



**DVFA Officers Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 24, 2022**  
**Live meeting - 18:30 hours – Sta. 48, Felton**

**DVFA ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

President Dan Carrier  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ken Ryder  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ron O'Neal  
Secretary Elmer Steele  
Treasurer Terry Whitham  
Assistant Treasurer Ray Stevens  
Executive Manager Warren Jones

New Castle Director Tom DiCristofaro  
Kent Director Jim Woznicki  
Kent Director Gerald Manley  
Sussex Director Terry Jester

**LADVFA OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

President Pam Ingle  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres. Deb Lawhead  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. Stacy Northam-Smith

**ASSOCIATIONS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Fire Chief's President Brian Reeder  
Fire Police President Ron Deptula  
Fire Commission Chairman Ron Marvel

Sussex County 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dave Ruff  
Mutual Relief Chairman Steve White  
Foundation Chairman Lynn Rogers

- President Carrier called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM
- Invocation given -- Pledge to the flag
- Broke for dinner
- Called the meeting back to order, thanked the Felton ladies for a fine meal

**ASSOCIATION REPORTS:**

LADVFA President Pam Ingle:

- Greetings from the State Ladies Association
- Getting back to business
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents are also in attendance

DSFCA President Brian Reeder:

- Working on various fundraisers for the year; helmet raffle, gun raffle, bar-b-que, etc.
- Vehicle rescue class at Dover Downs on April 2 & 3
- Holding virtual meetings with the Officers

- Working on by-law up-dates
- Next meeting will be March 24 at Sta. 86, Rehoboth
- Ron O'Neal spoke on EMS issues and rumors about St Frances taking over the State EMS Assoc.

DSFPA President Ron Deptula:

- Held their quarterly meeting last Sunday
- Spoke on the swearing in process of Fire Police in each County
- Working on the "Move Over" law

### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

President Dan Carrier:

- Thank you everyone for attending. Attended meetings up and down the state.
- Working On HB193 taking a lot of time.
- Need to start talking up the CFSI Dinner would like to see a good turn out
- Still working on a replacement for Warren taking longer than I had hoped. Warren agreed to stay on until replacement is on. Hopefully next month or two.
- Bill Tobin will be an Advisor from Sussex County to the mutual relief Association. Ron O'Neal is working on trying to find a replacement for Bill.
- Thank you to Warren and anyone else that helped with the surf tag problem. It should be all resolve now.
- Met with the Governor and meeting went well Warren will update more in his report.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ken Ryder:

This report is a review of my thoughts about situations and issues as I continue putting together a few notes for our February Officers meeting. After 3 months since our November 2021 at Hockessin we are ready to gather for our next officers meeting in Felton. This will be the officer's meeting before we have our next Executive Meeting on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at DSFS to welcome in daylight savings time.

COVID Perspective: Here we are 3 months later in the DVFA year and the future is beginning to get a little "brighter" than it had been in November. December & January had seen us somewhat apprehensive again due to the Omicron variant. It seems to be hitting harder again at those who have chosen to be "anti-vaxers" for one reason or another particularly hard on seniors over 75. The numbers say about 70% of the deaths and hospitalizations are from the non-vaccinated. This has been a problem here in Delaware and across the nation. There are a quite a few who have been vaccinated with boosters that have become infected surprisingly more than you might think.

When we left DSFS after the December meeting I believe I saw a glimmer of light that HB#193 might have hope of being salvaged. There was a consensus committee among many of those opposed that was formed to work on an amended bill going forward.

Recruitment & Retention: We have the proposal from the report for a 1K tax credit that is being proposed as part of the Governor's budget for 2022. However we must continue to seek out and identify thoughts, suggestions and ideas that may help reverse the societal changes to our system of volunteerism.

Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and COVID...won! It prevented any gatherings or celebrations to date to mark this special year for our Association. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary parade to be held in Dover has been pushed

back until possibly July of 2022 due to possible conflicts with other planned events. It looks like safety first from COVID has prevailed through calendar 2021 & 2022 going forward.

HB#193 and Regulation 709 Committee continue to work with achieving a workable bill and document that will be acceptable to all parties. At this point we might have a draft document for our Executive Meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>. I refer to this situation" as the elephant in the room". We can't seem to get around it or by it to work on other issues. It certainly has created discussion and consumed a lot of time over these last 6 months. Granted I can't argue its importance and need to resolve and solve. However at the same time it slows us down from identifying and dealing with other issues needing attention.

As we all know Warren is due to step down at the end of March. At this point we have hardly gotten beyond some basic discussions on how to move forward with obtaining someone else to bring on board. The committee has determined, due to our status, we can't bring or shouldn't bring a lobbying firm on board. So we will split the job into 2 functions. Warren will stay on in an administrative status with another person (TBD) to do the Legislative legwork. The (TBD) person is the next task that we have to complete ASAP.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ron O'Neal:

DFVA Foundation – The application for the 2022 State Employee's Charitable Campaign (SECC) was submitted for review on February 13, 2022. The Foundation has been fortunate enough to have been chosen to participate in this campaign in the past and hopefully will be selected again this year. The Mid-Del Foundation grant application process should begin June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, with a deadline of August 31. Deadline for this year's scholarship submissions is March 31, 2022. I reached out to Kim O'Malley at the Fire School to see if she's received any applications to date, but she is out of the office this week.

At the Sussex County Volunteer Firefighter's monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 22 in Selbyville, Wilmington Manor Fire Company Director Mike Shaw discussed the Rescue Billing issue and asked for the support of the SCVFA in pursuing the development of this program. The motion was passed by the floor to support moving forward with this program. The next step will be the development of the billing schedule to assure all companies within the State are charging the same amount for items utilized. I will be working with Mike and taking back information and progress reports to the SCVFA as required.

I was very pleased to hear the discussion go so well with Gov. Carney regarding the current process of all Grant in Aid funding, mentioned during the zoom meeting on February 8, 2022. The suggestion was to not only increase those funds by 10%, but to form a Task Force to review and propose updates to the Grant in Aid funding.

I've been fortunate enough to sit in on a couple of the committee meetings where modifications to Regulation 709 were discussed. A great deal of time and effort has been put into this document. My concern is still HB193 and whether or not this piece of legislation will be addressed during this Legislative session. It is my understanding that if this Bill is not acted upon by the end of June, it will automatically die.

Treasurer Terry Whitham: **(copied and pasted from written report)**

1. Expenses since July 1<sup>st</sup> to date have totaled \$ 99,454.66. We had to do some slight adjustments to the budget. This is in part to a \$ 3,000.00 short fall in revenue (Georgetown failure to pay annual dues) and an additional FDIC Conference within this budget cycle. I have a copy of the Budget vs. Actual if anyone would like to see it.
2. Our IRS form 990 (Non-Profit) has been submitted. And the State of Delaware franchise taxes have been paid and up to date.

3. Tomorrow we will be wiring \$ 2,024,299.97 for the 2021 pension year. Between Warren and I we have lost count on the number of trips to the Post Office to keep up with the check deposits.
4. As of January 31st the Crawford Financial account portfolio is \$ 259,784.70. I'm sure with the recent events with Russia, it's going to have an impact on the markets.
5. We have been hit with three (3) outstanding invoices from Forever Media to the tune of \$ 10,000.00. We need to discuss as I understand this has been in dispute for some time.
6. I will be in Nashville for the March 13<sup>th</sup> Executive meeting. I will have the reports completed the prior Monday for distribution and hopefully Ray can stand in for me.

Jay Jones discussed #5 in the Treasurers report regarding the Forever Media issue. Jay went into great detail as to why the bill had not been paid and why the contract had not been fulfilled. After some discussion, ***a motion was made by Tom DiCristofaro and second by Terry Jester to turn this over to our attorney.*** **Motion carried**

Assistant Treasurer Ray Stevens:

1. CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCES
 

Conference Checking Account:	\$10,701.57
Conference M/Mkt. Account:	\$75,802.38
2. CONFERENCE FINAL FIGURES:
 

Revenues (Budgeted)	\$176,895
Revenues (Actual)	\$187,738 = Over by \$10,843
Expenses (Budgeted)	\$176,895
Expenses (Actual)	\$149,544 = Under by \$27,351
3. ALL BILLS submitted to the DVFA FOR CONF. 2021 HAVE BEEN PAID
4. Bills paid for 2022 Conference to date:
 

New Conference app	\$3,819.00
Office Supplies	\$ 22.69 = \$3,841.69
5. As soon as Elmer completes his meetings with Chase on the Riverfront and Westin Hotel, both he and I will begin the Budget Process for Conference 2022

Secretary Elmer Steele:

- Working on contracts with the Westin, Homewood Suites and the Chase Center
- Several new staff members at each venue again this year
- Room reservations will open up on March 1<sup>st</sup> at both hotels
- ALL cost for food and beverage will go up this year, as well as the service charge (gratuity)
- Discussion took place on the numbers and attendance of several events
- ***Motion by Tom DiCristofaro and second by Terry Jester to eliminate the EMS banquet for 2022***  
**Motion carried**

Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission Ron Marvel:

- Discussed fines on Fire Co's for late audits. Money currently goes to the State
- Approved a check list for sub-stations. Never had one before
- Approved Millsboro sub-station temporarily until their generator comes in
- Requested \$52,000 for the State Chief's at Joint Finance meeting. (cardio, training, speakers)
- Hiring process for a new Fire School Director is moving along
- Appointed Craig Stevens as temporary Director

DVFA Foundation Lynn Rogers:

- Ron pretty much covered the foundation report
- Mutual Relief Chairman Steve White:
- Next meeting is March 22 at Sta. 49.
- Will address issues and concerns at the meeting
- Still need member information from companies in order to get a better handle on billin

Director Reports:

Kent County Director Jim Woznicki:

- Nothing at this time

Kent County Director Gerald Manley:

- Kent County Appreciation night is this Saturday here at Sta. 48
- Trying to secure funding for smoke detectors
- Working with the State committee on rescue billing
- Next meeting is March 16 at Sta. 54

New Castle County Director Tom DiCristofaro:

- Reviewing HB193 and Regulation 709. Looking to add the 4 tier appeal process
- Discussed alternative funding in New Castle
- Ron O'Neal discussed talk of a tax fee in Sussex County

Sussex County Director Terry Jester:

- Sussex County voted to support the State committee dealing with rescue billing
- Discussed the Eastern Division I-Chief's Convention in Rehoboth on May 14-15
- Lots of great speakers for this event

Sussex 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dave Ruff:

- Nothing else, everything has already been discussed

Executive Manager Warren Jones:

- Jeff Brown, Sta. 41 has been hired as the new R&R Coordinator. Not doing AmeriCorp this year
- Surf Fishing permits; Sent in 789 names plus another 26 that were on the "forgotten" list
- CFSI: Information is on the web site. Cut-off for hotel rooms is March 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Legislative Hall: No visitors allowed in the building. That may change next month (working on bills)
- SS1/SB1: Family leave bill. Discussed this in detail
- Grant in Aid: Discussed the possibility of a total review of how this is handled. After much discussion, ***a motion was made by Tom DiCristofaro and second by Jay Jones to request double funding for Grant in Aid and add a barometer on allocation of the additional funding, if granted.***  
**Motion carried**
- Safer Grant: Applied for \$1,25 million over a 4-year period. Gave a break-down on the funds
- Apparatus inventory: All inventories are in for this year
- DVFA Computers: Discussed the old/outdated computers in the Office. ***Motion by Tom DiCristofaro and second by Jay Jones to allow up to \$10,000.00 for computer upgrades, to include 2 new desk top computers and 2 new lap top computers.*** **Motion carried**
- ***Motion by Terry Jester and second by Gerald Manley to pay for Past President Jay Jones ticket for the CFSI dinner.*** **Motion carried**
- Deb Lawhead addressed the group on Workman's Comp issues and concerns. She asked to be placed on the agenda at the March Executive meeting to address Workman's Comp.

- Discussion on the social event held before the CFSI dinner. Lots of comments reference to the cost, the budget and the actual location. ***A motion was made by Gerald Manley and second by Terry Jester to support the social reception at CFSI and not to exceed the budgeted amount of \$6,000.00***  
**Motion carried**

There being no other business to come before the group, President Carrier adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

***Elmer B. Steele***

Elmer B. Steele, Secretary  
Delaware Vol. Firefighter's Assoc.

Attest to: Warren Jones, Executive Manager  
Dan Carrier, DVFA President