

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



September 18, 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on September 18, 2024 at the Hammonton Fire Department Station 2, 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 John Warren Sr., Treasurer of the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department Station 2. John welcomed all to Hammonton.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 49 of 172 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 22 of 43

Approval of Minutes

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

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

Special Presentation

President Mackintosh introduced Michelle Briggs and Jack Harvey from SERVPRO of Atlantic City/Hamilton/Hammonton, part of SERVPRO Team Fabiani. A brief rundown of what the company does was provided. The following is copied from the "about us" on their website. SERVPRO of Atlantic City/Hamilton/Hammonton understands the stress and worry that comes with fire or water damage and the disruption it causes to your life and home or business. Our goal is to help minimize the interruption to your life and quickly make it "Like it never even happened." SERVPRO specializes in the cleanup and restoration of residential and commercial property after a fire, smoke, or water damage. SERVPRO can also mitigate mold and mildew from your home or business. Our staff is highly trained in property damage restoration. From initial and ongoing training at SERVPRO's corporate training facility to regular IICRC-industry certification, rest assured our staff is equipped with the knowledge to restore your property. With a nationwide system of qualified franchises, no damage is too large or too

small for SERVPRO of Atlantic City/Hamilton/Hammonton. Serving you since 1967, SERVPRO is the cleaning and restoration brand you know and trust. We like to be strongly connected to our community and affiliates. We attend council meetings and business networking events. We will answer any questions or concerns you have and do not hesitate to contact us.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the September 6th meeting of the Executive Committee held in Absecon. Howard thanked the Absecon Fire Department for hosting the Executive Committee. The committee received updates on the training program and the status of the dispatch study. Treasurer Jaime Mellon reported on the decline of service at Bank of America and recommended that all banking be transitioned to Parke Bank. All agreed that a recommendation to start the process of moving accounts from Bank of America to Parke Bank would be in order. Kim Feinstein reported that the trailer had to be repainted. Butch Kienzle reported that John Garth painted the trailer and incurred expenses plus the use of his tools and shop supplies. All agreed that a recommendation to reimburse John Garth \$250 for painting the trailer was in order. Rob Winkler reported on the trailers having internal humidity issues with the standard vent always closed and recommended purchasing trailer vent covers that allow for the vents to be left open and the trailer can breathe. All agreed to recommend purchasing vents. Howard noted that the recommendation to purchase vents is now moot as Chip Stockton was able to secure a donation of vents from Whitehorse RV Center. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for November 1, 2024 in South Egg Harbor at 19:30. The committee will meet at the South Egg Harbor firehouse at 17:15 or the Never There Gun Club, Hammonton, at 17:30 for the spaghetti and crab sauce dinner at the gun club. All are welcome to join the committee for dinner.

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.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported that the draft report is being compiled. Howard thanked all those that have submitted comments and testimonials on their experiences with the current system.

Atlantic County 4-H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that he has extra NFPA fire prevention posters available for any companies that would like them.

Training – Howard Berchtold reported that there are twenty-eight students in Firefighter I and twenty-one students in Firefighter II.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported that the fire police certification class is moving forward. They have identified four from Atlantic County who will attend the train-the-trainer course so that they will be able to teach the class. Chip reported that the companies in Atlantic and Camden Counties are working with the South Jersey Transportation Authority to update response coverage on the Atlantic City Expressway. Chip reported he received an invitation for some Atlantic County companies to participate in a tanker drill in Ocean County and that he will email the chiefs the details. Chip reported that the Newtonville Fire Company will be hosting the Wildland Urban Interface drill on either October 26th or November 2nd. Chip welcomed and introduced Joe Giraldo, Atlantic County Clerk. Joe reported that there are one hundred fifty-one polling locations in Atlantic County which includes many firehouses. Joe reported that there are increased threat assessment and awareness protocols in place along with updated safety precautions being implemented for the upcoming election on November 5th.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported that the 2024 convention attendance reports are now available online. Cindy reported that the resolution to add siblings to the death benefit hierarchy passed for the second time in as many years. Cindy reported that she had received many inquiries about her no vote, along with seven other no votes, at the committee meeting that followed the 2023 convention, when the resolution passed for the first time. Cindy explained her vote was based on the lack of clarity and need from the original claimant that led to the resolution put forward in 2023. There was much discussion on how the Executive Committee handled the matter in 2023 and how they should or should not handle the matter now that it has been moved forward again. Cindy reviewed deadlines for upcoming reports and noted that all supplemental and special relief applications being submitted for 2024 are required to be submitted to the state office by December 2nd.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch, Atlantic County Board Manager, reported that two more applications were received at the home and that he has one from Atlantic County that is considering applying to the home. Oscar also reported that The Antique Fire Association of New Jersey has scheduled an Antique Fire Muster at the home on October 19th from 9am until 2pm. Oscar noted that he will be going up for the muster and has a couple open seats if anyone would like to ride along.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held on September 10th at the Nesco Volunteer Fire Company. Butch noted that the chiefs' association trophy for the Wildwood parade had no qualifying apparatus and was not awarded. The trophy will be recycled for the 2025 parade, which will be the fiftieth convention and parade held in Wildwood. Butch reported that Eric Nilson spoke at the meeting to promote mental health recovery resources that are available to our responders within the County, and he plans on returning for the January meeting. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 in Estell Manor.

Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that no nominations have been received and noted that he would like more members to join the committee and plan on a brief meeting, following the regular meeting on October 16th in Port Republic, to start the process of clarifying and updating the valor and service recognition nomination requirements, procedures, and timelines. The one update now in place is that January 31st will be the cutoff date for receiving the nominations for the Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition to be held the following April.

Finance – Kim Feinstein reported on the August 27th meeting held in Bayview. They are working on ensuring that all purchases utilize the NJ sales tax exemption along with tightening up the FDIC expense receipt collection.

100th Anniversary – Kim Feinstein reported that the committee will be at the Smithville Oktoberfest on October 5th & 6th to sell ACFFA 100th Anniversary merchandise and to represent the association to the public. Additional volunteers are needed to assist on both days.

Fundraising – President Chuck Mackintosh reported that the association is seeking to schedule a golf tournament in 2025 and those that would like to join the committee are requested to share their cell numbers so that he may reach out to them and get a planning meeting scheduled.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Cindy Badger inquired about adding the bill list into the minutes. There was discussion about how the bill list was at one time and a vote was held to remove the bill list from the distributed minutes and keep it separate as the minutes are posted freely available and open to everyone. Cindy made a motion to include that bill list in the minutes without the dollar amounts. The motion was seconded. There was much more discussion and debate which led to the motion being rescinded.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association start transitioning the bank accounts away from Bank of America and utilize Parke Bank as the primary bank of the association, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association reimburse John Garth \$250 for painting the trailer, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Good of the Order

Lefty Clayton reflected on a friend of his that recently passed due to lung disease attributed to the World Trade Center recovery operations. Lefty asked that everyone keep in their prayers the many that have passed since 2001 due to World Trade Center Disease and those that continue to battle the disease along with the families affected.

Lou Miranda reported that Bayview Fire Company has a challenge coin available for purchase.

Thank you to the Hammonton Volunteer 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 20:45. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on October 16, 2024 at the Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Sep. 21, 2024	18:30	Dorothy VFC Auxiliary	Designer Bag Bingo (Doors Open 17:00)
Sat. Sep. 28, 2024	11:00	Bayview VFC @ McGettigan's 19th Hole	Beef & Beer Cornhole Tournament
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)
Sa. Oct. 5, 2024	11:00	Newtonville VFC	BBQ (11:00 – sellout)
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. Oct. 19, 2024	09:00	New Jersey Firemen's Home	Antique Fire Muster (09:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Oct. 19, 2024	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30) *DRIVE THROUGH ONLY
Sun. Oct. 20, 2024	10:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Football Hoagie & Meatball Sale (10:00 - 13:00)
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. 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. 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

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