

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



June 15, 2022

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:40 on June 15, 2022 at the East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Deacon Rich Maxwell. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Marc Corsiglia of the East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Corsiglia welcomed all to East Vineland.

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 – 20 of 42

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the May 18, 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.

Special Presentation

President Mackintosh welcomed and introduced Paul Touroonjian with Allegiant Wireless. Paul provided information about his background with the radio communications field, distributed antenna systems, code requirements for distributed antenna systems, public safety compliance testing for distributed antenna systems, and how he came to the decision to start his own business focused on independent public safety compliance testing for distributed antenna systems. Code requires new construction to meet certain radio coverage standards. A distributed antenna system may be required to meet the standard. The system must be certified via testing. Most testing is done by companies that also sell the systems. Existing facilities are grandfathered under the NJ code. Some cities, ex. Newark, have established requirements that certain existing facilities comply with the radio coverage standards, and some have set a square foot trigger to require a system in existing facilities, ex. 25,000 sq. ft. or larger in Howell Township. Paul explained that jurisdictions that enforce the code can hold the certificate of occupancy until the code requirements are met. The code is not always enforced as well as it should be. Paul emphasized that first responder communications have been characterized as a critical lifeline. The cost of certification testing is burdened upon the facility owner. Depending on square footage and number of floors, the cost for testing can range about \$1,800 to \$5,000+. Paul noted that his company strictly tests installed systems and does not sell systems.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on July 8, 2022 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Station 1.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for July 18, 2022. Howard noted that it is critical that the next meeting be held as there is much to discuss.

Training – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that the summer semester Firefighter I class is running with fifteen students (ten in county and 5 out of county). The summer semester Firefighter II class was canceled due to only two registrations. The Director is working on setting a date for the spring semester Firefighter I graduation ceremony. The burn building refurbishment has been completed. The spring semester Firefighter I and II burns are being completed. The Atlantic City Fire Department will complete two weeks of burns. Department/Company training/drills burns will probably be scheduled starting in September. The county is working on an agreement with Margate to transfer their retired Quint to the training center and while also maintaining readiness as a reserve apparatus for Margate. An agreement with this association and Minotola will be required for the donation of their retired Telesquirt. Dave reported on the upcoming scheduled classes.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Dave Buzby reported that he has received the 50 years of service pins and that a representative from each company with honorees may pick them up.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported that he had received a call the prior week requesting volunteers to assist with a search in the Collings Lakes area. They were looking for a 34-year-old missing since March. The effort did yield some personal items found. Chip introduced NJFFS District Fire Warden Quincy Jones. Quincy spoke about the SAR Topo app utilized during the search. Chip reported that Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) will soon schedule a meeting in Port Republic. Chip reminded everyone that those responding to TTF calls should switch to the TTF talkgroup on the county radio. Chip reported on attending a meeting for the planning of the Atlantic City Airshow. Chip reported on training available from the 177th Fighter Wing Fire Department on best practices and safety for local departments if approaching a downed fighter jet.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported that NJSFA President Robert Ordway and 1st Vice President Joseph Hankins attended the July 2021 meeting of this association. Cindy requested that they be invited to attend the July 2022 meeting. Cindy reported that the Atlantic County Caucus has been scheduled for August 9th in Egg Harbor City at 7:00 pm. There will be a \$100 convention expense penalty for any Delegate not attending the caucus. The convention is scheduled for September 16th and September 17th in Wildwood. On September 16th, registration will run from 7:00 am to 10:15 am. The Memorial Service will start at 10:00 am with the business meeting immediately following. On September 17th, registration and voting will run from 7:00 am until 12:00 noon. Cindy reported that the Atlantic County convention expenses will be \$796 for Delegate lodging or \$242 for Delegate that commutes and \$398 for Life Member lodging or \$121 for Life Member that commutes. Cindy reported on the 2022 burial to date and the relief claim statistics for 2021 and 2022 to date. Cindy reported that the healthcare reimbursement program has increased monthly maximums of \$6,000 for a NJSFA member and \$2,000 for a NJSFA member spouse or non-remarried surviving spouse.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the home currently has sixty-four guests. Four of the guests are in the memory care wing. Oscar reported that they are working on a new workout room. Oscar provided an update on plans to contract for rooms in southern New Jersey with United Methodist Homes being the first identified provider meeting standards set by NJFH. A meeting about the planned program has been scheduled in Trenton. Cindy Badger reported that there is a new letter showing current opposition to the program from the NJSFA Executive Committee. Much time was spent on a back-and-forth passionate discussion about comparing the NJSFA healthcare reimbursement program and the NJFH current program and planned contracted program for greater and more local options for those requiring nursing home care. Discussion included comparing theoretical cost per bed with current and maximum occupancy in Boonton and theoretical cost per bed for the contracted beds. Then those costs were compared to the maximum reimbursement of the NJSFA program. It was also noted that the reimbursement program provides for in home care and daycare options. In theory all programs have merit to provide for a wide range of care options and the program of choice would be the one matched to an individual’s needs. Lefty Clayton spoke on the needs that Bill Fiore faced before he passed and how having an option to use a southern New Jersey room in Ocean City may have been of great help for him and his family due to him not wanting to be so far away from home and family. He had only finally agreed that he needed to go to Boonton, and he passed just days before he had been due to go there.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Butch Kienzle reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be 8:00 PM on July 8, 2022 at the East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that he attended a planning meeting and the 4H Fair will again be only two days and is scheduled for August 12th and 13th. The classic car show will be on Friday night. The longtime car show chairman, John Grunow, passed in October 2021 and will be dearly missed. Howard noted that the car show is not to be missed and certainly those with antique fire apparatus should sign up. Jim Thompson spoke about the car show, how well organized it is, and plans to make it bigger next year. Howard reported that the ACFFA will participate on Saturday apparatus displays and demos. Howard will work with Dennis Sharpe and seek additional assistance for the apparatus displays. Howard reported that, due to the continued two-day format, the firefighter competition will not be held. Maybe the firefighter competition with a fire prevention event should be scheduled at the training center in the fall. That event would be a good precursor to the ACFFA 100th anniversary celebration in 2023. The 4H crab sandwich dinner is on Friday night and the chicken barbeque dinner is on Saturday night. They are planning to return to a three-day format in 2023.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold thanked Paul Touroonjian for the information and wonderful presentation about distributed antenna systems and certification of them. Howard reported that he has been in contact with President Butch Kienzle, Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association. They have been informed that the county would like to continue the work of studying the feasibility of a central fire and EMS dispatch with hopes to expand further later. A meeting with the county will be scheduled before the end of the month. Chip Stockton reported that he heard the issue is dead. Howard disagreed with that assessment and noted that a meeting with the county is critical to the study moving forward. Butch Kienzle reported that Atlantic City Dispatch had no 911 call takers report for duty on Saturday, June 4th and all calls were forwarded to Hamilton Township Dispatch, with only two call takers on duty, until 7PM.

NJ Forest Fire Service – District Fire Warden Quincy Jones reported that the spring fire season is over, and they are preparing for the summer fire season.

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 have Cindy Badger extend an invitation to attend the July 2022 meeting of this association to NJSFA President Robert Ordway and 1st Vice President Joseph Hankins.

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

Billy Merola reported that Robert Sweeten, 1st Vice President of New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association, reached out to Somers Point about hosting meetings for that association in the southern part of New Jersey. Somers Point Fire Company #1 will host the Executive Board Meeting of the New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association on Saturday October 15, 2022 at 10:30 am. They will also host a meeting on Saturday January 21, 2023 at 10:30 am. The Atlantic County members of the New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association are Margate City, Pleasantville, and Somers Point.

Dennis Sharpe reported on the Fire Truck & EMS Parade scheduled as part of the Buena Vista Township 2022 Independence Day Festival to be held on July 2nd with a July 9th rain date.

Chaplain Dcn. Rich Maxwell requested that if any of the membership is sick, or in need, that they, or someone on their behalf, contact him.

Thank you to the East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company 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 21:15. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on July 20, 2022 in Linwood.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Jul.16, 2022	22:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Backyard Oasis Raffle Drawing at Mt. Carmel Festival
Sat. Aug. 6, 2022	16:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	25th Annual Spaghetti Dinner (16:00 - 19:00)
Tues. Aug. 9, 2022	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Sat. Aug. 13, 2022	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display/Demos
Fri. Sep. 16, 2022	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention and Memorial Service
Sat. Sep. 17, 2022	07:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention (Voting Only)
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. 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. 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. Jul. 13, 2022	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's 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. 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	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