

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



September 20, 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on September 20, 2023 at the Hammonton Fire Department Station 2, 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 Chief Sean Macri of the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Macri welcomed all to Hammonton.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 51 of 172 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 23 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the August 16, 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 submitted by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the September 1st meeting of the Executive Committee. The committee discussed the "Cleaner Cab Concept for Today's Fire Apparatus" presented by Michael Robertson, Campbell Supply Company, at the July meeting of the association and noted how well it fits in with the health and wellness initiative. Howard reported that the committee approved the use of Venmo to help with the 100th anniversary commemorative item sales. Howard reported that the committee reviewed the proposal for an amendment to the Constitution of the Association that would adjust the scheduled time of the monthly meeting and that the committee recommends moving forward with the amendment. The first reading of the proposal will be at the September 20, 2023 meeting of the Association, with a second reading to be held at the November 15, 2023 meeting, and a vote to be held at the December 20, 2023 meeting. Howard thanked the Absecon Fire Department for hosting the Executive Committee. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for November 3, 2023 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 that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for October 16, 2023.

Training – Director Brian Middleton reported there are twenty-six students in Firefighter II and forty-one students in Firefighter I. Brian will work with Butch Kienzle to complete refurbishment of the confined space training mockup at the academy. Brian reported that the instructors will be attending a train the trainer class for the new updated RIT course in the spring. Brian reported that the deadline to apply for the position of Fire Instructor is September 29, 2023. Four applications have already been received. Brian provided some updates on upcoming classes and updates to the training center facilities. The Heavy Rescue class has only four openings for students remaining. The county is waiting for the delivery of the new AV equipment for the classrooms. The repairs to the drill tower will be completed by a local contractor once approved.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold thanked everyone on the working group for the effort to win approval of a LEAP grant for the dispatch feasibility study and reported that the RFP for the study is being finalized.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that the county has received numerous complaints concerning the use of blue emergency lights on volunteer vehicles. Dave requested that all fire chiefs speak to their members about the use and safety regarding blue lights.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported that the state is working on a firefighting foam take back program. It will be a collect for disposal program and not a buy back program. They are looking for firefighting foam manufactured prior to 2016. Chip will email details when they are finalized. Chip reported that Don Nelsen, NJDFS Regional Fire Coordinator, is out on medical leave. Chip recommended that all those interested in a future Fire Police class take the Traffic Incident Management (TIM) class online ahead of time. Chip reported that a county SAR drill will be scheduled in Galloway.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported that anyone that received a parking ticket in Wildwood will need to complete an affidavit online stating that they believed the parking meters were not being enforced during the NJSFA convention. Cindy reported that the resolution concerning adding siblings to the death benefit recipient list and the resolution requiring written notification be sent to those removed from the NJSFA rolls were both approved. Lefty Clayton inquired what the next steps are with those resolutions. Cindy reported that will be discussed and determined at the next meeting of the NJSFA Executive Committee. There was much discussion about both resolutions.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch, Atlantic County Board Manager, reported that all is good at the home and that BBQs are scheduled into October.

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, October 11, 2023 at the Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Company and that the ACFCA Trophy presented in Wildwood for Best Appearing Tanker from Atlantic County was awarded to the Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company.

NJ Forest Fire Service – Division Fire Warden Bill Donnelly reported that all is quiet in New Jersey, the three trucks in California will be returning, and the one truck in Texas will remaining with a fresh crew sent out there.

100th Anniversary Celebration – Chip Stockton reported that the Ocean County Emerald Society Pipes & Drums has been scheduled for the parade and the ceremony at the lake. Chip reported that he has been working on scheduled volunteers for the day of the celebration, working on getting an additional golf cart or side by side, and asked if anyone attending the open house at the NJ Fire Museum could take parade applications with them. Ken Badger reported that he is inquiring about getting the NJSP Mounted Unit with Colors for the parade. Chip reported that he has confirmed with the US Coast Guard for a flyover during the ceremony. Kim Feinstein reported that he had great help in Wildwood and that they took in just shy of \$6,000 from merchandise sales. Kim reported that all Atlantic County Fire Departments and Companies have purchased ad space in the program book. Adding business and personal ads with informational pages, the program book is going to be one hundred forty-four pages thick. Kim reported the total collected to date on the program book ads is \$29,450. Kim reported that raffle sales have started and that many more volunteers will be needed to get everything done. John Falciano reported that he is working on getting ten or so classic cars and working with Howard Berchtold to assign cars to dignitaries that will be riding in the parade. Kim reported that Gene Sharpe has taken over the coordination of the parade registration. President Chuck Macintosh thanked Kim Feinstein for all the commitment and hard work he has been putting into leading the committee and planning the event. Howard Berchtold thanked the Egg Harbor Fire Department for providing a place for the 100th Anniversary Committee to meet regularly. Howard took some time to speak on how this association was started in a similar manner to how all the current work is getting done. A group of dedicated firefighters got together and discussed the

best ways to accomplish the goals that they set for the betterment of the entire fire service in Atlantic County. The next meeting of the 100th Anniversary Committee is scheduled for 7PM, September 26th at the Egg Harbor City firehouse.

Communications

Email received from Police Activities League Egg Harbor Township and Atlantic County. They are hosting Holiday with Heroes-Candy COATED Trunk or Treat on October 25th and are inviting all Fire and EMS organizations to participate. Email has been forwarded to all via email.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

The first reading of the proposed Constitution revision was accepted as submitted. A second reading will be held at the November 15, 2023 meeting and a vote will be held at the December 20, 2023 meeting.

Proposal for Revision
"Constitution, Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of the State of New Jersey".

1) **CHANGE**

ARTICLE VII **MEETINGS**

Current:

SECTION 2: Regular Meetings shall be held on the third (3rd) Wednesday of each month at 8:00 P. M. at a place designated at the previous meeting. Should said meeting fall upon a legal holiday, the time and place may be changed by the voting members present, provided that no fire company shall be permitted more than two (2) meetings in one year.

Proposed:

SECTION 2: Regular Meetings shall be held on the third (3rd) Wednesday of each month at a time and place agreed upon, by the membership at the December meeting, by approving an annual schedule for the following March through February months utilizing a historical hosting schedule that may be changed as needed by the hosting departments. Should said meeting fall upon a legal holiday, the time and place may be changed by the voting members present, provided that no fire company shall be permitted to host more than two (2) meetings in one year.

Respectfully submitted;

By-laws Committee
Wednesday, August 16, 2023

First Reading
Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Bills

The bills were read, as submitted by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon, who was unable to attend the meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Good of the Order

It was reported that Bayview Fire Company will be holding a Beef & Beer with a Cornhole Tournament on September 30th at McGettigan's 19th Hole.

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

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Rich Maxwell. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:45. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on October 18, 2023 at the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company, Weymouth Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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	09:00	Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia	2023 Philadelphia 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
Sat. Sep. 30, 2023	11:00	Bayview VFC @ McGettigan's 19th Hole	Beef & Beer and Cornhole Tournament
Sat. Sep. 30, 2023	17:00	Dorothy VFC Ladies Auxiliary	Designer Bag Bingo
Sat. Sep. 30, 2023	19:00	Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia	9/11 Memorial Stair Climb First Responder Offer - New Jersey Devils vs Philadelphia Flyers
Sun. Oct. 1, 2023	10:00	Northfield VFC	7th Annual Classic Car Show & Silent Auction
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. Oct. 21, 2023	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30) *TAKE OUT ONLY
Wed. Oct. 25, 2023		PAL Center Crossplex, Egg Harbor Township	Holiday with Heroes-Candy COATED Trunk or Treat
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)
Sat. Dec 9, 2023	19:00	Hammonton VFD	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (lineup 18:00 & parade 19:00)
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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. 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. 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. 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.

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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