

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*



December 20, 2023

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on December 20, 2023, at the Farmington Vol. Fire Co. Banquet Hall (hosted by West Atlantic City Vol. 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. President Mackintosh announced that all delegates should see Kolby Rundio for election ballots.

## **Introduction of Host Chief**

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Wally Bakely, Jr. of the West Atlantic City Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Bakely welcomed all to Egg Harbor Township, thanked the Farmington Volunteer Fire Company for the use of their hall, wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and then introduced Egg Harbor Township Fire Department Chief, C. Robert Winkler III. Chief Winkler welcomed all on behalf of the entire Egg Harbor Township Fire Department and wished all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday Season, and a Happy New Year.

## **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 – 22 of 43

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the November 15, 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 January 5, 2024, in Pomona at 19:30 and will be the reorganizational meeting for 2024.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board had been scheduled for January 22, 2024, but will now be rescheduled due to a conflict with the Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony.

**Atlantic County Radio Communications** – Howard Berchtold reported that the RFP window closed on December 7<sup>th</sup> with five proposals received. A small committee working group met with county officials on December 19<sup>th</sup> to start the review and

rating process. Howard reported on the five companies that submitted proposals and some highlights of those proposals. Howard spoke on the importance of all municipalities participating in the study after a contract is awarded and requested that everyone act as ambassadors with their home municipality to keep the process moving forward.

**Fire Marshal** – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reminded everyone to notify him, or Secretary Mellon, of any firefighter deaths in 2023, no later than January 8<sup>th</sup>, for inclusion in the annual memorial service program on January 17, 2024. Dave wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Training** – Director of Training Brian Middleton reported that the Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony (Fall 2023 Class) has been scheduled for 7:00 PM, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Egg Harbor Township Community Center. Brian reported that the rappelling anchors have been replaced on the drill tower and that he is working with Butch Kienzle to schedule the refurb of the confined space simulator. Brian reviewed some new classes to be offered, reported that Firefighter I will start February 15<sup>th</sup>, and Firefighter II will start March 4<sup>th</sup>. Brian reported that a career recruit class for Atlantic City, Pleasantville, and Brigantine will start in January. Brian reviewed the schedule of classes available in the spring.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Chip reported that Minotola Volunteer Fire Company went out of service at 7PM on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Chip reported on and reviewed a plan utilizing the NJ Emergency Deployment Act to provide thirty days of mutual aid coverage, from directly bordering companies both in and out of Atlantic County, for Buena Borough. The plan is being led by NJ DFS Southern Regional Fire Coordinator Don Nelson. Chip noted that he hopes that a resolution between Buena Borough and the Minotola Fire Company can be reached quickly. Chip reported that he and Jerry Critelli traveled to Cherry Hill on December 16<sup>th</sup> to pick up the NJ DFS issued iPad. Chip reported that they are still working on the marine survey and that there have been no updates concerning the state plan to take back firefighting foam. Chip reported that Chief Sean Macri, and the Hammonton Fire Department, have volunteered to host a wildland urban interface drill in the spring. Chip reported on recent incidents including the line striping truck fire on the Garden State Parkway in the Bayview Fire Company area and the helicopter crash of Rt. 206 in Burlington County.

**NJ State Firemen’s Assn.** – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported on the scheduled NJSFA holiday office closing. Cindy reminded everyone that all local 2023 relief needs to be paid out by December 31<sup>st</sup> with no carryover allowed and all paperwork, including applications, should only be submitted utilizing the most recent updated version. Cindy reported that the Atlantic County Caucus will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, in Egg Harbor City at 7:00 PM. The NJSFA 2024 convention is scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Wildwood. Cindy reported on pending legislation that allows certain volunteer firefighters, rescue, and first aid squad members to claim \$2,000 gross income tax exemption.

**NJ Firemen’s Home** – Oscar Dutch, Atlantic County Board Manager, reported all is well at the home and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association** – Butch Kienzle summarized the minutes of the meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held on December 13, 2023, at the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company. Nomination and election of officers for 2024 was conducted. All current officers will continue in 2024. Butch reported that Vince Jones, Atl. Co. Dir. Office of Emergency management, received the Chiefs’ Assoc. recommendation to reappoint Chip Stockton as County Fire Coordinator for 2024/2025 and that he was forwarding the recommendation, along with his own, to the state for approval. Butch reported that the county has finally provided a vehicle for the County Fire Coordinator. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be 8:00 PM on January 30, 2024, at the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department and there will be no meeting in February. Butch wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition** – Billy Merola reported that there have been no nominations for valor received.

**Finance** – Kim Feinstein wished all a Merry Christmas and reported that the next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for January 15, 2024, in Absecon and that an Audit Committee meeting will be scheduled for March 26, 2024.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Kim Feinstein reported that forms are available for bulk ordering 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary merchandise and that they are looking into the reallocating of an unused box trailer for ACFFA usage.

**Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC)** – Fire Instructor Marylynn Graham provided a summary of the trip to FDIC by some of the ACFFA Instructors in the spring of 2023. They attended a full week of training. All days had full agendas of either lectures or hands on training. Towards the end of the week the exhibit floor was open, and they were able to meet with several vendors and manufacturers. Marylynn reported that much of the training is of the train-the-trainer type

which allows for them to bring back the information learned and incorporate it into new classes or existing classes. Marylynn reported that she learned about the National Firefighter Registry and their effort to understand and reduce cancer risk among firefighters. Marylynn reported that she has included this information with the Firefighter I and Firefighter II classes and that she continues to work towards getting the information out to the entire county fire service. Marylynn provided a summary of the program and their effort to collect data that will hopefully lead to a reduction in firefighter cancer. Marylynn provided some handouts and noted that more information is available at CDC.GOV/NFR for those that want to know more. Howard Berchtold spoke about how his brother has been diagnosed with ALS and that he spent his entire life in the fire service, including the US Navy fire service. Howard noted that studies such as the NFR are needed to gain a better understanding of the risks and how to avoid them.

**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 amend the constitution of the association as proposed and read into the record on September 20, 2023, and November 15, 2023.

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.

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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

Voted and Adopted  
Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Effective  
Monday, January 1, 2024

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2024/2025 meeting schedule as submitted by Secretary Mellon.

2024/2025 Meeting schedule for the Executive Committee (meetings at 19:30):

March 1 – Cardiff	May 3 – Longport
July 5 – Somers Point #1	September 6 – Absecon
November 1 – South Egg Harbor	January 3, 2025 – Pomona

2024/2025 Meeting schedule for the Regular Meetings (third Wednesday of month at 19:30):

March 20 – Sweetwater	April 17 - Fire Training Center (Host Margate)	May 15 – Germania
June 19 – Collings Lakes	July 17 – Linwood	August 21 – Laureldale
September 18 – Hammonton #2	October 16 – Port Republic	November 20 – Somers Point #1
December 18 – Cardiff	January 15, 2025 – Egg Harbor City	February 19, 2025 – Longport

**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.

**Election of Officers**

The election of officers was held. The positions on the Executive Committee were voted on by ballot. The remaining positions were unopposed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the secretary cast the ballot for all unopposed positions. Those elected to office for the year 2024 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, C. Robert Winkler III

**Good of the Order**

Howard Berchtold noted that it was good to see Chick Kisby, past ACFFA President, in attendance and asked him to stand. Howard reported that Chick just recently remarried and shared a wonderful story about how he and his bride met. Howard reported that he was honored to have been invited to sing at the wedding. Chick was given a rousing round of applause and offered congratulations from everyone in attendance.

Howard Berchtold thanked everyone for re-electing the current Executive Committee members and noted that annual budget proposals are due to be reviewed at the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee.

Howard Berchtold noted that it was good to see Billy Merola back out to meetings following his recovery.

President Mackintosh wished all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year on behalf of himself and the association officers.

Thank you to the West Atlantic City Vol. 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 20:30. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on January 17, 2024 in Egg Harbor City. This meeting includes the annual memorial service of the association. Please submit the names of those that have passed during 2023, no later than January 8<sup>th</sup>, so that they may be included in the memorial service program and plan on attending the meeting and service in full class A dress uniform.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Sat. Jan. 13, 2024	08:00	Applebee's Grill, Hammonton	Flapjacks for the Fire Dept. Fundraiser for Hammonton Fire Department
Mon. Jan. 22, 2024	19:00	Egg Harbor Twp. Community Center	Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony
Sat. Apr. 13, 2024	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner
Tues. Aug. 13, 2024	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Sat. Sep. 7, 2024	12:00	Oceanville VFC	Oceanville Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration (Noon-5PM) (Rain Date - Sep. 8th)
Fri. Sep. 13, 2024		Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 14, 2024		Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Nov. 9, 2024	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner
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**ACFFA Meetings**

**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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
Wed. Mar. 20, 2024	19:30	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Apr. 17, 2024	19:30	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center (Host -Margate FD)	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation
Wed. May 15, 2024	19:30	Germania VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 19, 2024	19:30	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 17, 2024	19:30	Linwood FD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 21, 2024	19:30	Laureldale VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 18, 2024	19:30	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 16, 2024	19:30	Port Republic VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 20, 2024	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 18, 2024	19:30	Cardiff VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 15, 2025	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 19, 2025	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)
Fri. Mar. 1, 2024	19:30	Cardiff VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. May 3, 2024	19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 5, 2024	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 6, 2024	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Nov. 1, 2024	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 3, 2025	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 ***Pending Rescheduled Date
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**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association**

Tues. Jan. 30, 2024	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
February 2024-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----
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**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
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