**DVFA Officer’s Meeting**

November 23, 2020

Zoom Call

**Welcome by President Jones**

Greetings from Association Presidents

LADVFA: 1st VP Pam Ingle brought greetings from the LADVFA and advised they are not doing any meetings except via Zoom.

DSFCA: 1st VP President Brain Reeder brought greetings from President Deery who could not attend. He mentioned the upcoming State Chiefs meeting in January. He also reflected on the passing of Mike Rush and thanked everyone who attended.

DSFPA: 1st Vice President Ron Deptula thanked everyone for the invitation to the meeting. He reported they had just finished their meeting this past Sunday and all county associations are still holding meetings.

DSEMSA: President Chris Blackburn (absent)

**Reports:**

President: Jay Jones: Mentioned he had a lot of topics and as the directors and the Executive Manager brought those items up he would join in. He reported on the opinion of our attorney on the service to the board since he became a member of the commission. The attorney viewed it as a conflict. Therefore, the Past President’s Position will be left vacant. He spoke about the new legislators and our plans to meet with them contingent on the COVID-19 situation. He also spoke that he and the Executive Manager have established plans on dealing with the issues in legislative hall since it will remain closed this session. He reported on a conference call with the Insurance Commissioner and his deputy with reference to the fire insurance money from last year. He spoke about the upcoming December executive meeting and how they will be listening to the Governor’s Press Conference on Tuesday for any changes. He spoke about the website but will refer to Terry for a report.

1st Vice President: Dan Carrier: Reported that Hockessin had 9 full time and 4 part time people quarantined because of a COVID situation.

2nd Vice President: Ken Ryder’s report is as follows:

This report is a review of thoughts on issues as we sit in front of our computers, iPads and smart phones to participate in tonight’s zoom meeting. President Jones had wanted to have this meeting at Station 48 in Felton but as bad luck would have it the FCFCA cancelled all events in the hall for the month of November and the foreseeable future due to the COVID-19 situation. An additional piece of bad luck at Hockessin where we were going but they are shut down due to possible COVID-19 situation that recently occurred.

I continue to be concerned about the passing of time involved since the five meetings for the R&R Task Force in Dover. I should add that Warren (the DVFA) did provide a basic condensed list of possible areas that the task force should be thinking about and planning on how to move forward. However Warren has been trying to get this stated again but so far there has been little or NO PROGRESS to date here in November. As expected the elections have come and gone but nothing is happening. So now it’s probably going to be after the holidays and into next year before something might happen. But we now have new COVID guidelines coming into effect so this will cause some additional “adjustments” going forward. We must continue to move R&R forward here in Delaware. We have to succeed!

Another area of concern continues to be the insurance distribution formula. So far through this year to date our request to the commissioner for a meeting has had no success to my knowledge. The commissioner and Warren did have a discussion about this a few weeks back. Warren was advised that there didn’t appear to be anything wrong with the calculations initially. However it would take some time to go back and check the numbers. Again we need to solve/resolve this in time for next year’s distributions but with the COVID situation worsening this isn’t going to get done as quickly as I/we would like.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Ryder

2nd Vice President, DVFA

Secretary: Elmer Steele (not attending)

Treasurer: Terry Whitham: Terry reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for any questions. Director DiCristofaro asked about the amount of money in the checking. Terry answered the question. Terry also reported that Georgetown Fire Company was the only company who did not pay their dues. Tom and Jay responded with Jay advising he was going to meet with their President. Warren is preparing a list of plusses for belonging to the DVFA. Terry also reported that he has spoken to our accountant Doug Kook about the $500 part of the dues for the conference. His recommendation is to reduce this upcoming years dues by $500. He also reported the Bumpers and Company had performed our annual audit. He next reported that he has been trying to get our webmaster Brooks Layton to return his calls but has not heard from him.

Motion by Jim Watson second by Tom DiCristofaro to deduct $500 from the 2021 dues. Motion passed.

Asst. Treasurer: Ray Stevens (not attending)

Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission: Ron Marvel reported that the BLS protocols had passed and on their recommendation for training. He reported on the upcoming COVID-19 vaccine distribution. That all EMTs and active firefighters would be in group 1A. He also talked about the Commission legislation from last year and how he would like to get a consensus of the fire companies in each county to have this legislation moved for a vote in the General Assembly this coming session.

Conference Chairman: David Ruff reported the next conference meeting would be March 15, 2021. He talked about the on-line store.

DVFA Foundation: Lynn Rogers reported on the meeting and luncheon to honor retiring member Jim Cubbage. He reported that they received a grant from Mid-Del for the scholarships. He thanked the members of the foundation for their work. He asked for a list of how the appointments to the foundation are made and for that to be added to the Presidents handbook.

Mutual Relief: Steve White reported that the Mutual Relief bills are out. All injuries should go to workman’s comp first. He also reported the Alvin Schmidt is in Bayhealth Hospital.

Director Past President: (the position is vacant)

Director: Tom DiCristofaro asked about the rewrite of the bylaws to handle this situation which occurred this year because of the cancellation of the conference and officers status. He talked about the Alderman’s courts and he had heard that they were not charging the EMS fine money to the violators of Title 21. The executive manager offered a brief on that subject and NCC VP Richard Perillo offered to look into it.

Director: Jim Watson reported that NCCVFA was here to help. We were happy to set up the zoom call for this meeting. He also reported on Chief “Redman” Michel’s hospital condition. 1st VP Richard Perillo reported that the upcoming installation meeting would be table officers only all other attendees could attend via Zoom.

Director: Ron O’Neal reported he was looking for ideas to use the M & T money for recruitment. He also reported that the R & R website had 11 people who replied with interest in becoming volunteer firefighters.

He thanked the Executive Manager for his help in handling those inquiries. He next talked about the presentation on the On-line store for conference souvenirs. President Jones also added to the conversation.

Motion Ron O’Neal, 2nd Terry Whitham to approve the use of the On-Line store. Motion approved.

Director: Jim Arrington reported that the December meeting of the SCVFA was cancelled due to COVID-19. 1st VP Russell Hooper mentioned that the Deltech Zoom Platform may be available.

Director: Jim Woznicki (absent)

Director: Mark Langford (absent)

Executive Manager: Warren Jones

Radios: As I reported at the last meeting, there was $4Milion set aside for radios. I have been trying to have the money released instead of waiting until all the funds (9Million) were available. Late last week the Budget Director sent me an email saying the state is going to release the $4 Million they had set aside for our radios under the following conditions. A plan has to be developed and approved by OMB. They have assigned three people to develop the plan. The ordering, programming, etc. will be handled by DIVCOMM. The radio we had bid were the rugged firefighter radios. . These will be one on one exchanges. Turn in one non-Apex Motorola radio you get a new one. In addition, if the plan is completed, approved by OMB and a purchase order written by the end of this year, to Motorola, Motorola will donate all the TDMA flashes needed for all existing fire service APEX radios. For those of you who do not know what TDMA is it stands for Time Division Multiple Access. If you recall on August 4 when the storm came through we had a lot of busies that day. As I reported at the last meeting. I am a member of the SIEC subcommittee who looked into those busies. The best way to correct that trouble is to convert our system over to a TDMA system. It would double our capacity. The state will have to pay for in TDMA infrastructure upgrades. DEMA Director AJ Schaal has will be sending out the form for the radios.

Batteries: We have about 6 companies who I have not been able to deliver their batteries to because of the lack of meetings.

R&R Task Force: I met with Rep. Mitchell a while ago. We discussed the plan that we presented right before the shutdown. He had re-read the plan and all the meeting minutes before our meeting and even made notes of questions to ask. He wanted to get a meeting with the task force and ask Secretary Bunting to come to that meeting for the GEMS program in schools. He also talked about the college tuition credit and how he did a similar bill for the police. He wants to do the same type of bill for the fire service. He wanted to have the meeting in the house chambers. Since then I have contacted his aid and suggested if Leg. Hall was a problem we could use the fire school in Dover.

Presumption Legislation: I have received today a copy of the presumption legislation. I will review it and push it out to the legislators.

AFG-S. We have completed two payment request to FEMA for COVID-19 expenses. The last one was just approved yesterday. The first one was approved and checks have been sent out to the fire companies on the first group. Twice they turned down the payment request. The first time was because of not having proof of payment and the second time was because of non-covered submissions by the fire companies. Both were corrected and all companies with the exception of Seaford have or will receive their checks shortly. Seaford has still not supplied proof of payment.

New Legislators: We have 8 new legislators, four senators and four representatives. We are going to try in December to meet with all of them depending on the COVID situation.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Zoom meeting adjourned at 2024 hours.

Minutes recorded by: Executive Manager

Warren Jones