In the 2nd quarter I attended 60 events traveled 3,690 miles and worked more than 103 hours on behalf the association.

I first want to apologize for the few events which I had to miss due to illness or attending a previous committed engagement. I tried to have someone within the DVFA leadership attend in my place. I want to give a special thanks to Past President Betts for stepping up in the time of need to represent us. This has been a busy quarter with the legislature going back in session and going through the Joint Finance Committee process. I want to thank the numerous committee's that have been working tirelessly to accomplish our agenda items. I hope we will start seeing the fruits of their labor very soon. We are pleased to announce since last quarter, we have with the Governor and the Budget Director concerning our items in the budget. Our fire prevention money is in the Governor’s Operating Budget and we have received a commitment for our radio money in the Capitol Budget.

The Recruitment and Retention Task Force are still meeting. Their final report date has been moved back from January to the late spring. I still eagerly hope some good legislation will come out of this task force.  I especially hope for the possibility of a few pieces of legislation this session. We submitted a draft for items to be considered by the Task Force.

FDIC in Indianapolis is quickly approaching. The Delaware Room block is completely full.  If you still need help with rooms or reservations, we will do what we can to assist you with those.

Next is CFSI fundraising dinner in Washington DC.  The Delaware fire service discount this year is $325 a ticket. Attendees outside our group are paying much more to attend this fundraiser.  Please keep in mind this is what funds the CFSI, who work on our behalf with the federal government in securing bills which involve funding federal grants and keeping our best interests in mind on Capitol Hill. The $325 not only provides you with the evening of speakers and a meal, it also gives you the ability to attend valuable seminars over the course of 2 days. It will provide you the opportunity to meet with your legislators along with good fellowship. This year the Clayton Fire Company won an award and will be honored that night.  I hope we will have a good crowd to support them. We also need to show support from the companies that have received federal grants in the past or currently in the process of trying to secure federal grants. These grants have also benefited the Delaware State Fire School several times to better the educational system here in our state. We all have all benefited from that. All the information is on our website or you can contact the office about these events.

As far as draft legislation from the State Fire Prevention Commission concerning oversite of the Delaware State Fire Service. We have sent out that piece of draft legislation and have called a special meeting for that subject to be held on April 5th at 10am held at the Delaware State Fire School. Please reach out to any of the committee members with any questions.

Thank you all for your continued support and allowing me to be the President of this wonderful organization. We are only has strong has our members.  While we may never agree a 100% on most issues, we need to continue to come together to solve the problems to improve the volunteer fire service. We need to honor our commitment to serve the residents and the visitors of this great state. Thank you.