**DVFA Officer’s Meeting Minutes**

November 22, 2021

Welcome by President Carrier at 1830 hours

**Association Reports:**

LADVFA: President Pam Ingle reported on their executive meeting where their main topic was a discussion how COVID was affecting the auxiliary’s caterings and how they were functioning with the pandemic. It was a good meeting.

DSFCA: President Brian Reeder who recent officers meeting. He reported that they are making an effort to attend more public safety events. They are looking to raise more funding for training and pushing cardio kinetics hard this year. We have a small group working on Rescue billing. Working with Mike Lowe to promote fire safety. The have Eagles’ raffle tickets for sale. Appointed a training sub-committee to work on additional training initiatives. They wish to send 6 firefighters from Delaware to attending the Training Network in Indianapolis in April. The hands on committee has selected a half way to conference training on April 2 and 3, 2022. They have posted on their website a link to Al’s Sporting Goods where people can order State Chief logo wear. Their next meeting is January 23, 2022 at Delaware City Fire Co. We are also exploring the options of doing a You-Tube pod cast presentations. We are working on keeping our Website current. They would like to talk to the State EMS Association to bring them on board with the State Chiefs Association.

DSFPA: President Ron Deptula reported their quarterly meeting was yesterday and not much to discuss with that meeting. Reported that Pennsylvania recently change their Slow-Down-Move-Over Laws. The state fire police will be looking at that to see if that can be adopted in Delaware.

**Officers Reports:**

President: Dan Carrier reported he has been staying busy with 193. He would like to set up the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:00 pm for a conference call for the officers. Starting on January 17th.

1st Vice President: Ken Ryder: Talked about 193 and its impact. Written report is as follows: This report is a review of thoughts on issues as we continue putting together a few notes for our November Officers meeting. After 2 months since Conference 2021 at the Chase Center in Wilmington we are ready to have our next officers meeting in Hockessin. This will be our last officer’s meeting before we have our Executive Meeting on Sunday, December 12th at DSFS.

Here we are two months later in the year and the future is still a little ”cloudier” than it had been in July & August. September & October has seen us somewhat apprehensive again due to the Delta variant. It seems to be hitting hard again at those who have chosen to be “anti-vaxers” for one reason or another. This has become a problem here in Delaware and across our northern mid-western states. There are a quite a few who have been vaccinated and some with boosters that are become infected surprisingly more than you might think.

Recruitment & Retention: We have measures from the report and some that have quickly been enacted. However we must continue to seek out and identify thoughts and ideas that may help reverse the societal changes to our system of volunteerism.

We now have the 3 bills signed and implemented to help the fire service. HB #249 is the tuition reimbursement legislation from the Task Force. SB#92 is the revision of the surf tag legislation to now include state parks admission tag. SB#160 the cancer presumptive legislation is now in effect and should prove to be of great benefit to the volunteer fire service here is Delaware.

100th Anniversary year and COVID…won so far! It has prevented any gatherings or celebrations to date to mark this special year for our Association. The 100th Anniversary parade to be held in Dover has been pushed back until May of 2022 at the request of the City of Dover. It looks like safety first from COVID has prevailed for much of calendar 2021.

HB#193 and its controversy is alive and well. At this point we are waiting for our Executive Meeting on December 12th to make a determination of its fate. It certainly has created discussion and consumed a lot of time over these last 6 months**.**

2nd Vice President: Ron O’Neal, Talked about the Tier System proposal for 193, the recruitment and retention information being passed on to Warren Jones. He also talked about the sales rep with WBOC who has helped them with some recruitment and retention spots on WBOC and is willing to help with other things as well. Written report is as follows:

DFVA Foundation – The application for the State Employee’s Charitable Campaign (SECC) will be due early next year with the Mid-Del Foundation being accepted in late March. Currently the Foundation has received reimbursement from DTCC in Georgetown for one of the scholarship award winners who has unfortunately withdrawn from classes. These funds will go back into the account for next year’s applicants.

Recruitment & Retention Committee – Warren Jones is now handling the activities of the R & R Committee. The contact information that had been tracked from the Firefighter.Delaware.gov website has been turned over to Warren for his review.

Still in contact with Terry Ayers from WBOC on ideas for advertising opportunities for recruitment, volunteerism, fire prevention, etc. Mike Lowe did a great job in October with a couple of fire prevention segments that were very successful.

HB193 – Still a good deal of push back from Sussex County but there hasn’t been much discussion on the 4-tier method of problem solving. Would like to hear more discussion on how this would be implemented. Is there talk of having another extension thru Legislation? I understand that if the House Bill is not voted on this coming session, then the Bill will die.

Thank you to President Ingle and the LADVFA for the invitation to their Executive Meeting held November 1st at Cheswold. It was a very productive meeting with a great deal of interaction.

Stacy Northam-Smith, Regina Marvel, Jay Jones and I will be meeting on November 29th to begin discussions on DVFA Conference 2024.

Looking forward to working with all the new officers, not only the DVFA but the Ladies, Chief’s, Fire Police and EMS Associations.

Secretary: Elmer Steele: excused

Treasurer: Terry Whitham summarized the Treasurer’s report he passed out to the officers. He asked to be allowed to transfer $100,000.00 from the checking to the money market account. He reported the audit was completed by Bumpers and Co and he forwarded it to the Financial Committee for their review. He reported on the one company who had failed to pay their annual dues. He also discussed hearing impaired smoke detectors.

Motion to move $100,000 from checking to the money market account made by Director DiCristofaro, second by Asst. Treasurer Ray Stevens. Motion carried.

Discussion continued by the officers on the non-payment of dues issue.

Asst. Treasurer: Ray Stevens discussed the 2021 Conference Budget report. He spent time comparing the budgets from previous conferences to this past year. The revenue budget was over by $7,203 and the expense budget was under by $27,351.

Motion by Tom DiCristofaro, second by Jay Jones to transfer the funds from the conference checking to the money market account when the Conference Treasurer is ready.

Commission Chairman: Ron Marvel reviewed the Fire Prevention Awards Luncheons, Audits, Scratch Reports, and Lewes Sprinkler passage.

Conference Chairman: Dave Ruff talked about the past conference and thanked everyone for their work especially in the change of venue.

DVFA Foundation: Lynn Rogers reported on their last meeting on October 20, 2021. He reported their link on the website and their new brochure. Since 2001 when the foundation was started they have given out $763,760.00 in scholarships. He also reported that the foundation took in $2952.00 at the conference.

Mutual Relief: Steve White reported on various Mutual Relief items including looking at a new fee system based on size of the company’s membership.

Director: Tom DiCristofaro thanked Elmer Steele and Dave Ruff for the work they did with the conference this year. He received good comments about the Chase Center and the Riverfront Area.

Director: Richard J. Perillo, report texted: NCCVFA will be installing their new officers on December 9 at Minquadale Fire Company, hosted by Wilmington Manor Fire Company. That will be the installation of the County Firefighters and County Chiefs Associations. Dinner is at 1830, meeting to follow.

Director: Russell Hooper, Jr. Thanks for the invite to the meeting. Next meeting is November 23 at Laurel at 1930 hours.

Director: Jim Woznicki reviewed the new KCVFA Officers for 2022. He also questioned how the voting would work if one person is a delegate with more than one company.

Past President Director Jay Jones spoke about the LODD deaths in Delaware and having their names on the memorial before they are inducted into the NFFF Memorial Service in October of 2022.

Executive Manager: Warren Jones discussed the issues going on with the DVFA Website. He also discussed the current issues going on with the VF and LA Licenses plates.

Recruitment and Retention. There is a lot to get done by hopefully the first of the year. We need to get the tuition council appointed. We need to firm up the criteria for the grants. 5 person council. Still need 3 appointees. Meet with the new Education Secretary. Need to firm up the counties match to the AmeriCorps members. Working with the volunteerism office on those numbers. We are going to advertise in January for the AmeriCorps members, interview and hire them. These people will be part time for the first year. We need to get the counties in place before they are hired. I am appointed to the interview panel for the new hire at the fire school. He or she should be on board by January 1st. Lastly, I have to finish the presentation to the county associations and then set up the companies who are interested in hosting the AmeriCorps members.

Meeting with the R & R Committee December 16.

He also reported on an IAFC RRC Class that Brain Reeder, Jim Woznicki and he completed an on the first weekend in November.

He reviewed the IAFC Inclusive report, the yearly Calendars, the changes to the DVFA Office and a personal issued.