

# DVFA OFFICER'S MEETING

## August 31, 2009

### Elsmere Fire Company

President Warren F. Jones called the August DVFA Officer's Meeting to order at 1834 Hrs at the Social Hall of the Elsmere Fire Co., and welcomed all who were present. DVFA PP Alan F. Robinson, Jr. offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag led by President Jones

#### **Attendance:**

President Warren F. Jones  
First Vice President Kevin L. Wilson  
Second Vice President William F. Tobin  
Executive Secretary James L. Cabbage, Jr.  
Director Alan F. Robinson, Jr., PP  
Director Charles Frampton  
Director Charles Boyer  
Director Lynn Truitt  
Director Roland Walker  
DVFA PP Stephen P. Austin  
DVFA PP Ronald H. Marvel

LADVFA President Carol Walton  
LADVFA Second Vice President Janice Marvel  
LADVFA Treasurer Joyce Figgs  
LADVFA Asst. Treas. Lois Pearson  
DSFPA President John P. Fox  
DSFPA President Robert G. Stineman  
DSAA President Charles Evans  
SFPC Marvin C. Sharp, Chairman  
Conference Chairman Thomas J. D'Alessandro  
DVFA Director-Elect Les McCourt

President Jones then recessed the meeting for dinner at 1836 Hrs. After Dinner President Jones thanked the Ladies of the Elsmere Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary for the delicious dinner and their support through his journey as an Executive Officer of the DVFA.

The Meeting was reconvened at 1915 Hrs.

President Jones then called on the following members and guests for reports and remarks:

**LADVFA:** President Carol Walton brought greetings from the LADVFA and introduced her Officers that were present. She thanked everyone for their support during her term as President and looked forward to seeing everyone at Conference.

**DSFCA** President John P. Fox brought greetings from the State Fire Police Association and advised that the Conference meeting of the Chiefs will be on Thursday, September 17, 2009 at Cheswold. The Past Presidents reception will on the first floor due to space constraints in the Board Room. Looking for a large crowd.

**DSFPA** President Robert G. Stineman advised that they are still in the process of issuing new ID Cards for the State Fire Police, he apologized for the project not being completed during his term but there were circumstances beyond his control. He also thanked everyone for their support and assistance.

**DSAA** President Charles Evans brought greetings from the State Ambulance Association and thanked everyone for their assistance during his term in office.

**SFPC** Chairman Marvin C. Sharp stated that the SFPC Standards Committee is meeting and working well together, progress is being made. He then discussed the appeal brought by the Millsboro Fire Company challenging the Medical Directors Protocols in regards to the use of red lights. The Sussex County Firemen's Association proposed changing the law for operation of BLS ambulance be placed back under the SFPC. He further reported that all of the funds for mandatory back ground checks for EMT students has been removed from the FY-10 State Budget, the company or individual will be responsible for paying for the background check at the time of the class. Chairman Sharp again thanked the DVFA for their support during the Joint Sunset Committee Hearings. He also thanked DVFA PP Ron Marvel for his exceptional service to the SFPC during his year on the Commission.

**President Warren F. Jones** reported on the following items:

**Governmental Affairs** Stated that he has appointed a Governmental Affairs Committee to review and recommend the current relationship with the DVFA, Member Companies and the Legislature. There are five members from each county along with the DVFA Chair Officers. Their first meeting of the committee was on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at Little Creek, next meeting will be Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Dover Sheraton, with the President making a preliminary report of the committee to the membership at the Annual Conference Meeting.

**Recruitment & Retention** Reported that under the SAFER Grant the DVFA could hire a part-time Recruitment Coordinator, Jill Graham has been selected. Many are familiar with Jill as she is the ESC coordinator in New Castle County. He is confident that she will do a great job.

**NVFC** Advised that with the untimely passing of DVFA PP E. James Monihan, Jr. that he has chosen J. Allen Metheny, Sr., the current NVFC Secretary/Treasurer to replace him as the Delegate from Delaware to the NVFC. Replacing Allen as Alternate from Delaware to the NVFC will be Executive Secretary James L. Cubbage, Jr.

**SFPC** Stated that a workshop was held between the SFPC and the DVFA Officers on Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> to review a recommendation from the report of the Joint Sunset Committee. The DVFA Officers reaffirmed the Delaware Code penalty section and did not see any need for the JSC to change the penalty.

***Motion by Director Frampton, seconded by Director Boyer that the DVFA reaffirm its agreement with penalty for non-compliance with the submission of fire department audits at \$100 per day fine with a maximum penalty of \$5,000. Motion Carried.***

President Jones then thanked the DVFA Officers, Association Officers, the Conference Chairman & all who have assisted him in the “**Year of Years**” He state it has been very trying but has been very rewarding.

**First Vice President Kevin L. Wilson** Thanked President Jones for his leadership during the year and then reported on the following items:

**Meeting w/Lt. Gov. Denn** Reported that the Chair Officers had met with Lt Gov. Denn to discuss the Federal Stimulus package and to see if any funds may be available to the Delaware Fire Service. Besides the Fire Station Construction Grants there may be funds to assist with Green Technology in fire stations. He established a Bi-monthly meeting schedule w/DVFA and the Governor’s Senior Staff to discuss issues.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Wilson also advised that a tentative meeting has been set with Governor Markell for September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**DVFA Budget** Advised that DVFA Officer’s and the DVFA Finance and Auditing Committee have meet and prepared a very austere FY-10 Budget. He has presented it at all County Meetings in August and all companies were sent copies for them to review.

***Motion by Director Robinson, Seconded by Director Frampton that the DVFA Officers recommend the adoption of the FY-10 Budget as prepared by the Finance and Audit Committee. Motion Carried***

**Wounded Warriors Project** Stated that the DVFA is going to participate in a clothing drive request for fire company tee shirts to be provided to wounded combat service members in the Iraq and Afghanistan forward operating bases. NCCFA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Richard T. Perillo will be coordinating this project for the DVFA.

**Second Vice President William F. Tobin** Also Thanked President Jones for his Leadership and reported that the preliminary draft of the President’s Handbook is almost complete. He and PP Alan Robinson are finalizing the last several sections and should be completed and available at the Conference.

**Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr** was excused. Executive Secretary Cabbage reported that the DVFA and the DVFA Foundation books are both at the CPA’s office for audit. Report will be available at the Conference.

**DVFA Conference** Chairman Thomas J. D’Alessandro advised that everything is in order for this year’s Conference starting on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and ending with the parade on September 19<sup>th</sup>. He Thanked everyone for their assistance and cooperation.

**DVFA Foundation** Chairman Stephen P. Austin reported that the Foundation met on Monday, August 17, 2009 at the Kent County EOC. The next meeting will be May 10, 2010. All are Welcome.

**Federal Legislative Issues** PP Stephen P. Austin reported that last week at the IAFC Meeting in Dallas Bill Webb, Executive Director, CFSI brokered a deal between the IAFF and the NVFC so a consistent voice for the fire service can be heard on the hill just not the career vs. volunteer agendas.

PP Austin advised that Sen. Thomas R. Carper has been trying to have the funds restored to the amounts that have been cut from AFG & SAFER. The loss of funds could amount to \$175 Million in fire service grants.

He then advised that since 1985 he has worked on Federal Legislative Issues along with Louis J. Amabili, E. James Monihan, Jr, all were representing other organizations but Delaware was always in the forefront. With the loss of PP E. James Monihan, Jr., and the retirement of Louis J. Amabil he is the only one left. It is time that the DVFA look for other representatives that can assist in Federal Issues.

PP Austin then reminded everyone that the National Fallen Fire Fighters Weekend will be held on October 3 & 4, 2009. The National Memorial Service at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md. will be on October 4<sup>th</sup>, and Michelle N. Smith will be honored. Looking for a large contingent from Delaware.

PP Austin then commented on several issues pertaining to the Delaware Fire Service and the DVFA being at a crossroads in their future

### **Comments by Officers or Visitors:**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Wilson advised that there had been a miscommunication in regards to the DVFA Scholarships and assured everyone that it would not occur in the future.

DSAA President Evans commented that as a recipient of a DVFA scholarship he was very Thankful for the financial assistance that the scholarship provides.

PP Robinson commented that as this is his last meeting as a DVFA Director he thanked everyone for the courtesies and assistance during his tenure in office.

PP Marvel stated that the change of Immediate Past President serving as Director while on the SFPC has been a great asset. He stated that there are many more duties that the SFPC are performing and it has been of great assistance not serving as a DVFA Officer.

Conference Chairman D'Alessandro reminded everyone that the Annual Packet Stuffing will take place on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Dover Sheraton. Need help, all are encouraged to participate.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

President Jones stated that this has been a long journey he had dreamed about. He thanked everyone for their attendance and their continued participation in the Delaware Fire Service and all he could say was ***“Thank You, Thank You & Thank You”***. He offered his congratulation to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Wilson and offered his support in the upcoming year.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business to claim the attention of the officers:

***Motion by Director Walker, seconded by Director Boyer that we adjourn. Motion Carried.***

Meeting Adjourned at 2015Hrs.

Respectfully submitted,  
***James L. Cabbage, Jr.***  
James L. Cabbage, Jr.  
Executive Secretary