

Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association

Officers Meeting

February 19, 1998

President Knight convened the meeting at 6:37 P. M. in the Social Hall of the Magnolia Fire Company. The meeting was recessed for dinner. Dinner was served by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Magnolia Fire Company. The meeting was reconvened at 7:17 P.M.

The President once again welcomed everyone to the meeting. He requested that the members of the Magnolia Ladies Auxiliary and Fire Company receive the accolades from the Officers and visitors for a delicious meal.

A visual roll call revealed that all DVFA and LADVFA table Officers were present with the exception of Vice Presidents Vincent, Austin and Director Roberts, the 1st Vice President and Secretary of the LADVFA. The President recognized Barbara Metheny & Eileen Doyle. They responded by thanking the Officers for the invitation and wished them well in their deliberation. Also in attendance were: John Mitchell, Law & Legislative chair, Ted Doyle & Marvin Sharp Conference Co-chairs, T. Suppe, Recruitment & Retention Committee, Michael Hojnicky and C. R. O'Neal, Jr., Computer Committee.

The initial item of discussion was Past President Hojnicky's recommendations. These consisted of the following, with the Officers agreeing to the following actions:

Continue the efforts within our Legislature in seeking additional "leveling up" funds for both Kent and Sussex Counties. Have discussed with Governor Carper & Legislative leadership & Joint Finance Committee.

Recommend to our Mutual Relief Association that they investigate the need, requirements and financial resources required establishing for our membership a "group life insurance policy." Mutual Relief shall provide a report to this Association no later than next year's Conference. It was regularly moved by William R. Carrow and seconded by James Lister that this matter be further investigated by the Mutual Relief Advisory Committee.

Investigate methods to increase the current Pension System monthly payments. This could be a combined effort between the Fire Companies, Mutual Relief and additional State funding. A Pension workshop is scheduled for Sunday to further explain and discuss this issue.

**DVFA Officers Meeting
February 19, 1998
Page 2**

You have heard the miles your President has traveled. I recommend to this Association, that we provide a vehicle for the use of the President, during his or her term in Office. It was reported that letters had been sent to GM & Chrysler concerning with Corporation donating a vehicle. The option of leasing a vehicle was discussed. It will cost approximately \$400.00 per month.

The time has come to increase the amount of expense monies that are allocated to the DVFA Officers for travel expenses. The expenses have not been increased in ten years. The automobile and expense issue will require additional funding from the members. This item is referred to the Finance and Auditing Committee.

We should continue to support the efforts of our Voter Registration committee. Each county should strive to support member of the volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Service who desire to serve and hold office in either State, County or local government. Voter Registration Committee is ongoing and requires no further action.

Continue to support the Congressional Fire Service Institute dinner each April as strongly as the Delaware Fire Service has in the past. This item is ongoing. New Castle County will be chartering a bus to travel to Washington.

With the new 800mhz. Radio system being tested and implemented in the foreseeable future, on a statewide basis it is time for a state wide paging system. The system should allow our Dispatch Centers to alert members of alarms, without simulcasting on the current low band radio system. The days of siren use are quickly becoming a past practice. We should urge and strongly seek the development of a modern method of alerting our members. Referred to Communications Committee.

The representatives from the LADVFA were again recognized for any report. They responded by once again thanking the President for the invitation.

The Robbins Hose Company letter was discussed. President Knight had a fruitful meeting with President Eichler. He reported that Eichler was advised of the current efforts in increasing funding and requested that he be kept informed of the progress on this issue. The Secretary had

previously contacted president Eichler and informed him of the other information he requested. The suggestion for the check-off on tax forms will be referred to the Supplemental Funding Committee.

State Fire Chiefs Convention meeting issue was reported on by Marvin Sharp. Sharp reported that the Chiefs Association was protesting the 400-person limit set by the Conference Committee. It was the consensus of the Officers that we support the Conference Committee's position.

FDIC Delaware night has been setup and will be held on Saturday, March 21st in Indianapolis.

The Fire Police Purple light letter was discussed. Senator Bunting had a Committee meeting in Legislative Hall. Treasurer Metheny attended this meeting. It was moved that the DVFA not take any action on this issue, at this time. Motion carried.

The Computer Committee reported on their progress to date. The homepage will be in service in the next couple of weeks. Software at a minimal cost for members to access the State network on or about 5/1/98 will be made available. As information becomes available, it will be disseminated to the membership.

Law & Legislative Night has been scheduled at the Sheraton. Invitations will be mailed next week. The LADVFA have received and will mail the Ladies invitations.

800mhz radio system. John Mitchell was instructed to complete the Sussex County portion of the system. This will require 971 radios. Kent County needs a minimal amount of money to complete their radio system. It was regularly moved by Metheny and seconded by Cabbage that Mitchell complete the purchasing of the radio systems for Kent & Sussex Counties.

The Fallen Firefighter Chapel dedication ceremony will be Sunday. Travel arrangements were discussed and confirmed by the Officers present.

The Ambulance Attendant, Emergency Care Technician and Emergency Medical Technician-B relationships needs to be clarified. Dr Sweeney briefed the Commission and DVFA officers at a workshop last week. It was well attended by the Fire and EMS service. However, there was no mechanism to allow for their input. A question was raised on the mechanism for this Association in obtaining feedback from the member

**DFVA Officers meeting
February 19, 1998
Page 4**

Companies. The County Association Officers met last night. They expressed their concern of training 1500 – 1600 Ambulance Attendants to the Emergency Care Technician level by the end of December. It was agreed that the Ambulance Advisory Committee to the Commission be charged with hosting meeting in all three counties and provide feedback to the Officers at a future meeting.

John Mitchell was instructed to double check on new equipment requiring funding through the Bond Bill and grants in aid packages provided by the Legislature. This should include remuneration for training and equipment for companies with rescues and ambulances

It was regularly moved and seconded to have legislation drafted and adopted concerning equalization funding. The Governor did not recommend the additional funding for Fire Prevention monies. He also rejected that SFMO request for an additional position for the Juvenile Fire Setter program. The President directed the Secretary to write letters to the JFC leadership requesting their support in funding these specifics issued. The DVFA will be requested to support the Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System.

The Joint Finance Committee will meet to review the Commission, Fire School and Fire Marshal office requests on February 26th at 10:30 A. M.

The twenty-four hour Helicopter issue was addressed at the DEMSAC meeting. The Committee was informed that DVFA fully supports the around the clock coverage.

The 5 State presidents meeting will be in Taneytown, MD on 4/4/98. Additional information will be developed and disseminated.

The CFSI Dinner invitations will be distributed. Ladies Auxiliary invitations will be distributed through their Association Secretary.

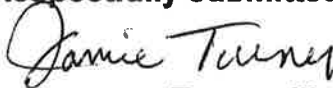
The President discussed the need for the DVFA to provide a computer for the Secretary. It was agreed that Michael Hojncki is to develop a set of specifications for a computer and submit these to the Officers for further study.

**DFVA Officers meeting
February 19, 1998
Page 5**

The condition of Al Thomas was reported. There apparently have been some problems in obtaining insurance. This matter will be further investigated and acted upon.

There being no further business to claim the attention of the Officers the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James E. Turner, III".

**James E. Turner, III
Secretary**