

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



June 19, 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:35 on June 19, 2024 at the Collings Lakes Volunteer 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.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Bill Donnelly of the Collings Lakes Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Donnelly welcomed all to Collings Lakes.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 55 of 172 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 26 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the May 15, 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 Jr. reported on the meeting of the Executive Committee held on June 7th at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Station 1. Howard thanked Somers Point Station 1 for accommodating the need to move the meeting from July to June. Howard reported that a committee will review the valor and fifty years of service guidelines and make recommendations for updating. Additional members are needed on the committee and those interested are asked to contact President Mackintosh. Howard reported that he, along with Chuck Mackintosh and Kim Feinstein, will work on getting updated photographs for display at the training center. Howard noted that he has been working with the county and that the association office is not lost but continues to be shared with other county personnel. Howard thanked Chip Stockton and his team for updating the propane pad. Howard reported that the plans for the 4H Fair were discussed. The 4H fair is scheduled for August 9th and 10th. This is the 75th Anniversary of the Atlantic County 4H Fair. The association has been seeking interest in scheduling a firefighter competition and has received no feedback. The display of apparatus will be scheduled, and demonstrations may be scheduled on Saturday August 10th in place of the firefighter competition. The committee reviewed the recommendation of the Finance Committee to switch to a new accountant and the plan to switch the payroll over to direct deposit. There was discussion on fundraising and all ideas are welcome. President Mackintosh will be leading a committee to research viable fundraising plans. The Executive Committee is recommending

that the association approve submitting a letter stating concerns with OSHA's proposed "Emergency Response Standard" rule and approve switching accounting services to David A Dougherty LLC. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on September 6, 2024 at the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department.

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.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported on several recent phone calls and continuing progress with the dispatch study. The study has now been going on for three months. Data collection was expected to take only four weeks. Approximately sixty-six percent of the data has now been received. They will continue to work with the PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) and Dispatch Centers to collect the remaining data.

Training – Director Brian Middleton reported that the Firefighter I graduation ceremony has been scheduled for 7PM Monday, July 8th at the Egg Harbor Township Community Center. The next Firefighter I class will start on August 15th and the next Firefighter II class will start on September 16th. The Firefighter I class will be capped at thirty students. The new audio-visual system at the training center has been completed and is running well. The Fall 2024 Course Book should be released by mid-July.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. "Chip" Stockton Jr. reminded everyone that the comment period for OSHA's proposed "Emergency Response Standard" rule closes on July 22nd. A Large Diameter Hose (LDH) drill has been scheduled for 6:30PM June 26th in Farmington and a meeting to discuss Fire Police SOGs and updates has been scheduled for 7PM June 27th at the training center.

NJ State Firemen's Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported that the Atlantic County Caucus is scheduled for 7PM on August 13th in Egg Harbor City. Registration will start at 6PM and delegates failing to attend the caucus will be docked \$100 from convention expenses. Cindy provided an update on the special relief application totals and reported on the increasing costs associated with the healthcare assistance program that has necessitated a freeze on new applications for assisted living facilities. The state association is working on a plan that would cover only the medical expenses related to assisted living. Cindy reported information from President Rober Ordway that shows sixteen siblings received a death benefit payment in 2023 and, so far, eleven siblings have received a death benefit payment in 2024. Cindy reported that NJSFA President Robert Ordway and Vice President Joseph Hankins will be attending the ACFFA July meeting in Linwood. Cindy reported that new updated applications are available online and that the NJSFA will be emailing more reports to further reduce postage expenses. Cindy reported that the convention is scheduled for September 13 and 14 in Wildwood. The memorial service followed by the meeting is at 11AM on September 13th with registration from 7AM until 11AM. There will only be registration and voting on September 14th. Cindy reported that twelve resolutions have been received and that they are currently under review.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch, Atlantic County Board Manager, reported that the home has sixty-five guests in long-term care, seven guests in memory care, and eight guests in residential housing. A total of eighty guests have filled the home and there are currently eight applications on the waiting list with one county board manager reporting that he is working on twenty applications that may be added to the list. Oscar reported that a committee has been formed to research building an addition to the home. Oscar reported on the plan to increase the minimum time served as a firefighter to qualify for the home from one year to eighty-four months and that it has been tabled until the next meeting. Oscar reported that the home's golf tournament is scheduled for June 27th and so far, one hundred eight have registered.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held on June 12th at the Collings Lakes Volunteer Fire Company. They discussed and approved submitting a letter stating concerns with OSHA's proposed "Emergency Response Standard" rule, sending a donation to the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company in memory of Chief Gilbert P. Zonge, Jr., and purchasing full page black and white ads in both the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company and the Northfield Volunteer Fire Company 100th Anniversary ad books. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 in East Vineland. Mike Miller, RedLine Gear Cleaning NJ, DE, & Eastern PA, will attend the July meeting of the association to give a presentation of Redline's services and will have their truck available to view thirty minutes before the start of the meeting.

Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – President Chuck Mackintosh reported that the committee should start meeting in a month or so to start the process of reviewing all guidelines and procedures with recommended changes to follow. President Mackintosh did note that one definitive change will be that all nominations for valor and submission for service recognition will be due no later than January 31st.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – Kim Feinstein reported that he will have a signup sheet at the July meeting for volunteers assisting at the 4H Fair on August 9th and 10th.

Finance – Kim Feinstein reported that the committee will meet with the Treasurer and start the process of transitioning to a new accountant.

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 donate \$150 to the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company in memory of Chief Gilbert P. Zonge, Jr..

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to recommend that the association switch accounting services to David A Dougherty LLC, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to recommend that the association submit a letter stating concerns with OSHA's proposed "Emergency Response Standard" rule, 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

Thank you to the Collings Lakes Volunteer 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 20:35. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on July 17, 2024 in Linwood.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Jun. 22, 2024	11:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Sub Sale (11:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Jun. 22, 2024	12:00	Lower Bank VFC (Burlington County)	New Fire Truck Housing (12:00 - 15:00)
Mon. Jul. 8, 2024	19:00	Egg Harbor Twp. Community Center	Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony
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	11:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey State Firemen's Association Annual Convention & Memorial Service (Reg. 07:00-11:00)
Sat. Sep. 14, 2024	07:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention (Voting Only 07:00-11:00)
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. 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. 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. Jul. 10, 2024	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Aug. 14, 2024	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Tues. Sep. 10, 2024	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association ***Moved to Tuesday
Wed. Oct. 9, 2024	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Nov. 13, 2024	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 11, 2024	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
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Tues. Jan. 28, 2025	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs 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