

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



May 15, 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on May 15, 2024 at the Germania Volunteer Fire Company by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by Howard Berchtold. Howard called for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Chief Gilbert P. Zonge, Jr., and asked that everyone keep his family, the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company, and the Egg Harbor Township Fire Department in their thoughts and prayers. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Mackintosh introduced Chief David Simpkins, Sr. of the Germania Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Simpkins welcomed all to Germania.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 51 of 172 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 25 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the April 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 – Vice-Chairman Lefty Clayton reported on the meeting of the Executive Committee held on May 3rd in Longport. The committee received an update on training center improvements. The committee was informed that the ten-by-ten canopy, and two tables had been purchased. The committee was informed of recent billing issues with Suburban Propane that Treasurer Jaime Mellon had corrected. There was no business before the committee to act on. Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that some business will require the Executive Committee to meet sooner than the scheduled July 5th meeting and noted that they will likely meet on June 7th and that this meeting will replace the July meeting. Howard reported that the valor awards ceremony went very well and that his daughter, Heather Berchtold, took some great photos. Howard noted that the photos are available without restriction and that an email address and pin "9065" allow access to download. (<https://hcbphotography.pixieset.com/valorawards>) The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on ~~July 5, 2024~~ June 7, 2024 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Station 1.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Fire Training Advisory Board is scheduled for July 15, 2024 at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center.

Training – Instructor Rob Winkler reported that the Firefighter I class is still running, and the Firefighter II class will soon be completing their testing. Rob reported that an additional career recruit class will start on May 28th and classes for the upcoming weekend are being rescheduled due to the funeral for Chief Zonge who also served as a fire instructor.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported he sent an email to all chiefs concerning NIMS reporting noting that only ten of forty-two in Atlantic County are up to date with their reporting. Chip strongly suggested that everyone submit comments concerning the proposed OSHA update and that several emails have been sent with information about the proposal and how to submit comments. Chip reported that Chief Scott Trythall has retired from the Pleasantville Fire Department and Chief Keven Vanegas has been appointed to replace him. Chip reported that several meetings have been held all over southern New Jersey as they work to get the Fire Police standard and training updated. Chip reported that Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary on September 7th and the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary on September 28th.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported that the state 2% has been sent to the local association accounts. Cindy reported that the AFG and SAFER grant reauthorization bills were making their way through Congress. Cindy reported that, starting June 1st, applications for qualified spouses and applications for assisted living reimbursement would be put on hold. This is because the cost of the programs was approximately \$100,000 the first year in place and has increased to over \$14 million per year. They will be reviewing the programs. Cindy reported that emails have been sent out with information on financial assistance programs in each county for those applying for and in need of assistance. Cindy reported that there had been discussion about eliminating convention badges, but they will keep them in place this year with less ordered than previous years. Cindy also noted that they are looking into a QR code type of check-in at the convention instead of the cards.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch, Atlantic County Board Manager, reported that the home is at capacity and a wait list has been established. Oscar reported that the home’s annual golf tournament is coming up on June 27th at the Knoll West Country Club in Boonton, NJ. Oscar thanked the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association for their donation as a bronze level sponsor. Oscar reported they are working on creating an actuarial report to estimate likely future applications for the home and whether they should consider adding twenty additional rooms to the home to meet potential future needs. Oscar asked the board to consider also looking at the possibility of a small facility in or around the Route 70 area of Toms River to assist future needs by assigning a committee to do the research. Oscar reported that the Morris County Historical Society recently toured the home and placed a plaque noting the home’s historical significance. It was requested that the home not be submitted for any historical designation due to the probability of limiting future modification of expansion of the home.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Butch Kienzle summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held on May 8th at Northfield Fire Department. Reports were received from committees and there was no business to act on. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be at 8:00 PM on June 12, 2024 at the Collings Lakes Volunteer Fire Company.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that he will be attending a 4H Fair Association meeting on May 22nd to get updates on the planning of the 2024 fair. Howard reported that the 4H Fair is scheduled for August 9th and 10th, and that this is the 75th Anniversary of the Atlantic County 4H Fair. Howard reported that the first several fairs were held at the Pomona Volunteer Fire Company grounds near Pomona Avenue and Aloe Street before moving to the Route 50 location. Howard reported that they will work with Rob Winkler to see if the Firefighter Competition will be scheduled this year.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported that he was on a conference call with ADCOMM Engineering, LLC and Atlantic County representatives to get an update on the study. It was reported that the current process of collecting data from the PSAPs and Dispatch Centers needs to be completed before moving forward. Only three of eleven PSAPs have responded to the data survey request. The county will be sending out a reminder that the data is needed to move the study forward. The responding PSAPs were Ventnor, Ocean City, and Hamilton Township. Howard requested that fire chiefs should reach out to their contacts and remind them about the need for data while reinforcing that responding is not a commitment to anything other than getting a clear picture of current operations to recommend a plan, or multiple options of plans, to improve communications.

Audit/Finance – Kim Feinstein reported that the committee met on March 26th and still needs to present to the Executive Committee. A future meeting may be scheduled after the next Executive Committee meeting.

100th Anniversary – Kim Feinstein reported there was an excellent turnout of volunteers to assist with 100th Anniversary merchandise sales, and fire safety literature distribution, at the ACUA Earth Day event/ Kim reported that the total sales for the event was \$696 and that the new canopy and tables will be kept in the trailer for future events. Kim noted that they have canceled plans to be at the Smithville Mayfest due to the funeral for Chief Zonge.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Howard Berchtold noted that with the upcoming 100th Anniversary Celebrations in Oceanville and Northfield that the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association should consider purchasing full page color ads in the program books for those celebrations.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association purchase a full-page color ad in the program book for the 100th Anniversary of the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company at a cost of \$300.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association purchase a full-page color ad in the program book for the 100th Anniversary of the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company at a cost of \$300.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association adopt resolution 2024-001.
Resolution of Sympathy, Gilbert P. Zonge, Jr.

*Atlantic County Firefighters' Association
Resolution of Sympathy*

Whereas, it has pleased the Divine Providence in His everlasting wisdom to remove from our midst our faithful comrade on May 11, 2024.

Chief Gilbert P. Zonge, Jr.

Whereas, through his death the Cardiff Fire Company, Egg Harbor Township Fire Department, The County of Atlantic, and this Association have lost an earnest co-worker and devoted friend with a true wealth of knowledge and love for the fire service.

Therefore be it Resolved, that the heartfelt sympathy of this Association be extended to his bereaved wife and family and members of the Cardiff Fire Company, and

Be it further Resolved, that this resolution be spread upon the minutes and a copy thereof be transmitted to the family of our departed comrade.

Resolution No. 2024-001

Adopted this 15th day of May, 2024.
Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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

Chuck Uhl reported that the 100th Anniversary Celebration for the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company is scheduled for September 7th and will start at Noon. There will be no parade, many options for ads in the program book are available, t-shirts and hats will be sold, and everyone is welcome.

Chief Rob Winkler, Egg Harbor Township Fire Department, thanked everyone for all the support provided since the passing of Chief Zonge. Chief Winkler summarized the plans for the funeral service and reported that an email is going out with those details.

President Chuck Mackintosh reported that the valor award and 50 years of service guidelines will be reviewed and improved, including a firm deadline for submissions.

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 20:25. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on June 19, 2024 in Collings Lakes, Buena Vista Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. May 18, 2024	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30) *Drive Through Only
Sun. May 19, 2024	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast (08:00 - 12:00)
Sun. Jun. 2, 2024	12:00	Dorothy VFC	67th Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
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)
Sat. Aug. 3, 2024	16:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	27th Annual Spaghetti Dinner (16:00 - 19:00)
Fri. Aug. 9, 2024	18:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at 75th Annual Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Sat. Aug. 10, 2024	13:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at 75th Annual Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
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	43 rd 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)
Sep. 9 - 15, 2024	varies	Yankee Stadium, New York	New York Yankees - First Responders Appreciation Week
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. Sep. 28, 2024		Northfield VFC	Northfield Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration
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. 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. Jul. 5, 2024 Jun. 7, 2024	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting *rescheduled
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. 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. 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	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association ***Moved to Tuesday
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