



## Kent County Volunteer Firemen's Association

August 19, 2009

President Rains called the 931<sup>st</sup> meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at Station 50, Harrington Fire Company. Following dinner served by the Ladies Auxiliary of the station, Vice President Neese presented gratuities to the auxiliary. President Ed Welch of Harrington Fire Company gave the address of welcome; Vice President Snell gave the response.

**Roll Calls:** Officers: 12 present, 1 absent; Companies: 18 present, 1 absent; Past Presidents: 16 KCVFA, 9 DVFA, and 8 Fire Company Presidents.

### Introduction of Guests:

**DVFA** – Warren Jones, Budget – Application is filled, hired Ms Jill Graham who is the EOC Coordinator in New Castle County she has been working in recruitment and retention for quite some time. We will be voting on the name change at the conference. We are going to go over our budget. DVFA Officers met with the Lt. Governor orchestrated by Kevin Wilson. Kevin Wilson – prepared budget prior to conference, met at the end of July and mailed them out to the companies. A question was asked “Where does the \$4000 go?” Short answer, \$3000 goes to the operating fund and \$1000 goes to the conference budget for a total of \$61000 towards the conference. Went into extended details on the budget noting \$244500 collected in dues. Total operating receipts is \$259500. This year we reduced the budget by about \$27000. Total is \$1,585,500 most of it is pass-thru monies. Example pension fund is paid 1.2 million dollars. Any questions? – none noted, email me I will be glad to answer any question on the budget. In reference to meeting with Lt. Governor we started a dialog and the meeting went well. In conversation it was stated that there is soft funding available for solar panels. Warren, A change in leadership is in less than a month Kevin will need all of our support. It will be a tough budget year. Kevin will do a great job for the DVFA. We all need to work together. It has been rewarding to work for you and with you. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as President of the DVFA and I will continue to support Kevin.

**State Fire Chief's Association** – Mike Rains – next meeting in Cheswold

**State Ambulance Association** – P.J. Gosh, Thanks for the recognition

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

**State Fire Police Association** – Charlie Wall, Thanks for the recognition. See you in September

**DVFA Conference** – Elmer Steele, 3 ½ weeks and the conference is here again. Thanks to all the committees for their help. Many cancellations of classes no one registered, for the Highway Safety Seminar only 3 people registered needless to say it was cancelled.

**State Fire Prevention Commission** – Bill Betts, discussion on CPAP approval, when the protocols are out they are given to us as a courtesy to sign. Spoke at length about lights. New regulations had to be tabled for AG to look up some of the statues mainly on the cigarette issue. Take this to next DEMSOC meeting for discussion.(will get up with Bob)

**Delaware State Fire School** – No Report

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

**Legislature** – Bruce Ennis – Not in session talked at length last month looking over the statistics

for Grant and Aid and we did get a 20.2% cut based on formula. It was a formula driven cause for reduction. Each Kent County company lost at least \$78000 from last year. Fire service and school lost money for back ground checks. (By law still needed but no funds to pay) Also, cut out paramedic recertification cost of \$68000. Now that burden of cost goes to the employee. Not only the Fire Service got cut they cut across the board. Retirement state positions are not being filled for all state service. Motor vehicle is going to hire 24 people.

**Kent County Fire Chief's Association** – Gary Madden – We will have a workable deal between commissioners and committee. Levy Court hearing on September 3<sup>rd</sup> reference 28' asphalt with 2' of curb asking for members present there in uniform.

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

**Kent County Ambulance Association** – No Report.

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

**Kent County Levy Court** – No Report

**Kent County Emergency Management** – Scott Bundick, hired 2 new people

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

**Kent County Emergency Medical** – No Report

**New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association** – No Report

**Sussex County Volunteer Firemen's Association** – Roland Walker, Thanks for the recognition, next meeting at Indian River

**State Recruitment and Retention** – No Report

**Mutual Relief** – Joe Zerolles, need to have your representatives at the conference we will be voting on the secondary insurance we will be recommending Provident our current insurance.

**DEMA** – Gillespie, latest guidance for Hurricane Bill a Category 4 for Delaware side anticipating increased wave heights around 4 feet Friday and Sunday up to 8-10 feet. Warning will be out "Do NOT go into the water" It will be about 200 mile off the coast of Delaware. It may create a few storms. Look for a wet Saturday.

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

**Deceased Members:** Station 55 – Joseph Foster, Station 44 George D. Whaley, Station 41 – William A. Dawson, and Station 53 – Mike Slaughter.

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

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Robert Yerkes reported ending balances as of August 1, 2009: Roland Trader Scholarship Fund – \$5,979.52; Checking Account – \$185.15; Money Market – \$12,907.33; total of all CD's – \$19,118.55; total funds – \$32,211.03

**Written Correspondence** – Received 6 letters & 1 flyer, 1 letter from Clayton Fire Company endorsing Kevin Wilson for DVFA President, 1 email letter from Felton Community Fire Company asking for support on the 28' ordinance, 1 letter from Carlisle Fire Company

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endorsing Glenn Gillespie for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the KCVFA, 1 letter from South Bowers Fire Company stating their delegates, 1 letter from Frederica Fire Company endorsing Stephen White as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the KCVFA, 1 letter from the Kent County Chiefs Association thanking numerous individuals and organizations for help and hard work towards ongoing issue of the 28' ordinance, and 1 flyer from the Delaware Burn Camp inviting members to a BBQ.

### **Report of Committees**

Nominating committee – Jim Cabbage reports the following nominations for the positions as follows: President – David Snell < Marydel, 1<sup>st</sup> V.P. – Glenn Gillespie < Carlise, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. – Stephen White < Frederica, Secretary – Pablo Reyes, Jr. < Harrington, Treasurer – Robert Yerekes < Houston, Director – Jeff Dennison < Bowers, Director – Ron Vincent < Farmington. Signed Chairman – Allen Metheny, Sr. & William Betts, Jr.

**Payment of Bills** – \$67.99 – Jen-Mor Florist, (Flowers for the Donna Snell Funeral); \$151.69 – Frank King, (Fire Prevention Expenses): A motion was made, seconded, and carried for payment of bills.

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – Jim Cabbage, A motion was made and seconded, and carried to accept the nomination committees report and the names be placed in nomination for their respective offices. Each position was called 3 times with no further additions to the nominations. Steve White, at our monthly meeting read the DVFA constitution and bylaws discussed the name change and wanted the DVFA to table the name change for one year to find out about costs associated with change. A motion was made and seconded, for county to send a letter asking that the DVFA table the name change until we get costs involved. Question on the motion prompted a lot of discussion motion reworded as follows: A motion was made and seconded, and carried to direct our KCVFA request their member company delegates vote against the name change. Ralph Rossi, Kent County is not saying anything and we as a county need to work on saying things. Kent County needs to stand up and be heard as an organization. A motion was made and seconded, to send a letter to all our Representatives & Senators of Kent County informing them of our dissatisfaction with the budget process which resulted in the Kent County Fire Companies realizing a 42% cut in Grant and Aid(\$70,000) and of our intent to mobilize the citizens of Kent County and solicit their support to ensure stronger representation. With much discussion permission was given to allow the secretary to make the proper change to the letter. Bruce Ennis stated stick to the facts. More discussion followed as a statement as to what is a better method to achieve our goals. Marvin Sharp stated talk to them in person, sell your companies, and keep it on a personal effect. Have companies talk to community and have them talk to representatives. Glenn Neese stated talk to local governments about your budgets go to the town council; send them a copy of your budget. We did. Scott Bundek, next year will be worse. Let the politicians know what our needs are. Fight for every dollar. Joint

Finance does not understand what our needs are. Kevin Wilson agrees with actions of both Rossi & Sharp. We need to do more ground roots selling ourselves to our legislatures. Bruce Ennis, General Assembly had an \$804 million shortfall. State President indicated direction. Need to form a liaison with all the companies to talk to legislators. Not sure a letter is proper. Marvin Sharp, a county plan needs to be put together so everyone has the same information. Ralph Rossi, We believe Kent County took a bigger hit. We need to establish ourselves. Kent County will no longer sit back. We are not going to be able to provide at the same level if we get cut again. Bill Braswell, at recent company directors meeting putting together information from the house bill that passed, I compared Harrington and Delmar and there was a 43% reduction in insurance premiums. It was \$2 million plus and went down to \$294 thousand. He stated we need to offer solutions and look at the real numbers. President Rains stated, everyone has heard all comments we have a on the motion on the floor, all in favor? Motion passed. Bruce Ennis, A motion was made and seconded, and carried to support the Chiefs association with a letter to the Kent County Regional Planning commission in reference to the 28' ordinance. Looking for Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting have a lot of support there.

**Good of the Association**

Services for Mr. Dawson – tomorrow, space is limited requesting only 1 fire truck per company. Mike Rains, stick together as a group and an organization. To achieve our goals we need to stick together.

50-50 – Paul Coverdale

Conference Souvenir –

A motion was made and seconded, and carried to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.; Chaplin Paul gave the benediction.

*The next meeting will be at Station 51, Hartly.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pablo Reyes, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pablo Reyes, Jr., Secretary