

Report of President Bill Betts: DVFA Executive Meeting, December 9, 2018

It has been a pleasure to work with the new DVFA officers since the Conference ended on September 14<sup>th</sup>. I have spent 174.5 hours and travelled 1662 miles for the Association, not counting air miles. In addition to attending a majority of the County Association Meetings, I also attended some special events as listed below:

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, I made a Power Point presentation on the Delaware Fire Service to over 40 members of the senior public at the OLLIE program at the University of Delaware Campus in Wilmington. The presentation went over well, and most of the people in attendance had no idea about the Fire and EMS Service in the State. I have the presentation available for anyone who wants to use it. I need to add some slides on the cost of some of our member's PPE.

I attended the Conference 2018 Wrap-up meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>, and there were a lot of ideas exchanged on what we could improve on for 2019.

I attended the dedication of the new Memorial on October 20<sup>th</sup>, and Dan Burris did a wonderful job on the construction, and Warren Jones did a great job with the program. Fortunately, the rain stopped before the program.

We had a pre-conference meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup>, and we are looking into some of the artwork for the logos for 2019.

Several members of the DVFA and Commissioner Roberts went on a trip to the Global Operations Network Center for AT & T on October 30<sup>th</sup>. It was quite a facility and had two programs on cyber security on their end, and their disaster response capabilities.

I attended VCOS on November 7-11<sup>th</sup> and heard some great speakers that we might be able to get for the DVFA Conference sessions.

I met with the Revolving Loan Committee on November 15<sup>th</sup> and distributed out \$651,000 in loans to the Delaware Fire Service.

The three table officers and Executive Officer met with the Governor on November 28<sup>th</sup> in his Wilmington office and presented our list of legislative priorities. The Governor seemed more receptive to us this year and took time to question our proposals. We asked that the \$75,000 be put in the bond bill again for matching Fire Prevention monies, increase the revolving loan fund by another million dollars to a total of 4 million dollars, cancer presumption legislation, increasing our State income tax reduction, increasing our Medicaid billing from \$64 to \$100 to match the surrounding 4 states, establish and executive or legislative committee to assist our Recruiting and Retention efforts, revisit rescue billing with the Insurance Commissioner, and to visit an increase to the percentage on the Insurance tax formula.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance to any of you. On behalf of my wife and me, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and any special holiday you share with your families, and make sure it is a Fire-safe one.

Bill Betts, President