

Report of President Bill Betts August 29, 2019

The last quarter started out attending the Maryland State Firefighter Officer's Banquet at the Clarion in Ocean City, MD on June 15th, and the opening ceremonies on June 17th. After they struck up the band for the second time, we marched out the door with the band.

I attended the Delaware State Chief's Expo in Harrington on June 27th and went to Legislative Hall for the closing session on June 30th which last until 1:15 am. I was disappointed that the Senate did not pass the Income Tax deduction to \$500 after it passed the House 41 to 0.

July was a slow month for the DVFA, but I attended all three county association meetings and the commission meeting.

August began with attending the Cumberland Valley Convention in Berkeley Springs, WV on August 12st & 2nd, with the President's Council on August 2nd. I have notes to file in a report but have had some medical issues with my wife to deal with.

Jay and I attended the Virginia Convention on August 7th & 8th in Hampton Roads, VA and attended their opening ceremonies and Memorial Service on Wednesday night, and their business meeting on Thursday until they started a roll call process on a page and a half of By-law changes. We visited their exhibits, and I believe that we have more vendors than what they had.

I want to thank everyone for their support that they gave me over the past year. It felt like it went very quickly, and I tried to do my best to promote the good qualities that the DVFA is about. There are a lot of naysayers out there in the Fire Service that feel that we do nothing for the State Fire Service, and if they do, they should take a look at their State funding at present. It is second to none in the rest of the 50 States and it is the result of a lot of hard work by past and present DVFA Officers and Executive Managers pounding on the legislators for funding. With the new problems, we need to continue to examine potential funding sources and look back at our success with the red-light money for our EMS system.

I would like to offer my support to the incoming officers, and I promise to be around to assist, and not be a one-hit-wonder. Thank you once again as I have met and got to know some very special and capable members of the Delaware Fire Service.