

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



October 19, 2022

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on October 19, 2022, at the Port Republic 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 President Joe Butler of the Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company. President Butler welcomed all to Port Republic.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 41 of 172 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 21 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the September 21, 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 reported that the trophies for the Wildwood parade have been received and would be presented to a representative of the Northfield Fire Department. President Mackintosh reported that, due to a miscommunication, certificates were issued in Wildwood in place of the delayed trophies. President Mackintosh presented the trophies to Captain Brian Flaherty of the Northfield Fire Department. Northfield was awarded both trophies sponsored by the association, Best Appearing Atlantic County Apparatus and Best Appearing Atlantic County Department/Company.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for November 4, 2022 in South Egg Harbor at 19:30. The committee will meet at the South Egg Harbor firehouse at 17:15 or the Never There Gun Club, Hammonton, at 17:30 for the spaghetti and crab sauce dinner at the gun club. All are welcome to join the committee for dinner.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported on the meeting of the Advisory Board held on October 17, 2022. The meeting was well attended. They discussed issues with the facility. The county will replace the audio-visual system and repave the parking lot by spring. The refurbished burn building has been running well and a follow-up evaluation was recently conducted with no issues reported. There will no longer be any police evolutions conducted in the burn building due to ongoing issues with the type of evolutions they run, and problems encountered afterwards. The tower has had problems identified but is still operational at this time. A refurbishment of the tower will be discussed and planned. The Margate Quint is now stationed in the annex and the county has worked out the legal issues required for it to remain frontline ready as a reserve unit for Margate. The status of the two engines and the plan to acquire the Minotola Telesquirt was discussed. The Minotola Telesquirt is an excellent engine with an elevated master stream. It would be utilized as an engine, and not for aerial training, on the training ground. It would likely replace the Northfield Engine only due to that one being setup as a city wagon without rear discharges. Howard noted that he, Butch Kienzle, and Robert Mellon were just out to Minotola to get copies of the maintenance records and look over the truck. It has been noted that there is no wording in Minotola's grant application, to replace the truck, which precludes use for training. It may no longer be utilized as a frontline apparatus for emergency operation. The Telesquirt will fit in the annex once several boxes are moved to make room for it. The county is onboard with accepting the truck. Minotola will receive some training like the deal made with Oceanville for their engine several years ago. Howard requested that a motion under new business should be made to reaffirm interest in proceeding with the acquisition. Butch Kienzle reported on much equipment that may come with the truck including hose, air packs, and cylinders. The board also discussed the retirement notice submitted by Director Mike Corbo. A committee will be formed to work with the county and a civil service job description will be drafted for the position of Fire Academy Director.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that an ICS200 class is scheduled for November 16 and 19. There is no cost for any in county students. Mike reported on attending the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission Training and Education Advisory Council meeting. The council discussed NJ Firefighter certification from voluntary to mandatory and merging Firefighter I and II together. Mike noted his concern with those proposals and the possible 250-260 hours of training for a FFI/II class compared to 180 hours currently for just FFI. Mike reported that NJDFS Director Richard Mikutsky sent out a letter recently about the new junior firefighter guidelines. Sixteen- and Seventeen-year-olds are now allowed to attend Firefighter I training, including taking the exam. They would not be allowed to apply for certification until they are eighteen. Mike reported that he would not be able to run a dedicated class for juniors and they would have to be integrated with the scheduled classes, if any were to apply. There is no detailed guidance yet and Mike believes that a department would have to have a formal junior firefighter program to send any for training. Mike reported that he will try to get more information for the next meeting of the association.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that he will be on medical leave for approximately four to six weeks starting October 25th. He will be available via phone after the first two weeks. Vince Jones and Brian Middleton will be covering for him while he is out.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported that Greg Quein is the new Chief of the SJTA Atlantic City Airport Fire Department. Chip reported that the state is working on a new hospital protocol to notify police of suspicion burns. There has been an increase of liquid accelerant fires across the state. Chip reported on the response for the water main break in Brigantine and noted that Paul Fuller is the new Chief of the Brigantine Fire Department. Chip reported on the recent fires, a residential structure on 2nd Avenue in Galloway and a motel on the Black Horse Pike in West Atlantic City, Egg Harbor Township. Chip reported on a new mobile gear washing unit based out of Toms River. It is available for mutual aid to large county incidents and for station response at a cost. Chip reported that the ACUA has a CNG vehicle class scheduled for October 29th. Chief John Mooney, Galloway Fire Dept., inquired about the recent FAA burn testing and the fact that notifications are only sent via email and the last one was sent after burning had started. Chief Mooney requested better notification to the local departments and dispatch centers that will receive calls from the public. Chief Greg Quein, Atlantic City Airport Fire Dept., reported that he has spoken with FAA leadership and that he will work with them to provide better notice before outside burn testing. Chip reported that the Elwood Volunteer Fire Company has just celebrated their 100th Anniversary.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle summarized the minutes of the meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held on October 12, 2022 at the Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Company. Butch noted that Deputy Chief Clifford Snyder, NJ 177th Air National Guard Fire Dept., reported that the 177th NJANG Fire Dept. has signed a mutual aid agreement with Atlantic County making units available for mutual aid throughout the county. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at Bayview Vol. Fire Co. Rt. 9 Station, Galloway Township.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that one nomination has been received and that it has not yet been reviewed.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported work is continuing and that the committee will reconvene soon to review additional data.

Communications

A donation of \$100 for the training fund was received from the Cape May County Bar Association, in recognition of Howard Berchtold’s recent retirement from the position of Trial Court Administrator.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize the Officers of this Association to move forward with acquiring the Telesquirt from Minotola in exchange for training of firefighters.

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.

Nomination of Officers

The first of two rounds of nominations were held. Those nominated are as follows:

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| President (1) | Charles J. Mackintosh |
| 1 st Vice President (1) | Dennis C. Sharpe |
| 2 nd Vice President (1) | William L. Merola Jr. |
| Secretary (1) | Robert A. Mellon |
| Treasurer (1) | Jaime C. Mellon |
| Asst. Sec./Trea. (1) | Sandra L. Walczak |
| Chaplain (1) | Dcn. Rich Maxwell |
| Sgt.-at-Arms (3) | Wayne Dilks, William Donath, Charles Harlan |
| Executive Comm. (9) | Howard Berchtold Jr., Levon S. “Lefty” Clayton*, Kim Feinstein,
Marylynn Graham*, Walter R. “Butch” Kienzle III, Charles E. “Chick” Kisby*,
Christopher Kislow, Eugene M. Sharpe, C. Robert Winkler III |

***have not yet formally accepted nomination and must do so before elections.**

Good of the Order

Oscar Dutch provided an update on Ed Vincent. Ed is at home with hospice care. He has good days and bad days. He is in less pain and will sit and talk for a short period of time. It is best to visit before lunch. Anyone that has a chance should stop to see him,

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

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:40. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on November 16, 2022 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 1.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Oct. 29, 2022	-----	Elwood VFC	e-Bike Raffle Drawing
Sat. Nov. 12, 2022	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Dec. 10, 2022	19:00	Hammonton VFD	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (lineup 18:00 & parade 19:00)
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ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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. 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

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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. 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.

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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