



DVFA OFFICER'S MEETING

May 29, 2008

President Ronald H. Marvel called the May DVFA Officer's Meeting to order at 1825 Hrs at his residence on Pine Cove Drive, Seaford and welcomed all who were present. DVFA Director Harold Barber offered the invocation.

Attendance:

President Ronald H. Marvel
First Vice President Warren F. Jones
Executive Secretary James L. Cabbage, Jr.
Director Charles Frampton
Director Charles Boyer
Director Harold Barber
Director Rick Clark, Sr.
Director Joseph Zeroles
Director William Tobin
Director Alan F. Robinson, Jr.
CFSI Executive Director William Webb

LADVFA President Debbie Marvel
LADVFA First Vice President Carol Walton
LADVFA Secretary Virginia Yeager
LADVFA Asst. Sec. Joanne Catalino
DSFCA President Charles H. Snyder
DSAA President Wendy Lowe
SCVFA PP Rich Toulson
NCCVFA PP Tom D'Allasandro
DVFA PR Consultant David L. Bonar
DVFA PP E. James Monihan
DVFA PP Elmer B. Steele

DVFA Second Vice President Kevin L. Wilson and DVFA Treasurer J. Allen, Metheny, Sr were excused.

President Marvel then recessed the meeting for dinner at 1827 Hrs.

President Marvel reconvened the meeting at 1918 Hrs in the social hall of the Seaford Fire Department. He thanked the Ladies of the Seaford Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary for the delicious dinner and led the Pledge to our Flag.

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

CFSI Executive Director Bill Webb thanked the DVFA for our Twenty Years of support for the Annual CFSI Dinner and being the largest delegation to attend each year. He then discussed the events on the Mall, Programs on Capital Hill, Seminars, Dinner Program changes, the Menu and service and advised that he and his staff were open for ideas and suggestions for next year's dinner. He advised that the price would remain \$275 per person. He offered a special thanks to Senator Joseph R. Biden for his leadership and support of the Caucus.

Executive Secretary Cabbage thanked Bill and the CFSI for the commemorative lapel pins that were presented to all of the DVFA Past Presidents. He advised it was his pleasure to offer these pins that were designed for persons who attended all twenty dinners to the DVFA Past Presidents for all of their Support throughout the years.

Bill then reported that the CFSI is working hard on the funding for the Fire Act, SAFER and other Federal Fire Issues. They are working with the Fire Based EMS Coalition, watching the progress in DOJ on payments of PSOB Benefits and are preparing briefing papers on replacements for the Secretary of Homeland Security, FEMA Director, USFA Administrator and other top level executives with the change of administrations coming in January 2009.

DVFA PP Monihan advised that the Ryan White Act has a proposal to remove the requirement to notify first responders of contact with patients who have infectious diseases. Both the NVFC and CFSI are working on that issue.

President Marvel thanked Bill for his attendance at the meeting and excused him so he could drive back to the Washington, DC area.

LADVFA President Debbie Marvel brought greetings from the LADVFA and introduced her First Vice President Carol Walton, Secretary Virginia Yeager and Asst. Secretary Joanne Catalino. She brought greetings from the LADVFA and thanked everyone for their assistance and advised that the LADVFA is working hard on voter registration.

DSFCA President Charles Snyder brought greetings from the DSFCA and advised that the next meeting of the State Fire Chiefs would be there Expo meeting on June 26, 2008 at Memorial Fire Company in Slaughters Beach. He advised that the State Fire Chief's Association Officers had met and looking into the SB #241 – Blue Lights.

DSAA President Wendy Lowe brought greetings from the State Ambulance Association and discussed a proposed change to their By-Laws whereby they would hold only two meetings throughout the year instead of four; this does not include the Annual Meeting during Conference. This change is an attempt to increase the attendance at the DSAA meetings since the DSAA Officers relay current information at the Local County Meeting.

DSFPA Past President Joe Zeroles brought greetings from the State Fire Police Association and the associations concerns with blue lights as outlines in SB #241.

SFPC Commissioner Alan F. Robinson, Jr. brought greetings from the State Fire Prevention Commission and reported on events that took place at the last SFPC meetings and advised that SFPC will be meeting with Governor Minner in mid June and they will attempt to get approval for hiring of two Vacation Positions, one each at the OSFM and DSFS.

PR CONSULTANT David L. Bonar reported on several of his activities on behalf of the DVFA since conference. Worked on the Move Over Law and Fire Corp news releases, reported that he had been in contact with Belvedere since November in regards to the incident involving their Past Chief. He stated he had a working relationship with the Auditors Office, Attorney Generals Office and NCCPD in regards this incident and was kept advised as to the status of the case. He stated that he and First Vice President Jones have discussed a sit down meeting with the News Journal Editorial Board to discuss fire service issues. He stated that his policy is "less comments on an issue when it is bad press."

PRESIDENT MARVEL reported on the following items:

SB #241 – BLUE LIGHTS This item was discussed in length, President Marvel advised that DSFCA President Snyder and DSFPA President Bare are meet and attempt to Resolve this issue.

VOTER REGISTRATION reported that Director Frampton is Chairing this important committee in the upcoming Election year. It is imperative that we get our Members registered to vote in 2008.

NEW DVFA BANNER advised that Second Vice President Wilson and Mike Rush are working on a new Banner for the DVFA. There is a possibility it could be ready for the DVFA Executive Committee meeting on June 8th.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION stated that he and the Officer's are looking at separating the Recruitment & Retention Committee into two separate committees with new visions. Anyone wanting to serve on this important committee please contact President Marvel or First Vice President Jones.

LINDA ROGERS UPDATE advised that Linda Rogers had been seriously injured in a fall from a horse approx. two weeks ago. She had been in Christina Hospital where she had surgery to put a rod in her pelvic area that had been crushed. She was moved last Saturday to Milford Memorial Hospital where she is undergoing therapy

KEVIN SMITH stated that he has thought about this for along time. No one in any of the Congressional Offices has been more responsive to needs of the Delaware Fire Service than Kevin Smith of Senator Biden's Office. President Marvel discussed this with Sen. Biden and would like to award Kevin an Honorary Life Membership at the DVFA Luncheon.

Motion by Executive Secretary Cabbage, Seconded by DVFA PP E. James Monihan that the DVFA bestow an Honorary Life Membership to Kevin Smith. Motion Carried.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE reviewed the proposed change to Article II, Section 1, C That was presented at the March Executive Committee Meeting.

BELVEDERE advised that the DVFA Officer's were made aware of this issue in November by President Rider and have been working with Belvedere and the agencies involved in the Investigation.

WILMINGTON MANOR/RON WILLIAMS discussed the recent article and the response by Wilmington Manor President Jim Barlow.

MEDIA QUESTIONS advised that the News Journal is working on a major article on the Delaware Fire Service that will be published on a Sunday, above the fold on the Front Page. President Marvel requested NCCVFA PP Tom D'Allasandro to comment on the meeting he had with the reporter. Tom discussed the direction of the questions, comments and concerns of the reporter. There was a very lengthy discussion on actions that needs to be taken by the DVFA. President Marvel took the advice of our PR Consultant Bonar and to take no action till the article is published and then we can defend any inaccurate statements if necessary.

GRANT IN AIDE discussed the actions that the DVFA has taken in an attempt to protect the Grant in Aide to insure that there are no cuts in funding. Advised that Sen. Bruce Ennis advised that one proposal was an across the board 10% cut of all Grant In Aide projects, but no decision has been made by the Joint Finance Committee.

JOE EVANS –LODD reported that the DVFA had meet with Bridgeville Fire Company and representatives of the National Fire Fighters Foundation and prepared all of the necessary paperwork required by the DOJ for a PSOB LODD Death. He advised that Bridgeville has received a case number and case reviewer. NFFF has advised that a decision could be made in Joe Evans case within a month or two.

DVFA LEGISLATOR'S APPRECIATION EVENING First Vice President Warren F. Jones reported that due to circumstances beyond our control the Legislative Night scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2008 was cancelled. He thanked the committee members for there hard work on this project..

DVFA PRESIDENTS & CHIEFS MEETING First Vice President Jones advised that the meeting of all Delaware Fire Company Presidents and Chiefs took place on Sunday, January 27, 2008 at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover. Since that time the DVFA Officer's prepared a Policy Statement for the State Fire Prevention Commission to review. The SFPC did not approve the policy statement and sent a survey to all Delaware Fire Companies for their review and comments. First Vice President Jones advise that they will be a follow-up meeting with the Chiefs and Presidents on June 10th at the Delaware State Fire School to discuss Enforcement of Policies and Budget Restraints. .

DVFA WEB PAGE First Vice President Jones reported that he has had many comments on the appearance and content of the new web page, but reminded everyone that it was a "Work in Progress" and it will take Time to complete'

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DELAWARE First Vice President Jones stated that the Historical Society of Delaware exhibit on the Delaware Fire Service will open on June 21, 2008 and will run till February 2009

CONFERENCE 2008 Chairman Elmer B. Steele advised that the Conference Planning is going very smoothly with a minimum of issues. All forms and materials in regards to the 2008 Conference is on the DVFA Web page and that all forms are due in to the DVFA Office by August 8th, No Exceptions. He reported that the Contracts for 2009 & 2010 have been signed and that President Marvel or Jones would need to appoint a Conference Site Selection Committee to review and seek sites for 2011 and beyond. He reminded everyone that the dates

are September 8 – 13, 2008 at the Dover/Sheraton. Next Committee Meeting will be on July 21st at 7:00PM at the Sheraton, Everyone is Welcome.

WAKE UP DELAWARE/RISK WATCH DVFA PP Alan F. Robinson advised the DVFA “Wake up Delaware “ Committee has meet with the Delaware Children’s Fire Safety Foundations and have come to an agreement as to the reproduction of the “SafetTBear” DVD, Costs and distribution of any profits between the DVFA Foundation and the Delaware Children’s Fire Safety Foundation. Tom D’Allasandro, Treasurer of the Delaware Children’s Fire Safety Foundation agreed the proposal. After a brief discussion:

Motion by Director Barber, Seconded by Director Tobin that the DVFA Approve the proposal for the promoting and marketing the SafeTBear DVD’ Motion Carried

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES DVFA PP Steve Austin’s report was read by Executive Secretary Cabbage: Former Congressional Fire Caucus Chairman Sherwood L. Boehlert of Utica, NY has retired from Congress and has moved fulltime to Rehoboth Beach and should be Invited to the DVFA Luncheon. President Marvel stated it would be our honor to have him attend.

DVFA FOUNDATION Vice Chairman Cabbage advised that the Foundation met on Monday, August 20, 2007 at the Kent County EOC. The next meeting will be April 07, 2008. All are Welcome.

NVFC PP E. James Monihan reported on the IRS are auditing Volunteer Fire Companies in the Midwest, he has not been made aware of items they are looking for or which member departments may be deficient. He stated that the Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins NVFC “Junior Firefighter” Scholarship program, which includes 10 \$5000 scholarships, has received 228 applications and should be awarded in the near future. He briefly commented on several Federal Legislative issues that had been reported by Bill Webb.

BETHANY BEACH AMBULANCE Director Hal Barber was happy to report the contracts with Municipal Governments and Sea Colony have been signed and the funding stream has been establish for the creation of the Bethany Beach Ambulance Service. He advised they have advertised for an EMS Supervisor, will be hiring 8 EMT-B’s, and have signed contracts for two ambulances. He thanked the DVFA, SCVFA and all who have assisted in this project.

FUTURE LEGISLATION Director Barber made the following motion:

Motion by Director Barber, Seconded by Director Robinson that the DVFA send a letter to the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company, Station #70, relating to the procedure to follow to seek enactment of an equitable District-wide Ambulance Funding Legislation as early as practicable. In addition, letter to be sent prior to June 9, 2008, the date of their fire company meeting, a copy of this letter to be sent the following: Senator Bunting, Rep. Hocker, Councilman Cole, Councilman Phillips, President Tobin – SCVFA, and Director Barber – DVFA.

After a very lengthily discussion and the following clarification:

This letter will contain the normal procedure for any Member Company of the DVFA to submit proposed legislation for consideration.

- Letter detailing the proposed legislation submitted to the County Association of the Member Company for their consideration and endorsement
- Submission from the County Association to the DVFA and DVFA Legislative Committee for review and endorsement
- Submission to the DVFA Executive Committee for endorsement
- Proposal added to the DVFA Priority List

Further that by sending this letter to the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company that the DVFA does not endorse or have a position on the proposed Ambulance Funding Legislation.

With No further discussion, The Motion Passed.

MISC ITEMS Executive Secretary Cabbage reported on the following items:

- Distributed copies of DVFA Legislative Update #3 for review and comments
- Distributed copies of the April 14, 2008 Memo from Debra Lawhead, Insurance Coverage Office in regards to Funeral Benefit for Volunteer Firefighters, Ladies Aux, and Ambulance Companies NOT be subject to Federal Withholding Taxes.
- Advised that the DVFA did not receive a 2007 SAFER Grant as part 2 of our Four year program. However, will be filing the 2008 SAFER Grant application by the end of June.
- Discussed the Charitable Organizations Funding Scams and the actions by the State Attorney Generals Office
- Report that the 2007 Matching Fire Prevention Funds check had been received by the State Fire Prevention Commission and will be forwarded to Treasurer Metheny for distribution
- Reported that the DVFA Office would be purchasing two new desktop computers, one server and associated softwear. Further that the new Laptop computer that was going to be purchased be put on hold till the others are installed and pricing has been finalized

- Discussed the International Residential Code Fire Sprinkler Coalition and their request for a Resolution to be submitted to the ICC for their hearing in Minneapolis In September in support of Residential Fire Sprinklers

***Motion by Director Robinson, Seconded by the Director Barber that DVFA endorse the change to ICC Code requiring Residential Fire Sprinklers and send a Resolution in favor of same to the ICC.
Motion Carried***

- Advised that DVFA Administrative Assistant Melissa Kiser now has her Notary Public and would be glad to assist any Fire Company
- Reported that the following Association Conventions are upcoming and needs to know who will be attending:

Maryland State Firemen's Association – Ocean City, MD
Opening Ceremonies – Monday, June 14 @ 0800 Hrs.

Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association – Berkley Springs, WV
President's Council Meeting – Friday, August1 @ 0900 Hrs.

Virginia State Firefighters Association – Hampton, VA
Opening Ceremonies – Thursday, August 14 @ 0830 Hrs

CLOSING COMMENTS President Marvel thanked everyone for their attendance and their participation in the Delaware Fire Service, and apologized for the late hour but stated that we covered many important issues.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting Adjourned at 2234 Hrs.

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