

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



July 19, 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on July 19, 2023 at the Linwood Fire Department by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by Howard Berchtold. Howard spoke of the recent line of duty deaths of the firefighters in Newark, NJ while battling a shipboard fire and all the first responders dealing with the aftermath following recent severe weather in the state. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Martin Walley of the Linwood Fire Department. Chief Walley 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 – 43 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 June 21, 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.

Special Guest

President Mackintosh introduced Michael Robertson from Campbell Supply Company. Mr. Robertson spoke about reducing firefighter cancer exposure through fire apparatus design with a presentation titled "Cleaner Cab Concept for Today's Fire Apparatus".

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. thanked Michael Robertson for the informative presentation. Howard reviewed the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held on July 7, 2023. Discussion at the meeting included continuing the association health and wellness initiative seeking speakers for association meetings, the recent request seeking traffic support for the Ben to the Shore Bike Tour, the potential need for a water source on the training ground for gear decontamination after live fire training, and the ongoing tuition rates and instructor pay review. Howard reported that the committee will review the data for increasing instructor pay and total number of instructors at the next

committee meeting. Howard reported that the Finance Committee still needs to meet for a review of the finances and that the fact that Director Brian Middleton was hired from outside the county fire service it was noted that he should be recognized as a county fire instructor, he does have all the proper credentials, so that Brian can be properly compensated for any additional instructor work beyond his director duties. The committee has recommended a motion to recognize Brian Middleton as a county fire instructor. Howard reported that Dan Adams got the name plaques on the office door updated and that Action Uniform donated them. A thank you letter will be sent to Action Uniform. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on September 1, 2023 at the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported that the county has formally announced that they have been awarded a L.E.A.P. grant in the amount of \$147,000 to conduct a dispatch feasibility study. Howard reported that the paperwork required to receive the grant is being completed and that the next step will be to draft an RFP to be sent out seeking professionals that would conduct the feasibility study. Howard noted that it could be three to six months until a contract is awarded for the feasibility study. Howard thanked Tim Kreisler, Atlantic County Shared Services Coordinator, for the excellent work compiling the L.E.A.P. grant application.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that the 4H fair is scheduled for August 11th and 12th. The apparatus display application has been emailed out, and that they are seeking antique fire apparatus for display during the Friday night antique car show. Dennis Sharpe will be coordinating the apparatus display that will include Saturday afternoon and evening times. Howard reported that the Firefighter Competition is scheduled for Saturday afternoon and applications have been emailed and posted. Howard reported that the Association will set up an information booth and sell 100th Anniversary merchandise at the 4H Fair.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the Advisory Board met on July 17, 2023. The county has put the replacement of the audio-visual equipment out for bid. The parking lot is being redone. Butch Kienzle is working with the county for refurb the confined space simulator. Director Brian Middleton reported that the Telesquirt needs some additional adapters. The county is looking at the drill tower for the next major project. The draft pit is to be cleaned out. Chip Stockton is working on repairs on the propane pad.

Training – Director Brian Middleton reported that twenty-two have signed up for the Firefighter II challenge exam. The county had put the drill tower repairs out for bid and received no bids. The bid specs will need to be adjusted and put out again. The confined space simulator refurb will start soon. Brian reported that he is looking to schedule Fire Police and I300 classes and that Firefighter I will start on August 17th and Firefighter II will start on September 11th.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported that an AM tabletop exercise and a PM pilot removal from an F16 has been scheduled for July 26th at the airport in preparation for the Atlantic City Airshow. Anyone attending needs to contact Chip or Vince Jones to ensure they are on the list to get in the gate. Chip reported that he forwarded some recent emails concerning mutual aid and the recent storms that passed through northern New Jersey. Chip thanked all the county chiefs for responding to the AFFF survey and reported that approx. 120 – 140 gallons of AFFF is in Atlantic County. Chip also reported on New Jersey legislation bills, A5570 and S3925, that establishes "Volunteer Fire Company Assistance Program" in DCA to support operations and sustainability of volunteer fire companies; appropriates \$10 million.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported on upcoming reports due for the NJSFA. The Atlantic County Caucus is scheduled for 7PM on August 8th in Egg Harbor City. Registration will start at 6PM and delegates failing to attend the caucus will be docked \$100 from convention expenses. The convention is scheduled for September 15 and 16 in Wildwood. The memorial service followed by the meeting is at 11AM on September 15th with registration from 7AM until 11AM. There will only be registration and voting on September 16th from 7AM until 11AM. Convention expenses are the same as 2022. Cindy reported that applications for relief and the healthcare assistance reimbursement program are available online. Cindy reviewed the schedule of upcoming advisory board and executive committee meetings. Cindy reviewed the administrative and officer expense guidelines and approval process. Cindy reported that several questions have been submitted for voting at the convention and that the Executive Committee will review them at their July 22nd meeting. Cindy reported on the New York Yankees Firefighter Appreciation Week scheduled for six games from September 5th through September 10th. Cindy reported on the NJSFA Workshop scheduled for 9AM, September 16th at the Wildwood Convention Center for approximately two hours during the same time as voting. The workshop has been held in Atlantic County in the past and is very informative for current officers, and those interested in becoming officers, of the local associations. Cindy reviewed the guidelines for the healthcare assistance reimbursement program. Cindy reminded all local associations to contact the state office for guidance before removing any member convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude. Cindy reported that any firefighter injured in the line of duty and no longer able to respond to calls may be granted full exempt status by the executive committee and that the state office should be informed if any member may qualify. Cindy

reported on several NJ Legislative bills that have been introduced and are being tracked by the legislative committee. The committee is tracking one hundred seventy-nine bills. They are seeking legislative committee meetings for A5564 and S3904 which would extend pension eligibility for survivors of certain emergency services volunteers who contracted COVID-19 during the 2020 public health emergency declared by the Governor, and they are seeking legislative co-sponsors for A5081 and S3405 which would mandate access to periodic cancer screening examinations for volunteer firefighters: increases tax on fire insurance premiums.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the home currently has seventy-seven guests and five applications just approved. Oscar reported they just conducted an evacuation drill with the local natural gas company and that he was informed by gas company personnel that all gas companies in New Jersey have agreed to assist with gas leak evacuation drills.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at the Laureldale Volunteer Fire Company.

100th Anniversary Celebration – Kim Feinstein thanked everyone that attended the July 18th meeting of the committee. Kim reported that signup sheets are available to assist everyone with signing up to assist with many of the tasks that need to be done. Kim reported that more volunteers are needed to assist with the planning, as well as the execution, to get everything done. Kim reported that only sixteen Atlantic County Fire Companies have purchased ads in the program book and reminded everyone that the cutoff date is September 1st so that the book may be printed. Kim asked everyone to keep selling ads to all local businesses. Dennis Sharpe and the parade judges will meet in Egg Harbor on July 22nd to review the judging area for the parade. Kim reviewed the raffle prizes and reported that the permits have been submitted. Howard Berchtold reported that the first shipments of merchandise are expected the first week of August and should be available to purchase at the next meeting of the association. Merchandise will also be sold at the Atlantic County 4H Fair and in Wildwood at the Rosenbauer vendor site. The planned schedule for the October 7th celebration was reviewed. The next meeting of the 100th Anniversary Committee is scheduled for 7PM, August 29th at the Egg Harbor City firehouse.

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 accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee to recognize Brian Middleton as an Instructor of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association.

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. Howard Berchtold will order the trophies.

President Chuck Mackintosh requested volunteers to carry the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association banner at the front of the county unit at the memorial parade in Wildwood on September 16th. There were no volunteers. President Chuck Mackintosh reported that he will be carrying the banner and asked everyone to spread the word within their departments so that we may find additional volunteers to assist. Those willing to volunteer should contact President Mackintosh. Online registration is required for those sending units to be in the parade at <https://www.njfireexpo.com/memorial-parade>

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

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

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:00. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on August 16, 2023 in Mays Landing.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Aug. 5, 2023	16:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	26th Annual Spaghetti Dinner (16:00 - 19:00)
Tues. Aug. 8, 2023	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Aug. 11, 2023	18:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Sat. Aug. 12, 2023	13:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Sat. Aug. 12, 2023	afternoon	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Firefighter Competition
Sun. Aug. 20, 2023	10:00	Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, Millville, NJ	42nd Annual Fire Muster & Firefighters' Family Day presented by Glasstown Antique Fire Brigade
Tues. Aug. 22, 2023	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	"Yeti For The Beach" Raffle Drawing Aug. 22nd
Sep. 5 - 10, 2023	varies	New York Yankees	Firefighter Appreciation Week
Thurs. Sep. 14, 2023	08:30	Wildwood Convention Center	NJSFCA Wildwood Convention Training Seminar
Fri. Sep. 15, 2023	08:00	Wildwood	Five Mile Beach Vol. Firemen's Assoc. hosts NJ Fire Expo (Tents & Exhibits)
Fri. Sep. 15, 2023	11:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey State Firemen's Association Annual Convention & Memorial Service (Reg. 07:00-11:00)
Fri. Sep. 15, 2023	19:00	Seaport Pier, North Wildwood	NFFF Fire Hero Beach Bash
Sat. Sep. 16, 2023	07:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey State Firemen's Association Annual Convention (Voting Only 07:00-11:00)
Sat. Sep. 16, 2023	08:00	Wildwood	Five Mile Beach Vol. Firemen's Assoc. hosts NJ Fire Expo (Tents & Exhibits)
Sat. Sep. 16, 2023	09:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey State Firemen's Association Workshop
Sat. Sep. 16, 2023	14:00	Wildwood	Five Mile Beach Vol. Firemen's Assoc. hosts NJ State Firemen's Convention Parade
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. Sep. 30, 2023	08:00	Elwood VFC @ White Oaks Country Club	19th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sat. Sep. 30, 2023	11:00	Bayview VFC @ McGettigan's 19th Hole	Beef & Beer and Cornhole Tournament
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	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
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. 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. 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. 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. Aug. 9, 2023	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Sep. 13, 2023	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Oct. 11, 2023	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Nov. 8, 2023	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 13, 2023	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
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Tues. Jan. 30, 2024	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs 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