

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



August 21, 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on August 21, 2024 at the Laureldale 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. Deacon Maxwell reported on the passing of Rick Edwards, Bayview Vol. Fire Co., and asked that everyone keep the Edwards family in their 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 Chris Tilley of the Laureldale Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Tilley welcomed all to Laureldale.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 46 of 172 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 21 of 43

Approval of Minutes

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

Special Guest

President Mackintosh welcomed and introduced Joe Giraldo, Atlantic County Clerk. Joe thanked everyone for their service to the county and thanked those departments that host voting locations. Joe reported that there are updated safety precautions being implemented for the upcoming election.

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.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Fire Training Advisory Board is scheduled for October 21, 2024 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Howard Berchtold reported that Dave Buzby has received the backordered valor ribbons/bars and that they will be distributed to those that awaiting them. 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.

Atlantic County 4-H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that the 4-H Fair was well attended despite the weather forecast that led to a shortened time allotment for the display of fire apparatus. Unfortunately, the association public relations/fire prevention booth was relocated due to the car show being moved to Saturday. The 2024 NFPA fire prevention theme, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!", was displayed and shared with the public. Howard noted that he was unaware of how many in the public were not aware of the ten-year lifespan for smoke alarms and that they need to be replaced when that time has passed. Howard thanked the companies that displayed apparatus the volunteers that staffed the association booth. Howard reported that they were able to sell some of the ACFFA 100th Anniversary merchandise at the fair.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported on many recent meetings and conference calls as they near the completion of data collection period for the study. Howard noted that the draft report was to be completed by the end of August, but due to the slower than expected data collection, the timeline has been extended until the end of September. Most of the call data has been received, though there is much of the operational/organizational/expense data that has yet to be received. President Chuck Mackintosh thanked Howard for his passion and diligence with guiding this study.

Training – Director Brian Middleton reported that the last career fire recruit has graduated and that the Firefighter I class started on August 15th and will be capped at thirty students. The next Firefighter II class will start on September 16th with fifteen students already registered. Brian reported that the Haz-Mat Incident Commander class, scheduled for mid-September, only has a couple of open seats left and that the Brigantine Fire Department has donated fire hose to replace old hose at the training center. Brian reported Atlanticare is out, and that Flex CPR is the new vendor that will recertify the five fire instructors that teach CPR. Brian reported that representatives of Flex CPR will attend the September meeting of the association to introduce themselves and their company. Howard Berchtold inquired about additional ICS classes, particularly ICS300, being scheduled via the association or the county. Brian noted that one key instructor is not available until at least October but he will investigate identifying other instructors that may be able to assist with scheduling classes sooner.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. thanked the companies that have completed the NJ fire department survey and reported that the next meeting concerning the update to Fire Police training, SOGs, and policies is scheduled for 7PM August 22nd at the training center. Chip reported that Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary on September 7th and that Northfield Volunteer Fire Company will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary on September 28th. Chip reported that the NJ Division of Fire Safety has been working with three departments to correct some paperwork and certification oversights. Chip reported that they are looking for a company to host a wildland urban interface drill in late October or early November.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Butch Kienzle summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held on August 14th at the Laureldale Volunteer Fire Company. Butch reported that the purchase was approved for the ACFFA Trophy to be presented at the NJ State Firemen’s Memorial Parade in Wildwood on September 14, 2024. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 in Nesco. Eric Nilson will speak at the September meeting to promote mental health recovery resources that are available to our responders within the County.

Finance – Kim Feinstein reported that the committee is scheduled to meet on 7PM August 27th in Bayview.

100th Anniversary – Kim Feinstein reported that the 4H Fair netted \$506 worth of ACFFA 100th anniversary merchandise sales. Kim thanked those that have been volunteering and helping with the effort. Butch Kienzle reported that the trailer has been painted, due to the condition after previous lettering was removed, and will now be re-lettered.

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 two trophies, Best Appearing Atlantic County Apparatus and Best Appearing Atlantic County Department/Company, to be presented at the Wildwood Firefighters' Memorial Parade in September. Howard Berchtold will order the trophies.

President Chuck Mackintosh reported that he will not be going to Wildwood and requested volunteers to carry the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association banner at the front of the county unit at the memorial parade in Wildwood on September 14th. There were no volunteers and hopefully some step-up prior to the parade starting. Online registration is required for those sending units to be in the parade at <https://www.njfireexpo.com/memorial-parade>

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. There was a question about the propane being paid via the credit card and Treasurer Mellon reported that doing so earns the Association cashback.

Good of the Order

Butch Kienzle reported on the recent attack directed at U.S. and Coalition forces at Rumalyn Landing Zone in Syria. Butch reported that Ian Lumley, South Egg Harbor VFC, was deployed and stationed at the landing zone. Fortunately there were no fatalities, but the personal possessions of those deployed were lost. John Garth is collecting personal care items and monetary donations to assist with replacing what was lost. The "hat" was passed to start collecting and will also be passed at the September 10th meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association and the September 18th meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association.

Thank you to the Laureldale 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 20:15. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on September 18, 2024 at the Hammonton Fire Department Station 2.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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	12:00	Northfield VFC	Northfield Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration
Sun. Sep. 29, 2024	09:00	NJFM, 4 Polhemustown Rd, Allentown, NJ 08501	NJ Fire Museum Annual Open House (09:00 - 15:00)
Sat. Oct. 5, 2024	17:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Jersey Shore Medium
Sat. Oct. 12, 2024	08:00	Applebee's Grill, Hammonton	Flapjacks for the Fire Dept. Fundraiser for Hammonton Fire Department
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. 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
Mon. Jan. 13, 2025	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' 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
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. 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