

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



November 17, 2021

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on November 17, 2021 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2 by President Charles E. "Chick" Kisby III. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of all fallen firefighters and military personnel and 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 Deputy Chief Michael R. Sweeney Sr. of the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department. Deputy Chief Sweeney welcomed all to Somers Point.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 36 of 168 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 18 of 42

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the October 20, 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 on, and summarized the minutes of, the Executive Committee meeting held on October 29, 2021 in South Egg Harbor. The committee did not meet for dinner in Hammonton, as they have done so for years, due to the Never There Gun Club's Crab and Spaghetti Dinner being take-out only. The committee learned that Ed Vincent had been doing well since emergency surgery. The committee discussed the Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board report on the Greater Egg Harbor School District "Intro to Firefighting" course and how it may be beneficial to work with them to help generate interest in serving local fire service within the high schools under the GEHR School District. The Treasurer had reported to the committee on the ongoing work with Bank of America and Parke Bank. Work is continuing with the Atlantic County Shared Services Coordinator to collect data towards a conceptual proposal for central dispatch to start with only Fire and EMS agencies. They will be seeking to visit Mercer County Dispatch where a Fire and EMS central dispatch is working successfully. The current goal is to draft a position paper that includes information about recent incidents that had communication issues. Howard reported that he is working with the Chaplain and President to plan for the Memorial Service in January and that Butch Kienzle moved, and the Executive Committee agreed, to recommend that the Association start the 2022 Memorial Service at 19:00, instead of 20:00, due to the service covering two years (2020 and

2021). Howard reported that he suggested that the Executive Committee recommend the Association start the regular meetings at 19:30, instead of 20:00, starting with the February 2022 meeting. It was noted that Secretary Robert Mellon pointed out that the meeting start time is set by the Association's Constitution and would require an amendment be submitted. Discussion led to a consensus that maybe an informal trial of the earlier start time could be started if the Association and the host departments were all onboard and then process of submitting an amendment to the Constitution could be started. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for January 7, 2022 in Pomona at 19:30 and will be the reorganizational meeting for 2022.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for January 10, 2022 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the current Firefighter I class started with twenty-two and now has eighteen students. The Firefighter II class started with fourteen and now has nine students. The Fire Inspector class is running with nine students. Mike reviewed the schedule of upcoming classes. Mike reported that the burn building refurbishment is still expected to begin in mid-December and take approximately ninety days. The probable total cost should be around one million dollars versus six to eight million dollars for a new building. Mike reported that he had been contacted by a representative of the Minotola Volunteer Fire Company. They are interested in donating their retired 1992 Telesquirt to the Fire Academy. Mike then reported that he was also contacted by Chief Adams, Margate Fire Department, about them donating their retired Quint to the Fire Academy. The Margate truck would be fully loaded with tools including two sets of Hurst tools. One condition with the Margate truck would be a shared service agreement whereby the truck would be temporarily lent to Margate if their new truck were to be out of service. Some think both should be accepted. It was determined, at the Executive Committee meeting, that it would be best to have a committee review the options along with Training Advisory Board and County input. Mike reported that the county budget for 2022 includes a new audio-visual system for the training center. Butch Kienzle inquired if Mike new why students had dropped out of the Firefighter I and II classes. Mike reported that some in Firefighter II were from out of county and had a carpool issue and that one in Firefighter I had left the fire service. The reason for the other dropouts is unknown. Mike reported on a few of NJ Counties that have started an agility test for entry into their Firefighter I class including Burlington, Union, and Morris. Mike reported on the IMS training requirement updates. There was much discussion about the Governor's directive and the NJ DFS position on the IMS updates.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reminded all that his term is ending at the end of the year and that Chip Stockton has been selected by the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association as their recommendation for Atlantic County Fire Coordinator, 2022/2023 term. Lefty reported that he is reaching out to all county Fire Chiefs for 2019 and 2020 incident counts for the central Fire/EMS dispatch research.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported there are sixty guests at the home with four in the memory care unit. Oscar reported that the budget for the home was approved by the Board of Managers and sent to the Governor for approval. Oscar reported that Friends Village at Woodstown, Salem County, will be the first southern option for NJ Firefighters wanting to stay closer to their family and that they have a meeting scheduled to possibly approve a home in Cape May County. Oscar noted that any home selected must be class four or five rated and that they are still seeking an option for Atlantic County.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported on the November 10th meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held in Linwood. A vote was held to select the recommendation for the 2022/2023 Atlantic County Fire Coordinator with Chip Stockton being selected. A letter of recommendation was sent to Vince Jones. Butch reported that Donald Nelsen, new Shore Region Fire Coordinator for NJ DFS, was in attendance. SRFC Nelsen reported that a company in Ocean County has received initial notice of fines totaling sixty-four thousand dollars based on NJ PEOSH and Department of Labor investigations. Much of the fines can be abated as they correct the issues identified. Chief Lefty Clayton reported that one issue was that the company's accountability tags had firefighter photos on them, and some had full beards in the photos. Chief Michael Cahill reported that he is having both of his stations voluntarily inspected by NJ PEOSH and that process identifies issues that need correction without fines that could result if the inspection were due to an incident or complaint.

Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that there have been no submissions for valor recognition 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. President Kisby requested that all companies also submit the names of those having achieved fifty plus years of service over the past couple of years, and that have not yet been recognized due to COVID canceling the 2020 and 2021 ceremonies, so that we may acknowledge all of those reaching that milestone.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjust the start time of the January 2022 meeting/memorial service to 7:00 PM as recommended by the Executive Committee.

The recommendation of the Executive Committee to change the start time of the regular meetings to 7:30 PM and seek to submit a constitutional amendment to formalize the change for future years was discussed at length. Rob Winkler suggested approving February, March, April, and May as a trial period.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjust the start time of the February, March, April, and May 2022 meetings to 7:30 PM.

Howard Berchtold reported that the Executive Committee supports the required motions and resolutions necessary for the Treasurer to close the checking account at OceanFirst Bank and open a checking account at Parke Bank.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize the Treasurer to close the checking account at OceanFirst Bank and adopt a resolution closing the account.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize the Treasurer to open a checking account at Parke Bank and adopt a resolution authorizing the new account.

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.

Nomination of Officers

The second of two rounds of nominations was held. Charles E. Kisby withdrew from the President nomination and William L. Merola Jr. withdrew from the Executive Committee nomination. All positions are uncontested, and all nominees have accepted their nomination to office. Those nominated are as follows:

President (1)	Charles J. Mackintosh
1 st Vice President (1)	Dennis C. Sharpe
2 nd Vice President (1)	William L. Merola Jr.
Secretary (1)	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer (1)	Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	Sandra L. Walczak
Chaplain (1)	Dcn. Rich Maxwell
Sgt.-at-Arms (3)	Wayne Dilks, William Donath, Charles Harlan
Executive Comm. (9)	Howard Berchtold Jr., Levon S. "Lefty" Clayton, Kim Feinstein, Marylynn Graham, Walter R. "Butch" Kienzle III, Charles E. "Chick" Kisby, Christopher Kislow, Eugene M. Sharpe, C. Robert Winkler III

Good of the Order

Thank you to the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2 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 21:00. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on December 15, 2021 at the Scullville Volunteer Fire Company. Election of officers for 2022 will be conducted.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Dec. 11, 2021	19:00	Hammonton VFD	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (lineup 18:00 & parade 19:00)
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. Dec. 15, 2021	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jan. 19, 2022	20:00 19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 17, 2022	20:00 19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. Jan. 7, 2022	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)
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Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board**

Mon. Jan. 10, 2022	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Dec. 8, 2021	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
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.

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