

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



October 18, 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on October 18, 2023 at the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company, 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 Jess Hand of the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Hand welcomed all to Dorothy, Weymouth Township and congratulated the Association on the recent 100th Anniversary Celebration.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 38 of 172 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 22 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the September 20, 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 reported that 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 dinner at the gun club. All are welcome to join the committee for dinner.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported on the meeting of the Advisory Board held on October 16, 2023. The meeting was well attended. They discussed issues with the facility. The county has received the new audio-visual equipment and is working on an installation schedule. The needed repair for the drill tower has been put out for bids. The next major project will likely be the pump house. Howard noted that the training center is now thirty years old. The instructors are working on a list of fittings needed for the trucks. Michael Fedorko, Atlantic County Public Safety Director, reported to the committee that the Atlantic County Institute of Technology (ACIT) is currently working on a Police, Fire, and EMS curriculum.

Training – Howard Berchtold reported that Brian Middleton, Director of Training, is currently vacationing and that he has been meeting with him regularly for updates. There are currently twenty-six students in Firefighter II and a drop to thirty-eight students in Firefighter I. Howard reported that seven applications have been received for the position of Fire Instructor. Howard reported that there is a need for at least three new instructors, but the hiring would have to be staggered to allow for the additional budgeting for the needed turn-out gear for the new instructors. They may move to hire one instructor by the end of the year and an additional two in 2024.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported that the RFP has been completed and will soon be posted. Howard requested the information be shared with any companies that people may feel would be a good candidate for submitting a proposal.

Fire Coordinator – President Mackintosh reported that Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. was unable to make the meeting, but he did send his thanks for all those that assisted with the 100th Anniversary Celebration.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported there have been no NJSFA meetings since the convention. The next meeting is in November.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch, Atlantic County Board Manager, reported that all is good at the home.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Butch Kienzle summarized the minutes of the meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held on October 11, 2023 at the Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Company. Butch noted that he was late for the meeting and that 1st Vice President Marc Corsiglia ran the meeting. Butch reported that Sean Riggin from Bluestone Services, presented information about a new program run by “greenbranch recovery”. The program is call “firstbranch” and is a confidential treatment program for NJ’s first responders. It is a closed group intensive outpatient program for first responders struggling with substance abuse disorder and mental health conditions. Focus areas include trauma informed care, medication-assisted treatment, therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder, coping strategies, and counseling for anger management. Sean reported that the program is covered by state and local government insurance and that they have already vetted Blue Cross/Blue Shield and AmeriHealth for providing coverage. Sean noted that the parent group deals with court ordered programs and they are confident that they would be able to get some level of coverage from most non-government employer insurance plans. Sean recommended that everyone that feels they need the help provided by the program to call and work with them to determine their options based on insurance. At a minimum, the program will assist first responders with finding the care that they need, even if not with the firstbranch program. All first responders calling the hotline are immediately prioritized for evaluation without any long waiting periods sometimes found in other twenty-eight-day programs. Butch noted that a handout was shared with all County Chiefs and that this appears to be a program worthy of consideration for those that may need the services provided. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at Bayview Vol. Fire Co. Rt. 9 Station, Galloway Township.

100th Anniversary Celebration – Kim Feinstein thanked everyone that volunteered to make the celebration on October 7th a success. The volunteers were from all over the county representing every company in the county for 100% participation. The event went very well and cleanup after went quick. Kim reviewed some of the rough financials from the event with some bills still outstanding and reported that he, and Howard, inventoried the remaining merchandise. Kim noted that a final meeting of the committee will be scheduled to finalize the reports and have a more comprehensive report ready for the next meeting of the association. Kim requested that anyone that sold ads for the program book to get some of the extra books and distribute them to those that purchased the ads. Howard Berchtold thanked Kim for all the hard work he did leading the committee. Howard reported that the volunteers, from all over the county, did an outstanding job. Howard also thanked those that served on the committee, meeting as many as twelve to fifteen times since the beginning of the planning process, and the Egg Harbor City Fire Department for hosting many of the committee meetings.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

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.

Nomination of Officers

The first of two rounds of nominations were held. Those nominated are as follows:

- President (1) Charles J. Mackintosh
 - 1st Vice President (1) Dennis C. Sharpe
 - 2nd Vice President (1) William L. Merola Jr.
 - Secretary (1) Robert A. Mellon
 - Treasurer (1) Jaime C. Mellon
 - Asst. Sec./Trea. (1) Sandra L. Walczak
 - Chaplain (1) Dcn. Rich Maxwell
 - Sgt.-at-Arms (3) Wayne Dilks, William Donath, Charles Harlan
 - Executive Comm. (9) Howard Berchtold Jr., Levon S. "Lefty" Clayton*, Marc J. Corsiglia,
Kim Feinstein, Joe Hartman, Walter R. "Butch" Kienzle III,
Christopher Kislow, Eugene M. Sharpe*, C. Robert Winkler III*
- *have not yet formally accepted nomination and must do so before elections.

Good of the Order

It was reported that the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company will be holding their biannual Ham & Oyster Dinner on November 11th from 3PM until 7PM.

President Mackintosh thanked everyone for the great turnout at the 100th Anniversary Celebration noting that it was a truly amazing and special day.

Thank you to the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company 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 20:10. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on November 15, 2023 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Oct. 21, 2023	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30) *TAKE OUT ONLY
Sun. Oct. 22, 2023	09:00	NJFM, 4 Polhemustown Rd, Allentown, NJ 08501	NJ Fire Museum Annual Open House (09:00 - 15:00) ***RESCHEDULED
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. 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

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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. 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