



DVFA EXECUTIVE MEETING
Delaware State Fire School
December 12, 2021

The December 12, 2021 DVFA Executive meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Dan Carrier at the Delaware State Fire School complex in Dover.

Confirmed that there was a quorum present: 12 companies from New Castle County, 14 companies from Kent County and 17 companies from Sussex County

Invocation offered by Pastor Bob Hudson

Pledge of Allegiance led by Executive Manager Warren Jones

Roll Call of Officers:

All Officers, Directors and Office staff are present and/or accounted for.

Report of Officers

President Carrier: (copied and pasted from written report)

Have been attending meetings up and down the state.

Committee list will be sent out hopefully, within a week.

Revolving loan has 5.5 million dollars in it at 1% interest until May 2022 so please use the money.

We are here to serve you.

Everyone, have a happy holiday.

First Vice President Ryder: (copied and pasted from written report)

I'm working on my Exec. Comm. Mtg. Report to cover some of my thoughts for the period since our Conference in Wilmington and our November Officers meeting in Hockessin. I've finished posting my events, hours and miles travelled on my activity report. We've all been travelling more this past quarter than we did earlier in 2021. This is understandable since many of us have been vaccinated and many of us have had our "covid booster" and flu shots. Much has changed this last quarter with COVID-19 some things have improved tremendously but the Delta & now the Omicron variants has given us reason to proceed with caution. Much of the travelling has been local within Kent but our trip frequency to New Castle and Sussex have both increased. We even made a trip to D.C. to attend a CSFI function.

The R&R Task Force Report will continue to have an impact going forward. Executive Manager Warren Jones has put together an R&R presentation. He has been attending some Chief's meetings and has indicated that he will be making more presentations to various county associations after the first of the year. I'm looking forward to

being able to attend so I can get his perspective on the issue in a class room situation. We must continue to seek out and identify thoughts, ideas and other means that may help reverse the societal changes that our system of volunteerism has become a victim of.

This is going to take the cooperation of the volunteer fire service statewide, our associations and the State of Delaware Legislative process working in tandem to continue to implement solutions here in Delaware. We must continue looking for solutions because failure for the volunteer fire service is not an option!

As we approach the DVFA Exec. Meeting in Dover this Sunday the Biggest item on the agenda is probably HB#193 as currently amended. Since the legislature has been in recess (June 30th) this topic has basically consumed our time and most meetings state wide.

For the most part it has been discussed, debated and in some area meetings voted on to decide whether to support it or deny it. Support or nonsupport is mixed within counties and within the State. Each company will have their 2 delegate votes to decide how we move forward at Sunday's meeting.

HB249 Tuition Reimbursement is mostly off our radar but moving forward. SB92 Surf Tag revision to include State Park Tags has been moving forward. At least we have begun to talk about and discuss SB92 so our members statewide so they can get their applications completed, processed and stamped to get ready for 2022. SB160 Cancer Presumptive legislation is progressing but it's been overshadowed in my opinion again by the HB193 debate.

I'll summarize my report by my activity items noted....for events attended 31, travelled 982 miles (this includes the trip to CFSI)88 hours in-service. These are the ones recorded for this quarter.... but I know not all are here.

Second Vice President O'Neal: (copied and pasted from written report)

Since this is my first meeting addressing this body from this side of the table, I want to begin by saying thank you for your support, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve as an Officer of the DVFA. I look forward to working with the other Associations, and I promise to be diligent in my support for this organization and will do everything I can to promote the mission of the DVFA.

In traveling up and down the State and attending the different meetings, you get to hear a great deal of conversations on numerous topics. All those discussions are encouraging, doesn't matter whether it's positive or negative, it means we are identifying, recognizing the issues that face the Volunteer Fire Service and we're trying to work towards a solution. Even HB193, love it or hate it, has produced some interesting conversations all over the State and has prompted a tremendous amount of feedback.

In a couple of discussion during Conference this past September, one of the comments I heard was "what does the DVFA do for me/us". Let me review the mission of the DVFA, which is...

"The mission of the DVFA is to serve, promote, advocate, coordinate, represent, and support the interests of the member Companies in the performance of providing community based Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical, and other emergency response related services to the citizens of the State of Delaware."

I know I can't speak for the other Officers, but I certainly do not have all the answers. I do know 2 major concerns that Presidents Carrier, Ryder and I will be focusing on this year is man-power and financial issues, which have an effect on everyone in this room and which we will be working on with everyone to help find

answers. But by all means, if there is anything else that we need to address, review, look in to, to advocate for the Fire Service, please let us know.

Since the Conference in September at the Chase Center, I have attended 19 events, for a total of 1,268 miles and 60 hours.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone and their families, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years. Be Safe, Be Healthy, and above all, Be Happy.

Secretary Steele: (copied and pasted from written report)

- Still working with the Westin Wilmington on our final bill for Conference 2021
- Working with Derrick and Betsy at Bally’s Dover Casino Resort (formerly Dover Downs) for 2022. Nothing final yet. Per an email that I received this week, it will probably be in the 3rd quarter of 2022 before any decisions will be made regarding hospitality type events in the Rollins Center. They are currently doing some entertainment type shows and hope to expand from there. That email was forwarded to Conference Chairman Lamborn and President Carrier for their review and input.
- Tentative dates for 2022 are Sept. 13-16, 2022
- Travel report since Conference; 17 events, 1,390 miles and 69 hours in service
- My wife and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Treasurer Whitham: (copied and from written report)

As of November 30th, we show the following balances:

Checking - \$130,838.89

Money Market - \$263,088.07

Crawford Financial Account - \$262,967.41 (as of the end of October)

At the Board of Officers meeting on November 22nd, a motion was passed to transfer \$100,000.00 to the Money Market account.

The FY 20-21 financial review has been completed by Bumpers & Company. Copies have been forwarded to the Budget & Finance committee.

As I reported at the Board of Officers meeting, we have one company that has failed to pay their annual dues, leaving a short fall in revenue.

In reviewing expenses, everything is pretty much in line. Insurance increased by \$230.00. Slight increase in the financial review. The FDIC Conference went over budget and we will occur an additional expense for the upcoming April 2022. We have to keep an eye on Misc. luncheons. Many of the expenses were from the conference meals.

Motion by Brian Reeder and second by Steve White to accept the Officer reports and spread them upon the minutes. Motion carried

Executive Manager Jones: (copied and pasted from written report)

Surf Fishing and State Parks passes: Because of legislation passed last year there is a new surf fishing application. It is on our website under documents. You will need to use the new form and print in on your fire company letterhead. On the top of the new form is a place to select either Surf Fishing or Park Pass. You can have either one but not both. Currently the State Parks are out of the supplies they need to processes these applications. When they get their supplies in, they will notify us which will probably be in January.

Fire Apparatus Inventory: Under Title 18 section 705 the DVFA is required to turn in a fire apparatus and equipment inventory with locations of all fire stations of our member companies. I am planning on sending this report to the insurance office on February 1, 2022. I need all member companies of the DVFA to send in their inventories in January. The inventory form is listed as Apparatus Inventory and it is on our website. Let me read the quote from title 18: Title 18 section 705, d,

(d) The Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association shall annually submit to the Commissioner a report giving their location, apparatus and equipment maintained for its member fire companies and departments for use by the Commissioner in calculating the funding under this chapter.

This is particular importance this year since one company in Sussex County did not pay their dues and are no longer members of the DVFA. Therefore, according to this statute, the Sussex Count distribution of insurance monies will be divided by 20 fire companies instead of 21. In light of this the DVFA Officers asked me to prepare a list of all the items a company would lose if they failed to pay their dues. I have done that and sent it out to the DVFA Officers. Once it is approved, I will send it out to you all.

Recruitment and Retention: As I have talked about before all the parts from the Recruitment and Retention Task Force Report will be put into play this coming year. Some are being worked on now. We have made presentations at the NCC Fire Chiefs and the Sussex County Fire Chiefs on the program. We will be making those presentations at the three county associations meetings in January. The purpose of the presentations is to explain the plan's parts so you all understand what is going on. I am the chairman of the DVFA Recruitment and Retention Committee this year. We are looking for more members to serve on the committee. Please contact me. Let me give you some numbers:

Last Basic Class 81 attended and 17 couldn't pass SCBA or Ladders. Normally we have over 100 to 125. We used to have 200.

Last Haz Mat Class was less than half of the usual amount. The last Driver Operator Class has 7 students. I could keep on going but I'll wait for the presentation at the county meetings to finish.

The bottom line is we need to change what we are doing because it isn't working!

I received a copy of the IAFC Diverse and Inclusive Guide. I have copies on the front table if anyone would like it. If they are all gone, let me know I have more.

The next Executive Meeting in March will be my last as Executive Manager. I'll reflect on my 11 years then.

I want to sincerely wish you a Merry Christmas and I am hoping for great 2022 for all of you. Take care.

Committee Reports

State Fire Prevention Commission – Ron Marvel:

- New State Medical Director
- CDC guidelines have not changed
- NFPA 1917 is in affect for ambulances
- Continuing to review scratch rates
- Thanked Paul Eichler for his involvement with the sprinkler regulations in Lewes

Advisory to State Fire Marshal – Grover Ingle: (copied and pasted from written report)

- Fire Fatalities – There are nine fire fatalities for 2021. Working smoke alarms were present in two incidents and seven incidents had no working smoke alarms. No fire sprinklers were present in any of these incidents nor were they required by code to be installed at the time of construction.
- Fire Protection Specialist I New Castle County – Richard Trincia began employment with the Office of the State Fire Marshal on November 8, 2021 as a Fire Protection Specialist I, assigned to the Technical Services Division in New Castle County under the supervision of Assistant Chief of Technical Services, James Facciolo.
- Deputy Fire Marshal I New Castle County – Currently we are in the process of filling the vacant Deputy Fire Marshal I position in New Castle County and expect to have that completed in the first quarter of 2022.
- Office Manager Kent County – Currently in the process of filling the vacant Office Manager position in Kent County and expect to have a person on staff mid-January 2022.
- Administrative Specialist I Kent County – Currently in the process of filling the vacant Administrative Specialist I position in Kent County. Expected to have a person on staff mid-late January 2022. This position was created as a result of a reclassification of a vacant Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Coordination position.
- DFIRS – Continue to work with each Fire Company/Department on current data submissions to DFIRS. Significant Improvements have been made in 2021.
- FY 2023 Budget has been submitted to the Governor’s Office requesting funding level except for personnel contingencies at the same level as FY 2022.
- City of Lewes – The City of Lewes has passed an ordinance amending their Building Code restoring the requirement to install residential sprinklers in a new one and twofamily dwellings being built after the effective date of the signing of the ordinance by Council which as been completed. Our office has met with the Town Manger and Building Official to discuss our assistance with plan reviews and inspections.
- Office of the State Fire Marshal wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season. We look forward to continuing working with all our partner agencies in 2022.

Advisory to DSFS – Robert P. Newnam: (copied and pasted from written report)

1. Year-end program report – 2021
 - a. Student attendance is steady yet below previous normal
 - b. Student Totals – Calendar Year – 2021
 - i. BFFS (206 students) (+65), SFFS (163) (+75), HMRS (127) (+35)
 - ii. A decrease in BFFS effects class numbers for future years
 - c. EMS program numbers steady – CEU classes have leveled off
 - d. Industrial programs class numbers lower – In-service training has increased
 - e. Division usage – steady at the Divisions – returning to pre-covid
 - f. Thank-you to Kent Auxiliaries for continuing to supply the weekend meals.
2. FY23 General Fund Budget request has been submitted
 - a. Full Salary funding for one Training Administrator position
 - i. Currently 40% is funded from DSFS special funds
 - b. Continue review of the impact of minimum wage increase on Instructors and Aides.
3. FY23 Capital Funds request
 - a. Engineer Inspections of Structural Buildings – 50,000

- b. Concrete Repair – Dover Division, Structural area – 100,000
- c. Rescue Tools Funding – 7 companies and DSFS – 37,500 *Claymont, Wilmington Manor, Carlisle, Citizens' Hose*
- 4. Information for Officers will be provided on a flash drive
 - a. Staff Reports, Course Catalog, Policies and Procedures
- 5. 2022 Training Schedule and Course catalog has been posted and sent
- 6. Current Building Projects – funded and in the design stages
 - a. Generator replacement New Castle Division – preliminary meeting held
 - i. (2) Units, gas supply, power building fully
 - b. Roof replacement(s) Fire Marshal's Office and school, New Castle Division
 - c. Boiler replacement (2) units – Kent Division
- 7. Posting for the new Training Administrator position (Senior Instructor)
 - a. Duties to include managing the AmeriCorps program for member recruitment, promoting the GEM's school program & vocational education in firefighting, EMT, EMR in the Delaware Vocational High Schools.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Staff at the Fire School.

Health & Safety – Jack Wilson:

- Ed Klima is working on a mental health training program through FFFA
- Reported LODD deaths due to COVID
- Discussed AFG grant for firefighter physicals
- Gave up-date on Fire Policeman Ken Tull who was injured while directing traffic
- Discussed the “Move-Over law”

Life Safety – Guy Hudson: (copied from hand written notes)

- Last Sunday, Dec. 5th, held the 2020 Fire Prevention awards program at Carlisle, Sta. 42
- Judging for the 2021 poster and essay program was done today. 2021 awards program will be Sunday, Jan. 2 at Cheswold, Sta. 43 at 2:00 PM
- Matching funds report needs to be postmarked by Jan. 1, 2022. The form is on the DVFA website

Sprinklers – Paul Eichler

- Spoke about the code regulations on sprinklers at Lewes
- Working with Maryland to get a side-by-side trailer for demonstration

Wake-Up Delaware- Paul Eichler

- Currently there are no regular smoke detectors in stock. Have a few strobe light detectors.
- Will check with the Fire Marshal to see what they may have

1st Vice President Ryder recognized the Past Presidents and President Emeritus in attendance.
14 Past Presidents and 1 President Emeritus

Affiliated Organizations/Agency Representatives

Ladies Auxiliary: President Pam Ingle

- Brought greetings from the LADVFA
- Introduced the LADVFA officers, LADVFA Past Presidents and the County Officers that were in attendance today
- Wished Happy Holidays to all

State Fire Chiefs: President Brian Reeder

- Special thanks to Mill Creek for the use of their hall for the 2021 Conference meeting
- Training for the ½ way to Conference and for the 2022 Conference are in the planning stages
- Did a “live” program on Delmarva Life at WBOC
- Held their 1st BBQ yesterday in Kent County. Planning to hold 1 in New Castle and Sussex later
- Looking for funding for their training programs. Will hold another gun raffle.
- Held their 1st Past Presidents dinner with approx. 80 in attendance
- Committee working on rescue billing
- Next meeting will be Jan. 27th at Delaware City, Sta. 15. Social at 6:00 PM

State Fire Police: President Ron Deptula (absent)

State EMS: President Albert Schrack (absent)

DVFA Foundation: Chairman Lynn Rogers

- Last meeting was in October
- Thanked the LADVFA and the DVFA for the funds that were raised during the 2021 Conference
- Revising the foundation brochure

Mutual Relief Association: Chairman Steve White

- Get your reports and payments in, so you will be covered
- Next meeting is Jan. 18th at Sta. 49
- Merry Christmas

National Vol. Fire Council: Delegate Bill Betts

- Last meeting was in Jackson, WY
- Changed by-laws. Now each State gets 2 Directors, instead of 1 delegate and 1 alternate
- OSHA is looking at fire companies again. Especially physicals
- Join before Jan. 1st for some extra benefits. See him for brochure and information.

Conference Treasurer Ray Stevens:

- Gave a detailed break-down of income and expenses for the 2021 Conference. Attendance was lower this year, making expenses lower and revenues were higher
- Gave a review as to what we can expect in 2022, based on the 2021 report

Communications:

The following communications were received and were summarized by Secretary Steele

- Delegate and Alternate changes from the following companies: Good Will Fire Co., Bowers Fire Co., Blades Fire Co., Citizen’s Hose Fire Co., Magnolia Fire Co., Volunteer Hose Fire Co., Minquas Fire Co.
- Letter from Blades Fire Co. supporting HB193
- Letter from Sussex County Vol. Firefighter’s Assoc. Not supporting HB193 because of Regulation 709
- Letter from Bridgeville Fire Co. supporting HB193
- Letter from Special Olympics Delaware thanking the DVFA for our support

Motion by Jim Watson and second by Dave Ruff to accept communications and spread upon the minutes
Motion carried

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- Chief Nick Baronie from Mill Creek Fire Co. spoke about HB193. After his discussion; *Nick Baronie made a motion and was second by Steve White to support HB193.* Discussion from the floor. *A motion was made by Tom DiCristafaro and second by Al Townsend to table the vote on HB193 until the March Executive meeting.* Voice vote was too close, so a roll call vote was taken showing 51 votes to table and 34 not to table. **Motion carried to table**
- President Carrier will appoint a committee to review HB193, Regulation 709, the 4-tier process and anything else that may help resolve this issue.
- Several comments from the floor regarding HB193 after the vote was taken
- *Motion by Eric Haley and second by Bill Betts to dissolve the Delaware State EMS Association after their meeting at the 2022 Conference and they be reformed as a committee under the Delaware State Fire Chief's Association. All records and finances are to be maintained by the Delaware State Fire Chief's Association.* **Motion carried**

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Treasurer Whitham highlighted the bills to be paid.

Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association
Expenses by Vendor Summary
September through November 2021

Amtrust North America	515.00
AT&T Mobility	149.43
Bumpers & Company	7,645.00
Canon	542.64
Comcast	884.93
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce	500.00
Dolly Ingram	2,055.00
Dover Army-Navy Store	139.95
Leipsic Volunteer Fire Company	312.00
M&T	13,533.81
NFPA	175.00
Paul Eichler	423.76
Pratt Insurance	4,719.00
Rogers Sign Co., Inc.	760.00
Steve Austin	54.86
WBOC, Inc.	375.00
Willard (Bill) Betts	<u>3,358.51</u>
TOTAL	36,143.89

Motion by Ray Stevens and second by Steve White to pay the bills as presented.

Motion carried

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

- Several of our members are having medical issues. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved by Guy Hudson and seconded by Steven Maichle that the December Executive Meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.** Pastor Bob Hudson offered the Benediction

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Elmer B. Steele

Elmer B. Steele

Secretary

I hereby attest that this a true copy of the proceedings of the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association Executive Meeting held on Sunday, December 12, 2021.

Attest: Warren F. Jones
Executive Manager

Dan Carrier
President