



Kent County Volunteer Firefighter's Association

August 16, 2017

President Post called the 1017th meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at Station 46, Dover Fire Company. Following dinner served by the members of the station, Vice President Brittingham conveyed our thanks to the members of the station. Brian Bashista, President of Dover Fire Company gave the address of welcome; Vice President Brittingham gave the response.

Roll Calls: Officers: 9 present, 4 absent; Companies: 19 present, 1 absent; Past Presidents: 11 KCVFA, 8 DVFA, and 7 Fire Company.

Introduction of Guests:

DVFA – President Ted Wallis, thanks to the association for the good communication this year, and yielded to Vice President Bill Betts, The National Firefighter Memorial is October 8th at Emmitsburg, Maryland and the bus for Kent and Sussex County is combined because there were not enough people to fill two buses. The pickup site will be at Milford when it is confirmed. Conference is only a few weeks away and we have a few great FREE Administrative Seminars. What you should plan on attending is the DVFA Roundtable, M&T Bank is doing a presentation on Generational Diversity and Bridging the Generational Gap which would tie-in with Recruitment & Retention. Our Attorney Bill Preston will do a report on the IRS with issues concerning your Hall Rental's and the Ladies Auxiliary as well as other legal issues. DVFA Office will be talking about fixed funding sources with growth potential and information they have developed on this issue. A request has been sent out to all the President's on Recruitment & Retention as to how many members you have gained or lost in the past four years. Information is needed for the close-out of the Safer Grant and for the development stages of Recruitment & Retention to present to Delaware State Government. 78 Companies have responded, we need all the numbers to make the program work so please send your information into the office. Proposed 2018 budget has been completed and has been mailed out for the President's and Chief's to review. A specific email list has been created to ensure you are getting our emails, if you are not receiving email please add your email address to our list. Cumberland Valley Conference, all had issues with their legislative sessions. They also brought up doing away with their parade, only one person was for it and they had won 6 plaques at the parade.

State Fire Chief's Association – Terry Jester, next meeting will be at the Conference Thursday night September 14th at Cheswold. Our guest speaker will be Bobby Halton FDIC.

State EMS – Mike McMichael's on behalf of President Matt Gajdos everything is all set for our end of the Conference, Governor has accepted invitation from us and will be at the Banquet for a few minutes at the beginning part to say a few words, as is our Attorney General Matt Denn they will be saying something in the beginning. We are ready to go and looking forward to a productive year with Amy Yonko coming to us from Five-Points taking over as President.

DVFA Ladies Auxiliary – No Report

State Fire Police Association – Les States, thanks for the recognition our next meeting will be September 5th at Frederica.

DVFA Conference – John Stevenson, hotel has sent out confirmations on the rooms. Please check the arrival and departure dates to make sure that is what you want. Remember the cancellation policy do NOT wait until the last minute to cancel a reservation or you will be CHARGED for the room(s). Talk to Lisa and follow-up with an email. Final numbers are due-in for the dinners. Make sure your delegates and alternates names are in prior to the meeting. John McKenzie has resigned as Chairperson for Conference and Joe Zeroles is now the Chairperson.

State Fire Prevention Commission – Alan Robinson, we had our meeting yesterday at the Fire School. There were 3 hearing 1st was for Cranston Heights and resulted in a \$1500 fine for being late. They did not request a hardship

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extension, there are specific things considered hardships please go on the website (statefirecommission.delaware.gov) and check it out. If you have a problem Communicate with us. 2nd hearing was for Belvedere resulting in granting of a 60-day extension. 3rd hearing was for South Bower's granting them a 30-day extension. Several Kent County Companies are still late with their DFIRs reports with a few over 6 months late. There are some upcoming changes to DFIRs but we do not know what they are because OEMS has not communicated very well with us. We sent them a letter to appear with any changes. Our next meeting is September 19, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Fire School.

Delaware State Fire School – No Report

State Fire Marshal's Office – Grover Engel, we are making some in roads with DFIRs we have been in contact with those companies needing assistance with varying degrees of difficulties. We now have 6 fire related deaths in the State of Delaware the most recent Rehoboth Beach house trailer fire with the incident still under investigate with no operating smoke alarm found at the trailer. Annual report is completed and sent out electronically to those President's and Chief's on file. Two Deputy Fire Marshals are recent graduates for Kent and New Castle Counties both starting on Monday. There is a Posted Vacant Position for Deputy Fire Marshal in New Castle County which closes tonight at midnight.

Legislature – Senator Bruce Ennis, we are not in session. Insurance Department transfers about \$50 million every year to the State of Delaware. We are trying to get Rescue Bill signed and was told in August it will be signed. We had a date in August but because of so many bills to sign may not be until October before it is signed.

Kent County Fire Chief's Association – No Report

Kent County Fire Police Association – Jeff Dennison, our next meeting is September 19th at Cheswold.

Kent County Emergency Medical Services Association – No Report

Kent County Ladies Auxiliary – Sandra Robinson, thanks for the recognition, our next meeting will be September 26th at 7:00 p.m. in Frederica.

Kent County Levy Court – No Report

KC Emergency Dispatch Center – No Report

KC Emergency Management Agency – No Report

KC Emergency Medical Services (Paramedics) – No Report

New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association – No Report

Sussex County Volunteer Firemen's Association – Terry Jester, our next meeting is on August 22nd at 7:30 p.m. at Indian River Station 80. Normally in February or March we meet with our Legislators but instead we will be meeting on October 28th at the Fire School. We are looking forward to the meeting. State Chiefs we are having a Chicken BBQ at Greenwood if anyone wants to offer a hand.

State Recruitment and Retention – No Report

Mutual Relief – Steve White, thanks for the recognition No Report.

DEMA – No Report

NVFC – No Report

Delmarva Firefighter's Association – No Report

International Chief's – Bill Betts, not much going on.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried for approval of the minutes of the KCVFA July meeting as printed. (Discussion on a typo error under DVFA report, spoke with original speaker and a change was made and noted on final posted minutes for July 19, 2017) (1 Typo correction DVFA paragraph 2nd line "30% changed to 20%")

Deceased Members: Station 41 – William Boyd, Station 41 – Robert Marker, Station 41 – Brittany Layfield

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Report of Officers: All submitted in written or electronic form, Secretary Reyes, on error in minutes for 30% was heard as noted on the minutes. Would you like to change it? Mr. Betts, I stated it was 20%.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Robert Yerkes report of ending balances as of August 1, 2017: Roland Trader Scholarship Fund – \$12,539.32; Special Operations Fund – \$30,560.32; Money Market – \$18,571.55; Smoke Detector Fund – \$656.60; Checking Account – \$6,516.41; Total of all CD's – \$17,593.39; Total funds – \$42,681.35 not including Scholarship & Special Ops Funds. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Written Correspondence: 1 to read, and 3 letters were turned over to the nominations committee. One letter was from the Cheswold Volunteer Fire Company stating their support for George Pyott as Treasurer for the DVFA.

Report of Committees:

Fire Prevention – Jeff Dennison, we received the Fire Packets the other day and tomorrow night we be stuffing the packets and sending them out to the companies. Anyone on the committee show up tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. in Bowers at the Town Hall.

Payment of Bills: \$1,188.91 – Hartly Fire Company (Repairs to Special Ops Unit); A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bill.

Nomination of Officers: Bill Betts read report for nominations to the following offices: President – Jeff Dennison, Station 40; 1st Vice President – Michael Brittingham, Station 41; 2nd Vice President – Ben O'Neal, Station 45 & 53; Secretary – Pablo Reyes, Jr., Station 50; Treasurer – Bob Yerkes, Station 52; Director – Jeff Eisenbrey Station 43; and Director – James Woznicki Station 53. We have letters on file for all those names called. President Post no further nominations called.

Unfinished Business:

Committee for the disposition of the KCEMS Association: Mike Brittingham, A committee was formed to discuss possible actions for the disposition of the KCEMSA. On the committee, County Firefighter's – Mike Brittingham & Chris Clough, County Chiefs – Mark Langford & Steve White, County EMS – Shirley Pennington & Earle Briel. A few ideas were discussed on keeping the KCEMSA but in the end, there were no viable options to continuing the Association. It was decided that all interest would best be served by disbanding the Association and making them a committee under the KCFCA reporting to the KCFCA for any operational changes and needs. Current funds were stated at about \$3000 did not have exact figures but those funds will be transferred to the KCFCA earmarked for EMS. New Castle County recently underwent the same issue. There are no bylaw changes to KCVFA. Any KCEMSA pressing issues and the answer was no. Recommendation on the Issue of Disbanding from the Combined Committee is "to move the KCEMSA to a committee under the KCFCA earmarking money for EMS and have KCFCA incorporate into their bylaws that it is mandatory to have the President take a chairman from the KCEMS committee. KCEMS Committee will report to KCVFA for operational issues." Question was asked why not report to KCVFA? And it was stated Administration should not be making operational decisions on issues regarding "ambulance I do not ride". Why do company's pay dues but never send somebody to the meeting? No right answer to that question. Progression tonight is what to do and when to make effective date? Suggestion is to make effective date the October meeting. What was the flyer that went out? It will be an actual meeting to have a discussion. There is no disband clause in the By-laws in the KCEMSA. Companies will no longer pay dues to KCEMSA. How does this affect the Fire Commission? Al Robinson, Most of the EMS problems are handled with an Investigator, normally there is nothing that we do with the County Association's. What about State Association as far as officers? The KCFCA would choose

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those from the KCEMS committee to go to State Association. The KCVFA Committee for Disbanding KCEMSA, will work with the KCEMSA and the KCFCA to make sure they are good to go. Mike Brittingham, A motion was made and seconded, and unanimously carried to accept the Combined KCVFA, KCFCA, and KCEMSA committee's recommendation to dissolve the KCEMSA under the KCVFA and draft Bylaws to be submitted to the KCFCA and have remaining funds from KCEMSA sent to the KCFCA earmarked for EMS. KCEMS will re-group under the umbrella of the KCFCA to deal with the business and duties of the KCEMSA. Restated from the discussion, the KCVFA Committee will assist in the transition of KCEMSA to KCEMS under the KCFCA. Mike Brittingham, the committee and I will report back next month with where we stand and I will be attending KC EMS and Fire Chief's meetings and setup meetings with their officers to get this ball rolling. We will send a letter to all the Fire Companies to let them know our decision tonight. President Post, will there be a date for everything to be completed by? Mike Brittingham, we would like to complete it by the October meeting. Any other questions direct them to the committee or Mike Brittingham.

New Business:

None

Good of the Association:

Mike Brittingham, do we have a Sunshine budget? President Post, no funds but we do have a committee.

TSgt Tyler Abby, special thanks to all those that showed to the recent exercise at the base for the upcoming open house. It was beneficial, there was a lot of issues in communication that were highlighted and will be addressed before the Airshow August 26-27. For those of you not coming out to assist with the Airshow, come join us at the Airshow see the Thunderbirds, it is FREE. Two weeks after that we will be hosting our annual 9/11 Ceremony with guest speakers Stephen M. Gregory, New York Fire Department Assistant Fire Commissioner for Communications and possibly former Vice President Joe Biden. Chaplain Bowers will provide the invocation. We will be sending out flyers. Everyone is welcome to bring a truck.

Chaplain Bowers, October 3rd and 4th we will be hosting two one-day seminars. 1st day Death Notification: Line of Duty Deaths & How to, 2nd day, Dealing with Difficult Deaths both days \$225 or 1 day for \$125 includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch starting at 8:30 to 17:00 for Chaplains, Line Officers, Administrative Officers, and Police Officers.

50-50 – Elmer Steele

Conference Souvenir – Unknown

*The next meeting will be at Station 48, Felton (Elections) – September 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
(Joint meeting with KCFCA)*

A motion was made and seconded, and carried to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pablo Reyes, Jr., Secretary