

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



July 20, 2022

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:40 on July 20, 2022 at the Linwood Fire Department 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 Deputy Chief Dave Buzby of the Linwood Fire Department. Deputy Chief Buzby welcomed all to Linwood.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 42 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 June 15, 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 President Robert Ordway, Vice President Joseph Hankins, and Atlantic County Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger with the New Jersey State Firemen's Association (NJSFA). President Ordway thanked President Mackintosh for the invitation to provide an update. The Atlantic County Caucus has been scheduled for August 9th in Egg Harbor City at 7:00 pm, registration will start at 6:00 pm. 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. The suggested hour for delegates and life members from Atlantic County to report is 9:00 am until 10:00 am. President Ordway then provided some background on the New Jersey State Firemen's Association. The New Jersey State Firemen's Association was established in 1885. The current Burial Benefit provide by the Association is \$12,000 for qualified member and is paid on a stepped scale for members with less than seven years of qualified service. Should a death occur in the Line of Duty to any member, the maximum benefit will be tripled and is currently \$36,000. The Emergent Covid-19 Housing Reimbursement Program allows members to be reimbursed for housing in a hotel/motel in the county they are a firefighter or where they live to isolate away from others for the recommended period. The Healthcare Reimbursement Assistance Program aids with expenses related to nursing homes, assisted living

facilities, in home care, and adult medical daycare that has not already been covered by other programs. The monthly maximums for the Healthcare Reimbursement Assistance Program are \$6,000 for a NJSFA member and \$2,000 for a NJSFA member spouse or non-remarried surviving spouse. The monthly maximum for a NJSFA member will increase to \$12,000 on August 1st. President Ordway, in response to a question, reported that the Healthcare Reimbursement Assistance Program does not have a stepped scale based on qualified service like the Burial Benefit. They are reviewing setting a payment scale for the program.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported on the meeting of the Executive Committee held on July 8th. Howard thanked Somers Point Vol. Fire Co. Station #1 for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. The committee was informed that the Treasurer is working with the President to get the audit scheduled. The committee will investigate workers compensation insurance coverage and requirements due to ever increasing costs of coverage. The committee discussed the need and work towards getting a central fire/EMS dispatch. Data was received from Mercer County about their fire/EMS dispatch. There was discussion about expansion of the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center to house a central dispatch. Howard reported that the discussion is also ongoing with the Atlantic County fire training Advisory Board and the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association. Howard asked that all departments work with their municipal leadership to continue the momentum of the discussion moving forward. Communication has continuously been a problem with large scale incidents and has required extensive cell phone usage to overcome the current deficiencies in Atlantic County. Lefty Clayton reported that he has been discussing communications and dispatch with the EMS Chiefs to get them onboard. Howard reported that the Atlantic County 4H Fair will be only two days this year and is scheduled for August 12th and 13th. The antique car show will be Friday night. A one-day display and demonstration of fire apparatus is scheduled for Saturday August 13th. Requests for apparatus and volunteers have been sent out. There will be no Firefighter Competition at the fair with a plan to hold the competition at a Fire Expo to tentatively be held on October 8th at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center. The hope is that the Fire Expo could be a precursor to the 100th Anniversary of the Association in 2023. Gene Sharpe had reported to the committee that the service for Bill Fiore, Longport, was phenomenal and well attended. Howard asked that everyone keep Bill and his family in their prayers. On a personal note, Howard reported that he will be retiring from the state courts on October 1st. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on September 2, 2022 at the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported on the meeting of the board held on July 18th. There was much discussion about upgrading the training center’s audio-visual system and it was reported that the county has budgeted for the upgrade. It was reported that the entire rear parking lot will be repaved. The burn building has been running well since the renovation was completed. The drill tower will be the next structure targeted for renovation. A replacement car will be sought for the propane pad. Butch Kienzle has been instrumental with getting union apprentices scheduled for a volunteer project to rebuild the confined space simulator in the fall. The county will cover the cost for a submitted materials list. The county is working on a memorandum of understanding with Margate for the transfer of their Quint to the training center while being kept response ready as their reserve apparatus. The association will be working on the donation agreement with Minotola for their retired Tele-Squirt and eventual transfer to the county. The board discussed the need to keep the two current Pumpers in service with the Quint and Tele-Squirt joining the fleet. Both Pumpers are 1983 Ford/E-One. The prior Oceanville Pumper needs approx. \$2,700 in repairs and the prior Northfield Pumper requires approx. \$500 in repairs. It was noted that the prior Oceanville Pumper was deemed “more serviceable”, and it was agreed that the prior Northfield Pumper would be taken out of service and disposed of after the Quint and Tele-Squirt join the fleet. The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for October 17, 2022.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the fall Firefighter I class will start on August 18th. Mike reported that the burn building is running hotter than it did before the renovation. It works very well, and they are still studying how to best conduct burns with the new panels installed. Mike reported that he is sending out training invoices and they will include billing for those that no showed when scheduled to attend a class. There have been many no-shop students recently, including ten in just one class. The Fire Academy policy clearly states that proper notification (up to fourteen days prior) must be made to withdraw from a class and that a no-show student is still billed. A substitute student is allowed if someone needs to withdraw after the fourteen-day cutoff. Mike reported that two Police Academy recruit classes will be running at the training center in the fall. Mike reported on the new requirement that all Firefighters have I200 and that he will be adding the class into the Firefighter I curriculum. I200 will remain in the Firefighter II curriculum for now while all those needing it can, ideally, take the Firefighter II course or, at a minimum, take the I200 class. Mike reported that the new requirements allow the current Fire Service ICS Instructors to be grandfathered in for three years before they must take a five day train the trainer class to continue teaching ICS. Mike reported receiving an email from Chief Ruga suggesting a refresher style course for Firefighters who have been out of active service for a time and are seeking to get back in. Mike will discuss the suggestion with the Fire Instructors and reminded everyone that monthly live burns are scheduled and that any company, or group of

companies, may schedule a burn for their Firefighters. These burns can be conducted in any format that a department may want to refresh on. These burns enable Firefighters to remain adept in live fire attack and meet the annual PEOSH live fire training requirement.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported on the response to the recent Mullica River Fire on June 19th and the Maple Branch Fire on July 12th. Both fires were in Burlington County. Chip noted that it is easier to maintain communications if all responding units switch to the County Fire 1 operations channel. President Mackintosh reminded everyone that many times only one or two dispatchers are staffing any one of the dispatch centers and that they are also the call takers. Due to the amount of call volume that can occur at any one time, the dispatchers may not hear a radio transmission from the fire service. Chip noted that due to many circumstances an inter-county radio patch was not immediately setup for the Mullica River Fire, but one was setup early on for the Maple Branch Fire. Chip reported that Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) has a drill scheduled for 8:00 am, July 31st at Stockton University. Those that are not participating in the drill are invited to observe. Chip reported on the recent visit from Vice President Kamala Harris to Atlantic City on July 18th. All third alarm fire departments were notified of the visit as part of the preplanning.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch reported that as of July 1st, there were fifty-nine guests in the home with five applications approved pending admission. A reflection pond has been installed in memory of the guests lost to COVID. They are working on installing a fire pit. The first female guest was admitted to the home. Unfortunately, she was in poor health and was only there for three and a half weeks. The most recent NJ Dept. of Health inspection noted zero deficiencies. Oscar reminded everyone that there is an open invitation to visit and tour the home.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Butch Kienzle summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held on July 8th at the East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company. Butch noted some of the recent social media issues with fire departments and recommended steering clear of opinion posting. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at the Laureldale Volunteer Fire Company.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that he is waiting for the submission of one nomination and that all 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.

NJ Forest Fire Service – Butch Kienzle reported that the NJ Forest Fire Service has power wagon and tender crews deployed to Texas.

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 purchase two trophies, Best Appearing Atlantic County Apparatus and Best Appearing Atlantic County Department/Company, to be presented at the Wildwood Firefighters’ Memorial Parade in September.

A department was requested to volunteer to carry the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association banner at the front of the county unit attending the parade in Wildwood. There were no volunteers. Discussion led to the possibility of seeking individuals from any department to carry the banner instead of seeking one department. President Chuck Mackintosh and Executive Committee Member Rob Winkler volunteered to carry the banner. Online registration is required for those sending units to be in the parade at <https://www.njfireexpo.com/memorial-parade>

Questions from the floor were made concerning the NJSFA healthcare reimbursement program and the NJFM community nursing home proposal. NJSFA President Robert Ordway, Atlantic County Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger, and NJFH Atlantic County Board Manager Oscar Dutch responded to the questions. The discussion remained civil while also being somewhat heated and emotional. Hopefully the NJSFA and the NJFH can work through their differences and get

together to create programs that put the NJ Firefighters first and clearly spells out the details and procedures for the programs in place or proposed.

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 a county firefighter, Lexie Falivene, has a new first responder apparel business, in Absecon, selling customized t-shirts, hoodies, coffee mugs, decals, and much more. "Halligan Heroes" is offering a fundraiser opportunity for local agencies and can be found on Facebook.

President Mackintosh reminded everyone to be smart with social media.

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 Linwood Fire Department 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 August 17, 2022 in Cologne.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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
Sat. Aug 20, 2022	11:00	Newtonville VFC	Fish Fry
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. 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. 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. 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. 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
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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
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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