

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*



February 15, 2023

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:35 on February 15, 2023 at the Longport Volunteer Fire Department by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by Howard Berchtold. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Installation of Officers for 2023**

President Charles J. Mackintosh administered the oath of office for officers that were unable to attend in January.

President Mackintosh installed the following into office for the year 2023:

Executive Comm.            C. Robert Winkler III

## **Introduction of Host Chief**

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Levon "Lefty" Clayton of the Longport Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Clayton welcomed all to Longport and introduced Longport Mayor Nicholas Russo and Commissioner James P. Leeds. Mayor Russo and Commissioner Leeds both spoke of their appreciation for the firefighters serving Atlantic County and welcomed everyone to Longport. Mayor Russo noted that in years past he has shared his story with the Gift from Captain Buscio program and the need for everyone to take advantage of the available first responder physical health screening programs. Mayor Russo added onto his prior talks about physical health by speaking of the importance of mental health and seeking help when needed.

## **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 – 20 of 43

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2023 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 noted that it was good to see Rob Winkler in attendance wished him well on his recovery. Howard summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Executive Committee held on January 6, 2023. Howard congratulated all those that were reelected and welcomed Marc Corsiglia and Joseph Hartman to the Executive Committee. Howard thanked the Executive Committee for reelecting him as Chairman and Lefty Clayton as Vice-Chairman. Howard congratulated and welcomed the new Director of Fire Training, Brian Middleton, to his first meeting of the association. Howard reported that the Executive Committee will continue to work with the county on central dispatch. With the association now in its centennial year, Howard reminded everyone that the association has many objectives. First, and foremost, is training. But also important is communication and the social exchange of information. Howard noted that the Executive Committee acts in an advisory capacity regarding association financial matters and that they will be forming a finance committee to review all aspects in more depth and provide any recommendations they may feel are beneficial. Howard reported that the committee received the 2023 administrative budget proposal, with a total of \$6,125, and the 2023 administrative capital purchase proposal, with a total of \$1,200. The committee recommended the association approve both the administrative budget proposal and the administrative capital purchase proposal. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for March 3, 2023 in Cardiff.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the fire training advisory board is scheduled for April 17, 2023 at the training center.

**Atlantic County Radio Communications** – Howard Berchtold reported that the working group has been meeting regularly. A letter from County Executive Dennis Levison and a sample resolution supporting a study have been sent out to all county Mayors. Howard read the letter from the County Executive. Howard thanked Chief Michael Cahill, Ventnor, for working to get the support of the county EMS Chiefs. Lefty Clayton reported that Longport had just this day passed a resolution of support and thanked Mayor Russo. President Chuck Mackintosh reported on all the effort that Howard has put into moving this forward which was received with resounding applause.

**Training** –Mike Corbo introduced the new Director of Training, Brian Middleton. Director Middleton reported that he met with the instructors on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Firefighter I will start February 16<sup>th</sup> and has thirty-eight registered. Brian reported that he is working with Mike Corbo to get up to speed. Brian reported that he can be contacted with any questions. Howard Berchtold asked Brian to provide some background on himself. Brian reported that he served with the Joint Base Maguire-Dix-Lakehurst for twenty-three years reaching the rank of Captain, he served twenty-seven years with the United States Coast Guard, and most recently working on the Atlantic County HazMat Team. Brian also reported that he had some volunteer fire service experience, when he was much younger, in Bellmawr, NJ. President Mackintosh reported that he looks forward to working with Brian and thanked Mike Corbo for his years of service.

**Fire Marshal** – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reminded everyone that a retirement party for Mike Corbo is scheduled for 6PM, Friday, February 17, 2023 at Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2. Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that he, along with Secretary Mellon, will be compiling a list of those who have achieved fifty years of service. They will be honored on April 19<sup>th</sup> and, due to ongoing supply chain issues for the pins, the final day to submit names will be March 15<sup>th</sup>. President Mackintosh requested that everyone take the request back to their respective chiefs to ensure that no one is missed.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported on the January 28<sup>th</sup> SAR class in Weymouth. Brian Middleton reported that Atlantic County is working towards getting a SAR Team operational with those that have completed the training. Chip reported that the Galloway Township Fire Department held active shooter and stop the bleed training on February 11<sup>th</sup> and will conduct further training at Absegami High School on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Chip noted that the table-top portion of the training really shows how many dispatch centers need to be contacted in Atlantic County during an incident. Chip reviewed the multiple structure fires and incidents that occurred in just the last few days. Chip reported that a Wildland Urban Interface drill will be scheduled for the spring in Dorothy and that a coordinators meeting is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> in Elwood. Chip reminded all chiefs that the NJ DFS FD Survey request has been sent via email and that only sixteen of forty-two have completed that survey. Another reminder will be emailed.

**NJ State Firemen’s Assn.** – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported that the state office had sent out information about Medical Essential Diagnostics and the comprehensive diagnostic examinations they provide for current and retired state employees, first responders, and teachers. Cindy reported that she has requested more information including if copays are collected and what about first responders without medical insurance. She is still waiting for a response. Cindy reported that Deborah Hospital has left the Gift from Captain Buscio Program and that they are providing their own version of the program. Cindy reviewed the reports that local relief officers need to complete and their due dates. Cindy reported that the state office is working on updating most forms to pdf versions and will start to accept some forms via email. Cindy

reported on the meeting dates for the NJSFA Advisory Board and reviewed relief application requirements and procedures. Cindy reported that the Atlantic County Caucus is scheduled for 7PM Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup> in Egg Harbor City and the convention is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in Wildwood. Registration both days will be from 7AM until 11AM and the same format will be followed as in 2022. Cindy reported that the online compendium is being updated and that Valley Bank has been paying 3.7% for organizations that are classified as government entities. The NJSFA does fall under that classification and it is recommended that local associations check with their bank to see if classification may get them a better rate. Cindy reported that, effective as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, all NJSFA and local association paperwork must remain within the State of New Jersey as there have been some recent issues with local officers that reside out of state part of the year. Cindy reported that the healthcare reimbursement benefit will be transitioning to a sliding scale, same as the death benefit. The state office will start notifying locals of any members with 0% for five years will be automatically removed from the rolls. Cindy reported that Dennis Sharpe is now serving on the Legislative Committee. Dennis provided an update on several bills that have been proposed and reminded everyone that if the fire service wants to see a bill move forward they will need to send correspondence to their legislative representatives. Dennis also provided some IRS tax updates. Cindy reported that the presumptive cancer bill that passed only covers career firefighters and that the NJSFA is seeking to get a bill passed that would cover volunteer firefighters.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association** – The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on March 8, 2023 at the Minotola Volunteer Fire Company.

**Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition** – Billy Merola reported that two valor nominations were received and reviewed by the committee. The committee recommended that meritorious and unit citations be award. Billy thanked those on the committee for their work.

**Bylaws** – President Charles J. Mackintosh reported that he will be forming a Bylaws Committee to start a review of the bylaws and recommend any changes that may be needed or beneficial.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – President Charles J. Mackintosh reported that after several weeks of thinking September 30<sup>th</sup> would be the day of the celebration, it now has to be rescheduled due to conflicting large scale events also scheduled for that day. A probable date would be the following Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. A new date will be set at the next meeting of the committee. The committee is continuing to work on the details of the celebration including a parade, shirts, mugs, ad book, challenge coin, and preparing for a press release. President Mackintosh requested that all those interested to please see him or join them at the next meeting of the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for 7PM, Monday, February 20, 2023 at the Rt. 9 station of the Bayview Volunteer Fire Company.

### **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 approve the 2023 administrative budget proposal, with a total of \$6,125, and the 2023 administrative capital purchase proposal, with a total of \$1,200, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

### **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**

Lefty Clayton reported on a company, Energy Security Agency, that provides a risk analysis service evaluating hybrid and electric vehicles post collision, fire, or water incident. Lefty shared a handout about the service.

President Mackintosh thanked everyone for the fantastic turnout at the memorial service in January and thanked the Egg Harbor Fire Department for hosting.

Thank you to the Longport Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on March 15, 2023 in Weekstown.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

|                    |       |                            |  |
|--------------------|-------|----------------------------|--|
| Fri. Feb. 17, 2023 | 18:00 | Somers Point VFD Sta. 2    | Retirement Party for Atlantic County Fire Academy Director Mike Corbo                    |
| Fri. Mar. 31, 2023 | 17:00 | Hammonton VFC Sta. 2       | 11th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner *TAKE OUT ONLY                                     |
| Sat. Apr. 15, 2023 | 11:00 | Minotola VFC               | Chili and Combread Cook-off (11:00 - 14:00) ***FREE to Enter & FREE to Taste***          |
| Sat. Apr. 15, 2023 | 15:00 | Oceanville VFC             | Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com                                |
| Sat. May 6, 2023   |       |                            |  |
| Sat. May 20, 2023  | 15:30 | Port Republic VFC          | Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)  |
| Wed. Jun. 21, 2023 | 18:00 | Smithville Inn, Smithville | Beef & Beer to Benefit Oceanville VFC  |
| Tues. Aug. 8, 2023 | 19:00 | Egg Harbor City VFD        | New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus                                  |
| Fri. Sep. 15, 2023 | 10:00 | Wildwood Convention Center | New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention & Memorial Service                    |
| Sat. Sep. 16, 2023 | 07:00 | Wildwood Convention Center | New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention (Voting Only)                         |
| Sat. Oct. 7, 2023  | 12:00 | Egg Harbor City            | Atlantic County Firefighters' Assoc. 100th Anniversary Celebration (12:00 - 17:00)       |
| Sat. Nov. 4, 2023  | 11:00 | Minotola VFC               | Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale (11:00 - 14:00)   |
| Sat. Nov. 11, 2023 |       |                            |  |
| Sat. Sep. 7, 2024  | 12:00 | Oceanville VFC             | Oceanville Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration (Noon-5PM) (Rain Date - Sep. 8th) |

**ACFFA Meetings**

**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

|                    |       |                                       |   |
|--------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Wed. Mar. 15, 2023 | 19:30 | Weekstown VFC                         | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting   |
| Wed. Apr. 19, 2023 | 19:30 | Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation      |
| Wed. May 17, 2023  | 19:30 | Oceanville VFC                        | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting   |
| Wed. Jun. 21, 2023 | 19:30 | Milimay VFC                           | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting   |
| Wed. Jul. 19, 2023 | 19:30 | Linwood VFD                           | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting   |
| Wed. Aug. 16, 2023 | 19:30 | Mays Landing VFC                      | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting   |
| Wed. Sep. 20, 2023 | 19:30 | Hammonton VFD Sta. 1                  | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting   |
| Wed. Oct. 18, 2023 | 19:30 | Dorothy VFC                           | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting   |
| Wed. Nov. 15, 2023 | 19:30 | Somers Point VFD Sta. 2               | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting   |
| Wed. Dec. 20, 2023 | 19:30 | West Atlantic City VFC                | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting   |
| Wed. Jan. 17, 2024 | 19:30 | Egg Harbor City VFD                   | Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service |
| Wed. Feb. 21, 2024 | 19:30 | Longport VFD                          | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting   |

**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee**

|                   |       |                         |   |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------------|---|
| Fri. Mar. 3, 2023 | 19:30 | Cardiff VFC             | Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting                         |
| Fri. May 5, 2023  | 19:30 | Longport VFD            | Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting                         |
| Fri. Jul. 7, 2023 | 19:30 | Somers Point VFD Sta. 1 | Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting                         |
| Fri. Sep. 1, 2023 | 19:30 | Absecon VFD             | Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting                         |
| Fri. Nov. 3, 2023 | 19:30 | South Egg Harbor VFC    | Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting                         |
| Fri. Jan. 5, 2024 | 19:30 | Pomona VFC              | Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization) |

**Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings**

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board**

|                    |       |                                       |   |
|--------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Mon. Apr. 17, 2023 | 19:00 | Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center | Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board |
| Mon. Jul. 17, 2023 | 19:00 | Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center | Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board |
| Mon. Oct. 16, 2023 | 19:00 | Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center | Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board |
| Mon. Jan. 8, 2024  | 19:00 | Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center | Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board |

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association**

|                     |       |                        |   |
|---------------------|-------|------------------------|---|
| Wed. Mar. 8, 2023   | 20:00 | Minotola VFC           | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Apr. 12, 2023  | 20:00 | West Atlantic City VFC | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. May 10, 2023   | 20:00 | Northfield VFD         | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Jun. 14, 2023  | 20:00 | Collings Lakes VFC     | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Jul. 12, 2023  | 20:00 | East Vineland VFC      | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Aug. 9, 2023   | 20:00 | Laureldale VFC         | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Sep. 13, 2023  | 20:00 | Nesco VFC              | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Oct. 11, 2023  | 20:00 | Estell Manor VFC       | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Nov. 8, 2023   | 20:00 | Bayview VFC            | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Dec. 13, 2023  | 20:00 | Sweetwater VFC         | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| -----               | ----- | -----                  | -----   |
| Tues. Jan. 30, 2024 | 20:00 | Absecon VFD            | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| February 2024-----  | ----- | -----                  | NO MEETING-----   |

**Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.**

|                      |       |                         |  |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------------|--|
| Thurs. Jul. 27, 2023 | 19:30 | Bargaintown VFC         | Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association |
| -----                | ----- | -----                   | -----  |
| Thurs. Jan. 25, 2024 | 19:30 | Somers Point VFD Sta. 1 | Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association |
| Thurs. Jul. 25, 2024 | 19:30 | Absecon VFD             | Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association |