

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



December 18, 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on December 18, 2024 at the Cardiff 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 William Danz, III of the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Danz welcomed all to Cardiff.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 43 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 November 20, 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 reported that 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. Howard thanked the members of the Executive Committee, the association officers, the committee chairpersons, and the fire instructors for all the hard work and effort put in for 2024. Howard noted that it has been, overall, a good year following the 100th Anniversary celebration. Howard thanked all the membership for the continuing support and reported that he is looking forward to the endeavors to come in the New Year.

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. Howard noted that it is important to get a rescheduled date due to the time that has lapsed since the board was last able to meet and that it will also be a reorganizational meeting.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported that the working group met on December 16th to review the draft report received from ADCOMM Engineering LLC. Howard thanked the members of the working group that were able to attend the meeting and reported that the report focuses on three probable paths. Howard noted that the report relies heavily on fire service data and though some EMS data was included, they would like to have had more. In generalized terms. The first option is the minimalist option and recommends a central PSAP (public safety answering point) and leaves the dispatch operation as they are. The second option focuses on bolstering, by improving and integrating the CAD, mutual aid, and operations of, the three larger PSAPS/dispatch centers as a step towards future central PSAP/dispatch center. The third option focuses on a full central PSAP/dispatch for county fire and EMS. Howard reported that ADCOMM will be bolstering their third option in the report and that the report will be available for all to review.

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 and that twenty-six recruits will be graduating. Brian reported that the semester went very well, for both the Firefighter I and Firefighter II classes, and that the spring schedule is ready for distribution. Brian reported that they will be posting to fill two open fire instructor positions. Brian reported that they are still waiting for Kean University to schedule train-the-trainer course for the RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) class. Brian noted that all invoices have been sent out and that only a few are currently outstanding.

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 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported that he forwarded an advisory email from the NJ Division of Fire Safety on how to handle a downed drone. Chip reported that the NJ Forest Fire Service will soon open the application period for grants. Chip asked that all out of service apparatus be reported so that it is known when requesting mutual aid. Chip provided some highlights of the December 17th structure fire in Galloway Township. Chip reported that they are refurbishing the TTF-A trailer by fixing the roof seam and replacing the flooring and ramp. The work is being done by volunteers and the association may have to cover some of the material costs. Chip requested that he be informed of any mutual aid updates and any new Fire Chiefs taking office for 2025. Chip wished all a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Happy New Year.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Butch Kienzle reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be 8:00 PM on January 28, 2025, at the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department and there will be no meeting in February. Butch wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that the committee met earlier and that they are working on updating and cleaning up the submission process that will be in effect for the 2026 valor awards and service recognition. President Mackintosh reminded everyone that January 31st is the cutoff date for receiving the nominations for the Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition to be held in April. Billy wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Finance – Kim Feinstein reported that a pre-audit meeting and an audit meeting will be scheduled with the Treasurer.

100th Anniversary – Kim Feinstein reported the ACFFA trailer will be finished after the holidays, prices have been adjusted for the remaining merchandise, and they will seek to schedule spots at local/regional events to represent the association and sell merchandise in 2025. Howard Berchtold reported that he is willing to deliver merchandise if anyone would like to order some by calling him. Kim wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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 approve the 2025/2026 meeting schedule as submitted by Secretary Mellon.

2025/2026 Meeting schedule for the Executive Committee (meetings at 19:30):

March 7 – Cardiff	May 2 – Longport
July 11 – Somers Point #1	September 5 – Absecon
November 7 – South Egg Harbor	January 2, 2026 – Pomona

2025/2026 Meeting schedule for the Regular Meetings (third Wednesday of month at 19:30):

March 19 – Elwood	April 16 - Fire Training Center (Host Margate)	May 21 – Pomona
June 18 – Richland	July 16 – Linwood	August 20 – Weymouth
September 17 – Hammonton #1	October 15 – Dorothy	November 19 – Somers Point #2
December 17 – Bargaintown	January 21, 2026 – Egg Harbor City	February 18, 2026 – Longport

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.

Election of Officers

The election of officers was held. All positions were unopposed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the secretary cast the ballot for all unopposed positions. Those elected to office for the year 2025 are as follows:

President (1)	Charles J. Mackintosh
1 st Vice President (1)	Dennis C. Sharpe
2 nd Vice President (1)	William L. Merola Jr.
Secretary (1)	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer (1)	Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	Clayton E. Tucker Jr.
Chaplain (1)	Dcn. Richard 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

Lefty Clayton reported on the article “Overhauling Overhaul Operations: Fight Cancer by Wearing Your Facepiece” by Captain Douglas J. Mitchell Jr. and Battalion Chief Anthony J. Pascocello Jr. and published in *WNYF* magazine, the official training publication of the New York City Fire Department. Lefty had copies to share and noted the emphasis on being safe during overhaul.

Howard Berchtold thanked Deacon Rich Maxwell for the job he has been doing.

Jacob Ruga reported that Milmay Volunteer Fire Company is hosting a TIM (Traffic Incident Management) class on December 30th and registration is available at njtim.org

President Mackintosh thanked everyone for the ongoing support and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Thank you to the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the evening and providing refreshments.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Rich 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 January 15, 2025 in Egg Harbor City. This meeting includes the annual memorial service of the association. Please submit the names of those that have passed during 2024, no later than January 6th, so that they may be included in the memorial service program and plan on attending the meeting and service in full class A dress uniform.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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
Tues. Aug. 12, 2025	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 12, 2025		Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 13, 2025		Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
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ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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
Wed. Mar. 19, 2025	19:30	Elwood VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Apr. 16, 2025	19:30	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center (Host -Margate FD)	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation
Wed. May 21, 2025	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 18, 2025	19:30	Richland VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 16, 2025	19:30	Linwood FD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 20, 2025	19:30	Weymouth VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 17, 2025	19:30	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 15, 2025	19:30	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 19, 2025	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 17, 2025	19:30	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 21, 2026	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 18, 2026	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)
Fri. Mar. 7, 2025	19:30	Cardiff VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. May 2, 2025	19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 11, 2025	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 5, 2025	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Nov. 7, 2025	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 2, 2026	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
Mon. Apr. 21, 2025	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 21, 2025	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Oct. 20, 2025	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 12, 2026	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Tues. Jan. 28, 2025	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
February 2025-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----
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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
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