

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*



March 20, 2024

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on March 20, 2024 at the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company 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 Captain James Scarpato of the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company. Captain Scarpato welcomed all to Sweetwater on behalf of Chief Gary Franklin and the members of the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company.

## **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:

Asst. Sec./Trea.	Sandra L. Walczak
Sgt.-at-Arms	William Donath

## **In Attendance**

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 44 of 172      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 24 of 43

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the February 21, 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.

## **Bills**

President Mackintosh requested that the bills be moved up on the agenda due to Treasurer Mellon's schedule. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to move the Bills up on the agenda.

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

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported on the meeting of the Executive Committee held on March 1<sup>st</sup> in Cardiff. The committee discussed the potential for interest in a summer Firefighter I class and noted that Fire Chiefs that have prospective recruits that would be best served by a daytime summer Firefighter I class will be asked to contact Director Middleton and if there are enough recruits, an effort will be made to get a class scheduled for this summer. The committee reviewed a request and will recommend the purchase of a ten-by-ten-foot canopy from Sam's Club for public relations and other needs. Howard reported that the Executive Committee took the recommendation of the Finance Committee and adopted a credit/debit card usage policy.

### *Atlantic County Firefighters' Association Credit/Debit Card Policy*

*Any Officer, Board Member, or Employee of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association that uses a Credit Card or Debit Card is responsible to turn in the receipt and complete an Expense Form in its entirety. The Receipt and the Expense Form must be turned into the Treasurer or Deposited into the box at the Training Center Office within 72 hours. Failure to follow this Policy will result in Termination of Charge Card or Debit use.*

The committee reviewed the FDIC expenditures and has set guidelines on the expenses covered by the Association after taking into consideration that the instructors do cover many FDIC expenses out of their own pocket. Howard noted that he would like to see more feedback from the instructors about what they have learned and the benefits to the Association. The committee reviewed issues encountered with trying to get the Comcast account closed. Treasurer Jaime Mellon informed the committee that the approved \$30k CD would be soon opened with a 5.05% rate at Parke Bank and that she had the propane usage and cost history prepared so that Allen's Propane may submit a proposal. The committee discussed the upcoming 200 Club Memorial Service and Brunch and Secretary Robert Mellon inquired if an ad in the program book would be desired. It was determined that the recommendation would be made, after an offer from Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association President Butch Kienzle, that the Firefighters' Association would put in \$125, and the Chiefs' Association would put in \$100 towards the \$225 cost of a full-page ad. Howard reported that the service and brunch is a great and worthy event to attend. The committee also discussed the annual donation towards the NJ State Firemen's Home Golf Tournament and recommended continuing with a \$200 donation. Howard reported that the committee will be looking into future fundraising opportunities that could be things like dinners or sports game trips. Those with ideas or the ability to assist are requested to join the Fundraising Committee. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for May 3, 2023 in Longport.

**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.

**Atlantic County Radio Communications** – Howard Berchtold reported that ADCOMM Engineering, LLC hosted a kickoff event at Atlantic Cape Community College with a presentation and the start of one-on-one interviews with working group members and some additional career fire, volunteer fire, and EMS representatives. ADCOMM representatives also had a chance to visit the Anthony "Tony" Canale Fire Training Center. Howard reported that letters were sent to all municipalities requesting support with the data collection process so that a full and complete study may be done. All Fire Chiefs were sent a copy of the letter. ADCOMM representatives will be returning the week of April 8th to continue their work. A meeting with PSAP and dispatch managers along with Police Chiefs will be scheduled in April. ADCOMM will also be meeting with select focus groups. Howard reported on ongoing communication issues that need to be resolved and asked everyone to advocate for a full and complete study by supplying all requested data and answering all inquiries. The study should be completed in six months. President Chuck Mackintosh thanked Howard for all the time he has been devoting towards getting this study done.

**Training** – Director of Training, Brian Middleton reported that he is working on the possibility of scheduling a summer Firefighter I class and that any Fire Chief with recruits that would benefit from a daytime class should contact Director Middleton as a minimum number of recruits is required to even considering scheduling a class. Brian reported that scheduled classes and available time for company/department training ground use are both filling up fast. If you plan on attending a class or utilizing the training ground for company/department training, please sign up as soon as possible. Brian reported that additional ICS400 classes will be scheduled for late April and early May. Brian reported that the first career Firefighter class has a graduation ceremony scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. Brian thanked the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company for assisting the county SAR team recently during a search along the Mullica River.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. "Chip" Stockton Jr. welcomed representatives from the Buena Boro Volunteer Fire Company to the meeting. Chip reported on the recent Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) meeting held in Port Republic on March 7<sup>th</sup>. They are seeking a host for a TTF-A drill to be held in the spring or summer. Chip reported that

Atlantic County was well represented at a recent meeting of Fire Chiefs and NJDFS Shore Regional Fire Coordinator Donald Nelsen. A seventeen-page email had been sent out prior and the items that NJDFS will be working on were reviewed at the meeting. NIMS typing was something that Atlantic County already has a high response rate on. NJDFS will now have staff dedicated to investigating complaints filed against fire companies and departments, taking that task off the regional fire coordinators. Chip reported that he forwarded an OSHA update email to all chiefs and that the Atlantic City Airshow planning will soon start now that the funding for the airshow has been finalized. Chip reported on some excellent training received when the first due companies to the airport were invited out for some hands-on training on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Kolby Rundio reported that training may be scheduled for additional companies listed for airport mutual aid.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch, Atlantic County Board Manager, reported that one guest of the home had recently been diagnosed with Legionella (Legionnaires' Disease) and research determined that it was likely contracted when the guest had been traveling. Out of an abundance of caution, the water at the home was still tested and deemed safe. Oscar reported that the Boonton Historical Society would be visiting the home in May and that the home is currently at capacity with eighty guests and a wait list has been established. Oscar reported that the service rule for admission has been changed. The new admissions policy will go into effect on April 1, 2024. The new policy is for new firefighters. Firefighters on record prior to April 1, 2024 would still only need one year of active service to qualify for admission. New firefighters would be required to serve seven active years before earning qualification for admission to the home. Oscar noted that it has been nineteen years since the last Atlantic County firefighter, who had served with Atlantic City, was a guest at the home. Likely due to the 130-mile distance from Atlantic County. Oscar reported on the recent state inspection that went very well and that the home is licensed for ninety-two beds split across memory care, long term care, and residential. The Firemen's Home Antique Muster has been scheduled for October 19, 2024 from 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association** – Butch Kienzle summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department Station 2. Butch reported that they voted to split the cost of a full-page ad in the program book for the Atlantic & Cape May Counties - Memorial Service & Brunch on April 7<sup>th</sup>. The split would be \$100 from the Chiefs' Association and \$125 from the Firefighters' Association. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be at 8:00 PM on April 10, 2024 at the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company.

**Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition** – Billy Merola reported that four valor nominations were received and reviewed by the committee and that one more nomination may be reviewed. Billy again requested that additional volunteers join the committee and make every attempt to attend the meetings to review applications. Billy reported that only one of the nominations was correctly submitted and that moving forward, they will seek a January 31<sup>st</sup> cutoff for submitting nominations. Secretary Robert Mellon reported that six names have been submitted to be recognized for fifty years of service.

**NJ Forest Fire Service** – Butch Kienzle reported that Bill Donnelly will be sworn in as the new State Fire Warden for New Jersey on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Kim Feinstein reported he had been looking into purchasing a ten-by-ten-foot commercial canopy at Sam's Club for \$199.98 for public relations and other needs. All agreed that would be a worthy investment. It was reported that there may be the possibility of getting one or even two donated and not needing to purchase one. Representatives of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee will be at the Mayfest in Smithville to continue selling the remaining anniversary merchandise. Kim reported running through the up-to-date numbers and determined that an additional \$7,000 in sales will bring everything to a break-even point.

**Finance** – Kim Feinstein reported that he, Exec. Comm. Chairman Howard Berchtold, and Treasurer Jaime Mellon met with an accountant and received a proposal to provide accounting services for the association. A meeting is scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup>, in Bayview, to audit the association books and review the proposal.

### **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 to purchase a ten-by-ten-foot commercial canopy at Sam's Club for \$199.98 for public relations and other needs, as recommended by the Executive Committee. Kim Feinstein and Howard Berchtold reported that there may be a couple of opportunities to get one, or two, canopies donated. If a usable canopy is donated, then the purchase will no longer be needed.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association approve sharing the cost of a full-page ad in the program book for the 200 Club of Atlantic & Cape May Counties - Memorial Service & Brunch with the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association contributing \$100 and the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association contributing \$125 towards the total cost of \$225, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to sponsor the New Jersey Firemen's Home 2024 Golf Outing at the bronze level with a \$200.00 donation, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

### **Good of the Order**

Chief Jacob Ruga, Milmay Volunteer Fire Company, thanked everyone for the love and support sent to Michael Black, Assistant Chief, as he recovers from injuries received from an explosion while working at the Bayway Refinery Fire Department. Jacob reported that Mike is doing good.

Dennis Sharpe reported on doing many inspections at cellular towers as they are quickly deploying new technology such as the NexGen 911.

Oscar Dutch reported that Anthony Ingenito, retired Atlantic City Deputy Fire Chief, had recently passed.

President Chuck Mackintosh reminded everyone that he would like them to keep seeking "new blood" to come out to the monthly meetings and become actively involved with the association.

Thank you to the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:35. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on April 17, 2024 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Fire Training Center and hosted by the Margate City Fire Department. This meeting will include the "Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition" program.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Fri. Mar. 22, 2024	17:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	12 <sup>th</sup> 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)
Sun. Apr. 7, 2024	10:00	St. Nicholas Church (10:00) & Tropicana Casino (12:00)	200 Club of Atlantic & Cape May Counties - Memorial Service (10:00) & Brunch (12:00)
Sat. Apr. 13, 2024	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner
Sun. Apr. 28, 2024	09:00	4 Polhemustown Rd, Allentown, NJ 08501	NJ Fire Museum 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Swap Meet (09:00 - 15:00)
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)
Sat. Jul. 20, 2024	21:30	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	"Backyard Oasis" Raffle Drawing at Mt. Carmel Festival
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
Sun. Aug. 18, 2024	10:00	Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, Millville, NJ	42nd Annual Fire Muster & Firefighters' Family Day presented by Glasstown Antique Fire Brigade
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)

**ACFFA Meetings**

**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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
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. 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
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
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. 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