

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



April 20, 2022

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:40 on April 20, 2022 at the Atlantic County Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center 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. President Mackintosh welcomed all to the meeting which serves as the twenty-ninth annual Valor Awards presentation and the eleventh annual recognition of firefighters with fifty or more years of active service.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

President Mackintosh reported that both Chaplain Rich Maxwell and Howard Berchtold were unable to attend and have sent their regrets. Vice President Dennis C. Sharpe read remarks and a prayer on behalf of Chaplain Maxwell. President Mackintosh thanked the Margate City Fire Department for hosting and introduced Chief Daniel Adams. Chief Adams welcomed everyone to the annual valor awards and expressed how proud the Margate City Fire Department is to be hosting the awards for the tenth year. Chief Adams spoke about those having achieved fifty years of service, the amount of training attended over the years, and the many missed meals and family events due to answering the call to service. Chief Adams then read a quote from Chief Edward F. Croker, Chief of Department FDNY 1899-1911. "I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling. Our proudest moment is to save lives. Under the impulse of such thoughts, the nobility of the occupation thrills us and stimulates us to deeds of daring, even of supreme sacrifice." Chief Adams thanked all for attending on behalf of the Margate City Fire Department and ended his remarks by asking everyone to join him in reciting "A Fireman's Prayer".

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 56 of 168

Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 22 of 42

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Dispensing of Business

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the regular business except for the paying of the bills.

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.

Introduction of “Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition”

President Mackintosh welcomed all to the awards presentation and “50” year service recognitions. President Mackintosh reported that twenty-two firefighters will be honored for having achieved fifty years of service. President Mackintosh thanked all valor award recipients for having the courage to do what needed to be done and then also thanked the “50” years of service recipients for having the dedication and commitment for all those years. President Mackintosh reported that Atlantic City Firefighter Anthony Michael Carfagno will be honored after the awards with a ceremony to add a leaf bearing his name to the Tree of Fallen Heroes. Firefighter Carfagno died in the line of duty on December 21, 2021 following a battle with COVID-19. President Mackintosh introduced Deputy Chief Thomas J. Cullen, Jr., Atlantic City Fire Department. Deputy Chief Cullen spoke about Firefighter Carfagno’s dedication to the job and to the community where he dedicated time caring for a community garden. Deputy Chief Cullen noted the Atlantic City Fire Department recognizes the significance of having added another name to the Tree of Fallen Heroes.

President Mackintosh welcomed and introduced guests; NJ Assemblyman Donald A. Guardian; Atlantic County Commissioners: Chairwoman Maureen Kern, Vice-Chairman John W. Risley Jr., and James A. Bertino; Atlantic County Clerk Joseph J. Giraldo; Atlantic County Surrogate James Curcio; and Atlantic County Director of Public Safety Michael A. Fedorko.

Valor Awards

President Charles J. Mackintosh presented each of the Valor Award recipients with their awards from the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association. This is the twenty-ninth year of the Valor Awards presentation. Recipients have included firefighters, police officers, medical personnel, and civilians. All honorees also received recognitions from NJ Senator Vincent J. Polistina, Assemblyman Donald A. Guardian, and Assemblywomen Claire S. Swift; the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners; and Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson. Unfortunately, not all honorees were able to be in attendance. Those honorees will receive their awards at a future meeting or have them sent to their department for presentation.

Those being honored for valor are:

Assistant Chief Kenny Badger Jr., Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company, Unit Citation
Captain Robert Debiaso, Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company, Unit Citation
Captain Matthew Robison, Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company, Unit Citation
Firefighter Mark Jenigen, Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company, Unit Citation
Firefighter Nathan Harring, Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company, Unit Citation
Imagery Specialist Ken Badger Sr., Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company, Unit Citation

President Mackintosh introduced Ken Badger Sr., Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company, who provided a summary of the rescue on January 16, 2021. Multiple Hamilton Township Fire Companies were dispatched for a structure fire at the Sandpiper Condominium Complex on January 16, 2021. The first arriving firefighters from Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company, Tanker 1819, stretched a line, made entry, and removed a single victim during their primary search. The victim made a full recovery after hospitalization due to smoke inhalation.

“50” Year Service Awards

President Charles J. Mackintosh presented each of the “50” Year Service Award recipients with a uniform bar (IOU due to supply delay), gold life member card (IOU due to supply delay), and framed certificate from the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association. This is the eleventh year of the annual recognition of firefighters with fifty or more years of active service. The honorees also received recognitions from NJ Senator Vincent J. Polistina, Assemblyman Donald A. Guardian, and Assemblywomen Claire S. Swift; the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners; and Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson. Unfortunately, not all honorees were able to be in attendance. Those honorees will receive their awards at a future meeting or have them sent to their department for presentation. With great sadness we report that James A. Garth Sr. passed in 2020, shortly after achieving fifty years of service. Jim’s wife and his two sons were present to accept on his behalf.

“50” Year Service Award Recipients:

Gerald L. Dixon, Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company
James Laughlin Sr., Bayview Volunteer Fire Company
Kelso Taylor, Bayview Volunteer Fire Company

Richard Speed, Bayview Volunteer Fire Company
Constantine P. Kiamos Jr., Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company
Ronald Ruggeri, East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company
Wayne Corsiglia, East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company
James A. Garth Sr., Farmington Volunteer Fire Company
Louis Nell, Germania Volunteer Fire Company
Ralph Perna, Independent Volunteer Fire Company (Hammonton Fire Department, Sta. 2)
Levon S. Clayton, Longport Volunteer Fire Department
Anthony J. Vicchiarelli Jr., Longport Volunteer Fire Department
Richard Hirsch, Longport Volunteer Fire Department
Eric M. Hensel, Milmay Volunteer Fire Company
Robert Leeds, Northfield Fire Department
James W. Thompson, Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company
Joseph Ward, Pomona Volunteer Fire Company
Robert Wilson, Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company
William L. Merola Jr., Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 1
Wally Shields, Scullville Volunteer Fire Company
Thomas Nardoza, South Egg Harbor Volunteer Fire Company
Harry Craig, Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company

President Mackintosh congratulated all 50 year service award recipients and thanked all of the families that supported them for all of those years.

Special Presentation

Vice President Dennis C. Sharpe introduced Chief Gary P. Franklin, Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Franklin spoke of “The Sweetwater Six” who were a group of women who were aware of a daytime firefighter shortage in 1988. They joined the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company and trained to become dedicated firefighters who still serve today. Chief Franklin shared a plaque that honors their dedication by dedicating the Sweetwater Firehouse meeting room in their honor. “The Sweetwater Six” are Diane Cheatham, Mary Ann Clay, Barbara Craig, Peggy Franklin, Mary Ann Knuth, and Eileen Reichenbach.

Tree of Fallen Heroes Ceremony

In addition to honoring those for their service and valor, a ceremony to add a leaf bearing the name of fallen Firefighter Anthony Michael Carfagno to the Tree of Fallen Heroes was held. Firefighter Carfagno, Atlantic City Fire Department, died in the line of duty, on December 21, 2021, following a battle with COVID-19. The Tree of Fallen Heroes was installed at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center in 2007 to honor all the Atlantic County first responders (police, fire, and EMS) that have died in the line of duty.

Good of the Order

NJ Assemblyman Donald A. Guardian, Atlantic County Board of Commissioners Chairwoman Maureen Kern, and Atlantic County Director of Public Safety Michael A. Fedorko offered words of gratitude for the local fire service and the honored award recipients.

Thank you to the Margate City Fire Department and FMBA Local 41 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

President Mackintosh thanked everyone for attending the “Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition”.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting and awards presentation was adjourned at 20:35. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on May 18, 2022 in South Egg Harbor, Galloway Township.

Attested:
Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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
Sun. May 1, 2022	08:00	Winslow Twp., Camden Co.	Tender Task Force Bravo (TTF-B) to Regional Drill
Sat. May 7, 2022	15:30	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner (15:30 - 19:30) *TAKE OUT ONLY
Sun. May 8, 2022	07:00	Nesco VFC	Mother's Day Breakfast (07:00-12:00)
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
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ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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
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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
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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. 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
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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. 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 Chiefs Association
Wed. Sep. 14, 2022	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Oct. 12, 2022	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs 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
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. Jul. 28, 2022	19:30	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jan. 26, 2023	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 27, 2023	19:30	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association