

MEMORANDUM

To: Delaware Volunteer Fire Fighters Association

From: Jay Jones, 1st Vice President, DVFA

Date: February 25, 2019

RE: 2nd Quarter 2019 – 1st Vice President Report

The second quarter of 2019 has been quite busy to say the least. I attended 42 events and traveled 2390 miles, with 79 hours of service. It has been a pleasure to serve.

The bulk of the time has been getting acquainted and forming relationships with the freshman legislators. During this quarter it has been very positive, as we discuss the funding for the fire service. It seems to be firm and secure. Which allows us to work on other wonderful legislative items such as the much-needed cancer presumption legislation.

Our request made it into the Governor's budget proposal and after going before the Joint Finance Committee, we are looking to get approximately a million dollars added to the Revolving Loan Fund in the bond bill. Plus, the matching funds money for the fire prevention program, through the State Fire Prevention Commission where it belongs in the Governor's Budget. This comes from several meetings with not only the Governor but also legislators to secure these funds.

I have also started to work with fire service leaders in the state of Maryland to make progress on EMT reciprocity.

I would like to thank everyone for the invitation and warm receptions to their banquets and installation of officers programs this year, which I was able to attend.

Looking ahead we have already started working on the Congressional Fire Service Institute Fundraiser in Washington, DC. We, as the Delaware fire service, have the reputation of leading though our attendance at this event. I hope to have great attendance again this year.

The benefit to having such great attendance numbers is that it brings our cost per ticket down. We receive a lot of money each year from federal grants, which are secured by the institute. For many years we have received millions of dollars back into the State of Delaware for the fire service. It is crucial that our numbers are decent. Like last year I am requesting that each fire department send 2 people to this event and if your department has received money directly through these federal grants, I would urge you to send even more.

It is troublesome that we have already had three fire deaths in the first two months of this year. I hope that all departments will ramp up their efforts in the smoke detector drives on the local level. We have plenty of smoke detectors available throughout the state free of charge for our citizens. Some departments have taken a more aggressive approach. They started going door-to-door asking people to

check their smoke alarms and even offering to install them for them. I encourage and applaud these efforts. We have plenty of smoke detector DVD's in the storage unit at the fire school. I have them available for anyone that would like to take one for their local program.

Please keep in mind there have been updates to the new revised President's Handbook which is available on our website. We are also looking at the website to eliminate a lot of the empty space and old clutter. We are aware that there is some outdated information on there that we are going to get updated soon.

I will be reappointing the Life Safety Committee and Scholarship Committee for 2020. They have done a great job and I hope they will continue doing excellent things. I challenge them to somehow take it to a new level.

As always thank you for the opportunity to serve you. It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure doing the work of this office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Jones
1st VP DVFA