

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



March 16, 2022

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:35 on March 16, 2022 at the Elwood Volunteer Fire Company by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of all fallen firefighters and military personnel. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Installation of Officers for 2022

Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. offered some remarks on behalf of Chaplain Maxwell whom was unable to be in attendance. Howard asked that everyone keep the family that lost two members in the recent structure fire in their thoughts and prayers along with the firefighters that responded that night. Howard also asked for prayers that the Ukrainian conflict comes to an end without further suffering for all those affected including those in the United States that are unable to contact family in either country. Howard then requested that William Donath come forward to be sworn into office since he was unable to attend in January.

Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. installed the following into office for the year 2022:

Sgt.-at-Arms William Donath

Introduction of Host Chief

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Anthony Tomasco of the Elwood Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Tomasco welcomed all to Elwood and thanked those that provided mutual aid for the recent structure fire with fatalities.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 43 of 168 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 19 of 42

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2022 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 summarized the minutes from the meeting of the committee held on March 4, 2022 in Cardiff. There was discussion about getting more county level participation from the membership. There was discussion about keeping the association moving forward and the need to start planning for the 100th anniversary of the association in 2023. Marylynn Graham presented the budget and reports on behalf of Director of Fire Training Mike Corbo. The committee received the 2022 training budget proposal, with a total of \$26,400, and 2022 training capital purchase proposal, with a total of \$14,100, and recommended the association approve them. It was determined that further discussion about the quint and telesquirt donation proposals is warranted. Marylynn reported that the Firefighter I physical agility test was a pilot and that all in the current class did complete it within a reasonable and expected time. There was much discussion about the agility test, and all agreed that Director Corbo should arrange for a presentation to the county fire chiefs about how the pilot test went, what changes have been made, and what the plan is moving forward. Treasurer Jaime Mellon reported that the current paperwork requirements to open a checking account with Parke Bank are onerous. Jaime recommended that the association just continue with bank of America for now. Chairman Berchtold introduced a recommendation to increase the stipends for the Treasurer and the Secretary to \$1,500 annually. The stipends are currently at \$1,200 annually. There was discussion on the recommendation and the Executive Committee agreed to recommend that the association increase the stipends and approve an adjustment to the already approved administrative budget reflecting the change. Lefty Clayton provided a report to the committee about concerns presented at the EMS Chiefs meeting about county training funds. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for May 6, 2022 in Longport.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board –The next meeting of the fire training advisory board is on April 18, 2022 at the training center.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reiterated that a list of those who have achieved fifty years of service is due by March 18th. This year will cover 2019 to present due to no awards recognition having been held the last two years.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I class is now running with nineteen students due to one dropout. Firefighter II just started with only ten students. Mike reviewed the upcoming classes on the schedule. Mike reported on much discussion at the state level concerning the future of incident management training. Mike reported that the burn building project continues to move forward after some roof opening modifications and the expected completion remains sometime in April. Mike reported that he has received many questions about the Firefighter I physical agility test. Mike reiterated that this was a pilot test and all twenty that took it completed within or just over the desired completion time. The test ran smoothly and some revisions have already been implemented after instructor review to make the test flow better. Mike reported that he has a video of the test for review. Mike reported that the career departments cover their recruit class costs when they run a dedicated class. If one or two career recruits are added to the scheduled Firefighter I classes then that cost is provided through the county fund. Mike reviewed how his budget works with some county support and tuition received.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported that he met with the Fire Coordinator from Ocean County to discuss inter-county mutual aid. Chip reported that eighteen county companies assisted with funeral procession detail for Philadelphia Deputy Fire Chief Smith. Chip thanked the fire chiefs for allowing the apparatus to participate at key intersections as the procession crossed Atlantic County. Chip reported on the voluntary typing of “Squad Company” apparatus and the engine and ladder typing would be next. The typing allows for more efficient mutual aid across the state by knowing what you are getting. Chip reported that he is also working on collecting information about any specialty apparatus or equipment within the county and also updating the Wildland Urban Interface Strike Teams information. A wildland urban interface drill has been scheduled for April 23rd in the Germania section of Galloway Township at the Germania Gunning Club. Chip reported that the triennial airport disaster drill is scheduled for May 14th. Chip reported that he discussed Whitey’s museum with Vince Jones and that Vince is waiting on a callback from Joy so that they can schedule a meeting to discuss the museum and auction status including that some items were on loan and should be returned to the rightful owner. Chip reported that he continues to try and forward all important state emails to the fire chiefs within twenty-four hours.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch reported that there are currently sixty-five guests in the home with five of them being in residential and four in memory care. Oscar reported that the Governor signed the budget for the Firemen’s Home with a 2.5-million-dollar allowance housing guests in contracted homes within southern New Jersey. Oscar reported that the first contract is likely to be with United Methodist Homes allowing allotments at all three locations. The homes are in Ocean City, Collingswood, and Pitman. Oscar reported that they continue to research other options but many of the non-profit homes have sold out to for profit companies. They hope to have the first guests in southern homes by June 1st. Oscar noted that the fee will remain the same, \$850/month, as the Firemen’s Home.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported on the March 9th meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held in Minotola. Butch noted that there was good attendance and the Southern Regional Fire Coordinator was unable to attend. The “Squad Company” typing was reviewed. Information about the Clifton Fire Department collecting donations for Ukraine was received. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on April 13 2022 at the Farmington Volunteer Fire Company.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that a valor committee reviewed one nomination. Nominations should be written up soon after an incident that warrants a nomination so that the details are still fresh and it is not forgotten.

200 Club – Howard Berchtold reported that the 200 Club of Atlantic and Cape May Counties has scheduled the 36th Annual Atlantic/Cape Memorial Service and Brunch for April 3th in Atlantic City. Howard Berchtold reported that the 200 Club Memorial Service information has just come out and that both the County Fire Chiefs' and Firefighters' Associations have split the cost to purchase a full page in the program book remembering a line of duty death. Just this last December Atlantic City Firefighter Anthony Carfagno died in the line of duty. Howard emphasized that this is a worthwhile event to attend and is a very moving service. Information and tickets are available at <http://200clubofatlanticandcapemaycounties.org>

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2022 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Budget proposal, with a total of \$26,400, and the 2022 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Capital Purchase proposal, with a total of \$14,100, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the increasing of both the Treasurer and Secretary stipends to \$1,500 annually and to amend the previously approved 2022 Administrative Budget, with a total of \$5,525, to reflect those changes making the new total \$6,125, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to join with the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association and purchase a full page in the program book to remember fallen Firefighter Anthony Carfagno at a total cost of \$225 or \$112.50 for each association.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association sponsor the New Jersey Firemen's Home 2022 Golf Outing at the bronze level with a \$200.00 donation.

Lefty Clayton provided information about county training funds and some concern at the EMS Chiefs meeting about getting funding for EMT training. Lefty reviewed the history of the county funding for Firefighter I training and that there are limits to it requiring the association to cover any year end overages and how that model would not be a good fit for EMT training.

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

President Mackintosh reported that it is good to see some increased attendance and noted that he is available to discuss any concerns that need to be addressed in order to continue increasing county membership participation.

Oscar Dutch reported that Ed Vincent has not been doing well but did sound better recently. Oscar noted that he is up for receiving phone calls and that they are always welcome.

Thank you to the Elwood Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Howard Berchtold. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on April 20, 2022 at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center and hosted by the Margate City Fire Department. This meeting will include the “Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition” program.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sun. Apr. 3, 2022	10:30	St. Nicholas Church (10:30) & Tropicana Casino (12:30)	200 Club of Atlantic & Cape May Counties - Memorial Service (10:30) & Brunch (12:30)
Fri. Apr. 8, 2022	17:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	10th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner *TAKE OUT ONLY
Sat. Apr. 9, 2022	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com *TAKE OUT ONLY
Sat. Apr. 23, 2022	08:00	Wildland Urban Interface Strike Team Drill	Germania Gunning Club
Sat. Apr. 23, 2022	20:00	Newtonville VFC Aux.	Spring Dance
Sat. Apr. 30, 2022	17:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	Beef & Beer Benefit benefiting Asst. Ch. Domenick Digiovannangelo
Sat. May 14, 2022	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill
Sat. May 21, 2022	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30) *TAKE OUT ONLY
Sun. Jun. 5, 2022	12:00	Dorothy VFC	65th Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00) *TAKE OUT ONLY
Wed. Jun. 8, 2022	18:00	Smithville Inn, Smithville	Beef & Beer to Benefit Oceanville VFC
Tues. Aug. 9, 2022	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 16, 2022	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 17, 2022	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Nov. 12, 2022	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Apr. 20, 2022	19:30	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation
Wed. May 18, 2022	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 15, 2022	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 20, 2022	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 17, 2022	20:00	Cologne VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 21, 2022	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 19, 2022	20:00	Port Republic VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 16, 2022	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 21, 2022	20:00	Farmington VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jan. 18, 2023	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 15, 2023	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. May 6, 2022	19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 8, 2022	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 2, 2022	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Nov. 4, 2022	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jan. 6, 2023	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Mon. Apr. 18, 2022	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 18, 2022	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Oct. 17, 2022	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jan. 9, 2023	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Apr. 13, 2022	20:00	Farmington VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
Wed. May 11, 2022	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
Wed. Jun. 8, 2022	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
Wed. Jul. 13, 2022	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Aug. 10, 2022	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Sep. 14, 2022	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Oct. 12, 2022	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Nov. 9, 2022	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 14, 2022	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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Tues. Jan. 24, 2023	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
February 2023-----	-----	-----	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
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Thurs. Jan. 26, 2023	19:30		Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 27, 2023	19:30		Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association