



Kent County Volunteer Firefighter's Association September 19, 2018

Vice President Brittingham called the 1029th joint with Chief's Association meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. at Station 54, Little Creek Fire Company. Following dinner served by the Auxiliary of the station, Vice President O'Neal conveyed our thanks and appreciation to the Auxiliary of the station. Kenny Frazier, President of Little Creek Fire Company gave the address of welcome; Vice President O'Neal gave the response.

Deviation of Business: A motion was made, seconded, and carried to deviate from the regular order of business to permit a Special Presentation for two individuals. Vice President Brittingham with assistance from Levy Court Commissioner Terry Pepper and Delaware State Senator Bruce Ennis; stated that thanks to a program through the White House it is a Volunteerism Award Program. Governor John Carney sent his regards was unable to attend. Presented the Lifetime Achievement Award with grateful recognition.....through volunteer service signed by President Donald Trump to Bob Yerkes and Pablo Reyes. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to return to our regular order of business.

Roll Calls: Officers: 13 present, 1 absent; Companies: 19 present, 1 absent; Past Presidents: 16 KCVFA, 8 DVFA, and 8 Fire Company.

Introduction of Guests:

DVFA – President Bill Betts, thanks to all that attend the Conference, it went very well. The Dedication for the Monument was cancelled on Friday night. We are looking at having it on Sunday October 14th at 1 p.m. If it is confirmed you will see a rain or shine event. We will know by tomorrow and send out information once it is confirmed. Again, thanks for those attending; there were evaluation surveys put in your packets we ask that you fill them out and return them. New legislators we ask for your help in setting up a meeting with your new legislators and that you include us in those meetings. We have at least 15 new legislators. In Kent County there are 4 seats.

State Fire Chief's Association – No Report

State EMS – Mike McMichael, on behalf of President Jason Capps, our next meeting will be at the Fire School but on Saturday mornings day before DVFA meetings at 10:00 a.m. We are still working with the Delaware State Fire School in broadcasting our meetings on a Podcast from Facebook. At the awards banquet last week, we recognized one of our Fire Commissioners that had 14 years on the Fire Commission Marvin Sharp. Also recognized P.J. Gosch who has 16 consecutive years in our Association. Also recognized by the Governor, State House, and Senators. Jennifer Knox is now our Treasurer.

DVFA Ladies Auxiliary – No Report

State Fire Police Association – No Report

DVFA Conference – Joe Zerolles, not a whole lot to report since we just got over conference. Next month will have a sheet with contact information. Short on Chairman's for committee's one for golf and souvenirs. We will report next month after wrap-up.

State Fire Prevention Commission – Al Robinson, we had a meeting yesterday at 9:00 a.m. at the Fire School. Fire School Director stated that the construction project at the Fire School are on schedule hopefully January 2019. Approved 2018 EMT refresher curriculum. BLS Director reported that in August 39 over-dose deaths in the State of Delaware. Flu is here, get your Flu shots. Protocols should be ready for our approval next month. Referencing scratch rates and Mid-Sussex there is no plan in place if we should have to take out an Ambulance or Fire Company. There is nothing to take up the service by neighboring companies. We will work with EMS and DVFA to come up with some type of plan. We heard some companies are thinking of discontinuing their Ambulance Service. If this happens we have to come up with a plan and it might come down to another unfunded mandated. Accepted City of Wilmington's new boundary. Seven companies in Kent County with outstanding DFIRs reports. Grover would be happy to help you with that. Next meeting is October 16th 9:00 a.m. at the Fire School.

Delaware State Fire School – Billy Baker, training still going on at the Fire School for in-service. Drill grounds will close Thanksgiving. Any company that wants to get in-service training contact me at the school.

State Fire Marshal's Office – Grover Engel, DFIRs those companies that are late please get your reports in. Our annual report has been published and put out. You can find it on our website.

<https://statefiremarshal.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/110/2017/08/Annual-Report.pdf> People are looking at the information.

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One incident on September 11 an individual made an attempt on five structures to set fires. They were able to make an arrest. We have had 8 fire-related deaths in the state with 3 of those having a working smoke detector. I have had a lot of request for Fire Prevention week, please contact the office I would like to be there if I can.

Legislature – Senator Bruce Ennis, we are not in session. There are two bills for tonight HB 192 providing for special license plates for EMT's for some reason never cleared the house. Another bill is HB 33 does not directly relate to you. Does deal with emergency vehicles. Allows certain recreational vehicles to be emergency vehicles. **If the Delaware Fire Service would have to be replaced with manpower, employees, and equipment it would cost Delaware Taxpayers \$219,514,543.00** about \$9.54 for each \$1000.00 of assessed valuations. This would be very costly so we will want to keep the volunteers.

Kent County Fire Chief's Association – No Report

Kent County Fire Police Association – No Report

Kent County Emergency Medical Services Committee – No Report

Kent County Ladies Auxiliary – Sandra Robinson, thanks for the recognition and also during conference Debbie Zeroles was recognized as President Emeritus of the DVFA Ladies; our next meeting is September 25th at Magnolia at 7:00 p.m.

Kent County Levy Court – Terry Pepper, at the conference met with the Auxiliary and I saw an excellent presentation on "I can see color again" see you next month with your checks.

KC Emergency Dispatch Center – Kevin Sipple, last Wednesday we did a major upgrade to our CAD system, Fire Records, and Mobile Platforms that Fire and Rescue units use in Kent County. It went very well for the upgrades we had to do. Robbie Watts who is in charge of that is the person responsible for the upgrade. An email went out today to all the Fire Chief's and Ambulance Captains. Robbie would like to meet with the Fire Chief or his designee and the IT staff from every Fire Department to look what computers you have, we might have missed a computer. Most of the computers have a program that we do remote access. Everybody should be able to get to what they need to but he wants to get together to see what your needs are or what else we can offer you. This is up to the individual Fire Departments. Bob Bloodsworth is retiring after 20 years October 1st there will be a gathering next Tuesday night in the conference room. There are some new programs we have pushed out through Public Safety. We are recommending use PlusePoint Respond App on your cell phones. It will help track AED's that are nearest you. If you see an AED you can take a picture and send to us through the App. Over 70% of our 911 calls are Cellular. Accuracy for wireless carriers 900 feet from where you are calling from is distance being supplied. It has gotten worse. Uber Apps and Rapid SOS have much better information for GPS. Last thing, The State has implemented for Schools and Active Shooters Public Schools will have RAVE 911, it will be a button once pushed will notify all they want to be notified. It is called RAVE Panic Button.

KC Emergency Management Agency – No Report

KC Emergency Medical Services (Paramedics) – No Report

New Castle County Volunteer Firemen's Association – Vice President Watson, thanks for the recognition. November 3rd Pumper Pull \$50 registration fee with funds benefiting the Special Olympics of Delaware.

Sussex County Volunteer Firemen's Association – No Report

State Recruitment and Retention – No Report

Mutual Relief – No Report

DEMA – No Report

NVFC – No Report

Delmarva Firefighter's Association – No Report

International Chief's – No Report

A motion was made, seconded, and carried for approval of the minutes of the KCVFA August meeting as printed.

Deceased Members: None

Report of Officers: All submitted or to be submitted in written or electronic form.

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Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Robert Yerkes report of ending balances as of September 1, 2018: *Roland Trader Scholarship Fund – \$13,609.09; Special Operations Fund – \$38,065.19; Money Market – \$18,201.61; Smoke Detector Fund – \$806.60; Firefighter's Relief Fund – \$7,593.00; Checking Account – \$9,340.96; Total of all CD's – \$17,612.94; Total funds – \$36,755.91 not including Scholarship, Special Ops Funds, Relief or Smoke Detector Funds.* A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Written or Email Correspondence: 2 letter's, 1st letter, from the Harrington Fire Company nominating and supporting Edward L. Welch for the position of 2nd Vice President for the DVFA in 2019 – 2020. 2nd letter, from Camden-Wyoming Fire Company stating they do not support Mike Brittingham for the office of President of the KCVFA 2018-2019 year.

Report of Committees:

Constitution and Bylaws – Benny O'Neal, we have been meeting they are not quite ready yet. Hopefully we will have something to present next month.

Fire Advisory Board – Ed Welch, in your packet's tonight are calculations based on 2015, 2016, and 2017 alarms statistics for the Levy Court Funding. The amounts for each company are in the spreadsheet.

Fire Prevention Committee – Murielle Gillespie, need to pick up your packets by October 20th from the School. Then to the Fire School by November 10th we will be judging that week.

Nominating Committee – Bill Betts, No Report

Payment of Bills: by Treasurer Robert Yerkes || \$462.74 – RWM Embroidery (Officer's Shirt); \$25,487.64 Cheswold Fire Company (High-Tech Drone and Accessories, Paging for the year); for total payments of \$25,950.38; A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills.

Unfinished Business:

Vice President Brittingham, we are still looking for a cheaper version of QuickBooks. They are discounted for non-profits; Shirley and I will recap to QuickBooks sometime this week. The laptop computer has been donated and given to Shirley. She can start to transfer files to a digital format.

Election of Officer's:

Vice President Brittingham, as of last month you have the following for: President – Mike Brittingham, 1st Vice President – Benny O'Neal, 2nd Vice President – Mark Langford, Secretary – Pablo Reyes, Treasurer – Shirley Pennington, Two 3-year Director's – Marvin Sharp and Carroll Jester. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to have the outgoing Treasurer Robert Yerkes cast a vote for all unopposed offices in the affirmative. (no questions and no "no's on the vote) Treasurer Yerkes stated the ballot is cast in the affirmative.

New Business:

Vice President Brittingham, Sign-up sheets for the Bell Ringers for Christmas are by the front door. Mr. Wood could not be here tonight. If you are available and can sign-up for a time slot please do so it is for a good cause.

Treasurer Robert Yerkes, the CD's have been rolled-over.

Senator Bruce Ennis, in view of the fact that Little Creek is celebrating their 75th anniversary and are going to have banquet at Cheswold on October 20th I make a motion that the KCVFA per resolutions recognize Little Creek Fire Company for their 75th anniversary and Cheswold Fire Company for their 90th anniversary they are going to celebrate on December 1st. The motion received a seconded, and carried.

Ed Welch, A motion was made, seconded, and carried to have the Secretary send a letter to the Kent County Levy Court advising them of the amounts for the distribution of checks including the information.

Camden-Wyoming Fire Company, President James Queen "what is going to happen now to our letter that we submitted? that we don't support the President" Vice President Brittingham, I will defer to *Mr. Welch (Past President)*. "Mr. President, the bylaws state that

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nominations are closed prior to the meeting in August everybody has to be nominated and letters of endorsement. The minutes from last month say that we had letters from all candidates. So therefore Mr. Brittingham is qualified to run for President. The letter that you made was entirely after the deadline and would be no good. Past President Alan Robinson stated that the letter would have been out of order anyhow because it was after the deadline. Evidently, you have previously done that or we would not have a letter." President Queen "We had no vote in the company to find out that, that was actually voted on before." Vice President Brittingham, I am going to pass the gavel to the 2nd Vice President so that I can speak. "So the board met before this with me. I was at the FAB meeting on Monday so I could not be at my company meeting. So, in an email from Glenn Neese our Secretary dated December 27th at 4:52 p.m. 2017 Company Meeting Minutes under new business (Matt Brown made a motion to send a letter to support KCVFA of Mike Brittingham for President second Van Jones, Jones motion was carried.) I sent an email to President Queen dated Sunday June 3rd 9:56 a.m. (Here are the minutes where the motion was made to support me for President of KCVFA just in case you needed them before sending my letter, the letter can be sent to Pablo or me). Dated a new email from President Queen Sunday June 3rd 2018 10:32 a.m. (Letter already written). Follow-up from me to President Queen Sunday June 3rd 2018 10:47 a.m. (Cool thanks wasn't sure if you needed the minutes from where the motion was made.) On August 20, 2018 it was a pretty heated meeting with Camden Politics between myself and the Board. I am still a member in good standing, no pending charges. This is just some information and issues I cannot go into because it is a personnel matter. There were some inconsistencies there that we had to debate on the floor. Under the Camden August Committee Report Mike Brittingham reported for the KCVFA, I gave my report (at the end Thanks for your support as(for) President of the KCVFA). Meeting was called to order and presided over by President Queen. So, he had to know a support letter was sent at some time because he never questioned the fact we never sent my support letter to begin with. No adjustments were made to those minutes. So, President Queen was fully aware it was sent. All President Queen had to do let me go back and check the minutes. I have still yet to be formally informed by Camden. I got many calls that night, that my support was being pulled. Continued speaking with regards to actions taken." Scott Bundek in back of room, with a Point of Order. You are already elected, this is done with, the election is over. If there was a question about his election, it should have been done prior. President Queen, when did you receive Mike's letter? I did not sign it until last month. Past President Welch, I don't know. Vice President Brittingham the letter was received before the start of the KCVFA August meeting. Past President Welch, Vice President O'Neal is Camden-Wyoming Fire Company in good standing with our association. President Queen is Mr. Mike Brittingham by your bylaws and current policies a member in good standing of your association? Then we have done a dually correct election. I think we need to move on, we do not need to be in the middle of Camden-Wyoming Politics. Vice President O'Neal turn gavel back over to Vice President Brittingham.

Good of the Association:

Al Robinson, working with DEMSOC for six years we have not had a Kent County at Large representative. It could be anybody but need to be concerned with EMS more than anything. Next meeting is December 12th. Let me know if you know someone interested.

50-50 – Melissa Jackson

Conference Souvenir –

The next meeting will be at Station 41 Camden-Wyoming – October 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. "subject to confirmation"

A motion was made and seconded, and carried to adjourn at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pablo Reyes, Jr., Secretary