

FEBRYARY 18, 2004 -- MINUTES

The 870th meeting of the Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association was called to order by President Alvin Schmick at 7:00 p.m. at Bowers Volunteer Fire Company. President Schmick led the pledge of allegiance, Chaplain Dave Paul gave the invocation, and dinner was served by the Bowers Ladies Auxiliary. After dinner, Second Vice President Edward Welch presented gratuities to the Auxiliary. Following the address of welcome by Mike Gosch, President of Bowers Fire Company, the response was from Second Vice President Welch.

ROLL CALLS: Officers: 9 present, 3 absent (Hudson, Dennison, Legates); Companies: 17 present, 2 absent (53, 54); Past Presidents: 7 KCVFA, 7 DVFA; Company Presidents: 6.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

DVFA -- Executive Secretary James Cabbage reported on the New Castle County Chief's/President's Workshop; said Company Information Updates and End of the Year BLS forms are to be returned to the DVFA office no later than February 29; said any company that has a problem with the 800 MHz radio system is to document each occurrence and send a copy to their county's dispatch center and the DVFA Office; said Delaware Night at FDIC in Indianapolis will be April 30; and said Marvin Sharp still has many surplus desks to be given away. He mentioned the following legislative priorities for 2004: Grant-in-Aid, BLS Supplemental funding, Revolving Loan Program, 800 MHz Radio Program, Tax Credit, Funeral Benefit, and Scholarship Program.

State Fire Chief's Association -- Second Vice President James Watson reported that there will be a five-state workshop on February 28 in New Jersey and a workshop at Delaware State Fire School next Wednesday.

State Fire Police Association -- David Snell had no report.

State Ambulance Association -- Willie Trowbridge reported that their next meeting will be at Bowers next Wednesday night, and that they are putting together a BLS Protocols Committee and an EDIN Committee.

DVFA Conference 2004 -- John McKenzie said that contracts are going out this week for rooms at the Sheraton.

Delaware State Fire School -- Acting Director Steve Martin thanked everyone for their support when Laurie Henderson died, and said that her position had been filled by another employee, leaving the second employee's position vacant.

State Fire Prevention Commission -- Bill Betts discussed proposed changes, said to get the BLS forms in, and said that financial reports are due at the end of this month.

Kent County Fire Police Association -- No report.

Kent County Ambulance Association -- President Alan Post reported that their next meeting will be at Clayton.

Kent County Levy Court -- Levy Court Commissioner Richard Ennis thanked everyone who attended the 30th anniversary celebration for the dispatch center. He reported on a briefing last night on the proposed civic center -- it is now a joint effort with Delaware State university and is estimated to cost around \$50 million. He reported that budget hearings will begin tomorrow night for grants.

Kent County Emergency Medical Services -- John Willson reported that Captain [Cindy] Ware has comiled her annual stats report. There has been a 37 percent increase in ALS calls, but the State still cuts their funding -- it was 60 percent [State] - 40 percent [County], then 50 percent [State] - 50 percent [County], and is now 40 percent [State] - 60 percent [County].

New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association -- President Schmick reported that they were not able to attend. Jasper lakey reported that their next meeting will be March 11 at Hockessin.

Sussex County Volunteer Firemen's Association -- Unable to attend tonight.

Mutual Relief -- Robert Yerkes reported that the trustees will meet Monday night at Magnolia.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed.

DECEASED MEMBERS -- Rodrick Johnston, Station 49; Clark Brittingham, Station 48. Chaplain Paul said a prayer for the deceased.

Chaplain Paul said that the Fire Chaplain's Association for the state will meet this coming Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at Cheswold.

Chaplain Paul said that our April meeting will be the Memorial Service, and the name of the deceased must be on the list by the end of the next meeting to be recognized at the Memorial Service.

Chaplain Paul said that LifeFlight is at it again -- a recent flight from Milford Hospital to Christiana Hospital was billed at \$9,214. He also stated that this was during the day when the State Police helicopter should have been available.

REPORT OF OFFICERS -- Submitted in written form.

WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE -- A letter from the New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association requesting support in pursuing "rental unit fees" as a source of revenue for Delaware's volunteer fire companies. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to bring this up under the proper order of business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ladies Night Committee -- Roland Neeman reported that they will have entertainment this year.

Sunshine Committee -- Donald Knight reported that he received no calls this month.

PAYMENT OF BILLS -- No bills.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- None.

NEW BUSINESS -- The letter from NCCVFA was discussed. James Cabbage said that the NCCVFA wants to put a tax on all rental units -- the attorneys said it's a land use issue for each County. Dick Ennis made a motion that the letter be tabled until we have more information; motion seconded and carried. A copy of the letter will be given to each company present tonight.

President Schmick urged all companies to get all necessary forms turned in.

TREASURER'S REPORT -- Secretary Dear read the ending balances for each account: **Roland Trader Scholarship Fund** -- \$5,006.78; **Checking Account** -- \$12,300.24. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION -- On February 27 a spaghetti dinner will be held at Bowers to benefit the Kent County Ambulance Association.

50-50 -- \$50.50

The next meeting will be a dinner meeting at Station 41. A motion was made, seconded, and carried for adjournment at 8:18 p.m., and the benediction was given by Chaplain Paul,.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophie Dear, Secretary