

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*



May 18, 2022

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on May 18, 2022 at the South Egg Harbor 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.

## **Introduction of Host Chief**

President Mackintosh introduced Chief John Kohl of the South Egg Harbor Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Kohl welcomed all to South Egg Harbor and introduced Chief John R. Mooney of the Galloway Township Fire Department. Chief Mooney welcomed all to Galloway Township.

## **In Attendance**

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 32 of 168      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 15 of 42

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the April 20, 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 May 6, 2022 in Longport. Howard apologized for being unable to attend the Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition and reported that he has been told all went well. Howard reported emails were received, and 2nd Vice President William L. Merola Jr. received a phone call, from Paul Touroonjian with Allegiant Wireless requesting ten minutes at a future meeting. Mr. Touroonjian would like to introduce Allegiant Wireless and their service providing public safety radio communications engineering consulting that tests to ensure first responder radio communications coverage inside of a facility comply with section 918 of the updated 2018 NJ Building Fire Code titled 'EMERGENCY RESPONDER RADIO COVERAGE'. Howard reminded everyone of the vendor presentation policy that allows presentations that meet certain criteria. Howard reported that he has just been informed that Mr. Touroonjian will be at the June meeting of the association and requested that President Mackintosh place the presentation to the agenda. Howard reported that Marylynn Graham reported to the committee about attending a firefighter cancer seminar at FDIC where she learned of the National Firefighter Registry (NFR). On July 7, 2018, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018 became law. The Act directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to "develop

and maintain ... a voluntary registry of firefighters to collect relevant health and occupational information ... for purposes of determining cancer incidence.” The CDC and NIOSH are developing the online National Firefighter Registry (NFR) enrollment system. This system will protect all enrollees’ data, privacy, and confidentiality. They will begin testing the registry with firefighters in the Spring of 2022 and anticipate opening enrollment to all U.S. fire service members (active and retired) in the Summer/Fall of 2022. Howard requested that Marylynn share this information with a presentation at a future association meeting. (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/registry.html>) Howard Berchtold reported that a plan needs to be put together in the next couple of months to start the planning for the 100th Anniversary of the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association and the 30th Anniversary of the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center. Howard noted that the Fall of 2023, around fire prevention season, would be a good time to plan the event. Howard reported that a July 2022 planning meeting may be scheduled. Butch Kienzle reported on Egg Harbor City VFD, Mullica Twp. FDs, and NJ Forest Fire assisting with the GEHR School District firefighter introduction course hands on training held at Cedar Creek Highschool. Approximately two dozen students attended. It went very well. They are interested in a field trip to the Fire Academy. All agreed that would probably be best scheduled in the Fall due to the burn building project not being completed yet. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2022 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Station 1.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the April 18, 2022 meeting of the fire training advisory board was canceled. Howard noted that it is critical that the next meeting be held as there is much to discuss. The burn building project should be completed by the end of May. Margate will be working with the county to send their retired Quint to the training center but keep in in reserve in case Margate needs to move it back into service. Minotola is seeking to donate their retired Telesquirt to the training program. The two engines will remain in the training fleet bringing the total to four pieces of apparatus. The proposal to seek additional training staffing assistance will be discussed. The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for July 18, 2022 at the Training Center.

**Training** – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that the burn building project will soon be complete, and the inspection process will start, followed by several burns to help cure the concrete. It will most likely be June before the building is ready for use. The new panels will allow for a higher burn temperature and several experimental burns will be conducted with the instructors to establish a new baseline for utilizing the structure. The Firefighter I and Firefighter II burns have been delayed until the building is ready. The hope is that this will extend the life expectancy of the building with up to an additional twenty years.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported that eighteen companies attended the wildland urban interface drill held April 23rd in the Germania section of Galloway Township. Chip reported that Tender Task Force Bravo (TTF-B) attended a drill May 1<sup>st</sup> in Winslow Township, Camden County. Chip noted that Camden County now has four less straight tenders and will rely more of Atlantic County units for assistance. Chip reported on attending several planning meetings for the multiple events that have been scheduled including several Atlantic City beach concerts, the Atlantic City Airshow, and the NAACP Convention to be held in Atlantic City. Chip reported on the May 12<sup>th</sup> fire at American Recycling on Rt. 50, in Hamilton Township, and the water main breaks in the South Egg Harbor section of Galloway Township. It is recommended that fill sites be setup in Egg Harbor City and to avoid the older mains in the South Egg Harbor section of Galloway Township. Chip reported that details of the 2022 NJ American Rescue Plan Firefighter Grant will be released soon, and he will email the county chiefs. Chip reported on an ongoing hazmat incident in Hamilton Township with units still on the scene. Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that a shipment of organic peroxide was improperly delivered and left in the direct sunlight. The fire department is standing by for the contracted cleanup team.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association** – Butch Kienzle reported on the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held in Northfield. Butch reported that Donald Nelsen, Shore Region Fire Coordinator for NJ DFS, was in attendance. SRFC Nelsen provided some updates from the state. Butch reported on discussion and approval to request the county find a reliable vehicle for the Atlantic County Fire Coordinator. Butch reported that the GEHR School District firefighter introduction course and their hands on training held at Cedar Creek Highschool was discussed. At least six of those students have already joined volunteer fire companies. Howard Berchtold noted that this appears to be a great program for reaching out to the students and getting them involved. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be 8:00 PM on June 8, 2022 at the Collings Lakes Volunteer Fire Company.

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

**Atlantic County 4H Fair** – Howard Berchtold reported that the 4H Fair will again be only two days and is scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Howard will attend a planning meeting scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

## **Deferred Business**

Butch Keinzle inquired about the status of the Firefighters' Museum of Southern New Jersey. President Mackintosh that the last discussion left it that those individuals, or companies, that may have a claim for items loaned to the museum will have to seek proper legal avenues for return of items or legal redress.

Kim Feinstein reported that he was informed that the NJ State Firemen's Association Health Care Assistance/Rehabilitation Program provides up to \$6,000 per month for members who need assistance from a licensed caregiver. The member may be receiving care at home, an adult day-care facility, a rehabilitation facility, or a long-term care facility. This program is a monthly reimbursement program paid out by the State Office. Currently the NJ Firemen's Home provides both long-term care and residential health care services at a fixed cost of \$850 per month for the member.

President Mackintosh reported that this is the last approved 7:30 pm meeting and a motion would be required to continue with the earlier start time. There was discussion about the start time. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to continue with the 7:30 pm meeting start time through to the December 2022 meeting where the start time will be reviewed.

## **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. There was an inquiry about the FDIC costs and how many instructors are covered for the conference. It was reported that up to five instructors are covered. There was also an inquiry about what the instructors gain and bring back after attending the annual conference. It was reported that they do work on modifying existing training and add new training to the Atlantic County curriculum based on what they learn from attending a national conference.

## **Good of the Order**

Thank you to the South Egg Harbor Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:20. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on June 15, 2022 in East Vineland, Buena Vista Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

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. 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. 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. 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. 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 Chiefs' Association
Wed. Dec. 14, 2022	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
-----	-----	-----	-----
Tues. Jan. 24, 2023	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' 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