

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



November 20, 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on November 20, 2024, at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 1, by 1st Vice-President Dennis C. Sharpe. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Deacon Rich Maxwell. Chaplain Maxwell wished everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving. Vice-President Sharpe then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

Vice-President Sharpe introduced Chief Michael Sweeney of the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Sweeney welcomed all to Somers Point.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 48 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 October 16, 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 noted that he had been absent recently dealing with medical concerns and a brief hospital stay. Howard thanked everyone for the calls and prayers and reported that he is doing much better now. Howard reported on, and summarized the minutes of, the Executive Committee meeting held on November 1, 2024, in South Egg Harbor. The committee discussed planning for a golf tournament in 2025 and determined that the fall of 2025 would be best due to so little time left to plan for a spring event. Howard noted that they hope this will become an annual event. The committee received an update from the Treasurer Jaime Mellon who reported she is working with the accountant to review new employee retirement information required by some employers in New Jersey and to finalize the IRS 990 filing for 2023. The Treasurer is also continuing to work on transitioning all accounts away from Bank of America to Parke Bank by year end. The committee discussed the "Report of the Treasurer" and the "Bill List" read at the monthly meetings of the association. The committee determined that a recommendation that the association approve attaching the "Report of the Treasurer" and the "Bill List" to be distributed with the monthly minutes starting in January 2025. Howard reported that the Executive Committee reviewed Administrative 2025 budget proposal, and they are recommending approval of the budget

under new business. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for January 3, 2025, in Pomona at 19:30 and will be the reorganizational meeting for 2025.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported that the draft report has just been received from ADCOMM Engineering LLC and will soon be distributed to the working group for review and comments.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the January 13, 2025 meeting of the board will be rescheduled due to the Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony needing to be scheduled that night.

Training – Director Brian Middleton reported that the Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony has been scheduled for 7PM, Monday January 13, 2025, at the Egg Harbor Twp. Community Center. Brian reported that he will have the 2025 training budget proposal prepared for the January 3rd meeting of the Executive Committee and that the Haz-Mat Incident Commander class has now been scheduled for December. Brian reported that he would like to post for the three open fire instructor positions with a goal to hire before the next semester starts. Brian reported that the instructors that attended FDIC will have a presentation ready for the December meeting and that the 2025 spring semester calendar should be ready by mid-December. Brian reported that an ICS300 class will be scheduled in the spring and that the training center squirt has pinhole leaks in the pipe feeding the squirt and they will need to be addressed.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reminded everyone to notify him, or Secretary Mellon, of any firefighter deaths in 2024, no later than January 6th, for inclusion in the annual memorial service program on January 15, 2025. Dave wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Fire Coordinator – Oscar Dutch reported that Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. is traveling. Oscar reported that Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) has a drill scheduled for 8am, November 24th, at the training center. The drill involves the setup/layout for the three-tank setup. Oscar reported that the TTF-A trailer is out of service for repairs and the TTF-B trailer will respond to calls if needed.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch, Atlantic County Board Manager, reported on the recent meeting of the home’s Board of Managers and the approval of the budget. Oscar reported on the significant increases in the cost of healthcare and the home’s good record with recent state inspections. The home currently has eighty-two guests with seventy-five in long-term care and seven in residential. Oscar noted that there are many pending applications for the home. Oscar reported that a committee will visit the New York Firemen’s Home in January to discuss the mutual issues and needs both homes encounter. Oscar noted that the New York home also accepts firefighter spouses. Oscar reported that a long-range planning committee has been formed to look at future needs utilizing data from a 2024 actuarial study that shows guests currently average a seven-year stay and in fifteen years the home is projected to have need for one hundred forty-two beds. Oscar reported on NJ State funding for improvement of the state’s Veterans Homes and that he hopes the NJ Firemen’s Home may also be able to get similar funding.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger provided an update on fire service bills before the state legislature and some fire service bills before the federal legislature. Cindy reported that the NJSFA Trustee and Secretary manuals have been recently updated and posted. Cindy reported that *Fire News* has offered space for NJSFA news articles. Cindy reported on the total numbers of those utilizing the Health Care Assistance Reimbursement Program in the southern New Jersey counties.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Butch Kienzle reported that the next meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 in Sweetwater, Mullica Township. Nominations and elections of officers will be on the agenda. Butch wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that no nominations have been received and that the committee has six members. Howard Berchtold reminded everyone 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 that the parameters of the annual audit will be reviewed, and a meeting will be scheduled.

100th Anniversary – Kim Feinstein reported that prices have been adjusted for the remaining merchandise and that the trailer should be completed before the next meeting.

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 recommend that the association distribute the Report of Treasurer and the approved Bill List with the meeting minutes, starting in January 2025, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2025 administrative budget proposal, with a total of \$6,396, 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.

Nomination of Officers

The second of two rounds of nominations were held. C. Robert Winkler III sent an email accepting nomination to the Executive Committee. All positions are uncontested, and all nominees have accepted their nomination to office, either in person or via email. Those nominated are as follows:

- President (1) Charles J. Mackintosh
- 1st Vice President (1) Dennis C. Sharpe
- 2nd Vice President (1) William L. Merola Jr.
- Secretary (1) Robert A. Mellon
- Treasurer (1) Jaime C. Mellon
- Asst. Sec./Trea. (1) Clayton Tucker
- Chaplain (1) Dcn. Rich Maxwell
- Sgt.-at-Arms (3) Wayne Dilks, William Donath, Charles Harlan
- Executive Comm. (9) Howard Berchtold Jr., Levon S. "Lefty" Clayton, Marc J. Corsiglia,
Kim Feinstein, Joe Hartman, Walter R. "Butch" Kienzle III,
Christopher Kislow, Eugene M. Sharpe, C. Robert Winkler III

Good of the Order

Kolby Rundio reported that Bayview VFC is hosting "Thanksgiving Eve - Fireman's Night Out" on November 27th at Motts Creek Inn.

Thank you to the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 1 for hosting the evening and providing refreshments.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Richard Maxwell. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:20. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on December 18, 2024 at the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company. Election of officers for 2025 will be conducted.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sun. Nov. 24, 2024	08:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Fire Training Center	Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) Drill (08:00 - 12:00)
Wed. Nov. 27, 2024	18:00	Bayview VFC @ Motts Creek	Thanksgiving Eve - Fireman's Night Out
Sun. Dec. 8, 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)
Mon. Jan. 13, 2025	19:00	Egg Harbor Twp. Community Center	Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony
Sat. May 17, 2025	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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. 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

(Pending Reschedule Jan. Date)	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
--------------------------------	-------	---------------------------------------	---

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' 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