



Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association Ladies Auxiliary

Conference 2024
Rehoboth Beach Convention Center
Tuesday, September 17, 2024

JOINT OPENING CEREMONIES

8:30 AM Welcome to the DVFA and LADVFA 2024 Conference by M/C Warren Jones

- Introduction of the Past President's and President Emeritus of our organizations
- Introduction of the current Presidents of our organizations

LADVFA President Stacy Northam-Smith
DVFA President Ron O'Neal

LADVFA 1st Vice President Mickey Decino
DVFA 1st Vice President Tom DiCristofaro

LADVFA 2nd Vice President Shirley Pennington
DVFA 2nd Vice President Gerald Manley, Jr.

- Presentation of the Colors by Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company Honor Guard
- Invocation by DVFA Chaplain Bob Hudson
- Singing of our National Anthem by Kathleen Taylor of the Rehoboth Beach Fire Police
- Pledge to the flag led by DVFA President O'Neal and LADVFA President Smith
- LADVFA President Stacy Northam-Smith gave her welcoming remarks and introduced her Officers
- DVFA President Ron O'Neal gave his welcoming remarks and introduced his Officers
- We have 76, 50-year members from the DVFA and a number of other presentations, so we are asking that only the 50-year member come forward to receive their certificate. After the ceremony, there are 2 places set-up for pictures with the family and fire companies.
- Rehoboth Beach Mayor Stan Mills gave welcoming remarks
- Introduction of other guests:
 - President of the State Fire Chief's Association Andy Jones

- President of the State Fire Police Association Bill Delle Donne
- Chairman of the State Fire Prevention Commission Ron Marvel
- Director of the Delaware State Fire School Tucker Dempsey
- Delaware State Fire Marshal John Rudd
- Mutual Relief Chairman Dan Burris
- Introduction of the Conference Committee:
 - DVFA Chairman Jay Jones
 - LADVFA Co-Chair Regina Marvel
 - DVFA Co-Chair's Mark Harris, Joe Zeroles and Eric Haley
 - LADVFA Co-Chair's Ann Marie Krystopolski & Kim O'Malley
 - Conference Secretary Carol Walton
 - Conference Treasurer Ray Stevens
 - Conference Facility Managers Elmer Steele and Warren Jones

Over the next few days, you will undoubtedly come in contact with many friends and associates in the fire service and most notably our sponsors and exhibitors. Please take a moment to visit their booths.

Introduce Greg Miraglia and Jeff Buckworth of the PNC Bank, so they could make their Partners in Progress contribution. The check was in the amount of \$5,000.00

Introduction of Bobbi Albright who will announce the 50-year LADVFA members:

Sussex County;

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------|
| Joan Tribbitt | Frankford | Leolga Wright | Indian River | Shirley Scott | Laurel |
| Donna Stevenson | Milton | Jeany Argo | Milton | Eleanor Lewis | Roxana |
| Elaine Vincent | Seaford | | | | |

New Castle County;

Patricia Steen-Carnevale Mill Creek

Kent County;

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| *Brenda Gosch | Bowers | Linda Hudson | Bowers | Beverly Shahan | Bowers |
| Beverly E. Beebe | Frederica | Hope Minner | Harrington | Lynn Outten | Harrington |
| Rose Ann Ballek | Hartly | | | | |

Introduction of Saralee Stevens for the Ladies Auxiliary Hall of Recognition presentations:

| | | |
|---------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023-24 | Sussex County | Leolga Wright from the Indian River Ladies Auxiliary |
| | New Castle County | Lois Oneschuk from the Good Will Ladies Auxiliary |
| | Kent County | Edna Rust Turner from the Carlisle Ladies Auxiliary |
| | 2023 Past President | Deb Lawhead from the Magnolia Ladies Auxiliary |

Introduction of Fire School Director Tucker Dempsey, who will announce the 50-year DVFA members:
(listed by County)

Sussex County;

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| David Ruff | Blades | Ellison Bunting | Dagsboro | Lyndley Hudson | Dagsboro |
| Vincent Hitchens | Frankford | Gary E. Holloway | Laurel | Randall W. Lee | Laurel |
| Gary Flood | Laurel | George R. Rogers | Millsboro | Chuck Snyder | Rehoboth Beach |

New Castle County;

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| David Townley | Aetna | Stan Downward | Aetna | Jerry Daniels | Aetna |
| Frank Richardson | Aetna | Stan Granger | Aetna | Jay Reynolds | Aetna |
| William Anderson | Aetna | Dana Townley | Aetna | Rand Townley | Aetna |
| John H. Farrell IV | Aetna | Arlie Grubb | Aetna | Steve Austin | Aetna |
| Thomas Willette, Jr. | Brandywine | Randy Quinn | Brandywine | Gordon Day | Brandywine |
| Donald Clemens, Sr. | Brandywine | Steven Russo, Sr. | Brandywine | Alan Brown | Brandywine |
| Thomas Connely | Christiana | James Coxe | Christiana | Thomas DiCristofaro | Claymont |
| Raymond C. Snyder | Good Will | William Emory | Good Will | Bruce Poole | Hockessin |
| Wayne J. Ferrante | Hockessin | Thomas M. Gott, Jr. | Holloway Ter. | Joseph A. Cochran | Holloway Ter. |
| John W. Cochran | Holloway Ter. | Michael Beatson | Holloway Ter. | Frederick Eyesaltd | Mill Creek |
| Robert Gilligan | Mill Creek | Henry Kuratle | Mill Creek | Frank Santak III | Mill Creek |
| Dean Simpson | Mill Creek | Francis Terranova | Mill Creek | Curtis M. Clifton | Minquas |
| James Watson | Wilm. Manor | Michael Ingram | Wilm. Manor | Michael Donahue | Wilm. Manor |

Kent County;

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| John McKenzie | Carlisle | Glenn Gillespie | Carlisle | David Mich | Carlisle |
| Alan F. Robinson, Jr. | Citizens Hose | David Leggnar | Citizens Hose | David Blatt | Citizens Hose |
| Gary Alderson | Dover | Harry Pusey | Dover | Doug Thompson | Dover |
| Kenneth Neil | Dover | Ray Dean | Farmington | David C. Adams | Harrington |
| Alan D. Huffman | Harrington | David T. Johnson | Harrington | Dr. David A. Simpson | Harrington |
| J. Robert Wyatt | Harrington | Robert Quillen | Hartly | Robert Lightcap | Hartly |
| Charles Stebner | Hartly | John Tigner, Jr. | Hartly | John Kohout | Hartly |
| Joseph Leslie | Hartly | Bruce Stover | Hartly | Dale Virdin | Hartly |
| Bruce Neidig | Hartly | Terry Thompson | Hartly | William Wilson III | Hartly |
| Carrol Jester | Houston | | | | |

M/C announced the Hall of Fame inductees:

- DVFA Past President (2023) Ken Ryder, Jr., Felton Fire Co.
- Heroic Firefighter of the Year (2023) Lindsey Adams, Magnolia Fire Co.
Josh Norris, Magnolia Fire Co.
- Fire Policeman of the Year (2023) Thomas Conley, Townsend Fire Co.
- Firemen of the Year (2023) NONE

“Leadership Award” – Letter’s of nomination for this year’s Youth Leadership Award were read and presented by the actual nomination letter writer:

- Sussex County Ava McCarron Bridgeville Fire Co.
Read and presented by Chief Richard Blake
- New Castle County Nicholas Cripps Claymont Fire Co.
Read and presented by Chief Mark Harris
- Kent County Reed Bundek Little Creek Fire Co.
Read and presented by Director Jim Woznicki

M/C Warren Jones announced this year's Non-Heroic Firefighter of the Year:

Letter was read and Theodore H. Walius, Sta. 75, Ellendale was named the 2024 recipient of the DVFA Firefighter of the Year award.

M/C stated that we would like to thank the Rehoboth Beach Fire Co. for the honor guard this morning. Please stop by and visit our vendors

We would like to thank those that helped with the opening ceremonies this morning.

Carol Walton, Kathleen Taylor, Jay Jones, Regina Marvel and Randy Roberts

Now for the Movie Presentation: Good Will Fire Chief David Majewski, Jr. will introduce the video

Called on LADVFA Chaplain Dixie Northam for the benediction. (9:40 AM)

2024 DVFA CONFERENCE

Executive Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

2:00 PM at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center

Call the business session to order by President Ron O'Neal

Invocation offered by DVFA Chaplain Pastor Bob Hudson

Pledge to the flag led by DVFA Past President Steve Austin

LADVFA President Stacy Northam-Smith, LADVFA 1st Vice President Mickey Decino and LADVFA 2nd Vice President Shirley Pennington brought greetings and gave the ladies financial report for the year;

There are a total of 2,227 Auxiliary members from all 3 Counties

The Auxiliaries donated \$867,847.28 to their various fire companies

Recognized Bowers Fire Co. for the donation from a bingo that was to help support the LADVFA

Introduced President of the Board of Directors from the Delaware Burn Camp Joanne Hutchinson who gave a brief report of what the Burn Camp is, how it was set-up, what it is doing and how they operate.

Conference appointments by President O'Neal:

- Credentials: Joe Thompson, 80, Eric Haley, Sta. 13, Ken Frazier, Sta. 54
- Sergeant at Arms: Steve White, Sta. 49; Derrick Brode, Sta. 50; Ken Madara, Sta. 88; Norman Jones, Sr. Sta. 75
- Committee to visit the ladies: Richard Ward, Sta. 83, Tom DiCristofaro, Sta. 13, Joe Zeroles, Sta. 47 Will visit on Wednesday at 12:15 pm
- Parliamentarians: Guy Hudson, Sta. 90, Richard T. Perillo, Sta. 11, Jim Woznicki, Sta. 53

CONFERENCE GROUND RULES AND CONDUCT

No hats, all cell phones and pagers are to be turned off or placed in the silent mode. In order to speak, rise to be recognized by the Chair, state your name and the fire company that you are representing. Everyone should have a paddle (green and red) for voting today. Make sure you got a paddle when you registered.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter from Dover Fire Dept., Harrington Fire Co. Felton Fire Co. and Claymont Fire Co. listing delegate/alternate changes
- Letter from Rehoboth Beach Fire Co. explaining an incident that happened at the CFSI dinner in Washington, DC and the actions taken by the Fire Co.

REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

President Ron O’Neal: (copied and pasted from written report)

I want to thank everyone for attending today’s meeting and I hope all are having a good Conference so far.

Earlier this month we finally received some good news out of the office of Representative Baumbach regarding the Medicaid reimbursement program, that the Delaware Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance had successfully reached an agreement with AmeriHealth Caritas and with Highmark Health Options to have ambulance runs covered at close to \$300 a run versus the prior run level that was closer to \$100, and to have the change retroactive to January 1, 2024. So you should have already been seeing this increase in your ambulance billing. Delaware First Health was already reimbursing at close to \$300 a run or greater level.

It appears that AmeriHealth Caritas and Highmark Health are paying more in the \$500 range, along with Delaware First Health who have already been paying more per run. This also means that all providers in Delaware are now paying the higher and adjusted rate.

After discussions with representatives from DNREC Division of Parks earlier this year, a new surf tag application process has been released as part of the 2025 tag/permitting season, beginning September 10, 2024. The new form, which will still need to be submitted on fire company letterhead, contains updated information such as your driver’s license and vehicle registration that will be required moving forward. Please make sure that all old forms are removed from your firehouse and are not distributed to your members since they will no longer be accepted. This new process will eliminate the need for our members to physically take a copy of the application to a park office, everything will be done thru the DVFA office and the tag/permit mailed to the applicant.

I have had email conversations with Kristin Scholl from New Castle Insurance and Chris Counihan from the Division of Paid Leave regarding the Paid Family Leave being mandated by the State. Again, this Paid Leave program goes into effect on Jan.1, 2026 for organizations who have 10 or more paid employees. If your organization decides to opt-out of the State’s program and have your insurance provided by a private carrier, you MUST submit paperwork to opt-out of the State’s program by December 1, 2024. Doing nothing will automatically enroll your organization in the State’s Paid Leave program. At this point, there have been 3 carriers approved by the State Insurance Commissioners’ Office to provide the Paid Leave coverage, with another 20 carriers who have submitted applications for review. I would suggest that your organization contact their current insurance carrier immediately to inquire about their own Paid Leave program in order to compare the pricing structure and make a determination on moving forward.

At the Opening Ceremonies earlier today, we honored a large number of members who have achieved their 50-year membership status, still an amazing feat. This year, we also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation by the United States Congress of the **Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974**, which lead to the formation of the **U.S. Fire Administration**, the **National Fire Academy**, the **National Fire Incident Reporting System** and the **Center for Fire Research**, all of which are still extremely active today.

This Act was made possible by the 1973 release of The Report of the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control titled **America Burning**, of which Mr. Lou Amabili was instrumental in helping create. When you think about it, we’ve come a long way in 50 years.

I congratulate Auxiliary President Stacy Northam-Smith, State Chief's President Andy Jones, State Fire Police President Bill DelleDonne on their successful years.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your hard work and support throughout this past year. It has truly been an honor to work with individuals who are passionate about serving the public, I've thoroughly enjoyed every minute and am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your President, for your dedication and for your friendship.

Thank you and best wishes to all the Officers as you continue your journey next year.

1st Vice President Tom DiCristofaro: (copied and pasted from written report)

- Reported on how President O'Neal, Executive Manager Jay Jones, Commission Chairman Ron Marvel, Sussex County President Joe Thompson and Myself were representing the Delaware Fire service in Georgetown the evening of the LODD death
- Talked about smoke detectors, talked about committee appointments
- Want to take a few minutes to thank and congratulate President Ron O'Neal for his outstanding leadership during the last seven years. Tom explained the seven year process, if you go through the proper procedures to move up to the Presidents position
- Thanked LADVFA President Stacy Northam-Smith for her service
- Thanked everyone for their commitment and service. Looking forward to working with everyone as we move forward

2nd Vice President Gerald Manley, Jr.: (copied and pasted from written report)

- Ron, thank you, for your leadership to the DVFA, it has been a great partnership working with you this year. I would also like to thank Stacy Northam-Smith for her leadership with the LADVFA this year and her partnership with the men. I would also like to thank all of the officers for a successful year. I also would like to echo Ron and Tom's kudos to Jay Jones on everything that he has done for the DVFA and the entire state fire service. Without his leadership & partnership down at Leg-hall we couldn't have received all the funding that we received this year without the help of Jay Jones. Thank you for everything that you do.
- I also would like to say that it takes everyone getting involved throughout the state and the fire companies to understand what the DVFA does for the state. A lot of times we still hear that question, what does DVFA do for me? We as a team have proved and made great strides in multiple different areas and with funding to get the fire service more. I also made sure going to the county meetings, that I relayed what the DVFA has done for the fire service throughout the state, so we don't continue to hear that question, what does DVFA do for me!
- I look forward to a successful conference and a successful new year with all of the new officers that will be installed at conference.

Secretary Elmer Steele: (copied from written report)

- Being number 4 on the report list doesn't leave much for me to say
- All the good stuff has already been said, anyway!!!
- Congratulations to President O'Neal on a great year
- Looking forward to working with the new Officers in the coming year
- Travel report; Attended 20 events, Traveled 1,440 miles, In-service 128 hours

Treasurer Terry Whitham: (copied from written report)

As of August 31st, we have the following balances:

Checking - \$218,723.68
Money Market - \$167,762.20
Brinker Financial Account - \$273,218.67

- Attached is a Budget vs Actual report for budget year FY23-24. Don't get alarmed at the deficit. \$50 thousand was for the smoke detectors and the balance is what FEMA still owes us for the grant reimbursement.
- The books are currently in the hands of Bumpers & Company for the financial review.
- Please remind your Treasurers or accountants that we are set-up for EFT payments. They just need to get the necessary information for bank routing and checking account numbers.
- We have hired an IT company out of Georgetown. They are contracted to manage our computer system along with a help desk for matters. Pablo will still be the system administrator.

Executive Manager Jay Jones: (copied and pasted from e-mail report)

I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Ron on his successful term and extend my best wishes to Tom as he embarks on his upcoming term. It has been a pleasure working with both of them.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasize the significance of voting and encourage everyone to actively participate in the electoral process. It is crucial that we conduct thorough research on the candidates, reflect on our values and principles, and cast our votes for those who are best suited to represent our interests, our families, and the fire service at all levels of government. We must learn from the setbacks we faced two years ago and ensure that we make informed decisions in selecting the most capable candidates.

With the conclusion of the Delaware primary, it has become evident that there will be a significant influx of new legislators in Dover, we are at a total of seven already, maybe more following the general election. This transition will bring about a new governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house, signaling substantial changes in the state's political landscape. In light of these developments, it is imperative that we undertake a comprehensive educational initiative to ensure that our newly elected officials possess a thorough understanding of the fire service in Delaware and the intricacies of its funding mechanisms. This endeavor will involve engaging in informative sessions between November and January 1st, during which we will elucidate the vital contributions made by the fire service and emphasize the significance of their role in safeguarding our communities.

Our meeting with federal election officials and their staff is scheduled for January.

During the luncheon, the governor will sign four bills into law: HB329 (move over update), HB411 (federal background checks), SB 202 (LODD increase), and SB 221 (Delaware flags for members who served more than 10 years at death).

Introduction of Out-of-State Guest by Steve Austin:

- No Out-of-State guest in attendance. Will be here on Thursday for Memorial and luncheon

DVFA Foundation: Chairman Lynn Rogers

- Scholarships have been prepared to be awarded
- Will be up-dating by-laws, mostly housekeeping items
- Congratulations to President O'Neal and his Officers on a great year

Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission: Chairman Ron Marvel

- Been a pleasure working with you, Mr. President and your Officers.
- Welcome as the newest Commissioner from the DVFA

Delaware State Fire Marshal: Fire Marshal John Rudd (copied and pasted from e-mail report)

1. 12 fire deaths statewide.
 - a. 9 did not have smoke alarms.
 - b. Request FDs to use their social media to push out smoke alarms, as fall and winter are approaching, traditionally our busiest time.
2. Our agency in partnership with the State Fire School staffed a table at the State Fair this year; over the course of the fair we distributed 210 smoke alarms.
3. Our agency will be attending multiple fire prevention events and open houses in September and October.
4. New staffing updates since our last meeting:
 - a. Walter Johnson started as a Fire Protection Specialist assigned to our Sussex Division on July 1, 2024.
 - b. L. Chatham Marsch started as a Deputy Fire Marshal assigned to our Kent Division on July 15, 2024.
 - c. Mariah Austin promoted to Office Manager of our Kent Division on July 15, 2024.
 - d. Deputy Fire Marshal III Henry "Hank" Alfree retired on June 30, 2024, after 25 years of service with our agency.
5. Unable to attend the Thursday morning Memorial Service due to previous meeting commitment.
6. Attending Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office 130th anniversary tomorrow in Pikesville, Maryland.
7. Thank you to the outgoing officers and best of luck to the incoming officers; our agency looks forward to continuing our partnership with you all and I hope you all have a great year in your new positions.

Delaware State Fire School: Director Tucker Dempsey (copied and pasted from e-mail report)

- Last EMT class had a 100% first time pass rate for the National Registry
- We are awaiting a design waiver from state facilities on the Dover burn building project
- The Firefighter 1 & 2 and the EMT classes are running in all three counties
- We have hired Jason McCabe from Dagsboro to replace Mike Lowe after he retired

National Volunteer Fire Council: Jay Jones (copied and pasted from e-mail report)

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) provides valuable support to our organization. They offered significant cost savings by sending a speaker to address two critical topics at our conference without any financial burden to us. The speaker shared expertise in leadership within the fire service and cancer prevention. Membership in the NVFC offers numerous benefits for a modest annual fee of \$21.00. I strongly encourage everyone to join, and I am available to assist anyone who needs help with the process.

We have dedicated considerable effort to the reauthorization of the SAFER, AFG, and USFA grants, and we are pleased to report success in this endeavor. Additionally, we have been actively involved in the OSHA task force, meeting weekly for several months. While we are beginning to observe positive developments, it is crucial that we maintain our momentum. We must intensify our efforts to influence the proposed standard, with the aim of exempting volunteer departments or, at the very least, modifying it to ensure feasibility. I will be attending the NVFC conference later this week to continue working on these important matters.

Delaware State Fire Chief's Association: President Andy Jones gave his remarks

- Been an honor working with you this past year
- Our meeting will be here tomorrow night from 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Delaware State Fire Police Association: Bill Delledonne

- Absent

Mutual Relief Association: Chairman Dan Burris

- Mutual Relief meeting was earlier today
- Voted to accept the slight increase in the VFIS premium
- Bills were passed out at the meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Credentials Committee: Joe Thompson gave the following report;

- Sussex County 18 of 21 Companies have registered
 - New Castle County 18 of 21 Companies have registered
 - Kent County 16 of 18 Companies have registered
- Total of 52 Companies registered

Life Safety Committee: Guy Hudson

- Reported that all packets for fire prevention are out
- Please get them to the schools

Conference Committee: Jay Jones stated that if you have any concerns see any Conference committee member

Any other committees need to make a report?? NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE after 3 calls

NEW BUSINESS

- Question again regarding information coming out from the DVFA office. Not seeing much regarding the FMLA
- Not getting good information regarding things that are happening at Legislative Hall
- President stated that reports are given at each County meeting
- Best option for FMLA coverage based on number of employees and/or number of hours worked
- Can the fire service be exempted from this program?? Will address this question with the new Governor

President O'Neal stated that the following Officers have been nominated;

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025

President: Tom DiCristofaro, Claymont

1st Vice President: Gerald Manley, Jr., Citizen's Hose

2nd Vice President: James Arrington, Bridgeville

Secretary: Elmer B. Steele, Laurel

Treasurer: Terry Whitham, Dover

Sussex County 3 Year Director: Guy Hudson, Roxana

President O'Neal requested a motion to have Secretary Steele cast a favorable ballot for all uncontested offices except for the position of Secretary. (*Motion by Dick Ward and second by Andy Hall*) **Secretary Steele casted a favorable vote for all uncontested offices except for the Secretary position.**

President O'Neal requested a motion to have Treasurer Whitham cast a favorable ballot for the office of Secretary. (Motion by Andy Hall and second by Guy Hudson) **Treasurer Whitham casted a favorable vote for the Secretary position.**

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Treasurer Whitham stated that there is a total of \$123,410.89 in bills to be paid.

**Expenses by Vendor Summary
June 2024 through August 2024**

| VENDOR | EXPENSE |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| AT&T Mobility | 152.36 |
| Bumpers & Company | 300.00 |
| Canon | 581.61 |
| Comcast | 272.47 |
| Dover Army-Navy Store | 763.60 |
| DVFA Conference | 30,675.00 |
| DVFA Foundation | 26,000.00 |
| First Arriving, LLC | 31,145.67 |
| First Due Care | 1,000.00 |
| M&T Bank | 13,101.52 |
| Magnolia Fire Co. | 10,500.00 |
| McGinnis Partners | 1,800.00 |
| MSFA | 6,245.20 |
| No Nonsense Office Machines, LLC | 450.00 |
| Pivot Occupational Health | 202.00 |
| Steve Austin | 129.46 |
| Willard Betts | 92.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 123,410.89 |

Motion by Russell Hooper and second by Jim Watson to pay the bills as presented.

Motion carried

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

- Question from the floor regarding available funds that may still be in the grant program. Warren Jones stated that we still have 2-years left on the grant and that there are funds available
- Carroll Jester thanked the Fire Commission for their help in a boundary dispute
- It was announced that DVFA Pastor Bob Hudson will be bestowed the honor of Pastor Emeritus and the Rev. Charlie Arnold would fill the position as DVFA Chaplain.

There being no further business to claim the attention of the members, President O’Neal recessed until 08:30 AM on Thursday for the Memorial program.

Benediction by Pastor Bob Hudson

Adjourned at 3:05 PM

**29th Annual Conference
DELAWARE VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL SERVICE**



**Thursday, September 19, 2024
8:30 a.m.**

**Rehoboth Beach Convention Center
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware**

**IN MEMORY OF OUR
FIREFIGHTERS
AND
LADIES AUXILIARY MEMBERS**

OPENING REMARKS

Grover Ingle, *Master of Ceremonies*

Posting Of Colors, SCEMS

INVOCATION

Pastor Robert Hudson, *Chaplain*, DVFA

SOLOIST ARRANGEMENT

Kevin Short
How Great Thou Art, by Carl Boberg

READINGS BY THE CHAPLAINS

Dixie Northam, *Chaplain*, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA
Pastor Robert Hudson, *Chaplain*, DVFA

UNVEILING OF THE CROSSES

Ron O'Neal, *President, President, DVFA*

Pastor Robert Hudson, *Chaplain, DVFA*

Stacy Northam-Smith, *President, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA*

Dixie Northam, *Chaplain, Ladies Auxiliary, DVFA*

Andy Jones, *President, State Fire Chiefs Association*

Charlie Arnold, *Chaplain, State Fire Chief's Association*

Bill Delledonne *President, State Fire Police Association*

Wayne Bowden, *Chaplain, State Fire Police Association*

SOLOIST ARRANGEMENT

Kevin Short

Precious Memories by J.B.F. Wright

READINGS BY THE LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS

Stacy Northam-Smith, *President, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA*

Sharon Taylor, *President, Auxiliary of the Sussex County Volunteer Firefighter's Association*

Nancy Migliavacca, *President, Ladies Auxiliary New Castle County Volunteer Firefighter's Association*

Tara Wilbur, *President, Kent County Volunteer Firefighter's Auxiliary Association*

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEMORIAL PRESENTATION

Dana Dugan, *Secretary, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA*

Elmer Steele, *Secretary, DVFA*

THE MEMORIAL PANORAMA

Edited and Produced by: **Delaware State Fire School**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

TAPS

MUSICAL SELECTION

Delaware Celtic Society Pipe Band

BENEDICTION

Dixie Northam, *Chaplain, Ladies Auxiliary DVFA*

RECESSIONAL

As a note to the Memorial Service; There was one (1) DVFA Past President (Emanuel J. Harkins)
There was one (1) LODD death (Thomas Berry, III)



DVFA Educational/Political Luncheon

12:00 in the Hyatt Dewey Ballroom

Call to Order and opening comments by M/C Ron O'Neal

I welcome each and every one of you, firefighter's and guest alike and thank you for your untiring support.

Invocation by Pastor Bob Hudson

Pledge to our Flag by President Ron O'Neal

Visitation from the Ladies Auxiliary by Past President Carol Walton and President Stacy Northam-Smith to present a check in the amount of \$1,906.50 to the foundation as half of the proceeds from their basket auction.

Introduced Vice President Will Harvey from Harvey Hanna & Associates for a welcome and his comments

Introduced the Mayor of Dewey Beach Bill Stevens for a welcome and his comments

Introduced Governor John Carney for his comments and the signing of HB 329, HB 411, SB 202 and SB 221

President O'Neal stated that we will break for lunch and that baskets would be passed around during lunch for your donation to the Foundation Scholarship fund.

Salads and Dessert were pre-set

Lunch was served at 12:30 PM

Called back at 1:15 PM

Introduction of Special Guest for Remarks and Presentations

- CFSI Executive Director Bill Webb gave his remarks and presented President O'Neal with an award.
- Called on Governor John Carney for any additional remarks
- Called on Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long for her remarks
- Introduced;
 - DSP Col. Melissa Zebley and her staff
 - DEMA Director A.J. Schall
 - State Fire Prevention Commission Chairman Ron Marvel and other Commissioners
 - State Fire Marshall John Rudd and his staff
 - State Fire School Director Tucker Dempsey and his staff

President O'Neal asked that ALL members of the General Assembly and ALL members of County Government to please rise to be recognized.

President O'Neal read a letter that was submitted by DVFA Executive Manager Jay Jones. The letter was a nomination for the new Edward "Mike" Rush Community Service award. This year's recipient of the award is Representative Bill Carson, Jr.

M/C O'Neal called Mary Ann Smarte and Tramine Young-Minor for a presentation from M & T Bank as one of our Partners in Progress. They presented a check in the amount of \$12,000.00

Partners in Progress

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| M & T Bank | VFIS and New Castle Insurance |
| Harvey Hanna & Associates | Delaware Electric Co-Op |
| Motorola | PNC Bank |
| Atlantic Emergency Solutions | |

DVFA Foundation collected \$2,035.00 during the luncheon for the scholarship program.

Other Guest in attendance

- Presentation to President O'Neal from Maryland State Firefighter's Association President Skip Carey and 1st Vice President Charles Simpson
- Cumberland Valley Firefighter's Association Past President's Steve Heefner and C.J. Bens

Thanked the Hyatt staff for their service during this luncheon

Thanked everyone for their attendance and their attention during the luncheon

Benediction by Pastor Bob Hudson (adjourned at 1:40 PM)

DVFA/LADVFA Joint Installation

(copied from Pam Ingle's notes)

Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 4:00 pm

DSFCA Past President Jeff Eisenbrey introduced the participants as they entered the installation ceremony.

DVFA Installing Officer – DVFA Past President Bill Tobin

LADVFA Installing Officer – LADVFA Past President Barbara Lewis

LADVFA Installing Marshall – LADVFA Past President Ann Marie Krystopolski (walked with Mickey as her pinner)

LADVFA Chaplain – Dixie Northam

DVFA Chaplain – Rev. Charlie Arnold escorted by his wife Erika

DVFA President - Ron O'Neal escorted by his wife, Lisa

LADVFA President - Stacy Northam-Smith escorted by Laurel Fire Chief Jeff Hill

DVFA President elect - Tom DiCristofaro escorted by his wife Cathy

LADVFA President elect – Mickey Decino escorted by LADVFA Past President Ann Marie Krystopolski

DVFA 1st Vice-President elect - Gerald Manley, Jr. escorted by Deb Watson
LADVFA 1st Vice-President elect – Shirley Pennington escorted by her husband Phil
DVFA 2nd Vice-President elect – James Arrington escorted by Sue Banos
LADVFA 2nd Vice-President elect – Ginni Tice escorted by David Hamrick
DVFA Secretary – DVFA Past President Elmer Steele (pinned by Pastor Bob Hudson)
LADVFA Secretary – Dana Dugan escorted by her husband Jim
LADVFA Assistant Secretary – Tracy Sweetman escorted by Pam Downey
DVFA Treasurer – Terry Whitham (not in attendance)
LADVFA Treasurer – Bobbi Albright escorted by her husband Walt Reynolds
LADVFA Assistant Treasurer – Kim Figgs escorted by her mother LADVFA Past President Joyce Figgs
DVFA Sussex County Director – Guy Hudson escorted by his wife Tracey

Jeff asked Presidents Smith and O’Neal to reconvene their meetings

Invocation was given by DVFA Chaplain Charlie Arnold

Pledge to the Flag led by President Ron O’Neal

LADVFA President Stacy Northam-Smith was called on to give final remarks and thanks

DVFA President Ron O’Neal then gave his final remarks and thanks

LADVFA Past President Barbara Lewis will now install the 2024-2025 LADVFA officers and will be assisted by
LADVFA Past President Ann Marie Krystopolski

LADVFA Past President Stacy Northam-Smith was presented with her Past Presidents pin

Installing the incoming DVFA officers for 2024-2025 will be DVFA Past President Bill Tobin

Once completed, President Tom DiCristofaro presented DVFA Past President Ron O’Neal with his Past
President’s pin

LADVFA President Mickey Decino came forward to give remarks.

DVFA President Tom DiCristofaro came forward to give remarks.

Both Presidents. Mickey Decino and Tom DiCristofaro entertained motions to close the Conference for 2024

Benediction was given by LADVFA Chaplain Dixie Northam

Dismissal at 4:42 pm.

This full 2024 Conference report and proceedings are respectfully submitted by;

Elmer B. Steele

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

Attest to; Jay Jones
Executive Manager

Ron O’Neal
2023-2024 DVFA President