

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



February 21, 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on February 21, 2024 at the Longport Volunteer Fire Department 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. Dcn. Maxwell asked everyone to keep the family of Joseph Mawhinney, Jr., Dorothy Vol. Fire Co., as they, and the fire company, mourn his passing earlier this month. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Levon "Lefty" Clayton of the Longport Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Clayton welcomed all to Longport and took a moment to report on a company, Redline (redlinegearcleaning.com), which his department recently utilized for turnout gear cleaning and inspection via a mobile unit that allows for all the work to be done at your station. Chief Clayton reported on the need to wash the outer shell and the inner liners separately to prevent cross contamination and that the vender utilizes two extractors to accomplish that and when all the gear cleaning is completed the vendor provides a spreadsheet showing who the gear is assigned to, the serial numbers, and any recommended repairs required. All turnout gear, helmets, boots, etc. are cleaned, inspected, and documented.

Chief Clayton introduced Longport Commissioner James Leeds. Commissioner Leeds spoke of his appreciation for the firefighters serving Atlantic County and welcomed everyone to Longport.

Installation of Officers for 2024

President Charles J. Mackintosh administered the oath of office for officers that were unable to attend in January.

President Mackintosh installed the following into office for the year 2024:

Sgt.-at-Arms Wayne Dilks

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 40 of 172 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 19 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024 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 summarized the minutes from the meeting and reorganization of the Executive Committee held on January 5, 2024. Howard thanked the Executive Committee for reelecting him as Chairman and Lefty Clayton as Vice-Chairman. Howard, and President Mackintosh, reviewed the changes, projects, and the accomplishments of the last year including the 100th Anniversary Celebration, obtaining the retired apparatus from Minotola, welcoming Brian Middleton as the new Director of Fire Training, and working with several county officials, and other county organizations, to form a working group that successfully won a L.E.A.P. grant to fund a study for a central fire and EMS dispatch in Atlantic County. Howard noted that he would like to keep this momentum going and spoke about the need to get some of the newer, younger members of the county fire service more involved with the Association. All committee chairs were in attendance. The Valor Award Committee could use additional help. Howard thanked Billy Merola for chairing the committee and noted that the valor awards and fifty years of service recognition will take place at the April meeting of the Association. Howard noted that the Memorial Service and the Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony, both held in January, were wonderful and well attended. The Executive Committee has been reviewing FDIC attendance and benefit to the Association. Howard reviewed the discussion under the Finance Committee report. The committee will review the worker compensation insurance policy, banking, the accounting firm, and other opportunities where efficiencies or cost savings may be found. An audit of the Association records is scheduled for March 26th in Bayview. The 100th Anniversary is currently around \$18k in the negative due to unsold merchandise. Treasurer Jaime Mellon reported on the fiscal year numbers over the last five years and recommended that \$30k be moved from checking to a CD that would be in the 5%+ range. Discussion about the recommendation followed with the consensus agreeing that a motion was in order recommending that the Treasurer be authorized to move \$30k to the best rate and term CD available. Howard spoke on the need to get additional members on all committees. Howard reported that they would like to restart a fundraising committee along the lines of past fundraising including baseball game trips and dinners. Howard requested that anyone with a fundraising idea reach out to Joe Hartman, or any other member of the Executive Committee. Howard reported that the Executive Committee reviewed both the Training and Administrative 2024 budget proposals and they are recommending approval of the budgets under new business along with the recommendation to authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$30k to the best rate and term CD available. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for March 1, 2024 in Cardiff.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported that the contract for the study of a central fire and EMS dispatch, funded by the L.E.A.P. grant, has been awarded to ADCOMM. The working group will meet with representatives of ADCOMM during the week of March 11th. Howard reiterated the need for all Chiefs and Officers to assist with emphasizing the need for complete data transparency from all municipal leaders and dispatch centers to ensure a full and complete study. Chief Dan Adams, Margate, inquired if there was any further information concerning the recent radio system failure and what may be done concerning redundancy and preventing future issues. There was much discussion about the issue and the future of the system that will be relayed to the appropriate county officials.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the fire training advisory board is scheduled for April 15, 2024 at the training center.

Training – Director of Training Brian Middleton reported that two career recruit classes are running at the training center. The first with Atlantic City, Brigantine, and Pleasantville recruits. The second with additional Atlantic City recruits. The current Firefighter I class just started with forty-seven recruits and the Firefighter II class, starting in March, only has six registered. At least ten students are needed to run Firefighter II and an email will be sent out seeking additional registrations. Brian reported on the need for a train-the-trainer class through Kean University before the instructors may start teaching the new RIC class. Brian provided an update on upcoming classes, reported that the new audio-visual system installation is ongoing, and that the two new instructors have started with the hope to hire an additional instructor soon. Brian reported that Vince Jones will be scheduling ICS300 and ICS400 classes through the county and that anyone needing ICS200 may join the Firefighter I class, or either of the career recruit classes, on the day they have it scheduled. If interested, contact Director Middleton about the ICS200 classes.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that he, along with Secretary Mellon, will be compiling a list of those who have achieved fifty years of service. They will be honored on April 17th and, due to ongoing supply chain issues for the pins, the final day to submit names will be March 20th. President Mackintosh requested that everyone take the request back to their respective chiefs to ensure that no one is missed.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported on the county radio system, the recent fatal fire in Buena Borough and the large residence fire in Egg Harbor Township requiring Tender Task Force Alpha deployment. Chip reported that he, and some of the Deputy Fire Coordinators, met with officials in Buena Borough to learn of the new Buena Borough Fire Department Sta. 11-1 and new Fire Chief, Ken Barbagli. The new department will start running soon

and will run secondarily to the current mutual aid coverage, with a plan to take over as the primary response agency on March 11th. Chip reported that Port Republic will host a Tender Task Force Alpha meeting on March 7th and that he and the Deputies are continuing to work on the mutual aid update and NIMS typing. There was an inquiry about the status of the state plan for the old foam. Chip reported that the state will be reissuing the request for a foam survey to be completed by all departments due to an initial low response rate and there have been no other updates.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch, Atlantic County Board Manager, reported that the home was inspected a couple of months prior with a survey of the entire building and the report just came back very positive. Oscar reported that the state is still looking at the possibility of requiring single occupant rooms in homes and that the Board of Managers is looking into what that may require. Oscar reported that four guests, on hospice care, recently passed.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported on the last meeting held on January 30th where the current slate of officers was reinstalled. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on March 13, 2024 at the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department Station 2.

Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that three valor nominations have been received and that one additional nomination is expected.

Finance – Kim Feinstein reported that the audit is scheduled for March 26th in Bayview. Kim reported that they have a draft policy for credit card usage that the committee will review at the next meeting and that he and Howard Berchtold will soon meet with an accountant that may offer a proposal for the Association's business.

100th Anniversary – Kim Feinstein reported on recent sales of merchandise and that the merchandise is still stored in a loaner trailer from Milmay. The plan is to move to a county assigned trailer when one is inspected and ready. They are working on getting the same location in Wildwood during the NJSFA convention and getting to fire musters, and other events, to continue selling the 100th Anniversary merchandise.

Communications

Secretary Robert Mellon reported on a recent email from the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) requesting action to help save Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants. Both programs will cease to exist on September 30, 2024 if Congress does not act. The email contains information to assist with contacting local Representatives to seek their support for the programs. Secretary Mellon has forwarded the email to all on the distribution list.

President Chuck Mackintosh reported that dues and delegates requests for 2024 have been sent out and requested they be returned as soon as possible.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2024 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Budget proposal, with a total of \$24,972, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize the Treasurer to move \$30,000 from checking to the best rate and term CD available, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2024 administrative budget proposal, with a total of \$6,125, 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.

Good of the Order

Dennis Sharpe extended thanks, on behalf of the Egg Harbor Township Fire Dept., to all the departments that responded to, or provided coverage during, the Betsy Scull Road fire. Dennis estimated that approximately two-thirds of Atlantic County departments were activated.

President Chuck Mackintosh reiterated the need to get fresh faces at the Association meetings and welcomed those that were in attendance for the first time.

Thank you to the Longport 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 20:30. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on March 20, 2024 in Sweetwater.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Feb. 24, 2024	10:00	Dorothy VFC	Cornhole Tournament
Fri. Mar. 22, 2024	17:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	12 th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner
Sun. Mar. 24, 2024	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast with Easter Bunny (08:00 - 12:00)
Sat. Apr. 13, 2024	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner
Sun. May 19, 2024	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast (08:00 - 12:00)
Mon. Jun. 10, 2024	-----	Elwood VFC	Father's Day Sweepstakes Drawing
Sat. Jun. 22, 2024	11:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Sub Sale (11:00 - 14:00)
Sun. Jul. 21, 2024	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast with Santa (08:00 - 12:00)
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
Sun. Sep. 15, 2024	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast (08:00 - 12:00)
Sat. Oct. 5, 2024	17:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Jersey Shore Medium
Sat. Nov. (TBD), 2024	11:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Sub Sale (11:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Nov. 9, 2024	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner
Sun. Dec. 1, 2024	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast with Santa (08:00 - 12:00)
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ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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. 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. Apr. 15, 2024	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 15, 2024	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Oct. 21, 2024	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 13, 2025	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Mar. 13, 2024	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Apr. 10, 2024	20:00	Cardiff VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. May 8, 2024	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jun. 12, 2024	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jul. 10, 2024	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Aug. 14, 2024	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Tues. Sep. 10, 2024	20:00	Nesco VFC ***Moved to Tuesday	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Oct. 9, 2024	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Nov. 13, 2024	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 11, 2024	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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Tues. Jan. 28, 2025	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
February 2025-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jul. 25, 2024	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 23, 2025	19:30	Bayview VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 24, 2025	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association