

DVFA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Delaware State Fire School

March 9, 2014

Called to order at 10:00 A.M. by President Richard Toulson

Invocation offered by DVFA Chaplain, Pastor Bob Hudson

Pledge of Allegiance led by DVFA PP Charlie Boyer

Roll Call of Officers – by Secretary Elmer Steele

- [x] Richard Toulson, 87, President
- [x] Anthony Guzzo, 19, 1st Vice President
- [x] Joe Zeroles, 47, 2nd Vice President
- [x] Elmer Steele 81, Corporate Secretary
- [x] J. Allen Metheny, Jr., 51, Treasurer
- [] George Pyott, 43, Asst. Treasurer
- [x] Dan Burris, 1, 27, New Castle County Director
- [] Harold Brode, 50, Kent County Director
- [x] Jay Jones, 75, Sussex County Director
- [] Charles Frampton, 11, Past President - Director
- [x] Lynn Truitt, 14, Director, New Castle County
- [] Glenn Gillespie, 42, Director, Kent County
- [x] Ted Walius, 75, Director, Sussex County
- DVFA Staff**
- [x] Warren Jones, 16/86 Executive Manager
- [x] Melissa Kiser

Guests

Report of Officers

President: Toulson- to the officers, members, and guests. I have had an extremely busy time since the December meeting. I have attended 66 meetings or events representing the association, spending 307 hours and traveling a total of 4,143 miles.

I want to thank both Bill Tobin and Steve Austin for their involvement in getting Senators Coons, Carper and Congressman Carney, along with the Congressional Fire Service Institute, The Volunteer Fire Council and I -Chiefs in getting the Federal IRS to change its position concerning the Affordable Care Act, that Volunteer Fire and or EMS members are not employees but volunteers. At Senator Coon's news conference at Elsmere Fire Company, it was stated that this was the fastest a Federal Agency has responded and changed a regulation. I also want to thank all who attended the news conference.

The Association Officers met with the Governor to ask for support with the following, to reopen the ability for fire department employees to obtain State health care benefits. We talked

with the Governor about the EMS Task Force draft report but without a final report we were not in a position to request anything other than support for future funding. The Governor stated that after the EMS Task Force final report was released he would like to meet again.

I want to thank all of our members that have served on or have contributed to the EMS Task Force committee, along with Chairman Senator Bruce C. Ennis, Co-Chair Representative William J. Carson and Co-Chair Malcolm Cochran. Please read the report, it can be found on line or you can download it or we can e-mail the report to you.

We presented our request to the Joint Finance Committee and the following four requests are also part of the recommendations from the EMS Task Force report. They are

1. Adopt legislation to extend the ambulance and rescue premium tax assessment to all health benefit plans that do not currently pay the assessment.
2. Increase the ambulance premium tax rate from .0015 to .0045.
3. Increase the Grant in Aid for Ambulance maintenance from \$4500.00 per company to \$6500.00 per ambulance.
4. Adopt legislation to ensure the health insurers raise their “allowable” rates to cover the losses incurred by the volunteer ambulance companies. \$450.00.

Great news!! The Sheraton Dover Hotel legal action has been settled, we can now move forward with our conference at Dover Downs. I want to thank Willard F. Preston III, Esquire and Elmer Steele for the time they devoted to come to an agreement.

I want to thank Earle Dempsey and the Recruitment and Retention Committee who has been working very hard on the Recruitment and Retention program. They are using a variety of promotional campaigns from Television ads, YouTube, Facebook and Billboards thru out Delaware to get our message out “VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED”. Recruitment is one of our most important objectives. “YOU CAN HELP”. If you know someone who you think could make a good member, ask them to join. The work we do is essential to the public safety of our communities. Find someone and have them be like you and “Make a Difference”.

Congratulations to the three firefighters that will be attending FDIC, CFSI and to the DVFA Luncheon. Unfortunately, one county did not have a submittal.

Great Job and thank you” Wake Up Delaware Committee”, you are getting the message out to the public about how smoke detectors save lives. The new long life battery smoke detectors that are being given out should make a difference in saving lives. I only hope that some year soon the Fire Marshall will be able to report that no fire deaths occurred for the year due to working smoke detectors.

The revolving loan fund available balance is **\$1,062,777.76**; this money has an interest rate of 2.0%. If you are getting ready to make a purchase or do a rehab you may want to investigate this option first.

I would like to thank everyone for the invitations and the hospitality shown to my wife and me.

If you are not receiving our communications, please contact any of the officers or contact the office to verify your email address. Good communications does make a difference.

Respectfully - Richard W. Toulson President

First Vice President: Guzzo- Stated his report was submitted in written form to the DVFA Office

Second Vice President: Zeroles- Stated his report was submitted in written form to the DVFA Office

Secretary: Steele -Stated his report was submitted in written form to the DVFA Office

Treasurer: Metheny- Fellow Officers, Delegates, Alternates, Members and Guests. Attached is the Treasurer's Report for the period December 6, 2013 thru March 6, 2014. This report includes both the DVFA Operations and the Conference Accounts.

On March 4, 2014, I transferred \$1,720,590.13 to the Northern Trust Company for our Calendar Year 2013 DVFA Pension Program. This consisted of \$1,557,150.13 for the employer's share of the program and \$163,440.00 to cover 2,724 fire company and ladies auxiliary members. The members in the program decreased this year by 72 members, however, our total investment increased by \$111,164.14. I want to thank the companies this year for following the instructions in most cases. This year was another good year for filing the paperwork and contributions accurately. I have already talked to the Pension Office and will plan to assist with the Pension Seminar again this year at the Conference. Please urge any new Pension Officers in your companies to attend this seminar.

Assistant Treasurer: George Pyott- Absent

Motion needed to Accept Officers reports and spread them upon the minuets Motion carried

Executive Manager Report: Warren Jones

Legislative Items

1. Bingo Legislation: SB125 passed the house on January 28 and was just signed by the Governor on February 25, 2014. Increases the prize limits for bingo to \$350 for a single game and \$3,000 for all games conducted on a single occasion.
2. SB53: Health Presumption legislation, presently on the ready list in the house
3. HB187: Charitable Solicitations Legislation I think we need to be exempted from this legislation. We don't need another registration or another report to fill out.
4. EMS Task Force Report: The President went over the 4 recommendations in his report.

The passage of these four could mean a lot to relieving the EMS cost burden we have been saddled with. We need your help to get this done. Make sure you speak to your legislators about this. Tell them that our 2012 EMS losses were over 8 million.

The other thing and I know Earle Dempsey is going to talk about this but April 8 is Delaware Volunteer Firefighter Day in Legislative Hall. We set this up as part of our Recruitment program and getting the Governor and Legislators involved in recruiting new volunteers.

That is still the main focus but because of this EMS report and the funding we are trying to receive, April 8 is extremely important. We need a good showing. We need to pack Legislative

Hall with uniforms. We are going to ask for some apparatus and ambulances to park out front. But most importantly we need you. If you have a uniform that would be outstanding if you do not come anyway. That is men and ladies.

We will meet out front by 12:00. Then go into the hall. We are going into the House Chambers at 2:00 and the Senate Chamber after the house. We will be greeted by the Governor around 1:00. We will be doing pictures with the Governor and the legislators some out front with the apparatus and some in the hall. We are looking for some photographers.

It is going to be a special and important day. We are hoping as many of you as possible can be there.

DVFA Legal Counsel Report: Willard Preston gave his final report regarding the Sheraton issue and stated that since the Sheraton signed the 2013 contract and backed out. 2014-2015 they had changed the verbiage in the contact which stated if the hotel remained a hotel. However the Hotel has changed its status to being leased to Del State University for Dorm Rooms. We tried keeping the prices to be able to compare apples to apples however doing that raised the cost to being approximately \$47,000 over the price the Sheraton quoted us. Since the Sheraton stated that Dover Downs would honor and match those prices, we asked for them to reimburse the price of the increase. Since the Sheraton has had a long standing relationship with the Association they agreed they would assist. They asked for all copies of the invoices. They also stated they would like to keep it out of court and reach an agreement without legal representation. The next day Bill received a call from their Lawyer. At first they offered \$15,000 to settle, after negotiations they raised it to \$20,000. After they asked to check over everything again the increase was determined to have been an increase of \$41,500.00 After the Sheraton reviewed the same invoices they then stated they would offer \$6,000. Negotiations went back and forth and an amount of \$36,000 was reached for final settlement. That's approximately 85% of the increase we incurred. The only stipulation was that this would have to be treated as a contribution to the Association, for tax purposes and we agreed. This event is now closed.

Recruitment and Retention Coordinator: Earle Dempsey stated the sub grant committee met this morning and the winners have been selected today however will not be released yet. We will be partnering closely with the DSFS and filming some new footage from the basic training classes. We will be asking them what made them join. Or catch the "bug" of joining the Fire Service. April 8 is Firefighter Appreciation day at Legislative hall. On April 13th all Fire Departments will be open to the public from Noon to 4pm. We will be advertising national Volunteer week. There will be live Radio Broadcast from companies in each county. Still need Companies from Dover, Milford and Georgetown to host the Radio which will be from 12-2. There has been a new Facebook page launched for the Recruitment site. We have had 3,000 likes. Please share with your friends and family. We will also be sponsoring the Rodeo at the Delaware State Fair. We are also planning to have a recruitment booth all 10 days at the fair.

Committee Reports

1. State Fire Prevention Commission – Commissioner Alan Robinson- The commission met on February 18, 2014. Narcan Pilot update. A special thanks to the Fire School and especially Senior Instructor Matthew Gajdos, for help with the training aspect for the Narcan Pilot project. Training dates have been offered at the County training facilities in the State despite the weather. To date, over 200 providers have received training.

Influenza Update- Over the last few weeks influenza incidence has remained steady throughout most of the country (38 states down to 29 states are widespread) and Delaware is categorized as “Widespread”. Last week there were 100 confirmed cases of influenza throughout Delaware.

Some good data out of New Castle County CPR survival database to support the latest protocol addition of remaining on scene to provide CPR for victims of cardiac arrest.

OEMS is in the process of reviewing methods of chart QA for BLS. One method is that DEMRS has the capability for individual company supervisors, as well as OEMS to review patient care reports as far as their validity scores.

An EMT Certification Hearing was held and sanctions were upheld in regard to the case.

The Commission briefly discussed EMT Calls that are medically unnecessary to assisted living care facilities

A motion was made to add the Delaware Ambulance Inspection sheet as a policy rather than a regulation. This step was taken because the inspection sheet can change periodically to meet the needs of BLS Service.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2014

2. Advisory to State Fire Marshal – Grover P. Ingle

Fire Fatalities- The first fire fatality of the year occurred on February 12, 2014. During fire suppression activities a victim was found deceased in the dwelling. Still under investigation and verifying a presence of smoke detectors.

A question was raised at the last DVFA meeting from the life safety committee regarding the First Alert Smoke Detector advertising a mute button. The OSFM looked into the matter and not only First Alert but other manufactures have and advertise a mute or silence button for nuisance alarms. This button is the test button on First Alert and other devices which has been tested and listed for that particular function by UL. It does not prohibit the detector from operating properly. The detector will operate as normal if there is adequate smoke to operate the alarm.

Brian Ferguson, Juvenile Fire Setters Intervention coordinator has completed his field training and will be handling the referrals primarily from New Castle County and Kent/Sussex when needed. He also will be responsible for assisting with Public Safety display request.

Fire Protection Specialist 1- Sussex County has been filled by Michael Routh and Jefferson Cerri, both began their employment late December and Mid-January.

Chief Deputy Fire Marshal 1- Sussex County, Harry Miller has been promoted to the CDFM Position for Sussex County effective February 10, 2014.

Deputy Fire Marshal 1- Sussex County, as a result of the promotion of Harry Miller there is a vacancy for a DFM 1. The position will be posted through the DE Jobs Website within the next week or two. A link will be provided pm our website to the posting.

Fire Protection Specialist 11- Robert Borkowski has retired effective February 28, 2014 Bob has served for 11 ½ years with the OSFM.

FY 2015 Budget- - Joint Finance Committee hearing was held on February 18, 2014. Our request was to maintain our current operational funding level, provide additional funding for replacement vehicles (fleet) and funding to replace the gas chromatograph and mass spectrometer located in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner used for testing fire debris as the equipment is nearing the end of its life cycle.

3. Advisory to DSFS – Robert P. Newman/Jeff Eisenbrey

Delaware Weekend- August 2-3

EMT Re Cert Status- 486 applications due by March 31st – notices- officers and EMT-B's

Currently 1463 Delaware EMT's

Bond Bill Hearing was held on March 5th

Rescue Tools (Recommended)

Planning funds 75k – Not recommended

Classroom folding doors 65k – Not recommended

Student numbers for the Winter Programs (up)

Requests for in-service programs (up)

Form for requesting classes is on the DSFS web page

Class	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Totals
Leadership 1	51	54	42	46	11	17	17	238
Leadership 2	43	53	39	49	8	19	14	227
Leadership 3	35	36	29	44	10	13	9	176
Totals	129	143	110	139	29	49	42	641

Online programs

Developing a Fire Fighter 11 Online blended course

Ladies Auxiliary Workshops- well attended

Women in the Fire / EMS Seminar -32 Attendees

50th update

April 27 – Ryan 40th Dinner- Slide Presentation and interviews

Rescue tower project

DVFA-DSFS membership 5 year BFFS Survey

19 Companies have currently responded

487 New members, 307 currently members -63%

Average of 26 per company or 5 per year

Fire Prevention Officers- Contact information to Presidents and Fire Chiefs

Retirement of Steve Martin

4. Critical Incident Stress – Dennis Carridan reported CISM in NCC is excessively active. They currently have 200 volunteers active. Currently forming a larger Kent County team.

5. DVFA Conference– John Stevenson reported the Conference is less than 6 months away. Room Contracts have gone out and need to be returned asap. Next meeting will be April 14th at 7pm at Dover Downs.

6. DVFA Pension Advisory – Ray Stevens thanked the committee for a job well done. Please make sure you clean up your pension lists. Any member with less than 10 years active service and no longer active.

7. Law & Legislative – Bruce Ennis reported on SB 31 which is pending regarding surf fishing tags for Ladies Aux, the National Guard has also put in a for a similar bill. SB 53 presumption law- Line of duty passed. The task force report is out and available online on the DVFA Website. Thank you to the members who serve on the committees.

8. Out of State Coordinators – Elmer Steele reported Steve Austin was unable to attend and asked that you please excuse him as he is at Tampa II the Summit held by the NFFF looking at the Everyone Goes Home program. Past President Jim Cabbage will present the report of the DVFA Foundation and out of State Coordinators. However Jim Cabbage was not feeling well and handed the following report to Elmer Steele. The following functions are on the Calendar.

- CVVFA Booster Meeting March 16, McConnellsburg PA
- CVVFA Presidents Council Meeting April 5th Seaford
- Delmarva Convention (Please Consult Elmer Steele)
- CVVFA Booster Meeting May 4th Lyndhurst VA
- MSFA Convention June 14-18 Ocean City
- CVVFA Convention and Presidents Council Meeting Chambersburg PA July 30-August 1
- VA State Firefighters Association Hampton August 13-16
- WV State Firemen’s Association Convention Vienna August 14-16
- Firemen’s Association State of New York Albany August 20-23
- Firemen’s Association State of PA Meadville September 24-27

9. Scholarship – George Kerr stated the applications are available online and are to be post marked by March 31. The next meeting will be on April 15th. He also reported that from 2001-2014 the DVFA has been able to award 281 Scholarships and a total of \$426,450.00

10. CFSI- Ron Marvel stated to turn in your money. The cost for us is \$260.00 instead of the \$295.00 that the other attendees need to pay.

11. Parade Awards Committee has created a questionnaire that they would like to have filled out by the Companies as well as the General public to see what the consensus is in regards to the functionality of the parade and awards.

Recognition of Past Presidents by 1st Vice President Guzzo. He asked that all Past Presidents and Presidents Emeritus’s please stand and be recognized. 17 Past Presidents and President Emeritus in attendance.

Affiliated Organizations/ Agency Representatives

Ladies’ Auxiliary Saralee Stevens, President introduced the officers and ladies that were in attendance with her today. Saralee then presented a check to the Scholarship committee. Then checks were also presented to the Scholarship committee from the ladies of New Castle County, Kent County and Sussex County as well as a check from New Castle County on behalf of the Past Presidents deceased members for the Scholarship committee. The ladies received a standing ovation for all their support.

State Fire Chiefs Joe Morris, President reported John Townley recently went through heart surgery. Joe also mentioned that he apologizes for not being able to attend all the events he has

been invited to however he currently was going through some medical issues also. The next meeting will be March 27 at Delmar at 6:30.

He then stated at an event last year their guest speaker called and indicated they were unable to come and speak at their event with only 6 hours' notice. There was one person, who dropped everything they were doing that day to come and present. They then presented Tucker Dempsey with a plaque and lifetime membership as a thank you.

State Fire Police John Hall, President stated that there will be a "meet and greet" event for Past President John Bare on March 30th from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at the Frankford Fire Hall.

President Toulson reported that the CVVFA will meet on April 5th 9am at Seaford for the Presidents Council Meeting.

Pastor Hudson, 1st Vice President of the Delmarva Firemen's Association thanked everyone. He stated the Ladies 1st Vice President of Delmarva is Deb Lawhead. He feels like he is one of the luckiest men. He knows Ted Walius, Elmer Steele, and Allen Metheny all have his back.

Communications

The following communications were received and are summarized by the Secretary Elmer Steele

Letter for Houston Fire Company advising that on December 26, 2013 they started ambulance service.

Thank you card from Mike McMichael regarding flowers sent to his mother's funeral

Fax regarding Firefighters Charitable Foundation

Correspondence for CFSI reference 26th Annual Fire Services Dinner

Marketing card from the Blue Rocks reference All Star Game

Motion needed to accept communications by Steve Maichle, and seconded by Jasper Lakey, Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS

None Reported

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Scholarship Committee by Vice President Guzzo – he indicated the Committee would remain the same

Appointment of Life Safety Committee by Vice President Guzzo- Indicated the committee would remain the same.

Bob Sutton made a motion that the DVFA take out a full page add in the Annual Blue Gold Game booklet at a cost of \$395.00 Motion seconded by Steve Maichle Motion Carried

Motion by Jasper Lakey to prepare a resolution for Steve Martin for his 32 years of service to the fire school. Seconded by Steve Maichle Motion Carried

Motion by Ed Barlow to support the Legislative Draft for NCC Tax Assessment. After many questions on the motion it was seconded by Jasper Lakey and Carried.

Motion by Ed Barlow to exclude the fire service from HB 187 (Charitable Solicitations Legislation) Seconded by Ray Stevens Motion carried

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Treasurer Metheny read the bills totaling \$81,767.04

Motion needed to pay bills by Ken McMahon seconded by Jasper Lakey Motion Carried

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Tom DiCristafaro and Wally Poppe made a suggestion to find another method for the surf tag process.

Deb Lawhead stated the Ladies Auxiliary for Kent County will be filling the Van to help collect can goods. This will be on March 27-28. The Auxiliary van will then drive to Milford to distribute the food.

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved that the March Executive Committee Meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried. Chaplin Blake Bowers offered the Benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa R. Kiser
Melissa R. Kiser
Corresponding Secretary

I hereby attest that this a true copy of the proceedings of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association Executive Committee Meeting held on March 09, 2014.

Attest: Elmer Steele
Secretary