

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



September 15, 2021

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on September 15, 2021, at the Hammonton Fire Department Station 1, by President Charles E. "Chick" Kisby III. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Deacon Rich Maxwell. President Kisby then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Kisby introduced Chief Sean Macri of the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Macri welcomed all to Hammonton.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 38 of 168 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 17 of 42

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2021 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 reported that the last meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the new fire station in Absecon. Howard thanked the Absecon Fire Department and Chief Roy Talley, who attended that meeting, for hosting the meeting which Chief Talley reported to be the first outside meeting held at the new station. Howard reported that it was learned that night the Ed Vincent, Past Association President and Absecon Firefighter, had just had emergency surgery to remove a mass on his brain. Howard inquired if Oscar Dutch had an update on Ed's status. Oscar reported that he had just spoken with Ed, and they were making plans for Ed to attend the convention in Wildwood. Oscar reported that Ed has been recovering at home and that the surgery had gone well. The mass may have been related to Ed's history with melanoma. Howard noted that it was good to hear that Ed was doing well. Howard then summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Executive Committee held on September 3, 2021 at the Absecon Fire Department. Howard read the Finance Committee report verbatim from those minutes. "Treasurer Jaime Mellon reported that the accounting firm changed their payroll systems over the last year. They currently only provide payroll services to a handful of agencies, including this association. They recommend that their customers use an online payroll provider. Jaime reported she got an estimate of approximately \$1,000 in processing fees annually and that the cost is too high. Jaime also reported that the bank we were going to run payroll through, OceanFirst, changed their fee structure and had already started drawing down on the

association's small balance to cover the new fees. Jaime reported she fought for, and received, refunds of the lost monies and now is recommending the association close the account with OceanFirst. All agreed with the recommendation. Jaime reported that primary banking will continue with Bank of America, at least until the 2nd draw PPP loan has been forgiven. Jaime reported that the CD at Parke Bank matures in October and that Parke Bank savings accounts are nearly the same rate. There was discussion about banking options. It was noted that keeping the money in a savings account keeps it available instead of tying it into a CD. Jaime recommended moving the CD to savings and checking accounts at Parke Bank and all agreed. Jaime reported on issues with the current use of a business credit card. Proper procedure requires that all original receipts be kept as well as copying thermal receipts before they can fade. A full audit of receipts and credit card statements should be conducted regularly." Howard noted that the Treasurer has stayed on top of the ever-changing banking needs of the association and that the Executive Committee approved the recommendations of the Treasurer. Howard reported that letters requesting a feasibility study have been sent from both this association and the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association to County Executive Levinson and that he is working with Chick Kisby, Lefty Clayton, and Butch Kienzle to put a committee together and work with Tim Kreisler, Shared Services Coordinator for Atlantic County, to formulate a fire and EMS central dispatch feasibility study. Howard reported that the missed 2021 memorial names will be memorialized at the 2022 memorial service in January and that names are being gathered to get an accurate list of those who have achieved fifty years of service over the last two years and this year. All departments should check that their membership deserving of the recognition has had their names submitted. We do not want to miss anyone. The 2019, 2020, and 2021 honorees will be recognized at the Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition scheduled for April 2022. A request will be made to hold the date with the Egg Harbor Township Community Center in case a larger venue is required. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for October 29, 2021 in South Egg Harbor at 19:30. Normally the committee will meet at the South Egg Harbor firehouse at 17:15 or the Never There Gun Club, Hammonton, at 17:30 for the spaghetti and crab sauce dinner at the gun club. It is not known at this time if the dinner will be held or be take-out only. If the dinner is scheduled for dine-in, all are welcome to join the committee for dinner.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for October 18, 2021 and that Commissioner Rich Dase should be in attendance.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the County project manager for the burn building has taken a leave of absence. The County has reassigned the project to an Engineer with the Atlantic County Improvement Authority. Mike spoke with him, and they expect to put the project out for bid within two weeks. The plan is for the project to take seventy-three days and the building will not be available for training during that time. They hope to start by December 15th. Mike reported that Firefighter II will start on October 4th and that Firefighter I is running with twenty-two students. Kean University is running Fire Instructor I and II classes at the training center. Mike reported that the past Firefighter I classes will have their graduation ceremony on September 20th at the Egg Harbor Township Community Center starting at 6:30 PM.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reported that he forwarded a copy of EO248 that rescinds EO50 and updates the National Incident management System (NIMS) requirements for NJ to the county chiefs. Multiple state agencies affected by the IMS requirements are meeting to review the training requirements proposal. Lefty reported that there are differences of opinion concerning whether I200 can be online or should be in person. Lefty noted that the NJ DFS prefers the classroom option. Mike Corbo reported that there are some legal conflicts between the new IMS training proposals and current NJ legislated fire service requirements. Lefty reported that he will not be seeking another two-year term as the Fire Coordinator for Atlantic County and that his term is done at the end of 2021. Lefty reminded all that the County Fire Coordinator is chosen by both the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association and the Atlantic County Emergency Management Coordinator submitting recommendations to the NJ Division of Fire Safety.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that Friends Village at Woodstown, Salem County, will be the first southern option for NJ Firefighters wanting to stay closer to their family. The monthly cost will be the same \$850 per month as at the NJ Firemen's Home. The same level of care will also be provided.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported on the September 8th meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held in Nesco. There was discussion about radio communication issues Hammonton has had when responding into Burlington County. Butch reported that the Chiefs' Association trophy for the parade in Wildwood will be "Best Appearing Atlantic County Command Vehicle". The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 in East Vineland, Buena Vista Township.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported they are making progress.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that there have been no submissions for valor recognition since 2020 and reminded all Fire Chiefs to submit any incident worthy of valor recognition as soon as possible after the incident so that it is not forgotten.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Chick Kisby reported that the walk-through voting has been scheduled for Friday, September 17th in Wildwood. The suggested hour for Atlantic County is from 11:00 to 12:00. The tents and apparatus display will be open as usual on Friday and Saturday with the parade at 2pm Saturday.

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.

Good of the Order

Dennis Sharpe reported that he was informed that there have only been twenty-seven registrations for judging, thus far, for the parade in Wildwood.

Dennis Sharpe reported that he was able to attend four of the many great 9/11 recognition events held in Atlantic County. All were well attended and highly organized and respectful.

Rich Maxwell reported that he was able to participate in the Egg Harbor Township and Galloway Township 9/11 ceremonies and that they were very nice. Rich took his restored 1987 Plymouth Fury Battalion Chief’s Car, dedicated to those lost on 9/11, to the ceremonies.

Howard Berchtold reported that all the 9/11 ceremonies he saw were very good and he was honored to participate in some.

Thank you to the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department Station 1 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Rich Maxwell. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on October 20, 2021 at the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company, Weymouth Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Thurs. Sep. 16, 2021	12:00	Greate Bay Country Club	Atl. City Professional Firefighters Local 198 - Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Golf Tournament
Fri. Sep. 17, 2021	09:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention (Arrive, Vote, Leave) 09:00-15:00
Fri. Sep. 17, 2021	08:00	Wildwood	Five Mile Beach Vol. Firemen's Assoc. hosts NJ Fire Expo (Tents & Exhibits) 08:00-18:00
Sat. Sep. 18, 2021	08:00	Wildwood	Five Mile Beach Vol. Firemen's Assoc. hosts NJ Fire Expo (Tents & Exhibits) 08:00-13:00
Sat. Sep. 18, 2021	14:00	Wildwood	Five Mile Beach Vol. Firemen's Assoc. hosts NJ State Firemen's Convention Parade
Mon. Sep. 20, 2021	18:30	Egg Harbor Township Community Center	Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony (Spring 2020/Fall 2020/Spring 2021/Summer 2021)
Sat. Sep. 25, 2021	17:00	McGettigan's 19th Hole	Benefit for FF Eric Peace, Pomona VFC
Sun. Sep. 26, 2021	09:00	NJFM, 4 Polhemustown Rd, Allentown, NJ	NJ Fire Museum Annual Open House (09:00 - 15:00)
Sat. Oct. 2, 2021	09:00	Bayview VFC @ Rt. 9 Station	Flea Market & Craft Show
Sat. Oct. 3, 2021	10:00	Northfield FD	5th Annual Classic Car Show & Silent Auction
Sat. Oct. 16, 2021	11:00	Bayview VFC @ 6th Ave. Station	Cornhole Tournament
Sat. Oct. 23, 2021	12:00	Absecon VFC	Building Dedication, Housing, & Parade
Sat. Nov. 13, 2021	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
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Sat. Apr. 9, 2022	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. May 14, 2022	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill
Sat. Nov. 12, 2022	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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. 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. 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. Oct. 13, 2021	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
Wed. Nov. 10, 2021	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
Wed. Dec. 8, 2021	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
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Tues. Jan. 25, 2022	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
February 2022-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

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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