

DVFA President Report

March 10, 2019 Executive Meeting

By Bill Betts, President

As I enter the halfway point of my term as President of the DVFA, I am trying to figure out where the time went. Over the last three months, I have attended 38 functions representing the DVFA, traveling 2,482 miles, and spending approximately 160 hours.

We have been very busy in the winter months with Executive Manager Warren Jones and 1st VP Jay Jones leading the charge to meet all the 15 new members of the legislature. I had the privilege of attending a meeting with the Hockessin legislators (both County and State), and I felt that the meetings were beneficial in letting all the legislators know our needs and what we provide for the citizens of our fire districts. We also had a very successful meeting in February with the Joint Finance Committee, and our requests for adding \$1,000,000,00 to the Revolving Loan Fund, and the \$75,000 to the Fire Prevention Commission for the matching Fire Prevention funds were in the Governor's budget proposals.

Treasurer Terry Whitham and Assistant Treasurer Ray Steve have done a fantastic job in revamping our treasury to make it much more transparent to the membership, and Ray has recently compiled the 2019 Conference budget that was approved by the finance committee. This Committee was chaired by Danny Burris and has done a fabulous job working with the two treasurers.

I would like to ask everyone's support in sending their membership to the CFSI dinner on April 25th in Washington. It is a fund-raiser for the Fire Service Legislative Caucus that supports us by working with the national senators and representatives to lobby for our grant funding, and other issues important to the Fire Service. As the second smallest state in the nation, we have set the bar for attendance since its inception in 1989.

Past-President Steve Austin indicated at the December Executive meeting that he would be retiring from the DVFA Foundation effective after the meeting on May 8th, and with Steve's wishes, I would like to appoint Danny Burris of Middletown to take his place on the Foundation. Danny has agreed to accept this appointment.

Please check out the President's Handbook on the DVFA website if you are a newer President of a Delaware Fire Company to assist you in getting the needed paperwork in at the correct deadline.

WE have also worked on the handbook for the DVFA Officers to assist them by providing knowledge of the different protocols, meetings, and events that they are supposed to attend, and the times and dates are provided.

Finally, once again, I would like to thank all the invitations to my wife and me to all the banquets since the first of December. I am sorry to have missed some due to more than one invitation on the same night but filled in with some of the other officers. I have especially enjoyed the companies that I had not had the chance to visit before this year. Every event was special, and we were treated like royalty.