



## Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association

July 15, 2009

President Rains called the 930<sup>th</sup> meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Station 49, Frederica Fire Company. Following dinner served by the Ladies Auxiliary of the station, Vice President Snell presented gratuities to the auxiliary. President Steve White of Frederica Fire Company gave the address of welcome; Vice President Snell gave the response.

**Roll Calls:** Officers: 13 present, 0 absent; Companies: 17 present, 2 absent; Past Presidents: 16 KCVFA, 8 DVFA, and 9 Fire Company Presidents.

### **Introduction of Guests:**

**DVFA** – Warren Jones, Budget – copies will go out in the mail. We will be at the county meetings in August to go over budget in case of questions. You will also get notification of name change for voting at conference. RUMOR was running around that DVFA is involved with Rescue Billing. That RUMOR is TOTALLY wrong. The DVFA will not have a position on this unless it is brought out on the meeting floor. Lengthy explanation for reduction in Insurance monies for the Ambulance, main point was to get an audit. The Insurance Commissioner had already hired an outside agency to start an audit in August. Grant and Aids dramatic reduction, a 20% cut. We will go into more detail at the next meeting. Additional information was provided on a sequence of events to achieve goals. 6/30 expecting 15% reduction > Jim stated 17.5% > stayed at legislative hall fairly late. I email all the legislators and explained the loss of insurance monies. Ask do not cut Grant and Aid any more. Next morning a liquor bill (income) failed and when it did they added another 2.5% for a total of 20%. We are not a charity, we are a public safety provider and somehow we have to get this message to them (decision makers). Now, wanting to get back to normal mode of operation so we can effectively go to the next step. I sent an email out to the leadership for every dollar we received for the last two years not just for state but for the counties. Did not want to get the News Journal involved. We need to fight for our money. Two letters will be written one to governor and second to the legislators. A lot of upset individuals we all need to get together. Would like to form a coalition to establish and deliver an approach of our views. We are looking for representatives from every company in the State! Deliver our message to all our legislators. Last October I asked for help involving government affairs and only got six names. It was not enough every company has to get involved in this campaign to deliver our message. Next year may not be any better in fact it may be worse we will need your support. Scott Bundick – Warren's correct morning I sent the email, I write things as they come to my mind. Getting motivated, we need a message to represent us all. We need to respond unilaterally. Next year may be worse. The governor has upset the DVFA and Fire Service. Not ALL legislators are aware of the serious Fire Service issues. We need fight hard this year. Bruce Ennis – a little background – financing is a formula driven budget. Backup fund has 40 million not being used, rainy day fund \$184 million. Last year saved an 8% cut. This year they came up with 15% across the board and added another 5%. Biggest cut came from formula driven cuts. Every company in New Castle lost \$82,000 due to decrease in insurance premiums. **Cuts are a result of a formula driven insurance distribution.** 21% is what we got cut in the Grant and Aid. Kevin Wilson – Biggest thing TRUST US let the officers work through this. Just trust us and give us some time. We need to remain together as a group. Bill Tobin – If we ask for HELP PLEASE HELP.

**State Fire Chief's Association** – Jeff Denison, Officer Installation on September 17<sup>th</sup> which is conference and remember no ticket no entrance. For problems call President Fox

**State Ambulance Association** – P.J. Gosh- Reminder conference is coming there is numerous Con Ed on the DVFA website download the forms registrations due in by August 14<sup>th</sup>. Mike McMichael get your forms in low registration so far. Anyone in Kent County eligible for lifetime achievement award, send information to Mike by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Dave Mick for bike riders through Kent County, National was impressed.

**DVFA Ladies Auxiliary** – Loraine Madden, Thanks for the recognition.

**State Fire Police Association** – Bob Yerkes, Thanks for the recognition.

**DVFA Conference** – Elmer Steele, conference registrations online get in by August the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**State Fire Prevention Commission** – Thanks for the recognition, No Report

**Delaware State Fire School** – No Report

**State Fire Marshal's Office** – No Report

**Legislature** – Bruce Ennis – Highlighting, HB 204 we added 1<sup>st</sup> responders to the bill and it passed

**Kent County Fire Chief's Association** – Gary Madden – Next meeting August 12<sup>th</sup> at Harrington.

**Kent County Fire Police Association** – No Report

**Kent County Ambulance Association** – Ed Angwin, No Report.

**Kent County Ladies Auxiliary** – Pat Paolini, Thanks for the recognition.

**Kent County Levy Court** – No Report

**Kent County Emergency Management** – Colin Faulkner, Functions of the LAPC is to conduct facility inspections. We do have a contract person that does that for us. You are invited to Hazmat information sessions that will be a good opportunity to meet with Industry.

**Kent County Emergency Dispatch Center** – No Report

**Kent County Emergency Medical** – No Report

**New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association** – Thanks for the recognition, No Report

**Sussex County Volunteer Firemen's Association** – Thanks for the recognition, No Report

**State Recruitment and Retention** – No Report

**Mutual Relief** – Joe Zeroles, we will be voting at the conference on the secondary insurance for workers compensation make sure you have your representatives there. Mutual Relief will be recommending one of two companies at the meeting.

**DEMA** – No Report

*A motion was made, seconded, carried for approval of the minutes of the previous meeting as printed.*

**Deceased Members:** Station 57 – Michael Joseph.

**Report of Officers** – Submitted in written form.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Robert Yerkes reported ending balances as of July 1, 2009: Roland Trader Scholarship Fund – \$6,778.95; Checking Account – \$250.40; Money Market – \$12,904.05; total of all CD's – \$19,068.06; total funds – \$32,222.51

**Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association**

**July 15, 2009**

**Written Correspondence** – Received 5 letters, 3 letters from Hartly Fire Company, one opposing a Conference at Dover Downs and a second letter supporting J. Allen Metheny for the position of Treasurer at the DVFA and a last one stating their company delegates & alternates. 1 letter from Leipsic Volunteer Fire Company assigning delegates and alternates. 1 letter from Delaware Burn Camp thanking us for the donation.

**Report of Committees**

No committees reported.

**Payment of Bills** – \$800.00 – Delaware Tech, (Scholarship to Amy Morris); \$68.25 – M&M Trophies & Awards, (Scholarship Plaque); \$45.00 – Awards, Trophies & More, (Plaque for Al Metheny's retirement): A motion was made, seconded, and carried for payment of bills.

**Unfinished Business** – Marvin Sharp, last month a letter was generated for break down of conference costs to all companies. A motion was made and seconded, and passed unanimously to send a letter to stay at the Sheraton.

**New Business** – Frank King, Would like approval for the Fire Prevention Budget and went through all the budget items. A motion was made and seconded, and carried to approve the Fire Prevention Budget for \$5420.00.

**Good of the Association**

Bob Outten, presented a Tribute from the House of Representatives to Al Metheny's retirement. Glen Neese, In relation to comments made by Warren, we told the Camden Wyoming community of what we do with our funding. Council members were impressed with what we did with so little money. We went out and sold the Camden Wyoming Fire Company to the community including budget information. Sell your company! Mike Rains, long night and still a long ways to go. We need to stick together, we need to back each other. We need to let the government know that we are the 3<sup>rd</sup> party and we will fight for what we want and for what we need. Marvin Sharp, President Rains is right, support the DVFA leadership in their current ops and when we close tonight standup with a vote of confidence.

50-50 – Mark Knotts

Conference Souvenir – Dave Bonar

A motion was made and seconded, and carried to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.; Chaplin Paul gave the benediction.  
*The next meeting will be at Station 50, Harrington.*

Respectfully submitted,



Pablo Reyes, Jr., Secretary