



DVFA OFFICER'S MEETING NOVEMBER 29, 2004

President Raymond T. Stevens call the November DVFA Officer's Meeting to order at 1901 Hrs at the Social Hall of the Selbyville Fire Company and welcomed all who were present. DVFA Chaplain Rev. Bob Hudson offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag led by President Stevens.

Attendance:

President Raymond T. Stevens
First Vice President Kennard L. Pyle
Second Vice President Alan F. Robinson, Jr.
Treasurer J. Allen Metheny, Sr
Executive Secretary James L. Cabbage, Jr.
Director Warren F. Jones
Director Clarence R. O'Neal, Jr.
Director Richard Toulson
Chaplain Rev. Bob Hudson

LADVFA President Joyce Figgs
LADVFA Treasurer Janice Marvel
LADVFA Secretary Virginia Yeager
LADVFA Asst. Secretary Joanne Catalino
DSFCA President Rodney Marvel
DSAA President Denis McMahon
DVFA PP Elmer B. Steele
DVFA Sergeant at Arms Frank Gant

President Stevens then recessed the meeting for a delicious dinner served by the Selbyville Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary at 1904 Hrs.

Meeting was called back to order at 1949 Hrs and Second Vice President Alan F. Robinson, Jr. thanked the ladies for a wonderful meal.

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

LADVFA President Joyce Figgs brought holiday greetings and thanked President Stevens for his hospitality. She then introduced the officer's with her that evening:

Janice Marvel, Treasurer; Virginia Yeager, Secretary and Joanne Catalino, Asst. Secretary. She advised that she had advised the LADVFA at their Executive Committee Meeting of the 10% increase in the Pension Cost and she apologized if it caused a controversy.

DSFCA President Rodney Marvel also brought greetings from his members and Thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers during his recent illness.

- The next State Chief's meeting will be in the New Delaware City Fire Station on January 27, 2005

- He then discussed some concerns with Zoning Requirements being brought forward by the State Planner, Connie Holland

President Stevens stated it was great seeing Rodney up and doing much better, his thoughts were shared by everyone in attendance.

DSAA President Denis G. McMahon brought greetings from his members and reported on the following:

- Reported on his attendance at the DEMSOC/NHSTA 5 Year Review hearings held in NCC County on November 16 & 17th
- Advised that Mike McMichaels is going to make a presentation and recommendation at the DVFA Executive Committee Meeting that Delaware apply for a chapter of the National Association of EMT's.
- The DSAA is still looking for two volunteers from Sussex County for the Association's EDIN committee
- The next DSAA meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2005 in Harrington

DVFA CHAPLAIN President Stevens introduced Rev. Bob Hudson who will be serving as the DVFA Chaplain for 2004-2005, Rev. Hudson brought greetings and advised that he will be available to meet the spiritual needs of the association & if you need his services please feel free to call him.

2005 DVFA CONFERENCE Chairman Elmer Steele reported on the following:

- Reminded everyone of the dates for 2005, Sept 12 – 17th
- Advised that the Conference committee's would meeting the 3rd Monday, every other month
- Most Committees and Chairman remained the same with a few changes
- Finalizing the 2005 Conference logo within the next week
- Registration forms will be again found on-line, with a mail follow-up in the early summer
- Seminars and educational offerings are being finalized, as is the HOT training

DVFA WEB PAGE First Vice President Pyle asked everyone to check their section of the Web Page and if something needed to be upgraded to forward same to him. Executive Secretary Cabbage advised that a section listing DVFA Meetings needed to be added to the page in a prominent place, Vice President Pyle stated he would have Russ Pickett take care of the request.

2005 FIRE COMPANY INFORMATIONAL REQUEST Ex Sec Cabbage advised that the DVFA Office has prepared an Informational request form for the fire companies that the DVFA will collect information for the SFPC, OSFM, and the DSFS instead of each company having to fill out a separate form for each agency. Vice President Pyle stated in an effort to increase a valid information stream that we include a Priority Contact for each Fire Company who will see that the necessary information will be shared with the appropriate members in each company; has been added to the form.

DVFA PAST PRESIDENT'S RINGS First Vice President Pyle reported that there will be a reception at the Hartly Fire Company, Sta #51 on Wednesday, December 8th at 1900hrs for the presentation of the Past President's rings.

WAKE UP DELAWARE/USO PROJECT Second Vice President Robinson reported on the following:

- Thanked everyone for their Outstanding efforts
- Especially thanked the LADVFA for their participation
- Advised that over 7500 smoke detectors and batteries were distributed
- Stated that the USO project was a success, however the assistance from USO was less than satisfactory. He stated part of the problem was their staffing and duties at the DAFB
- Advised if we ever participated with the USO again, that it be a separate event from Wake Up Delaware
- Reported that the DVFA "Wake Up Delaware" committee may be invited to the Annual Spring Meeting of the NFPA to discuss the success of our program, Details to follow

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES President Stevens advised that PP Austin was excused and called on NVFC Treasurer Metheny for a report. Treasurer Metheny reported that ODP with the assistance of the NVFC is looking at paying for training of Volunteers when they are away from their job to take approved WMD training. Secondly, the nation's fire service took a hit in the FEMA Fire Fighters Assistance Grants Program; Congress funded it for next year at the \$650 million level, a reduction of approx. \$100 million.

DVFA FOUNDATION Foundation Treasurer Stevens reported that the First Annual Charity Golf Outing was held at the Shawnee Country Club in Milford on Sept 29th. The event cleared over \$3,000 for the Foundation. At the 2004 Conference \$2,350 was collected at the Men's Luncheon and \$736 was raised at the Ladies Luncheon with a total of \$3,086 going to the foundation.

DEMSOC/NHSTA FIVE YEAR REVIEW President Stevens gave a brief report on the hearings that were held in NCC County on November 16 & 17th. The final report was distributed just prior to Thanksgiving and everyone is still reviewing putting together their comments. He thanked the eight presenters from the DVFA who gave presentations on the different aspects of the BLS service in Delaware. After a short discussion:

Motion by Executive Secretary Cabbage, seconded by Treasurer Metheny that A Blue Ribbon Committee be appointed to review, assess and develop a DVFA Position Paper on the recommendations of the NHSTA final report. Motion Carried.

DVFA CRUISE Admiral Stevens reported that the DVFA and its guests have booked 86 rooms on the Caribbean Princess for a cruise on Feb 5th to Feb 12th, 2005. If anyone is still interested, please contact Admiral Stevens ASAP.

PRESIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS President Stevens brought up the following recommendations that Past President Marvin C. Sharp proposed at the DVFA Conference on Sept 16th, 2004.

- That the member companies become involved with the expenses incurred by President during his three years in the chairs

President Stevens is going to turn this item over to the Finance and Budget Committee for review and recommendation

- That the DVFA consider a dues increase based on the cost of living rate

President Stevens is going to turn this item over to the Finance and Budget Committee fore review and recommendation

- That the DVFA authorized the hiring of a full time Administrative Assistant Position for the office

President Stevens advised that this item was approved on the floor at the Conference

- That a Committee from the DVFA be formed to look at the re-organization of the Mutual Relief Association and the possible distribution of existing funds.

President Stevens advised that the Chair Officers would evaluate this proposal and will make a committee appointment to look into this matter.

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE Executive Secretary Cabbage stated that the DVFA previously had a Health & Safety Committee during the early 90's. With all of the new innatioves, procedures and issues confronting the fire service, a recommendation was made that a joint committee with the State Fire Chiefs be appointed to look into health & safety issues for our most valuable resource, OUR MEMBERS. President Stevens & DSFCA President Marvel stated they would meet to discuss the appointment of a committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Executive Secretary Cabbage advised that on November 1, 2004 the DVFA Office welcomed our new Administrative Assistant, Melissa Arlotta. He encouraged everyone to call or email the office and wish her a warm welcome.

MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH President Stevens advised that on Wednesday, November 24th the DVFA Chair Officer's meet with Dr. Gus Rivera, Director of Public Health and several of his staff members for a lunch meeting. Many issues were discussed, with the NHSTA report being a major topic and the work that needs to done on EDIN. Also, he advised that it now appears that NO flu vaccine will be available for the BLS community as it has in the past. Supply is still critically low and demand in high-risk categories has taken priority.

NEXT DVFA OFFICERS MEETING After a short discussion, First Vice President Pyle advised that the next DVFA Officer's Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 27, 2005 with breakfast being served at 0900 hrs, and the meeting being held at 0930 hrs.

COMMENTS President Stevens thanked everyone for their participation and wished one and all a joyous holiday season.

Motion by Treasurer Metheny, seconded by Director O'Neal that we adjourn. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 2059 Hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Cabbage, Jr.

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Executive Secretary