

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



July 17, 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:35 on July 17, 2024 at the Linwood Fire Department 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 Chief Martin Walley of the Linwood Fire Department. Chief Walley welcomed all to Linwood.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 47 of 172 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 23 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the June 19, 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.

Special Presentation

President Mackintosh welcomed and introduced President Robert Ordway, Vice President Joseph Hankins, and Atlantic County Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger with the New Jersey State Firemen's Association (NJSFA). President Ordway thanked President Mackintosh for the invitation to provide an update. The Atlantic County Caucus has been scheduled for August 13th in Egg Harbor City at 7:00 pm, registration will start at 6:00 pm. The convention is scheduled for September 13th and September 14th in Wildwood. On September 13th, registration will run from 7:00 am to 11:00 am. The Memorial Service will start at 11:00 am, with the business meeting immediately following. On September 14th, registration and voting will run from 7:00 am until 11:00 am. The suggested time for delegates and life members from Atlantic County to report is 9:00 am until 9:30 am. President Ordway then provided an update on the Healthcare Reimbursement Assistance Program. Applications are still being accepted for firefighters seeking home care or nursing home care. Application acceptance is currently on hold for firefighters seeking assisted living and for all spousal applications while the program is reviewed. Assessments on the locals have been increased to cover the increasing costs of the Healthcare Reimbursement Assistance Program. President Ordway reported on updates to the insurance levy collection resulting in better identifying data.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on September 6, 2024 at the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department. Howard congratulated the Director Brian Middleton and the Fire Instructors on a very well-run Firefighter I graduation ceremony despite the air conditioning issues with the community center.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the meeting scheduled for July 15th was canceled and that the next meeting of the Fire Training Advisory Board is scheduled for October 21, 2024 at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported on the study that started in March with a six-month timeline until completion. The data has been slowly coming in and letters have been sent to all municipalities. Data requested includes fire and EMS run totals and the operational costs of the many PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) and Dispatch Centers. Most of the run call data has been received and only a limited amount of the operational cost data has been received. The target completion of the study may need to be extended past September.

Atlantic County 4-H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that the 4-H Fair is scheduled for August 9th and 10th. There will be no Firefighter Competition. The fire prevention and information booth will be set up on Friday night and ACFFA 100th Anniversary merchandise will be for sale. Howard reported that the car show is scheduled for Friday night and will be a good opportunity to display antique apparatus and that all apparatus is requested to attend on Saturday and provide demos for the public. President Chuck Mackintosh reported volunteers are needed and Kim Feinstein reported that there is a signup sheet for volunteers assisting at the 4-H Fair. Dennis Sharpe reported that companies have been reaching out about sending apparatus and there is room for more.

Training – Instructor Rob Winkler reported that the next Firefighter I class will start on August 15th and will be capped at thirty students. The next Firefighter II class will start on September 16th.

Fire Coordinator – Dennis Sharpe reported that he spoke with Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. about the July 11th five-alarm fire in Atlantic City. All eleven companies, ten into the city and one providing cover up, assisting that day are deserving of a “tip of the hat” as the assistance was greatly needed due to the scale of the incident. Dennis reported that most companies on the eastern side of the county assisted directly or by providing cover up. Howard Berchtold noted that every dispatch center in the county was utilized during the incident. Dan Adams summarized an emailed report from Fire Coordinator Stockton. The 2024 Atlantic City Aire Show has been canceled. A meeting about updating the Fire Police standards is scheduled for July 18th at the training center. Reviewed details of the July 11th 03:00 structure fire in Mays Landing and the 07:45 five-alarm structure fire in Atlantic City.

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.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch, Atlantic County Board Manager, reported that the golf tournament was successful in raising approximately \$14k with 132 golfers attending. They utilized a local golf course and set up tents at the home for the after party. Oscar reported that the home is currently full, and a waiting list has been established. They are seeking information to help understand the reasoning behind the increased submission of applications. Oscar provided an update on water system testing and theories being looked at after one resident was diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease without a definitive answer as to where or how they were infected. Oscar reported that the Firemen's Home Antique Muster has been scheduled for October 19, 2024.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Butch Kienzle summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held on July 10th at the East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company. Mike Miller, RedLine Gear Cleaning NJ, DE, & Eastern PA, attended the July meeting to give a presentation of Redline’s services and provide a tour of their Mobile Extraction Unit (MEU). The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 in Laureldale.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported no nominations have yet been received for the 2025 ceremony. President Chuck Mackintosh reminded all that nominations for valor and submission for service recognition will be due no later than January 31st for the following April recognition.

Finance – Kim Feinstein reported that the instructor payroll has been transitioned successfully to direct deposit. Kim noted that a committee meeting may be scheduled in the later part of August.

100th Anniversary – Kim Feinstein reported that ACFFA 100th anniversary merchandise will be sold at the Atlantic County 4-H Fair on August 9th and 10th and that Howard Berchtold will make arrangements to sell at the Annual Fire Muster & Fire Fighter’s Family Day at WheatonArts in Millville on August 18th.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

Kim Feinstein reported that the trailer from the county is ready and Butch Kienzle noted that the new roof vents were leaking and would be addressed.

New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

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

Lefty Clayton shared information from a June 2024 Fire Engineering article titled “Lithium-Ion Battery Disposal: What You Need to Know” about what to do, or can be done, with lithium-ion batteries after a fire. Dan Adams noted that Margate recently handled an incident with a USPS truck that involved lithium-ion batteries.

Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company will celebrate their 100th Anniversary on September 7th and Northfield Volunteer Fire Company will celebrate their 100th Anniversary on September 28th.

Thank you to the Linwood Fire Department for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Howard Berchtold. 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 August 21, 2024 in Laureldale.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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 4-H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at 75th Annual Atlantic County 4-H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Sat. Aug. 10, 2024	13:00	Atlantic County 4-H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at 75th Annual Atlantic County 4-H 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
Fri. Aug. 16, 2024	10:00	Egg Harbor Twp. PAL	Heroes Day
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
Thurs. Sep. 12, 2024	10:00	Atlantic City FD	Fall Golf Classic @ Blue Heron Golf Course (Reg. 09:00)
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. 21, 2024	18:30	Dorothy VFC Auxiliary	Designer Bag Bingo (Doors Open 17:00)
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)
Sat. Dec. 14, 2024	19:00	Hammonton VFD	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (lineup 18:00 & parade 19:00)

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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. 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. 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