

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



March 17, 2021

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:10 on March 17, 2021 via Zoom by 1st Vice President Dennis C. Sharpe. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Deacon Rich Maxwell.

In Attendance

Roll call was taken by Secretary Robert A. Mellon who reported a quorum was present.

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 25 of 176 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 15 of 44

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold informed everyone that the Executive Committee and Association officers have met monthly, via conference call, to ensure the business of the association has continued uninterrupted. The Secretary of the Association has emailed members monthly with updates and asking for any concerns that needed to be addressed. Howard reported that the minutes and financial records of the association have been kept in good order. Howard reported that he is hoping to schedule the Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition and the Annual Memorial Service soon. Unfortunately, both events could draw more attendees than would be allowed, or is safe, at their normal scheduled months. Howard noted that the April meeting of the Association will most likely be conducted via Zoom. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for May 7, 2021 in Longport, or via Zoom if needed.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Fire Training Advisory Board is scheduled for April 12, 2021 via Zoom. Howard reported that the Advisory Board has been meeting and that the training center is in good shape. A full report will be made to this Association at the May meeting.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I is running with twenty-eight students and that Firefighter II has started with fourteen students. Mike reported that he is running as full a schedule of classes as the current limitations allows. Mike reported that the course book has been sent out and posted online. Mike reviewed some of the upcoming classes. Mike reported that the Ocean City Fire Department will be training their firefighters during the day at the training center. Mike provided an update on the burn building project. The county is preparing for bids to be submitted for the panel installation along with some additional repairs.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reported that there had recently been a couple of large fires that were handled by initial mutual aid response. Lefty reported that he is still working on mutual aid plan updates and will soon send an email to all chiefs that have not yet submitted their updates. This needs to be done as soon as possible. Lefty is working on putting the mutual aid plan into Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.

NJ State Firemen's Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported that there will be some type of meeting in Wildwood this year. If capacity limits and restrictions are still in place, it may be a one day walk through event for voting. It may be more than that, if allowed. Because of the planning required, a determination will have to be made in May even though things may change by September. The County Caucuses will be a walk-through voting only, same as in 2020. The Atlantic County Caucus is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10, 2021 from 18:00 until 20:00. Cindy reported that the events in Wildwood, such as the vender tents and parade, are run by the Five Mile Beach Volunteer Firemen's Association and if, or how, they take place will be determined by that association. Cindy reported that Past NJSFA President Ernest Jacob Greenwald, Sr. (Ernie) and current Treasurer Barry Joseph Osborn both passed away in January. Cindy reviewed pending NJ legislation that affects the fire service. Cindy reported that on January 1st of this year the home healthcare program has been expanded to also cover the spouses of eligible members. Cindy reported that a 2020 Memorial Service video was created and posted on the NJSFA website. Cindy provided a detailed update on NJSFA procedures. Cindy noted that several locals have not been submitting their bank statements in 2020 and she will be reaching out soon via email. Cindy reported on the recent passing of an Irvington Recruit Firefighter that died days after collapsing during Firefighter training. Unfortunately, he was not yet on the NJSFA rolls and therefore was not eligible for the death benefit. Cindy reminded all chiefs that all new members should immediately be submitted for NJSFA membership for just this very reason.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that it has been a tough year at the home. Twenty guests were lost to COVID. There are currently forty-four guests at the home. Oscar reported that the new memory care unit, with ten beds, will open at the end of April and eleven applications have already been received. Oscar reported that he is seeking reelection to represent Atlantic County on the home's Board of Managers. Oscar reported that the application for the home has been shortened. John Mooney inquired if there was any further news about a home in southern New Jersey. Oscar reported that many have been asking and that they continue to look into options that may be available.

Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that there have been no nominations for valor received this year. Billy reminded all that if an incident rising to the level for a valor award occurs, the fire chief should consider submitting a valor nomination as soon as possible. This will allow for nominations to be written down when the details are still fresh in everyone's minds and the nomination will not be forgotten later. The application is available on the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association website.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that a meeting of the Atlantic County 4H Fair Association has been scheduled and they may be doing something this year. Howard will seek further information and report back to this association.

NJ Forest Fire Service – Dennis Sharpe reported that many prescribed burns have been completed in the area.

200 Club of Atlantic and Cape May Counties – Howard Berchtold reported that the 2021 Memorial Brunch has been canceled but that the valor award nominations will still be accepted, and information has been forwarded via email.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

Bills

The bills were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds. Howard Berchtold reported that the Executive Committee reviewed the bills monthly over the past year and a full report will be provided when we are able to meet in-person.

Good of the Order

Past President Ed Vincent commended the Officers, Executive Committee, and training staff for stepping up to keep the daily business of the association running during this COVID crisis.

Dennis Sharpe congratulated the Absecon Fire Department on their new station and commended them for a beautiful ceremony moving the apparatus from the old station to the new one.

John Mooney reported that the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company Ham and Oyster Dinner is scheduled for April 10, 2021 and will be take-out only.

Past President Skip Portale commended the Officers, Executive Committee, Director of Training Corbo, and all the Fire Instructors for keeping the county fire service moving forward.

Robert Mellon reported that the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company Chicken Barbeque is scheduled for June 6, 2021 and will be take-out only.

Howard Berchtold thanked 1st Vice President Dennis Sharpe for running the meeting via the Zoom.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Rich Maxwell. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:10. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on April 21, 2021 via Zoom and will be a business meeting. The "Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition" program will be scheduled as an in-person event when conditions allow.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Apr. 10, 2021	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com *TAKE OUT ONLY
Sun. Jun. 6, 2021	12:00	Dorothy VFC	64th Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00) *TAKE OUT ONLY
Sat. Nov. 13, 2021	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Apr. 21, 2021	20:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center (Mont-Margate Rd) Zoom Mtg	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation *Awards Postponed
Wed. May 19, 2021	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 16, 2021	20:00	Richland VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 21, 2021	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 18, 2021	20:00	Weymouth VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 15, 2021	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 20, 2021	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 17, 2021	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 15, 2021	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 19, 2022	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 17, 2022	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. May 7, 2021	19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 2, 2021	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 3, 2021	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Oct. 29, 2021	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 7, 2022	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Mon. Apr. 12, 2021	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center Zoom Meeting	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 12, 2021	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Oct. 18, 2021	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 10, 2022	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Apr. 14, 2021	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association ***CANCELED
Wed. May 12, 2021	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jun. 9, 2021	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jul. 14, 2021	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Aug. 11, 2021	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Sep. 8, 2021	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Oct. 13, 2021	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Nov. 10, 2021	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 8, 2021	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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Tues. Jan. 25, 2022	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
February 2022-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jul. 22, 2021	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 27, 2022	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 28, 2022	19:30	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association