

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*



November 15, 2023

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on November 15, 2023, at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2, by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by Howard Berchtold. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Introduction of Host Chief**

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Mike Sweeney of the Somers Point Fire Department Sta. 2. Chief Sweeney welcomed all to Somers Point.

## **In Attendance**

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 42 of 172      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 17 of 43

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the October 18, 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**

**Atlantic County Radio Communications** – Howard Berchtold reported that there have been many questions received about the RFP and that, due to the volume of questions, the deadline for proposals would be extended until December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the repair work on the drill tower should be completed by the first week of December. The next meeting of the Advisory Board has been changed to January 22, 2024, at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center.

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported on, and summarized the minutes of, the Executive Committee meeting held on November 3, 2023, in South Egg Harbor. There was discussion about continuing to review and seek the best financial practices for the association. Kim Feinstein will lead the Finance Committee. Howard reported on the reviews of instructor staffing levels and the recommendation of the Executive Committee to hire two instructors. Howard noted that all eight applicants are well qualified, and the plan is to hire an additional two instructors in 2024. Unfortunately, the hiring must be spread out due to the need to budget for the cost of providing turnout gear for the new instructors. Howard reported that

they also reviewed an analysis of increasing some tuition rates to match state averages and increasing fire instructor pay rate. The committee is recommending the association approve the pay rate increase for the Level II Fire Instructor and the Lead Level II Fire Instructor positions. Howard then took a moment to introduce his daughter, Heather, who had taken many photos of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and is now working on getting photos of the training program. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for January 5, 2024, in Pomona at 19:30 and will be the reorganizational meeting for 2024.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. requested that he, and Secretary Mellon, be notified of any new Fire Chiefs taking office in 2024. Chip reported that Brian Middleton attended a meeting in Cumberland County about Fire Police training. Chip reported that the state will be providing each County Fire Coordinator with an iPad that will be set up with mutual aid information and allow for field reporting of firefighter and civilian deaths or injuries. Chip reported on a recent response of a Fire Dept. Auxiliary to an incident not involving their own fire department and recommended all departments review their auxiliary needs to maintain service. Chip reported on a recent alert notification for an aircraft landing at the airport after detecting an odor onboard and the recent boardwalk and facade fire at Resorts Casino.

**NJ Firemen’s Home** – Oscar Dutch, Atlantic County Board Manager, reported that NJ State Senator Anthony Bucco met with Superintendent John Veras to review how the Firemen’s Home did so well during the COVID emergency as compared to the Veterans’ Homes in NJ. Senator Bucco is researching legislative proposals to improve the Veterans’ Homes and may include the Firemen’s Home in the proposal. Oscar reported that the weekend BBQs have wrapped up and the sponsored Christmas parties will soon start. Oscar wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association** – Butch Kienzle reported on the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held in Bayview. It was unanimously decided to recommend Chip Stockton be reappointed as Atlantic County Fire Coordinator for 2024/2025. A letter of recommendation was sent to Vince Jones. Butch also reported that the county has finally assigned a vehicle to be used by the Fire Coordinator. The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 in Sweetwater, Mullica Township. Nominations and elections of officers will be on the agenda.

**Finance** – Kim Feinstein reported that the Finance Committee met on November 14<sup>th</sup> for a very productive meeting. There was discussion on how to best move forward and a decision to research accounting firms to ensure the association is receiving the best possible services for the cost. The committee agreed that a policy should be adopted on the proper use of credit cards for association business including utilizing the Association’s sales tax exemption for all purchases and ensuring all vendors have copies of the exemption on file. The committee reviewed potentially beneficial capital expenditures such as a trailer for usage and equipment storage and a fit test machine available, at cost, countywide if needed. The trailer is initially being sought as a donation or transfer of surplus and inquiries will be made to see if there is need or interest in a fit test program. Kim reported that they will research the possibility of applying and qualifying for any larger corporate grant/donation programs that may assist the Association. The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for January 15, 2024, in Absecon.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – Kim Feinstein reported that they continue to sell the remaining 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary merchandise. Kim noted that there are still program books available and asked everyone that sold ad space to please ensure the advertisers receive a copy of the book. Kim reported that the Secretary will create, and distribute, a sale sheet to help companies consolidate orders and even arrange for free delivery. Kim reported that once all data from the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration is collected, he will schedule a closeout meeting with the committee to create a final report.

### **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

### **Deferred Business**

The second reading of the proposed Constitution revision was accepted as submitted. A vote on the proposal will be held at the December 20, 2023 meeting.

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.

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Respectfully submitted;

By-laws Committee  
Wednesday, August 16, 2023

First Reading  
Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Second Reading  
Wednesday, November 15, 2023

**New Business**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Association hire two fire instructors, Perry Coker (Margate FD) and Peter Libretti (Pleasantville FD), as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Association approve increasing the base Level II Fire Instructor rate to \$20 per hour, from \$15 per hour, and the base Lead Level II Fire Instructor rate to \$25 per hour, from \$20 per hour, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

**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. Kim Feinstein reported that the reason the propane bill payment was delayed over the summer was due to the Treasurer getting Suburban Propane to lower the billed rate and adjust the bills to the much lower rate that was negotiated earlier in the year and never applied. The effort was successful and saved a great deal of money.

**Nomination of Officers**

The second of two rounds of nominations was held. The seats on the Executive Committee are contested. All nominees have accepted their nomination to office. Those nominated are as follows:

President (1)	Charles J. Mackintosh
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (1)	Dennis C. Sharpe
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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, Clayton Tucker,  
C. Robert Winkler III

**Good of the Order**

Howard Berchtold provided an update about what happened when trying to get cars for the recent Firefighter II extrication training and why it was canceled. Unfortunately, there was some miscommunication about what had happened. There were cars arranged for the training, but they showed up a day late and the class could not be easily moved on the training center schedule. The cars are there, and they are working on getting the class scheduled. Charlie Horner reported that Oceanville has one firefighter trying to makeup the Firefighter II extrication training for the last two years and they are worried that his final certification will not go through after the two-year mark. Mike Corbo reported that if the Firefighter has passed the written Firefighter II exam, then the late makeup class will not be an issue with final certification.

Thank you to the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:25. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be hosted by the West Atlantic City Vol. Fire Company at 19:30 on December 20, 2023 at the Farmington VFC Banquet Hall. Election of officers for 2024 will be conducted.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

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)
Sat. Apr. 13, 2024	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. Sep. 7, 2024	12:00	Oceanville VFC	Oceanville Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration (Noon-5PM) (Rain Date - Sep. 8th)
Sat. Nov. 9, 2024	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner

**ACFFA Meetings**

**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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. 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. Jan. 22, 2024	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association**

Wed. Dec. 13, 2023	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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. 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