

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



March 15, 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on March 15, 2023 at the Weekstown 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 asked that everyone keep the Badger, Hunter, and Krumaker families in their prayers as they have all recently suffered the loss of a family member. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Jerry Critelli Jr. of the Mullica Township Fire Department. Chief Critelli welcomed everyone to Weekstown and Mullica Township. Chief Critelli then introduced President Bruce Jensen of the Weekstown Volunteer Fire Company. President Jensen welcomed all to Weekstown.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 46 of 172 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 24 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the February 15, 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.

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.

Special Presentation

Atlantic County Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger, New Jersey State Firemen's Association (NJSFA), introduced Anastasia Markakis from Medical Essential Diagnostics. Cindy reported that Medical Essential Diagnostics has started a program similar to the Deborah Heart and Lung First Responder Health Assessment or the "Gift from Captain Buscio" comprehensive cardiovascular and pulmonary screening hosted by Cardio Pulmonary Diagnostic LLC. Anastasia provided an overview of the "Save My Life Program" for frontline workers run by Medical Essential Diagnostics (MED). It is a comprehensive annual physical examination for both current and retired police officers, firefighters, emergency medical responders, teachers, nurses, and any other state employee across New Jersey. They have offices in Marlton, Morristown,

Newark, and Princeton. They also have their “MED Camp Program” which will bring the clinic to your location when there will be thirty or more participants. MED will first bill a patient’s insurance, and whatever they choose not to cover, they take care of as a company (via a grant). They do not take Medicare/Medicaid. There were many questions from the floor for Anastasia. Primarily about the insurance billing since the majority of Atlantic County is volunteer and not covered by a state, county, or municipal health insurance. With some noting that many will have lesser quality medical insurance or possibly none at all. The concern was how MED’s billing would be handled under those circumstances. Anastasia reported that she would seek clarity concerning the insurance billing and the grant coverage and get those answers back to Cindy. Cindy reported that she has been in touch with Vince Jones to see if some dates, including a Saturday and/or a Sunday, could be blocked at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Fire Training Center for scheduling a MED Camp Program.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Butch Kienzle reported on the meeting of the Executive Committee held on March 3rd. Butch noted that the new Director of Fire Training, Brian Middleton, was in attendance for his first meeting of the Executive Committee. Butch reported that the committee reviewed the request of the 100th Anniversary Committee to open banking accounts at Parke Bank to keep the anniversary funds separate for easier accounting and reconciliation. Butch reported that the Executive Committee is recommending that the Association open the appropriate accounts and provide the appropriate deposit, if needed to open the account or support the 100th planning needs, at Parke Bank and adopt a resolution authorizing the new banking relationship. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for May 5, 2023 in Longport.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Butch Kienzle summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held on March 8th at the Minotola Volunteer Fire Company. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be 8:00 PM on April 12, 2023 at the West Atlantic City Volunteer Fire Company.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – President Charles J. Mackintosh reported that the next meeting of the fire training advisory board is scheduled for April 17, 2023 at the training center.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that he, along with Secretary Mellon, have been compiling a list of those who have achieved fifty years of service. There was a total of eleven names submitted and they will be honored on April 19th. President Mackintosh requested that everyone ensure that someone responds to all such requests to ensure that no one is missed when they deserve to be honored.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. requested that everyone thank Howard Berchtold for all the work and effort he has put into getting the dispatch study grant application submitted. Chip reported that he has emailed the wildland urban interface strike team updates to all chiefs and that a wildland urban interface drill has been scheduled for April 23rd in Dorothy. Chip reported on the requirements and procedure to grandfather in those that meet the requirements of the NJ DFS “Hazardous Materials: Incident Commander” certification. There is a short window to apply for the certification under the grandfathering exception. After that window closes, everyone will need to attend the twenty-four-hour class and pass the exam. Chip answered many questions seeking clarity about the instructions received from NJ DFS. Chip reported that Chief Anthony Tomasco, Elwood Vol. Fire Co. will be retiring effective March 20th. Lou Critelli will be taking the Chief position and Jamie Demaio taking Assistant Chief. Chip reported on staffing changes within the NJDFS NFIRS section and the current reporting requirements. Butch Kienzle inquired about the wildland urban interface taskforce grids for Atlantic County. Chip reported that the county is divided into three grids.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger had nothing new to report since the February report. Dennis Sharpe provided a legislative report update highlighting some bills currently in committee. Butch Kienzle requested that the legislative reported be shared via email.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch reported that there are currently seventy-nine guests in the home and that they have just finished an activities room to be used for rehabilitation.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that three valor nominations were received and reviewed by the committee. The committee recommended that meritorious and unit citations be award.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – President Charles J. Mackintosh reported word has been received from Howard Berchtold that the grant application was submitted to the state and that the state has acknowledged receiving it. Chuck reported on Howard’s extreme effort to reach this point and how we all need to keep this momentum moving it forward in a positive direction. Chuck thanked all the Mayors and their Municipalities for their support.

200 Club – President Charles J. Mackintosh reported that the 200 Club of Atlantic and Cape May Counties has scheduled the 37th Annual Atlantic/Cape Memorial Service and Brunch for April 16th in Atlantic City. Chuck reported that the 200 Club Memorial Service information has just come out and that it would be good for Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association to purchase a full-page ad (\$225) in their program/ad book highlighting the 100th Anniversary of this Association and include the October 7th celebration date and location.

Information and tickets are available at <http://200clubofatlanticandcapemaycounties.org>

Finance – President Charles J. Mackintosh reported that he will be forming a Finance Committee to review procedures and best practices.

100th Anniversary Celebration – President Charles J. Mackintosh reported on the plans for Saturday October 7th at the Egg Harbor City Lake. Parade muster and judging will start at 11:00 AM at the South Egg Harbor Fire Company. The parade will leave South Egg Harbor at noon proceeding down Philadelphia Avenue to the lake. There will be free hot dogs, food trucks for other food options at cost, t-shirts, mugs, beverages, a challenge coin, 50/50 drawings, New Yorker helmet raffle, TV raffle, and a resort stay raffle. There will be a live band and Cat Country radio will be there. A program/ad book will be put together and requests to purchase ad space will be put out as soon as possible. Help from everybody will be needed to get the ad book information out to as many businesses and organizations as possible. Chuck reported that they still need more help on the committee to get all this accomplished.

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 open the appropriate accounts and provide the appropriate deposit, if needed to open the account or support the 100th planning needs, at Parke Bank and adopt a resolution authorizing the new banking relationship as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association purchase of a full-page ad in the 200 Club of Atlantic and Cape May Counties Memorial Service Ad Book highlighting the 100th Anniversary of the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association at a cost of \$225.00.

Good of the Order

Ken Badger reported on a motor vehicle accident earlier in the day. Ken was on scene when the county medical examiner called him to inquire if there were any fatalities as the entire scene was already widely circulated via Facebook. Ken noted he had not noticed anyone who may have been posting and reminded everyone that you must always consider yourself as being on camera.

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

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by President Charles J. Mackintosh. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:35. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on April 19, 2023 at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Fire Training Center and hosted by the Margate City Fire Department. This meeting will include the “Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition” program.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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 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. Apr. 19, 2023	19:30	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center (Host -Margate FD)	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	Milmay 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. 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. 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
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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
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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