



**DVFA Officers Meeting
Thursday, May 26, 2022
18:30 hours – Sta. 83, Millsboro**

DVFA ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

President Dan Carrier
1st Vice President Ken Ryder
2nd 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
Sussex Director Russell Hooper
Past President/Director Jay Jones

LADVFA OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

Past President Saralee Stevens

ASSOCIATIONS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Fire Commission Chairman Ron Marvel

Foundation Chairman Lynn Rogers

- President Carrier called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM
- Invocation by Jay Jones -- Pledge to the flag by Warren Jones
- Broke for dinner
- Called the meeting back to order, thanked the Millsboro ladies and men for a fine meal

ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

LADVFA President Pam Ingle:

- Greetings from the State Ladies Association
- Attended CFSI
- Changing by-laws to have only 1 executive meeting per year
- 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents are also in attendance, along with Past President Saralee Stevens

State Fire Chief's, State Fire Police, State EMS

- No representation from either group

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Dan Carrier: (copied and pasted from e-mail)

Thank you everyone for attending

Thank you to Warren for all you have been doing .

I have been attending meetings up and down the state

Thank you to everyone who attended CFSI again this year Delaware had 10% of the attendance.

Congratulations to Sussex County Medics for there 3 rd places finish in the national GEMS games.

We are going to have a cocktail social for Senator Ennis to Honor him as he retires from the states Senate .

Attended FDIC there were some good classes on recruiting

1st Vice President Ken Ryder: (copied and pasted from e-mail)

This report is a review of my thoughts about situations, developments and issues for our May Officers meeting as we continue to move through this year. So it's been 3 months since our February 22nd meeting at Felton we are ready to gather for our next officers get together in Millsboro. This will be the officer's meeting before we have our next Executive Meeting on Sunday, June 12th at DSFS as we continue to welcome in the summer heat and longer days!

COVID Perspective: Here we are 3 months later in the DVFA year and the future was beginning to look a little "brighter" but all of a sudden infection rates are once again seriously increasing. A mask "option" was just announced and is "suggested" for indoor events. What else might be coming is anybody's guess at this point. All of a sudden...we again are faced with the return of another variant. We were anticipating that the warmer weather and summer months ahead were the continuing of our return to normalcy. The vast majority of us and the general population are masked out at this point. Most everyone is ready for the summer, time to enjoy ourselves and life in general. Unfortunately proceeding cautiously will continue to be a fact of our lives.

Recruitment & Retention: Warren has met with the Secretary of Education to continue his pursuit of getting a career path for volunteer services into our school system here in Delaware. This is long overdue as a means to give our young people an educational path to pursue into our lines of work. Another success is at hand with the passage of SB #189 for the increase in tax credit to 1K. 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 100th Anniversary parade is scheduled to be held in Dover on July 9th of 2022. It is now on the calendar to happen and hopefully this time we will get the job done.

HB#193 and Regulation 709 Committee continue to work with achieving a workable bill and document that will be acceptable to all parties. When we left the meeting with the Commissioners at DSFS on April 11th I'd like to believe I saw glimmer of hope that HB#193/Reg. 709 revisions might be reviewed or accepted as a possible path forward. The Commissioners agreed to have the Reg. 709 suggested amendments reviewed by their legal counsel. In the meantime HB#193 w/amendments has passed the House & is now over in the Senate.

As we all know Warren is due to step down at the end of June of this year. At this point we have hardly gotten beyond 2 basic advertising tries in search of someone else to bring on board. So far we have netted 1 resume/applicant which was why we re-advertised (2nd posting) the position. The committee has determined, due to our status, we can't bring or shouldn't bring a lobbying firm on board. So the Employment Committee determined we would split the job into 2 functions. Warren indicated he would be willing to stay on in an administrative status for possibly 2 years with another person (TBD) to do the Legislative legwork. The (TBD) person is the mystery that we haven't been able to solve yet.

One more thing to squeeze in here is Scholarships. We are going to have to review the screened submissions to come up with our recipients before much longer. Time is and has been flying by!

2nd Vice President Ron O’Neal: (copied and pasted from e-mail)

DFVA Foundation – The application for the 2022 State Employee’s Charitable Campaign (SECC) was submitted for review and approved on May 11, 2022. The Foundation has been fortunate enough to have been chosen to participate in this campaign since 2016 and to date has benefited the Scholarship program with \$7,731.00.

The Mid-Del Foundation grant application process will open June 1st of this year, with a deadline of August 31, this year’s application is in process.

Deadline for this year’s DVFA scholarship submissions was March 31, 2022, and as of the deadline 24 scholarship applications had been received at the fire school. Unfortunately, a preliminary review showed 8 applications had issues serious enough to deny funding, all dealing with copies of course curriculum and official transcripts. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting to review the remaining applications to assure all meet the specified requirements.

A suggestion has been made to attach an example of a fully completed application that can be used as a guideline for next year’s applicants in order to hopefully avoid errors being seen.

The Sussex County Council has released their proposed 2023 budget that will go into effect on July 1, 2022. The new budget includes an additional \$800,000, bringing the total to \$2.8M, for fire companies with ambulance service to cover salaries for paid EMT’s. The additional funding was requested by the SCVFA Resources Committee which proposed \$36,400 per company to assist with EMT wages.

I would like to apologize to visitors from New Castle and Kent Counties who were in attendance at the SCVFA May meeting in Frankford earlier this week. A number of members of that Association, who are obviously very passionate regarding HB193, were extremely vocal regarding that Bill’s movement through the House. Discussions regarding this situation with the legislation are necessary but should not be allowed to get to the point where it attacks individuals with finger pointing or name calling. Our discussions should focus on moving forward and the next step in the process.

I understand that HB413, that addresses Rescue Billing, was discussed during the latest Legislative session, but was held up for some reason. Is there a problem with the bill and what would be the next step in it moving forward?

Where do we stand with the possible modifications to the Grant in Aid Bill?

How do we move forward with the Executive Manager/Administrative Assistant positions?

Secretary Elmer Steele: (copied and pasted from e-mail)

- Spending a lot of time on issues at the Chase Center, regarding menus and prices
- Food prices have taken a big jump and will affect our cost this year
- Continuing to work on BEO’s
- Room block at the Westin is sold out
- Still have 10 rooms in the Homewood Suite block

- Attended the Eastern Division I-Chief's Conference in Rehoboth on May 13 and 14. Nice event with great speakers. Lots of networking time with people from all over the US and Canada. Most everyone's concern is staffing and funding

Treasurer Terry Whitham: (copied from written report)

1. Expenses since July 1st to date have totaled \$157,329.50. CFSI Officer expenses were \$1,700.00 over budget. FDIC was over double budget, but we knew that due to two (2) conferences within the same budget year. Georgetown has paid their dues. I have a copy of the Budget vs Actual if anyone would like to see it.
2. Out intuit payroll expenses have increased a little. I'm still not happy with the way Bumpers and Company are inputting the salary for the Executive Manager. They are recording it on entirely different lines. I have spoken to them on two separate occasions about this.
3. As of the end of April, the Crawford Financial account portfolio is \$249,852.56. That is a decrease of \$7,811.52 from March.
4. The F&B Committee met on May 11th to work on the FY22-23 budget. The committee worked figures for presentation at the June Executive meeting by Chairman Burris.

Assistant Treasurer Ray Stevens: (copied from written report)

1. CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCES

Conference Checking Account:	\$ 3,800.32
Conference M/Mkt. Account:	\$65,807.92

2. Bills paid for 2022 Conference to date:

New Conference App	\$ 3,819.00
Office Supplies	22.69
The Chase Center on Riverfront	22,000.00
Ink & Thread	<u>653.25</u>
TOTAL	\$26,494.94

3. Conference income to date:

LADVFA Partners-in-Progress	\$ 3,152.00
Memorial Service	<u>2,600.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 5,752.00

4. Chase on the Riverfront has provided Elmer with the figures he needs to calculate the meal costs. The comparison of 2021 vs 2022 meal cost is on page 2 for everyone's review. Both Elmer and I are waiting on the Audio/Visual contractor to give us his numbers to plug in the 2022 budget also. The actual budget for Conference 2022 is starting to take shape but still needs additional figures.

Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission Ron Marvel:

- Tucker Dempsey has been appointed as the new Fire School Director
- Fire Prevention matching funds are out

DVFA Foundation Lynn Rogers:

- Held their last meeting on May 11th
- Trying to do some fund raisers

- Need to up-date the DVFA web page with the current members of the Foundation
- Question was raised regarding terms of office. 4-year term and normally roll over
- Passed out informational pamphlets

Director Reports:

Past President/Director Jay Jones:

- Any up-dates on the pension plan
- Discussed the application process for scholarships
- Discussed equalization/leveling up funds in the grant in aid bill

Sussex Director Russell Hooper:

- Discussed increase in funding from Sussex County Council
- Looking at a “door” tax for Sussex County
- Sussex County paramedics placed 3rd in the JEMS competition

Kent County Director Jim Woznicki:

- Kent County held their annual Memorial Service at Sta. 55 last week
- Thanked everyone that participated in the barge fire on Delaware Bay

New Castle County Director Tom DiCristofaro:

- Discussed Federal Grants that are available. Most folks don’t know about these.
- Looking to host the Officers meeting in the Dover area. Central location, less travel time

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

Surf Fishing: I have been appointed by the Secretary of DNREC to the Surf Fishing Workshop to come up with recommendations to correct the problem that occurred this year.

Conference Forms: All forms that I have are on the website

Grant in Aid: Reported on the current status of Grant in Aid for this year

Rescue Billing: Reported on the HB413 and its current status as been held by the sponsor.

Website Documents: The document section of the website has been updated and I am working on moving all the older documents over to the new section.

New Business:

- Pictures for the Conference book will be taken at the June 12th Executive meeting
- General discussion on the cost of the Conference

There being no other business to come before the group, President Carrier adjourned the meeting at 8:50 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