

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*



May 17, 2023

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on May 17, 2023 at the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company by Secretary Robert A. Mellon. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Deacon Rich Maxwell. Secretary Mellon then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Introduction of Host Chief**

Secretary Mellon introduced Chief George A. Perkins Jr. of the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Perkins welcomed everyone to Oceanville and reported that Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting a Beef and Beer at the Smithville Inn on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Chief Perkins congratulated the Association on reaching a milestone moment with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and noted that the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company will hit the milestone in 2024 and will host a celebration on September 7, 2024. Chief Perkins then introduced Chief John R. Mooney, Galloway Township Fire Department. Chief Mooney welcomed everyone to Galloway Township and congratulated the Association on reaching the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## **In Attendance**

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 34 of 172      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 18 of 43

## **Motion for Chairman Pro Tempore**

Secretary Robert A. Mellon reported that with the President and both Vice-Presidents absent, an election for, or a motion to appoint, a Chairman Pro Tempore to chair the remainder of the meeting would be in order. Secretary Mellon reported that Howard Berchtold Jr. has offered to volunteer for the position. Secretary Mellon asked if there are any others seeking the position of Chairman Pro Tempore. Hearing none, Secretary Mellon asked for a motion to appoint Howard Berchtold Jr. as Chairman Pro Tempore.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to appoint Howard Berchtold Jr. as Chairman Pro Tempore.

Howard Berchtold Jr. then took over as presiding officer for the remainder of the meeting. Chairmen Berchtold reported that a combination of personal matters, health matters, and travel plans had prevented the President and both Vice-Presidents from attending and thanked Secretary Mellon for opening the meeting.

Howard introduced Commissioner Rich Dase, Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Dase reported that he was attending to listen/learn and asked that anyone with questions or concerns to please reach out to him. Howard noted that Commissioner Dase serves as the Board of County Commissioners representative to the Fire Training Advisory Board.

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the April 19, 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.

## **Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported on the meeting of the Executive Committee held on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Howard thanked Fire Marshal Dave Buzby and Secretary Robert Mellon for their preparation for the Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition. Howard noted that the attendance created a standing room only situation and the probable need to move future awards and recognition to the Egg Harbor Township Community Center. Howard thank Chief Daniel Adams and the Margate Fire Department for hosting the awards and recognition and noted how it was a special night for Chief Adams with his mother being recognized for fifty years of service and his father being posthumously recognized for have achieved fifty years of service in 2010, prior to the start of the fifty years of service recognition program. Howard reported that a Request for Vender Presentation application with support from Chief Dan Adams, Margate Fire Department was received from Michael Robertson, Campbell Supply Company. The presentation topic is “Reducing Cancer Exposure through Fire Apparatus Design”. The presentation is generic in nature and presents emerging designs that would apply to all grants of existing and new fire apparatus. An effort will be made to accommodate the presentation at the July meeting of the Association. Howard reported that the Finance Committee, thus far, is Kim Feinstein, Howard Berchtold, President Chuck Mackintosh, Treasurer Jaime Mellon, Lefty Clayton, Chris Kislow, Secretary Robert Mellon, and one Company Delegate not yet appointed. Howard requested that anyone wishing to volunteer to fill that open seat please contact him. An ideal candidate would be someone with financial knowledge. Howard reported that Fire Instructor Marylynn Graham has a presentation on the National Firefighter Registry and will present that at an Association meeting soon. Director of Fire Training, Brian Middleton, reported that Marylynn Graham will also have a report on the Fire Instructor attendance at the Fire Department Instructor Conference (FDIC) for an upcoming meeting. Howard reported that the committee received a request from Fire Marshal Buzby to restock meritorious and fifty-year ribbons for the Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition as they have become depleted, and it takes quite some time to receive new stock. The committee is recommending that the Association approve the restocking of the ribbons. The committee reviewed the need for the continued expense of a Zoom subscription and recommended that the account be canceled. The committee reviewed the need to adopt a preliminary budget for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The committee is recommending that the Association approve a preliminary budget not to exceed \$2,500 for the purpose of covering administrative costs as they arise.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association** – Butch Kienzle the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be 8:00 PM on June 14, 2023 at the Collings Lakes Volunteer Fire Company and that the Chiefs’ Association has purchased a full-page color ad in the ACFFA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program Book.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported on the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the advisory board. The County has put the audiovisual system replacement out for bid. The County is repaving, and expanding, the rear parking lot. Butch Kienzle, and Union Apprentices, will be refurbing the Confined Space Simulator. The Northfield Engine is now gone, and all the other apparatus are running well. The next major project will be the refurb of the Drill Tower. The next meeting of the Fire Training Advisory Board is scheduled for July 17, 2023 at the training center.

**Fire Marshal** –Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that the audiovisual system replacement is still with the County purchasing department pending the bid process. Dave reviewed the parking lot paving scope of work including handicap ramps, removal of islands, and some concrete work.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. thanked the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the wildland urban interface drill and noted that they are now seeking a host for the 2024 drill. Chip thanked all Fire Chiefs for the recent mutual aid support for several calls throughout the county, and neighboring counties. Chip reported that all Fire Departments are invited to place apparatus in the Galloway Township 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Rich Maxwell reported that

the parade honors our Veterans. Chip reminded all Fire Chiefs of the need to complete the NJ DFS Fire Department Survey and the need to file annual updates.

**Training** – Director Brian Middleton reported that the Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony (Fall 2022 Class and Spring 2023 Class) has been scheduled for 7:00 PM, July 10<sup>th</sup> at the Egg Harbor Township Community Center. Brian reported that the rappelling anchors will be replaced in the Drill Tower and that he has requested the County to include the full Drill Tower refurb in their 2024 or 2025 budget. Brian reported that he is working on scheduling the two NJ DFS Firefighter II Challenge Tests, with a subject review. One will be scheduled for a weekday and one on a weekend. There were some questions from the floor, and a discussion held, about the Firefighter II Challenge Exam. Brian reported on, and apologized for, the May 15<sup>th</sup> Firefighter I class last minute cancellation due to an instructor’s oversight. Brian reported that he is working on a better system of letting students know of class cancellations as soon as possible and that it is unfortunate when there is unexpected short or zero notice of a need to cancel a class. Brian reported that he is working on a proposal to seek additional instructors with daytime availability. Brian reported that the Greater Egg Harbor Regional School District Intro to Firefighting students (nineteen students from Cedar Creek and Absegami High Schools) will be visiting the training center on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The Atlantic City Fire Department has live burn training scheduled on May 30<sup>th</sup> and will put on a demonstration for the high school students.

**NJ State Firemen’s Assn.** – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger requested that NJSFA President Robert Ordway and 1st Vice President Joseph Hankins be invited to attend the June 2023 meeting as they are unable to attend in July this year. Howard Berchtold inquired if anyone had an issue with extending an invitation. Hearing none, they will be invited to attend the June meeting of the association. Cindy reviewed the NJSFA reports and the dates that they are due to be filed by. Cindy reviewed the Healthcare Assistance/Rehabilitation Program and the Local/Special/Supplementary Relief Program application requirements and procedures. Cindy reported that the Atlantic County Caucus has been scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup> in Egg Harbor City at 7:00 pm and the convention is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> and September 16<sup>th</sup> in Wildwood. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup>, registration and voting will run from 7:00 am until 12:00 noon. Cindy reported that one resolution has been received for the convention. Cindy reported that the compendium had been updated to include a definition of “moral turpitude” and that council has advised the NJSFA that a member of the NJSFA should only be removed from the roles for actions that fall under moral turpitude occurring after the adoption of the rule and not for actions that occurred prior. Cindy reported on several NJ Legislative bills relating to cannabis use and first responders. Cindy noted that last year she reported on state grants that could be applied to safety equipment including gear washing machines and reported that she will share information if/when the grant is available for 2023. Howard Berchtold requested that everyone review the Healthcare Assistance/Rehabilitation Program as many members may qualify for reimbursement of expenses they are already incurring. Cindy reported that she has been trying to get answers to the many questions raised about the “Save My Life Program” presented by Medical Essential Diagnostics at the March meeting of this association. She noted that they reported they accept all insurance but did not accept Medicare/Medicaid. Cindy convinced them to accept Medicare/Medicaid, but they stated they would only do so at one of their offices and not through the mobile outreach program. Cindy reported that she has been unable to get them to schedule a mobile outreach program in Atlantic County and that she has had no recent communication with them and decided that she will not waste time trying to get any further answers on what appears to be a program only focused on career members with state medical coverage.

**NJ Firemen’s Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that after two years of COVID protocols, they have finally started hosting BBQs at the home again. Sussex County hosted the first BBQ. Oscar reported on movement at the state level to have all nursing homes move to a single occupancy room design and noted that if that moves forward the home would have a lower maximum capacity. Oscar reported that two members in Absecon are utilizing the NJSFA Healthcare Assistance/Rehabilitation Program and noted that the program is wonderful. Oscar reported that past Chief Roger Arlan, Pleasantville Fire Department, who passed several years ago, created several wood models of trucks covering much of the Pleasantville fire Department history. Roger had asked his wife to contact Oscar when she decided it was time to find them a new home. Oscar reported that three models will go to the Absecon Fire Department and the remainder will go to the museum at the NJ Firemen’s Home.

**Atlantic County Radio Communications** – Howard Berchtold reported that the LEAP grant application has been submitted to the state with resolutions of support from the county and fourteen of the twenty-three municipalities. Howard noted that he would be shocked if the grant is not approved for covering the cost of a feasibility study for central fire and EMS dispatch. Howard asked that, if/when the grant is approved, everyone support the feasibility study by helping with the collection of all relevant data requested. Lefty Clayton noted the importance Chiefs will play in helping with the data collection. As with any study, the best recommendations can only be made by collecting accurate relevant data. Howard reminded everyone of the recent large-scale incidents that still required cell phone usage to assist with communication.

**200 Club** – Howard Berchtold reported that he attended the memorial service and brunch and hoped more will be able to attend in the future as it is a wonderful event.

Information is available at <http://200clubofatlanticandcapemaycounties.org>

**Finance** – Kim Feinstein reported that an additional member is still needed for the committee. Howard Berchtold requested that any interested members, especially with financial experience, please contact him.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – Kim Feinstein reported that Chip Stockton and Butch Kienzle have been a great help in getting ad sales for the program book, that two full page ads can be combined for an off-center full spread, and the plan is to print four hundred copies of the program book. Kim reported that the committee met on April 7<sup>th</sup>, at the lake, to look over the site. And that the band 40 North has been booked for the celebration. Kim reported they are working on booking food trucks, Joe Landy should have merchandise artwork samples ready soon, and a big shout out to Rosenbauer for donating use of a table at their Wildwood booth to promote the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There was an inquiry about where to send ad artwork for the program book when ready. Kim reported that all program book ad artwork be emailed to him. Howard Berchtold requested that every Atlantic County Fire Department/Company place an ad in the program book and assist with getting ad sale requests out to the local businesses throughout the county. Howard reported that he is working with Atlantic County OEM Director Vince Jones, who is consulting with the Chief of the Egg Harbor City Police Department, on the parade plan. It will be requested that Atlantic County Fire Police units assist the Egg Harbor City Police Department and the Atlantic County Sheriff during the parade. Kim reported that there will be a need for many volunteers on the day of the celebration and that he will work on a schedule that allows for one to two hour shifts so that volunteers may also have time to enjoy the celebration.

**Atlantic County 4H Fair** – Howard Berchtold reported that the 4H fair will be only two days this year and is scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The antique car show will be on Friday night, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Howard noted that the association only setup on Saturday in 2022 but he would like to setup both days and invite antique fire apparatus out for the Friday night car show. Howard reported that he received approval from the Atlantic County 4H Fair Association to sell 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary merchandise at the fair and that the Atlantic County 4H Fair Association has been offered a half page ad in the ACFFA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program Book in gratitude for their generosity. Howard noted that the 4H Fair will have their crab cake dinner on Friday and the Chicken BBQ on Saturday. Howard reported that some fire instructors have expressed interest in running the firefighter competition at the fair, but it would have to be on Saturday afternoon. Dennis Sharpe will once again coordinate the display apparatus for the fair.

### **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 that the association authorize Dave Buzby to restock the meritorious and fifty-year ribbons for the Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association cancel the Zoom subscription.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association approve a preliminary budget for the 100th Anniversary Celebration to not to exceed \$2,500 for the purpose of covering administrative costs as they arise.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to have Cindy Badger extend an invitation to attend the June 2023 meeting of this association to NJSFA President Robert Ordway and 1st Vice President Joseph Hankins.

### **Good of the Order**

John W. Mooney reminded everyone of the Beef and Beer for the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Smithville Inn.

Secretary Mellon reported that the Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company is holding their Roast Beef Dinner (take-out only) on May 20<sup>th</sup> and reminded everyone to check date clearing on the association website for updated information.

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

**Adjournment**

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on June 21, 2023 in Milmay, Buena Vista Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Sat. May 20, 2023	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)
Sun. May 21, 2023	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast (08:00 - 12:00)
Sun. Jun. 4, 2023	12:00	Dorothy VFC	66th Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
Sat. Jun. 17, 2023	11:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	
Wed. Jun. 21, 2023	18:00	Smithville Inn, Smithville	Beef & Beer to Benefit Oceanville VFC
Mon. Jul. 10, 2023	19:00	Egg Harbor Twp. Community Center	Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony
Sun. Jul. 16, 2023	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast with Santa (08:00 - 12:00)
Sun. Jul. 16, 2023	22:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Backyard Oasis Raffle Drawing at Mt. Carmel Festival
Tues. Aug. 8, 2023	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Aug. 11, 2023		Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Sat. Aug. 12, 2023		Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
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)
Sun. Sep. 17, 2023	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast (08:00 - 12:00)
Sun. Sep. 24, 2023	09:00	4 Polhemustown Rd, Allentown, NJ 08501	NJ Fire Museum Annual Open House (09:00 - 15:00)
Sat. Oct. 7, 2023	12:00	Egg Harbor City	Atlantic County Firefighters' Assoc. 100th Anniversary Celebration (12:00 - 17:00)
Sat. Oct. 7, 2023	17:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Linda Shields, Jersey Shore Medium (17:00 - 21:00)
Sun. Oct. 15, 2023	11:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Meatball Sub Sale (11:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Nov. 4, 2023	11:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale (11:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Nov. 11, 2023			
Sun. Nov. 12, 2023	11:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Sub Sale (11:00 - 14:00)
Sun. Dec. 3, 2023	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast with Santa (08:00 - 12:00)
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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. 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
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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. 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
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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. 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
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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. 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