



**Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association
Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association Ladies Auxiliary**

Conference 2025
Rehoboth Beach Convention Center
Monday, September 22, 2025

JOINT OPENING CEREMONIES

12:15 PM Welcome to the DVFA and LADVFA 2025 Conference by M/C Jay Jones

- Introduction of the Past President's and President Emeritus of our organizations
- Introduction of the current Presidents of our organizations

LADVFA President Mickey Decino
DVFA President Tom DiCristofaro

LADVFA 1st Vice President Shirley Pennington
DVFA 1st Vice President Gerald Manley, Jr.

LADVFA 2nd Vice President Ginni Tice
DVFA 2nd Vice President Jim Arrington

- Presentation of the Colors by Sussex County Fire Police
- Invocation by DVFA Chaplain Charlie Arnold
- Pledge to the flag led by DVFA President DiCristofaro and LADVFA President Decino
- Called on CFSI Director Bill Webb for comments and remarks
- LADVFA President Mickey Decino gave her welcoming remarks and introduced her Officers
- DVFA President Tom DiCristofaro gave his welcoming remarks and introduced his Officers
- We have 49, 50-year members from the DVFA and a number of other presentations, so we are asking that only the 50-year member come forward to receive their certificate. After the ceremony, there are 2 places set-up for pictures with the family and fire companies.
- Introduction of other guests:
 - President of the State Fire Chief's Association Mike Edwards
 - Rehoboth Beach Mayor Stan Mills gave welcoming remarks

- President of the State Fire Police Association Paige Seppanen
- Chairman of the State Fire Prevention Commission Ron Marvel
- Delaware State Fire Marshal John Rudd
- Mutual Relief Chairman Dan Burris
- Introduction of the Conference Committee:
 - DVFA Chairman Mark Harris/Eric Haley
 - LADVFA Co-Chair Ann Marie Krystopolski
 - DVFA Co-Chair's Joe Zeroles & Dave Ruff
 - LADVFA Co-Chair's Kim O'Malley & Isabel Stevenson
 - Conference Secretary Carol Walton
 - Conference Treasurer John Wright
 - Conference Facility Managers Elmer Steele & Mark Harris

Over the next few days, you will undoubtedly come in contact with many friends and associates in the fire service and most notably our sponsors and exhibitors. Please take a moment to visit their booths.

Introduce Greg Miraglia and Jeff Buckworth of the PNC Bank, so they could make their Partners in Progress contribution of \$5,000.00

Introduction of Mary Alice Maichle who will announce the 50-year LADVFA members:

New Castle County;

Ann Marie Keefer	Cranston Heights	Karen Majewski Goodwill	Lil Noonan
Eleanor Logan	Holloway Terrace	Delores Cahoon Millcreek	Holloway Terrace
Helen Whitlow	Minquadale	Kathleen Miller Talleyville	Christine Roberts Minquadale

Kent County;

Mary Francis Eisenbrey	Cheswold	Jennifer Fortney	Hartly	Kathryn O'Neal	Hartly
Gloria Saatman	Hartly	Beverly Smith	Hartly	Carol Spillane	Little Creek
Joann Webb-Davis	South Bowers				

Sussex County;

Rebecca Evans	Gumboro	June Burton	Millsboro	Connie Pryor	Millville
Patsy Brown	Roxana	Fran Pepper	Roxana	Marie Quillen	Roxana

Introduction of Pam Ingle for the Ladies Auxiliary Hall of Recognition presentations:

New Castle County	Kathy Shaw – Minquadale Ladies Auxiliary
Kent County	Janice Watts – South Bowers Auxiliary
Sussex County	Mary Ellyn Rozell – Roxana Auxiliary
2024 Past President	Stacy Northam-Smith – Laurel Auxiliary
2025 Past President	Mickey Decino – Cranston Heights Ladies Auxiliary

Introduction of DVFA Past President Ron O'Neal, who will announce the 50-year DVFA members: (49)

New Castle County;

David C. White	Aetna	Roland A. Leathrum	Aetna	Thomas J. Catalino	Aetna
William F. Hustead	Aetna	Robert E. Gears	Aetna	Dennis P. Cataldi	Aetna
Norman W. Crowe	Aetna	William Butterworth	Aetna	Michael Salvatore	Brandywine
James Jernoske	Brandywine	Michael DiMauro, Sr.	Brandywine	Chris Amoroso	Christiana
Steve Miller	Christiana	James Schall	Cranston Hgts.	David Keefer	Cranston Hgts.
Edward B. Bennett	Delaware City	Charles E. Jones	Delaware City	Stanley Skrzec	Holloway Ter.
Douglas Whalen	Holloway Ter.	Dale Brackin	Millcreek	Mark Dolan	Millcreek
Frederick Eysaltdt	Millcreek	Michael Lennon	Millcreek	Francis Terranova	Millcreek
James Woznicki	Millcreek	Daniel P. Durris, Jr.	Vol. Hose	Milton C. Hilliard	Vol. Hose

Kent County;

Jeff Morris	Bowers	Jack Mace	Bowers	James Moore	Bowers
Robert P. Newman	Citizens Hose	Alan Morris	Citizens Hose	William Carrow	Citizens Hose
Robert L. Hoffecker	Clayton	Jeffery A. Hurlock	Clayton	Richard W. Locke	Clayton
Robert E. Shaner	Clayton	David T. Warren	Clayton	Rodney W. Whalen	Clayton
C. Lee Dean	Harrington				

Sussex County;

Richard B. Otwell	Laurel	Ernest C. Stanley	Lewes	A. Wallace Evans	Lewes
Phillip M. Mitchell	Millsboro	Ray H. Burton	Milton	Lester F. Clark	Milton
Charles H. Snyder	Rehoboth	Richard H. Marvel	Seaford	Winford E. Murray	Selbyville

M/C Jay Jones announced the Hall of Fame inductees:

- DVFA Past President (2024) Ron O'Neal, Millsboro Fire Co.
- Heroic Firefighter of the Year (2024) Tyler Smith, Memorial Fire Co.
Walt Reynolds, Memorial Fire Co.
Chris Hayes, Memorial Fire Co.
- Fire Policeman of the Year (2024) Leon Hyde, Marydel Fire Co.
- Firemen of the Year (2024) Theodore H. Walius, Ellendale Fire Co.

"Leadership Award" – M/C Jay Jones announced this year's Youth Leadership Award winners:

President DiCristofaro presented the awards

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| ○ New Castle County | Patrick Joseph Reeder | Delaware City Fire Co. |
| ○ Kent County | Austin Moorhead | Clayton Fire Co. |
| ○ Sussex County | Bailey Jordan Millman | Milton Fire Co. |

Firefighter of the Year Award – M/C Jay Jones announced this year's nominee:

President DiCristofaro presented the award

Chief Emeritus Kenneth John Farrall Sta. 7,8,9,10

M/C state that we would like to thank everyone for attending this morning. Please stop by and visit our vendors

We would like to thank those that helped me on the opening ceremonies this morning.

Carol Walton, Mark Harris, Eric Haley, Jay Jones, Regina Marvel and Randy Roberts

Called on LADVFA Chaplain Saralee Stevens for the benediction. (1:45 PM)

2025 DVFA CONFERENCE

Executive Meeting

Monday, September 22, 2025

3:00 PM at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center

Call the business session to order by President Tom DiCristofato

Invocation offered by DVFA Chaplain Rev. Charlie Arnold

Pledge to the flag led by DVFA Past President Steve Austin

Called on Adam Thiel for a brief report on the FACETS report

LADVFA President Mickey Decino, LADVFA 1st Vice President Shirley Pennington and LADVFA 2nd Vice President Ginni Tice brought greetings and gave the ladies financial report for the year;

There is a total of 2,141 Auxiliary members from all 3 Counties

The Auxiliaries donated \$970,865.92

Conference appointments by President DiCristofaro:

- Credentials: Deb Watson, Sta. 15; Jim Watson, Sta. 15
- Sergeant at Arms: Steve White, Sta. 49; Derrick Brode, Sta. 50; Ken Madara, Sta. 88; Norman Jones, Sr. Sta. 75
- Committee to visit the ladies: Ted Walius, Sta. 75, Ed Barlow, Sta. 20, Joe Zeroles, Sta. 47
- Parliamentarians: Guy Hudson, Sta. 90, Jim Woznicki, Sta. 53

CONFERENCE GROUND RULES AND CONDUCT

No hats, all cell phones and pagers are to be turned off or placed in the silent mode. In order to speak, rise to be recognized by the Chair, proceed to the nearest microphone, state your name and the fire company that you are representing.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter from Christiana Fire Co., Belvedere Fire Co. Georgetown Fire Co., Little Creek Fire Co., Port Penn Fire Co., Indian River Fire Co., Elsmere Fire Co., Minquadales Fire Co., Talleyville Fire Co., Millsboro Fire Co., Millville Fire Co., Townsend Fire Co., Camden-Wyoming Fire Co., Gumboro Fire Co., Leipsic Fire Co. and Carlisle Fire Co., listing delegate/alternate changes
- Copy of a letter that was sent to the Governor and others reference to the resignation or removal of Sherry Lambertson as the Executive Director of the Fire Prevention Commission
- Copy of a letter that was sent to the Governor and others reference to the DVFA vote of NO CONFIDENCE with the Fire Commission
- Letter from Citizen's Hose Fire Co. reference to the Fire Commission must having support and endorsement from the DVFA for any proposal legislation
- Letter from Citizen's Hose Fire Co. stating that Fire Commission personnel should not be sworn constables and should not be recognized as a law enforcement agency
- Letter from Greenwood Fire Co. reference to updating their mailing address
- Copy of a letter from Kent County Firefighter's Association that was sent to the State Fire Prevention Commission regarding police powers, firefighter regulations and certifications, federal background checks, and a job description for the Executive Director of the Commission. Requested a response to this letter within 30 days, no later than 10/17/2025

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

President Tom DiCristofaro: (copied and pasted from written report)

The following is a short description of my talking points for the Executive meeting on 9/22/2025

Will discuss the closure of the FACETS report after a presentation from The FACETS group.

I will lightly touch on the last three months of activity, especially in Legislative Hall and will tell the membership that Jay will be giving a detailed report. Will also take this time to praise and thank Jay Jones for all the work he does for us and also his expertise working in Dover.

I will talk a little about how I was overwhelmed with the support I received after having a little bit of a rough start, you know, lettergate. Many of you from the top of the State to the bottom, rallied around me and kept me headed in the right direction, and I appreciated it.

I traveled the State for 14 years, seven as a Fire Commissioner and seven, because of COVID, as a DVFA Officer. I've met and worked with some of the best and I will always value and treasure the friendships I made during that time.

Special shout out to immediate Past President Ron O'Neal, as I worked directly behind him coming up the ladder, he kept me informed and in the know all the time. Even as he moved on, and spent a year on the dark side, we continued to communicate and I truly value the working relationship we had. He is a smart business man and a class act, and I will always appreciate the friendship we forged.

I appreciated your friendship and support

1st Vice President Gerald Manley, Jr.: (copied and pasted from written report)

- Discussed the \$100,000.00 from Walmart
- Met with the committee from the Fire Commission
- Working on the committee list for 2025-2026
- Thanked Tom for his leadership

2nd Vice President Jim Arrington: (copied and pasted from written report)

- My quarterly report covers all my meetings and travel mileage along with some training.
- Looking forward for a good conference, ways to improve and maybe add to conference.
- We have removed a lot of things that now may be able to bring back.

Secretary Elmer Steele: (copied from written report)

- Congratulations to President DiCristofaro on a great year
- Looking forward to working with the new Officers in the coming year
- Thanked Tom and Gerald for a great year
- Travel report; Attended 17 events, Traveled 1,375 miles, In-service 109 hours

Treasurer Terry Whitham: (copied from written report)

As of September 1st, we have the following balances:

Checking - \$166,780.77

Money Market - \$318,484.03 (\$100K is Walmart money)

Brinker Financial Account - \$290,018.34

- I apologize for not being present today. I worked the Nascar race in New Hampshire this past weekend and currently are driving back to Dover.

- Attached is a Budget vs Actual report as of the end of this previous budget year. The close out income accounts for reimbursement from the federal government owed us from previous grant expenses.
- The books have been turned over to Bumpers & Company for the FY24-25 financial review.
- Congratulations to the new incoming officers. I look forward to working with you. And President DiCristofaro, it's been a pleasure working for and with you. Good luck on your future endeavors.

Executive Manager Jay Jones: (copied from written report)

It has been a privilege to represent the Delaware Volunteer Firefighters Association (DVFA) throughout the state and at various out-of-state events. I commend the leadership for their exceptional commitment and achievements within the organization. Please find the updated legislative report for 2025 attached.

As we look to the future, I am eager to collaborate closely with the incoming officers and support their initiatives. One important recommendation is for the organization to review and update its mission and vision statements. As the fire service landscape evolves, it is crucial that our mission and vision reflect these changes to ensure our ongoing success.

To achieve this, we should engage in long-range planning that envisions our desired position and reputation over the next two decades. This approach will help us establish clear benchmarks, strategies, and tactics to measure our progress toward our vision. While we handle numerous daily operational tasks, a focused and clear vision is essential for maintaining relevance and avoiding obsolescence in these changing times.

Additionally, I recommend that we explore partnerships with reputation management firms to enhance our public and corporate advocacy efforts. These alliances can also assist us in identifying and managing grant opportunities. By forging strategic relationships with industries and companies that align with our mission, we can secure financial support that enables us to reduce membership dues while continuing to provide high-quality programs and maintaining standard operational procedures.

It Is crucial to acknowledge that achieving these objectives will require the expertise of professionals in these areas, as the scope of work exceeds what our volunteers can manage alone.

The DVFA office remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting fire departments. Please do not hesitate to reach out for assistance.

Following the **conclusion of the first leg of the 152nd General Assembly, the final report** is presented. Please note that any legislation not fully processed by June 30th will be deferred until the second leg of the session, scheduled to reconvene in 2026.

HB 230, The Grant-in-Aid Bill. Signed by Governor 7/1/25

One time 50k for each company: 3,200,000 this comes to 50,000 pre company

Each company in FY25 received 36,000, up in FY26: 37,500.

Per ambulance in FY25 received 15,000, up in FY26: 20,000 per ambulance

Rescue trucks one time per company: FY25 6,030, up in FY26: 8,000.

Ladder truck one per company: FY25 15,000, up in FY26: 16,000.

Per boat in FY26: 3,722, up in FY26: 4,000.

Per substation: 25,000, up in FY26: 30,000.

Leveling up for Kent and Sussex: FY25 39,951, up in FY26: 42,000

Equalization for Kent and Sussex in FY25: 95,000, up in FY26: 101,650.

Just in Grant in Aid, the Fire Service received a total of \$16,458,013.

SB 200, The Bond Bill signed by Governor 7/1/25

Rescue Tools Replacement. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the funds authorized in the Section 1 Addendum of this Act be used to reimburse the Delaware State Fire School and Belvedere, Christiana, Farmington, Five Points, Frankford, Goodwill, Greenwood, Gumboro, Laurel, Leipsic, Little Creek, Magnolia, Marydel, Newark, Port Penn, Roxana, Slaughter Beach (Memorial), and Wilmington Manor fire companies. Upon submitting the receipt of sale, each company will be reimbursed up to \$7,500 by the Fire Prevention Commission, State Fire School for a total of \$142,500.

State Fire Marshal's Office Residual Funds. The Office of Management and Budget, Division of Facilities Management is authorized to utilize any remaining funds from Fire Marshal's Office Building Improvements for the State Fire School's Structural Buildings Repairs/Reconstruction project.

Funding for a Pole Barn for the Fire School New Castle Division 750,000.

Community transportation funds; Five Points Fire Company \$10,000 for command vehicle equipment, Holloway Terrace \$95,000 chiefs command vehicle, Leipsic Fire Company \$45,000 command truck, Townsend Fire Company \$30,000 brush truck American Legion Department \$45,000 command vehicle.

HB 226, One Time Supplemental Appropriation signed by Governor 7/1/25

This Act provides an appropriation of \$400,000 to Department of Safety and Homeland Security, State Police, Executive and \$400,000 to Fire Prevention Commission, State Fire Prevention Commission for First Responder – Wellness Application Support. The expenditure of these funds is intended to deliver support and resources to first responders through the implementation of a wellness application for use by law enforcement officers and firefighters through fire companies statewide.

HB 225, The State Budget for FY 26 signed by Governor 7/1/25

The FY26 Fire Prevention Commission budget includes \$75,000 for fire prevention education reimbursement to fire companies. \$52,000 is also allocated to the state chiefs association for fire training. The total budgets for the Fire Commission, Fire School, and Fire Marshal's office out of the general fund is \$9,164,400.

SB 4 Establishes an independent and nonpartisan Office of the Inspector General (OIG) signed by Governor 8/14/25

ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.

SS1 for SB21 Townsend, signed by Governor 3/25/25

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 8 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE GENERAL CORPORATION LAW.

SB28-SA1 Brown, signed by Governor 9/9/25

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 18 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FUNERAL EXPENSES FOR CERTAIN VOLUNTEERS WITH FIRE OR AMBULANCE COMPANIES. Changes wording in the code.

SB 29-SA1 Brown, assigned to Finance Committee.

An Act to amend Title 18 of the Delaware Code relating to funeral expenses for certain volunteers with fire or ambulance companies; increases benefit from \$7,000 to \$10,000.

SB 46, Mantzovinos, passed the Senate and awaits a House floor vote. An act to amend Title 21 of the Delaware Code relating to autonomous vehicles.

HB 82-HA1, Carson, assigned to Appropriation Committee.

An act to amend Title 18 and Title 29 of the Delaware Code relating to death benefits; changes wording and increases benefits (\$7,000-\$8,000).

HB 63, Wilson-Anton, ready list for the House floor vote

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FIREWORKS.

HB 124, Williams, signed by Governor 9/9/25

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO STATE FIRE MARSHAL FEES.

HB 133, Snyder-Hall, awaiting House vote.

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FINES, FEES, RESTITUTION, AND OTHER COURT-RELATED MONETARY OBLIGATIONS.

HA 2 Clarifies that toll, red-light, and speed-camera violations are not eligible for hardship waivers or modifications.

SB 158, Pinkney, assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee, pulled for Committee

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 10 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO COMMISSIONERS OF THE DELAWARE STATE FIRE COMMISSION (CISM).

HB 139, Bush signed by Governor 7/30/25

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 18 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO LINE-OF-DUTY DEATH HEARINGS

This would eliminate unnecessary LODD hearings.

HB 199, Wilson-Anton, Motion to Release Failed in House Economic Development/Banking/Insurance & Commerce Committee.

An act to amend Title 18 of the Delaware Code relating to distributions to fire companies and departments. Met with the sponsor and she will hold the bill until January to give us time to poll the member companies.

HB 202, Wilson-Anton, passed House Committee waiting House floor vote

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 21 REGARDING CIVIL PENALTIES FOR SPEEDING, adding a \$10 assessment to other traffic violations.

HB 171, Heffernan, signed by Governor 9/9/25

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO ELECTIVE CREDIT FOR VOLUNTEERING WITH LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

We are keeping an eye out for potential legislation that may be drafted by trial lawyers. This legislation, which could involve insurance and cost the fire service a lot of additional money if we serve alcohol within our hall rentals, has been seen in other states and was very costly. We are staying vigilant and on top of the matter should a bill ever come to fruition.

We are still working on a draft bill for federal background checks. This draft is the third from the Joint Sunset Committee. The DVFA challenged all three drafts and requested to be part of the process. (certification for firefighters, make the

Commission Investigators law enforcement powers, and Background Checks) We will work on a background check bill this summer to be ready for January.

We are approaching legislators to draft a bill allowing fire police to have red flashing lights, in addition to their blue flashing lights, on the rear of their light bars to comply with state law. We are waiting on a support letter from the Police Chief's Council to move forward.

We will be working on a draft piece of legislation to allow fire chiefs to authorize and revoke members responding to the firehouse using blue and white lights when responding to alarms.

President DiCristofaro, Chief Mike Edwards, and I had a productive meeting with the Governor.

We continue to ask the state to fund the Delaware State Fire School to teach all classes listed in 709, as they are now unfunded mandates, and we see some fire departments sending students to other states where it is cheaper. This would help all fire departments' budgets.

We intend to schedule meetings with the Fire Caucus and the Governor after conference to review the 2026 priorities.

FEDERAL

OHSA updates are on hold to allow the volunteer and union firefighters to provide additional input before moving forward. Eric Haley, Aaron Moore, and I have served on red ribbon panels during this process. We have had many meetings and it is in the hands of Department of Labor and OHSA to bring back a response to our reports following the Red Ribbon panels

SAFER and AFG grants are being paid out again.

The National Fire Academy was reopen and be running again. Delaware weekend is scheduled.

The National Cancer Registry is also back up and running. Delaware has poor numbers; we need to get our members, active and retired, to get on the registry. Everyone needs to sign up on the registry Delaware numbers are very low

President DiCristofaro, Jeff Brown, and I met with Senator Coons and his staff to discuss AFG and SAFER grant programs that need more funding, setting customer standards for lithium-ion batteries, federal tax credits, and the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act.

Submitted

Jay Jones

DVFA Executive Manager

Introduction of Out-of-State Guest: Steve Austin

- PA Firefighter's Association, President Jim Hoerner
- CVVFA, Past President Hoby Howell
- VA Firefighter's Association, Past President Jeff Flipppo
- DelMarVa Firemen's Association, Past Presidents Jay Jones and Elmer Steele

DVFA Foundation: Chairman Lynn Rogers

- Thanked everyone for another great year

Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission: Chairman Ron Marvel

- Good luck to the President in his future endeavors
- Good luck to the incoming officers

Delaware State Fire Marshal: Fire Marshal John Rudd

- 4 fire fatalities ytd
- Reminder DNREC's annual outdoor burn prohibition is in place through September 30th.
- NERIS roll-out for FEMA region 3 is underway. Thank you to all departments for your continued cooperation as this transition occurs.
- Wish everyone a productive and safe conference.

National Volunteer Fire Council: Executive Manager Jay Jones

- Fall meeting started today in South Dakota

Delaware State Fire Chief's Association: President Mike Edwards

- MCI Class went well. Over 40 attendees
- Congratulations to President DiCristofaro on a good year

Delaware State Fire Police Association: President Paige Seppanen

- Dinner tomorrow night

Mutual Relief Association: Chairman Dan Burris

- Meeting on Wednesday

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Credentials Committee:

- Guy Hudson reported there are 50 out of 63 companies registered

Life Safety Committee:

- Guy Hudson stated that packets have been delivered to the companies and to the schools

Conference Committee:

- Mark Harris stated all is going good

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

President: Gerald Manley, Jr., Citizen's Hose

1st Vice President: James Arrington, Bridgeville

2nd Vice President: Brian Reeder, Christiana

Secretary: Elmer B. Steele, Laurel

Treasurer: Terry Whitham, Dover

New Castle County 3 Year Director: Richard J. Perillo, Christiana

President DiCristofaro requested that Secretary Steele cast a favorable ballot for all uncontested offices except for the position of Secretary. ***Secretary Steele casted a favorable vote for all uncontested offices except for the Secretary position.***

President DiCristofaro requested that 1st Vice President Gerald Manley, Jr. cast a favorable ballot for the office of Secretary. ***1st Vice President Manley casted a favorable vote for the Secretary position.***

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Expenses by Vendor Summary June 1 through September 1, 2025

VENDOR	EXPENSE
AT&T Mobility	308.09
Canon	600.00
Comcast	310.41
Dover Army-Navy Store	763.60
DVFA Conference	30,500.00
DVFA Foundation	6,800.00
Ellendale Ladies Auxiliary	120.00
First Arriving, LLC	20,000.00
Goldfein & Joseph LLC	0.00
Herbein + Company Inc	860.00
M&T Bank	7,607.66
McGinnis Partners	2,700.00
Paul Elchler	750.00
Steve Austin	66.01
The Guide	<u>3,460.65</u>
TOTAL	\$ 74,082.82

Motion by Guy Hudson and second by Mark Harris to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

- Bruce Ennis raised a question on where are we with the OSHA regulations. Jay Jones gave a brief report, stating that we are currently in a waiting period.

There being no further business to claim the attention of the members, President DiCristofaro recessed until 08:30 AM on Wednesday for the Memorial program.

Adjourned at 4:05 PM

**30th Annual Conference
DELAWARE VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL SERVICE**



Wednesday, September 24, 2025 8:30 a.m.

**Rehoboth Beach Convention Center
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware**

**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FIREFIGHTERS
AND
LADIES AUXILIARY MEMBERS**

OPENING REMARKS

Grover P. Ingle, *Master of Ceremonies*

Posting Of Colors, SCEMS

Last Call – New Castle County Pipes and Drums

INVOCATION

Rev. Charlie Arnold, *Chaplain*, DVFA

SOLOIST ARRANGEMENT

Kevin Short – The Old Rugged Cross by Gaither Vocal Band

READINGS BY THE CHAPLAINS

Saralee Stevens, *Chaplain*, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA

Rev. Charlie Arnold, *Chaplain*, DVFA

UNVEILING OF THE CROSSES

Tom DiCristofaro, *President*, DVFA

Rev. Charlie Arnold, *Chaplain*, DVFA

Mickey Decino, *President*, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA

Saralee Stevens, *Chaplain*, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA

Mike Edwards, *President*, State Fire Chiefs Association

Rev. Rich Walton, Chaplain, State Fire Chief's Association
Paige Seppanen, *President*, State Fire Police Association
Wayne Bowden, Chaplain, State Fire Police Association

SOLOIST ARRANGEMENT

Kevin Short – I Need Thee by Mississippi Mass Choir

READINGS BY THE LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS

Mickey Decino, *President*, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA
Michelle Morgan, *President*, Ladies Auxiliary New Castle County Volunteer Firefighter's Association
Tara Wilbur, *President*, Kent County Volunteer Firefighter's Auxiliary
Sharon Taylor, *President*, Auxiliary of the Sussex County Volunteer Firefighter's Association

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMORIAL PRESENTATION

Dana Dugan, *Secretary*, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA
Elmer Steele, *Secretary*, DVFA

THE MEMORIAL PANORAMA

Edited and Produced by: **Delaware State Fire School**

HISTORT & RINGING OF THE BELL

Steve White & Terry Jester

MOMENT OF SILENCE

TAPS

Paul Eichler, Dover Fire Department

MUSICAL SELECTION

New Castle County Pipes and Drums

BENEDICTION

Saralee Stevens, *Chaplain*, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA

RECESSIONAL



DVFA Conference Luncheon
Thursday, September 25, 2025
11:30 AM at the Hyatt Dewey Ballroom

Call to Order and opening comments by M/C Ron O'Neal

Invocation by Reverend Charlie Arnold

Pledge to our Flag by President Tom DiCristofaro

Opening Remarks – M/C Ron O'Neal

Thanks to all for attending the annual DVFA Conference luncheon
Thank you to the Hyatt staff for their tremendous work this week
Last chance to purchase tickets for the LADVFA basket giveaway
Recognize DVFA Past Presidents, thank you for your service

Introduction of DVFA Officers – President Tom DiCristofaro

Remarks by Honorable Marcus Henry – New Castle County Executive

Presentation by Carol Walton of the LADVFA for funds received from the Auxiliary Basket Raffle. A total of \$2,150 was presented to the DVFA Foundation Chairman Lynn Rogers and Treasurer Ron O'Neal.

Patti Carnevale of the LADVFA presented the tickets for selection of the Basket raffle giveaway.

Break for Lunch

Passing of the baskets for DVFA Foundation Scholarship (total of \$1,178 was collected)

Introduction of guests – Ron O'Neal

Remarks by Thomas Harvey of Harvey Hanna & Associates

Introduction of Out of State Guests – Steve Austin

Remarks by Charles Simpson of the Maryland Firefighter's Association (MSFA)

Introduction of Partners in Progress – Ron O'Neal

Edward "Mike" Rush, Jr. award presented to Representative Dan Short in recognition of his exemplary service.

Final remarks by President Tom DiCristofaro

1:10 PM Luncheon Ended, we were adjourned

Benediction by Reverend Richard Walton

DVFA/LADVFA Joint Installation

(copied from Pam Ingle's notes)

Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 4:00pm

DSFCA Past President Jeff Eisenbrey introduced the participants as they entered the installation ceremony.

LADVFA Installing Officer – LADVFA Past President Deb Lawhead

LADVFA Installing Marshall – Kim O'Malley

LADVFA Chaplain – LADVFA Past President Saralee Stevens

DVFA Chaplain – Chaplain Charlie Arnold

DVFA President – Tom DiCristofaro escorted by his wife Cathy

LADVFA President – Mickey Decino escorted by her sister Barbara Maloney

DVFA President elect – Gerald Manley, Jr. escorted by Brian Ferguson

LADVFA President elect – Shirley Pennington escorted by her husband Phil

DVFA 1st Vice-President elect – James Arrington escorted by Sue Banos

LADVFA 1st Vice-President elect – Ginni Tice escorted by husband Dave Hamrick

DVFA 2nd Vice-President elect – Brian Reeder escorted by his son Patrick

LADVFA 2nd Vice-President elect – Karen Barlow escorted by her husband DVFA Past President Edwin Barlow
(who is also the installing officer for the DVFA)

DVFA Secretary – DVFA Past President Elmer Steele (absent)

LADVFA Secretary – Dana Dugan escorted by Michelle Morgan

LADVFA Assistant Secretary – Tracy Sweetman escorted by Patricia Fox

DVFA Treasurer – Terry Whitham (absent)

LADVFA Treasurer – Bobbi Albright escorted by LADVFA Past President Sally Stevenson

LADVFA Assistant Treasurer – Kim Figgs escorted by Debbie Adkins

DVFA New Castle County Director – Richard J. Perillo escorted by Alan Brown

LADVFA President Mickey Decino and DVFA President Tom DiCristofaro came forward to reconvene their meetings

Invocation given by DVFA Chaplain Charlie Arnold

Pledge to the Flag led by DVFA Past President Ron O'Neal

LADVFA President Mickey Decino gave her final remarks and thanks

DVFA President Tom DiCristofaro gave his final remarks and thanks

LADVFA Past President Deb Lawhead will now install the 2025-2026 LADVFA officers and will be assisted by Kim O'Malley

LADVFA Past President Mickey Decino was presented with her Past Presidents pin

Installing the incoming DVFA officers for 2025-2026 will be DVFA Past President Edwin Barlow

President Gerald Manley presented Tom DiCristofaro with his Past President's pin. His wife Cathy did the pinning.

LADVFA President Shirley Pennington came forward to give remarks.

DVFA President Gerald Manley, Jr. came forward to give remarks.

President's Pennington and Manley entertained motions to close the Conference for 2025

Benediction was given by LADVFA Chaplain Saralee Stevens

Dismissal at 4:37 pm.

This full 2025 Conference report and proceedings are respectfully submitted by;

Elmer B. Steele

Elmer B. Steele, Secretary
Delaware Vol. Firefighter's Assoc.

Attest to; Jay Jones
Executive Manager

Tom DiCristofaro
2024-2025 DVFA President

Would like to give a special THANKS to everyone that helped by submitting information for the minutes of the 2025 Conference, since I was unable to attend all functions, due to family health issues.