing when and how to pass the torch, and so on. The Delaware group has expressed our concerns with their leadership on future seminars. We told them our opinions on what would benefit us here in Delaware. For example, more information for the transition from volunteer to combination services. Covering the do's and the don'ts of the combination service. This way we could possibly avoid some of the heartaches and hardships of that processes.

I would like to go back to the DVFA video and give an update. This was a brand-new idea that looked to be successful, we were not able to afford any television coverage. We are still looking into the possibility of having it on the New Castle County TV Channel. So far, we have been statewide on the radio and online streaming, guiding people to the video on our website and YouTube. It has been viewed more

than 2,000 times in the first three weeks. We have also used social media in this process as well. This seems to be a stepping stone. From some of the feedback of our members and even some government officials that we should continue these educational videos and dig a little deeper. Enlightening the public of our manpower issues and how our service has turned into a combination service throughout different areas of the state. We have utilized all the funding that was set aside for this project last year.

If the membership so desires I would like to see a yearly budget be put together for media outreach. We have had these types of budgets before when we had Public Relations (Public Information Officer) Position with the DVFA. I'm not saying that I feel we need to hire someone but we need to set a budget for such outreach programs in the community whether it is informational or used for recruitment, not only do we need to sell ourselves more to the public but we also need to educate the public on what and how we do things in the State of Delaware. That's something we need to address and be better prepared for in the coming budget years.

Also, CFSI Fundraiser dinner in Washington, DC is approaching. This is a crucial event that many of our companies within the State of Delaware have benefited from. We always have a good showing at this event because Delaware is geographically close to DC. Throughout the years our attendance has been declining. We really need to address this attendance issue as a state. We have a standing motion on the floor for all events that the 3 officers shall attend. In our budget which was passed at our conference in September, it has the funds already in the approved budget for 5 tickets. I'm asking that this association make the exception on this one event that we have 5 attendees due to the importance of this fundraiser since the funds have already budgeted for the 5 tickets. I feel we should send 5 officers to this event, rather than the 3 which is already approved. The funds are already in the budget that our membership approved at conference after discussion.

Lastly, one of my goals this year is to visit all fire companies that would allow us to come and whether it is before your Board of Directors or the entire membership. This is not just to explain what the DVFA is or does, but to simply listen to the boots on the ground who may issues for us. (For example: tell us your concerns, share with us the way you feel, etc.) We can address and resolve some of our issues in the state. We must face our shortcomings and find a path forward. Let us know what you and your local department needs are. I understand this will be like standing in front of a firing squad, but this is something our leadership needs to do to strengthen the DVFA and gain the confidence and support of its members.

I look forward with anticipation to this legislate year ahead of us. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your 1st vice president. I will continue to do my best with the hopes of making you proud and strengthening our service.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jones