

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



January 15, 2025

Annual Memorial Service

The annual memorial service of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association commenced at 19:30 on January 15, 2025 at the Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department and was conducted by President Charles J. Mackintosh and Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. with Chaplain Deacon Richard Maxwell giving the invocation and homily, the memorial candles being lit by 1st Vice President Dennis C. Sharpe and 2nd Vice President William L. Merola Jr., and the bell being tolled by Robert Winkler as Secretary Robert A. Mellon read the roll of the Firefighters of Atlantic County who answered their last alarm during the past year.

Firefighters of the Final Roll were:

177th FIGHTER WING FIRE DEPARTMENT

David Francis Abbott

Jeffrey Andrew Tomczak "Jeff"

177th FIGHTER WING FIRE DEPARTMENT / MAYS LANDING FIRE COMPANY

Henry William Burger "Hank"

ABSECON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Albert L. Zona

ATLANTIC CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

John Maguire

Anthony P. Ingenito

Louis Sidney Bell, Sr. "Lou"

Charles A. Ritzel, Jr. "Bud"

Louis F. DeFeo, Jr.

Byron Tyrone James

James Anthony Boyle "Milt"

Fiorello B. Falzetta "The Fal"

BAYVIEW FIRE COMPANY

Richard Arthur Edwards, Jr. "Rick"

Dennis Richard Speed "Speedo"

BRIGANTINE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ernest E. Wescott, Jr.

John D. Flanagan

CARDIFF FIRE COMPANY / TUCKERTON FIRE COMPANY /

CECIL FIRE COMPANY

Gilbert P. Zonge, Jr. "Gil"

DOROTHY FIRE COMPANY

Joseph T. Mawhinney, Jr.

LANDISVILLE FIRE COMPANY

Richard H. DeMarco

LONGPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Anthony J. Vicchiarelli, Jr.

MARGATE FIRE DEPARTMENT

William Schultheis "Bill"

Joseph Bouffard

MINOTOLA FIRE COMPANY

Rodman J. Middleton (2023)

OCEANVILLE FIRE COMPANY

Samuel Glenn Blackman

Vincent J. Sawicki

Delbert N. Bowen

David E. Frye

PLEASANTVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Andrew J. Panico

PORT REPUBLIC FIRE COMPANY

William R. Gatton "Bill"

Larry W. Wilson, Sr.

SCULLVILLE FIRE COMPANY

Joseph W. Smith

SOMERS POINT FIRE COMPANY #1 / PLEASANTVILLE FIRE COMPANY #2

Theodor R. Kinsey, Sr. "Ted"

VENTNOR CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Louis H. Maguire, Jr.

Justin Slepitis

WEYMOUTH FIRE COMPANY

James E. Gale

The "Striking of the Four Fives" was tolled on the bell by Robert Winkler, "The Lord's Prayer" was sung by Donna Marie and Howard Berchtold, followed by the playing of "Taps" by Buglers Heather Berchtold and Joe Ward. The memorial service closing prayer was conducted by Chaplain Deacon Richard Maxwell.

Call to Order

The annual reorganizational meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:50 on January 15, 2025 at the Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with the flag salute. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 64 of 172 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 28 of 43

Opening Remarks

President Charles J. Mackintosh welcomed all to the 100th annual reorganizational meeting. President Mackintosh asked that everyone remember and honor those that have passed. President Mackintosh introduced Chief Walter “Butch” Kienzle III of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department. Chief Kienzle welcomed the membership and guests to Egg Harbor City. Chief Kienzle then introduced the line officers of the fire department and Egg Harbor City Mayor Lisa Jampetti. Mayor Jampetti welcomed everyone to Egg Harbor City and expressed how proud she is to have the annual memorial service in the city and extended condolences to the families that have lost a loved one. Mayor Jampetti expressed her appreciation for the Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department and all the fire departments serving Atlantic County. Mayor Jampetti introduced Joseph Kuehner Jr., current City Council President and past Egg Harbor City Mayor.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2024 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Dispensing of Regular Business

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the regular business except for the report of the treasurer and the paying of the bills.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer, totaling \$98,123.43, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Parke Bank / Parke Bank / Parke Bank
Checking: \$55,233.14 / Savings: \$5,022.61 / Checking: \$5,731.46 / Money Market: \$1,000.00 / CD, matures 4/5/2025: \$31,136.22

Paying of Bills

The bills, totaling \$1,146.19, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Chase Credit Card - \$797.14 (credit card) / Howard Berchtold - \$66.39 (reimburse plaque – Sandy Walczak) / John Yochim - \$282.66 (reimburse supplies refurb trailer)

Introduction of Invited Guests

President Mackintosh welcomed and introduced guests: John W. Risley Jr., Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners; Joseph J. Giraldo, Atlantic County Clerk; James Curcio, Atlantic County Surrogate; Joseph O’Donoghue, Atlantic County Sheriff; Michael A. Fedorko, Department Head of Atlantic County Department of Public Safety; David G. Buzby, Atlantic County Fire Marshal; and Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr., Atlantic County Fire Coordinator.

John W. Risley Jr., Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners, offered thanks for the invitation and gratitude, on behalf of all county officials, for the service provided by the firefighters to the county. Commissioner Risley expressed condolences for those that answered their final alarm in 2024 and noted that former Commissioner John Carman had just passed.

Installation of Officers for 2025 and Special Presentation

John W. Risley Jr., Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners, installed the following into office for the year 2025:

- President Charles J. Mackintosh
- 1st Vice President Dennis C. Sharpe
- 2nd Vice President William L. Merola Jr.
- Secretary Robert A. Mellon
- Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon
- Asst. Sec./Trea. Clayton E. Tucker Jr.
- Chaplain Dcn. Richard Maxwell
- Sgt.-at-Arms Wayne Dilks, William Donath, Charles Harlan
- Executive Comm. 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

President Charles J. Mackintosh and Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. presented a Certificate of Recognition, a Proclamation, and a Plaque to Sandra L. Walczak for seven years of service as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

PROCLAMATION

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

HONORING SANDRA L. WALCZAK

WHEREAS, the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association, with a membership of forty-three fire companies in Atlantic County, New Jersey, is an organization dedicated to public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association has been serving and representing the fire service within the County of Atlantic since 1923; and

WHEREAS, the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association has a Board of Administrative Officers to conduct the business of the association; and

WHEREAS, Sandra L. Walczak was nominated and elected to serve as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, Sandra L. Walczak was sworn into office to serve as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer on the 17th day of January, 2018 followed by running for office every year thereafter; and

WHEREAS, Sandra L. Walczak served this Association with distinction and honor as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer for Seven years before deciding to no longer seek reelection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT, by the President of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association, that Sandra L. Walczak be commended for her Seven years of outstanding effort serving as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, and we express our appreciation for her unwavering dedication and service to the fire service, and community, of the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and caused the Seal of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of the State of New Jersey to be affixed this 15th day of January, 2025.

Charles J. Mackintosh, President

(Plaque)
{Atlantic County Firefighters' Association}

In Recognition and Appreciation
of Dedicated Service

Sandra L. Walczak
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
2018 – 2024

Atlantic County Firefighters' Assoc.
1/15/2025

Remarks

Howard Berchtold offered remarks on the state of the association. Howard thanked the Officers and members of the Executive Committee for their effort over the last year and commented on how well the year went. Howard thanked Sandy Walczak for serving seven years as the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer and welcomed, and congratulated, Clayton Tucker for filling the position. Howard thanked the Atlantic County government leadership for their partnership with this association to provide one of the finest training programs in New Jersey that includes the recent graduation of twenty-six new firefighters

from the Firefighter I course. Howard reported that he is looking forward to having, newly elected, Commissioner Michael Ruffu join the Fire Training Advisory Board. Howard thanked Brian Middleton, Director Fire Training, and the staff Fire Instructors for running top-tier programs that are provided for both career and volunteer fire service professionals. Howard reported that the association will continue into 2025 by emphasizing and improving training and continuing the Firefighter Health and Wellness Initiative by seeking short presentations about health, wellness, and safety to be scheduled for association meetings. Howard reported that President Mackintosh has appointed a fundraising committee that will initially focus on planning and scheduling a golf tournament, hopefully for fall 2025 and annually thereafter. Howard reported that the ADCOMM Engineering LLC draft report presenting countywide options for fire and EMS dispatch, including either central or regional, has been received and is under review with the working group as they prepare for presenting the report to the association and the County Executive. Howard closed his remarks by noting how good it was to see many association members attending with their family. Howard welcomed those family members and thanked them for taking the time to attend the memorial service and annual meeting.

President Chuck Mackintosh thanked Howard Berchtold for his hard work, effort, and dedication leading the working group as they worked with ADCOMM Engineering collecting the data for the study of central fire and EMS dispatch.

Good of the Order

President Chuck Mackintosh asked everyone to stay safe and wished all a Healthy, Happy New Year.

President Mackintosh reminded everyone that the Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition will be held in April and that January 31st is the cutoff date for receiving the nominations of valor and submitting the names of those that have achieved fifty years in the fire service.

Thank you to the Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the evening.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Deacon Richard Maxwell.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:20. The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on February 19, 2025 in Longport.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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
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. 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
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
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

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. 2	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association