



DVFA EXECUTIVE MEETING
Delaware State Fire School
December 8, 2024

The December 8, 2024 DVFA Executive meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Tom DiCristofaro at the Delaware State Fire School complex in Dover.

Invocation offered by DVFA Chaplain Charlie Arnold

Pledge of Allegiance led by Past President Ron O'Neal

Roll Call of Officers:

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

Guests reports:

CFSI Executive Director Bill Webb brought greeting from the CFSI in Washington, DC. He discussed things that were happening in Washington and things that the CFSI were actively involved in. Gave an up-date on the CFSI Symposium and dinner this year. Will be held on February 12 & 13 at the Marriott Marquis. Please try to attend, since the DVFA has been and continues to be a supporter of this event for several years. Have a Merry Christmas.

Chaplain Emeritus Bob Hudson thanked everyone for their support for over 20 years. Thanked the Association for the honor of becoming the first ever Chaplain Emeritus of the DVFA. Said he would always be available if anyone ever needed him. In closing he said, "I will no longer be your Chaplain, but I will always be Pastor Bob"
Standing ovation

Report of Officers

President DiCristofaro: (copied from email report)

On September 25th, we took delivery of 3000 smoke detectors from Lowes in north Wilmington. Want to thank my friends from Kent and Sussex Counties who were on hand to take their load of detectors back to their respective Counties. This was year two of a five-year Capital plan of the DVFA to buy and supply smoke detectors.

On October 5th, we were in Dover for the unveiling of Laura Madara's name on the Monument in Dover

On October 8th, we paid our respects at the funeral services for DVFA Past President Jasper Lakey from Delaware City

On October 29th, the DVFA was at the Bill 371 signing at the Mill Creek Fire Company. Governor Carney was there along with lead Rep. Kim Williams and about seven other Senators and Representatives. HB371 was written

to clarify how funds are collected and distributed in New Castle as the City of Wilmington, for years, has been overpaid from monies that should have gone to the County

On October 30th, members of the DVFA gathered in Harrington to pay our respects to Debbie Zeroles, wife of Past DVFA President Joe Zeroles

In October, I penned a letter to Attorney General Kathy Jennings expressing my disgust with the penalty that was handed down to the inattentive driver that struck and seriously injured Fire Police Officer Dennis Layton from the Delaware City Fire Company

And finally, a shout out to eagle eye Ray Stevens. When the October 20% number was announced, since everything we have been through, we assumed they finally got things straight. Ray saw the numbers and knew they were wrong and contacted the folks in State Treasury and advised them of the same and to not process checks until a review could be done

Because of his keen eye, each company in New Castle County was being shorted \$14,424.88, each company in Kent was being shorted \$21,167.20 and each company in Sussex was being shorted \$24,167.20 for a total of \$1,767,478.68

1st Vice President Manley: (copied from email report)

- I have nothing at this time, has been slow thus far
- Will be meeting with the Governor soon
- Have Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday

2nd Vice President Arrington: (copied from email report)

- Attended several meetings and events
- Wish everyone a Merry Christmas

Secretary Steele: (copied from email report)

- My travel report for this quarter is: attended 18 events, traveled 1,128 miles and in service for 68 hours
- Spent most of my time wrapping up Conference 2024 at the beach
- Have started the contract process for 2025 also at the beach. I'm sure that Chairman Harris will elaborate more on the 2025 Conference. Dates will be the week of September 22nd to the 25th
- My wife and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. STAY SAFE!!!

Treasurer Whitham: (copied from email report)

As of December 3rd, we show the following balances:

Checking - \$86,815.99

Money Market - \$117,833.76

Brinker Financial Account - \$276,591.71

- I would like to welcome John Wright on board as our new Assistant Treasurer.
- Attached is a Budget vs Actual report as of November 30th, to give you an idea on how expenses are going.
- The financial review has been completed by Bumpers & Company. I will be contacting Chairman Burris, in regards to the F&B committee reviewing same and performing a 6-month budget review.

- We have been working with M&T Bank since our last meeting attempting to set-up an EFT process. The bank does not want anyone touching our accounts directly. I'm actively working with their financial group trying to get something set-up.
- President's, please remind your pension officers of the tight time frame coming up between the final total and when payment is due. I have a few time line handouts on the table.
- May you and your loved ones have a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Committee Reports

Advisory to DSFM – John Rudd: (copied and pasted from email report)

1. 2024 Delaware Fatal Fire Review
 - a. 14 fire deaths in 2024; 14 in 2023.
2. Staffing Update
 - a. All positions currently filled with exception of an Administrative Assistant.
3. Outdoor burning ban implemented on October 15, 2024, and lifted on November 25, 2024.
 - a. Thank you to all 9-1-1 centers and First Responders for handling the additional calls associated with the ban.
4. United States Fire Administration Fire Marshal Symposium and NERIS
 - a. National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) to replace DFIRS.
 - i. Upcoming training for Fire Marshals and staff at Emmitsburg on January 22-24, 2025.
 - ii. Hopeful to have more information for FD training upon conclusion of the symposium.
5. Public Outreach
 - a. Agency staff attended as many fire prevention and open house events as possible from September through November 2024. Thank you for the invitations and hospitality.
 - b. I attended all three County Fire Prevention Awards ceremonies. Congratulations to the award recipients and thank you to the departments that help with these important events.
6. Holiday Fire Safety announcements will be pushed out through our social media account.
 - a. Please share as you see fit on your department's social media accounts.
7. On behalf of the Office of the State Fire Marshal staff, I wish everyone a safe holiday season.

Executive Manager Jay Jones: (copied and pasted from email report)

The OSHA public hearing has concluded, with the final public comment period closing on January 17th. We encourage submission of letters expressing opposition to the proposed standard. These letters may be submitted individually, or on behalf of an association or department. Assistance with letter composition is available upon request.

House Bill 371, addressing insurance distribution, has been signed into law at Millcreek Fire Hall.

Surf fishing tags and passes are now available for purchase; please submit them to the office accompanied by a copy of your driver's license and vehicle registration. Monthly submissions of processed batches to the parks department occur on the 15th. To obtain tickets, please refrain from online purchases and instead complete the form on our website, making checks payable to the DVFA by the end of January.

Regarding CFS tickets, please refrain from online purchases. Submit the form on our website and remit checks payable to the DFA by January 31st.

The FDIC event In Indianapolis is scheduled for April 7th-12th. Contact our office for assistance with room reservations.

The state has contacted all personnel to update tax deduction lists, with a deadline of February 28th.

Revised background check procedures necessitate a supplementary bill for this legislative session to ensure unambiguous language facilitating federal background checks. Statewide checks remain in effect, with a \$20 fee. Results will be forwarded to the fire commission. Please notify the fire prevention commission's office of any new member submissions for background check processing and association with your department; they will then communicate the results.

Departments may request Delaware state flags for deceased members with ten or more years of service. Contact the office for flag requests.

The U.S. Fire Administration welcomes its new Deputy Director, Chief Black, formerly of the Duck Fire Department in North Carolina.

We commend Delaware for its pioneering nationwide paramedic-issued whole blood program, with aviation units commencing utilization in mid-January. This initiative has already yielded exceptional results, with 250 units successfully administered in the field.

The Delaware State Police have accepted delivery of their two new helicopters.

If you need anything, contact the office. Happy holidays!

Advisory to DSFS – Tucker Dempsey: (copied and pasted from email report)

We have been reaccredited with Pro-Board for five more years

- Our command simulation trailer has been delivered
- The Firefighter 1 & 2 classes in all three counties wrap up next weekend
- The three county EMT classes end next weekend as well
- Brandon Clark is getting the Epinephrine draw training ready
- We requested the state provide funding for an additional secretary and a pole barn at the NCC site (same as last year)
- New hires Jason McCabe (Dagsboro) and Ken Getty (Clayton)

State Fire Prevention Commission – Ron Marvel: (topics discussed)

- Introduced Ron O'Neal as the 2nd newest Commissioner representing the DVFA
- Introduced Dave Majewski, Sr. as the newest Commissioner, replacing Richard T. Perillo

- Cancer policy
- Scratch rate reports
- Discussed the new building going up out front
- Elaborated on an ambulance inspection that took place in New Castle County and how it did not conform to the 709 standards.

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

- The committee met this morning and judged the posters and essays
- The awards program will be held on January 5, 2025 in Cheswold at 2:00 PM
- The companies with winners need to be at this program, in uniform
- The matching funds reports are due into me, post marked by January 31, 2025
- Merry Christmas and a Happy new year

Out-of-State Coordinator – Steve Austin:

- CFSI reminder, you heard Bill Webb’s report earlier

R & R Committee – Warren Jones:

- Completing the 2nd year of the grant program
- Some issues with getting NFPA 1580 physicals
- Will be having a committee early next year

Scholarship – Mike Lowe:

- Committee met this morning
- Applications are down from previous years
- Issues with the reimbursement process through the SAFER grant

Conference Report – Mark Harris:

- Working on dates and a place for the committee meetings.

Recognize the Past Presidents and President Emeritus in attendance - 1st Vice President Gerald Manley, Jr.

13 Past Presidents and 2 President Emeritus

Affiliated Organizations/Agency Representatives

Ladies Auxiliary: President Mickey Decino

- Introduced the LADVFA officers, LADVFA Past Presidents and the County Officers that were in attendance today.
- Happy Holidays to each and everyone

State Fire Chief’s: President Mike Edwards

- Officers meeting held on November 14th
- Will be using the DVFA post office box for their mailing
- Up-dating by-laws, web page, working on Conference issues
- Next meeting will be January 23rd at Sta. 85 Milton
- Happy Holidays

State Fire Police: 1st Vice President Jeff Dennison

- Next Executive meeting is January 27th at Sta. 49, Frederica
- Have a great Holiday

DVFA Foundation: Chairman Lynn Rogers

- Held the last meeting on October 30th at Willis Chevy
- Working on some by-law changes
- Received a \$5,000 donation
- Please keep Carol Walton in your prayers during her medical issues
- Next meeting will be in April

Mutual Relief: Dan Burriss

- All is good

National Vol. Fire Council: Delegate Jay Jones

- Candance McDonald stepped down as COO
- Dues are currently \$21. Increase to \$24 in January

Del-Mar-Va Association: President Jay Jones

- Next meeting is February 2nd in Trappe, MD all welcome.

Communications:

The following communications were received and were summarized by Secretary Steele

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

- Will be setting up a meeting to get more funds for the pension program. Will be meeting with the Governor and new legislators in January. Will be working with the Legislative fire caucus for new members

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Treasurer Whitham highlighted the bills to be paid.

9:29 AM
12/05/24

Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association
Expenses by Vendor Summary
September through November 2024

Amtrust North America

Sep – Nov 24
500.00

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| AT&T Mobility | 279.96 |
| Bumpers & Company | 7,975.00 |
| Canon | 581.61 |
| Comcast | 274.06 |
| DE State Chamber of Commerce | 650.00 |
| Delaware Celtic Society Pipe Band | 300.00 |
| Elmer Steele | 2,500.00 |
| First Arriving LLC | 63,795.67 |
| First Due Care | 3,210.00 |
| Gerald Manley | 2,000.00 |
| Indian River Fire Company | 17,500.00 |
| Jim Arrington | 2,000.00 |
| John Wright | 1,500.00 |
| Lowe's | 49,956.48 |
| M&T | 5,942.06 |
| McGinnis Partners | 2,700.00 |
| Millville Fire Co. | 3,500.00 |
| Rogers Sign | 170.00 |
| Steve Austin | 78.75 |
| Terry M. Whitham | 2,500.00 |
| The Guide | 3,316.18 |
| Tom DiCristofaro | <u>3,500.00</u> |
| TOTAL | 174,729.77 |

Motion by Ray Stevens and second by Russell Hooper to pay the bills as presented.
Motion carried

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

- Question was raised regarding any response from the Attorney General on the letter that was sent by the President. Still waiting on a response.
- FACETS report. New Castle has received their report totaling 484 pages. All 21 companies participated in the process. Will cost \$10 to \$100 million annually to staff New Castle County. Sussex report should be available shortly.
- Wally Poppe thanked everyone that attended the services for Jasper Lakey.
- Wally elaborated on the Fire Police incident and the lack of response from the Attorney general's office
- Reminder to send your new officer list to the Commission for proper distribution
- Mike Perrone thanked the Association for the various reports. Keep them coming

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved by Guy Hudson and seconded by Dan Burris that the December Executive meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried.** DVFA Chaplain Charlie Arnold offered the Benediction
The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM

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 8, 2024.

Attest: Jay Jones
Executive Manager

Tom DiCristofaro
President