

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



July 21, 2021

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on July 21, 2021 at the Linwood Fire Department by President Charles E. "Chick" Kisby III. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Deacon Rich Maxwell. President Kisby then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Kisby introduced Chief Martin Walley of the Linwood Fire Department. Chief Walley welcomed all to Linwood.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 40 of 168 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 16 of 42

Special Presentation

Atlantic County Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger, New Jersey State Firemen's Association (NJSFA), welcomed and introduced NJSFA President Robert Ordway and Vice President Joseph Hankins. President Ordway reported that the Governor has signed the age bill into law. Membership in the NJSFA is now open to firefighters between the ages of 18 and 57 with the original fully completed application received in the office prior to their 58th birthday. There were three hundred fifteen applications approved in the first week after the bill was signed. All three hundred fifteen already have line numbers and credit back to their original application date. The Atlantic County Caucus is scheduled for August 10th in Egg Harbor City and will be a walk through for voting only from 6PM to 8PM. There will be voting for the position of Atlantic County Executive Committee Member and the position of Atlantic County Manager for the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers. The convention is scheduled for September 17th in Wildwood and will also be walk through for voting only from 9AM to 3PM. The suggested hour for delegates and life members from Atlantic County to report is 11 AM until Noon. There will be election of officers and voting on four ballot questions. President Ordway reminded everyone that the NJSFA has a healthcare program. The program provides reimbursement of costs for licensed caregivers, hired through a licensed firm, up to \$5,000 per month for NJSFA members and up to \$600 per month for member spouse or surviving spouse. This is available for all members including those that now reside in other states. All twenty-one counties now have members receiving this benefit. Vice President Hankins reported that the NJSFA Executive Committee extended the Emergent Covid-19 housing reimbursement program. This program allows members to be reimbursed for housing in a hotel/motel at a cost of up to \$100.00 a night for up to 14 nights in the county they are a firefighter or where they live. The standard relief application is used with proof of payment, a copy of the run sheet where the firefighter was exposed, along with the letter from the Fire officer on the scene stating the firefighter responded to a scene where they were exposed to a person who is suspected, or it was highly likely of being exposed to Covid. This extension will remain until the February 2022 Executive Committee meeting where it will be re-evaluated.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2021 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 meeting scheduled to be held on July 2, 2021 was canceled. Howard reported that his mother had recently passed and thanked all those that sent condolences. Howard noted that he has had conversations on how to proceed with the annual memorial service and valor awards. At this point in time, it would be best to consolidate the missed 2021 memorial service into the 2022 service. A plan to possibly hold a valor and service recognition ceremony in the Fall is being investigated. Howard reported that he will be meeting with Chick Kisby, Lefty Clayton, and Butch Kienzle to get a committee formed to gather data for Tim Kreisler, Shared Services Coordinator for Atlantic County, and the possible fire and EMS central dispatch proposal. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on September 3, 2021 at the Absecon Fire Department.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the meeting scheduled to be held on July 12, 2021 was canceled. The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for October 18, 2021.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that the fair will be only two days this year and is scheduled for August 6th and 7th. The antique car show will be Friday night instead of the normal Thursday night. A one-day display and demonstration of fire apparatus is scheduled for Saturday August 7th. Requests for apparatus and volunteers have been sent out.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I is running with twelve students and Firefighter II is running with seven students. Mike reported that the Fall Firefighter I class will start on Thursday, August 19th and the Fall Firefighter II class will start on Wednesday, October 13th. The adjusted Firefighter II start date is due to the burn building refurbishment timeline. Mike reported that the burn building refurbishment target completion is by the end of 2021. The total cost of the project is estimated to be between eight hundred thousand and one million dollars. Mike reported that he is working on scheduling the three missed Firefighter I graduation ceremonies as one consolidated ceremony in late August or in September. Mike reported that this biannual instructor payroll has been the highest payroll to date and that they are currently working on getting the final training bills and certificates mailed out.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reported that the Atlantic City Airshow is scheduled for Wednesday, August 18th with a practice day on Tuesday, August 17th. The usual departments and companies that provide emergency services support during the show will again be requested to assist. Lefty reported that Laureldale contacted him about seeking a new home for the county foam trailer they are housing.

NJ Division of Fire Safety – Fire Coordinator Levon “Lefty” Clayton introduced Delaware River and Shore Region Fire Coordinator Robert Tharp. Robert spoke about the fire coordinator system in New Jersey and the advantages of utilizing it when additional resources are going to be needed for an incident. Robert reported that the Governor signed EO248 that rescinds EO50 and updates the National Incident management System (NIMS) requirements for NJ. These changes should be distributed within thirty days. Robert reported that NJDFS routinely receives anonymous complaints concerning certifications and training within fire departments. Robert recommended that all fire chiefs request and review NJDFS training reports to ensure their firefighters and officers have the certifications required. Many times, there is just overlooked updates that need to be completed such as having changed from one department to another or ensuring they have both their career and volunteer departments listed with NJDFS. Robert noted that some departments in the state are currently in the local news while suspended due to various reasons. Robert reminded all chiefs that fire departments are still accountable under NJ Title 40 and recommended always respond to and work with local municipal leadership as they bear the ultimate responsibility. Robert reported that the Director Mikutsky and the NJDFS training division are still working on Junior Firefighter guidelines. The NJDFS is also working on an all-hazard notification system such as when pipelines, or other infrastructure, may be exposed to wildfire.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch reported that all is going well at the home. There are now sixty-one guests at the home and thirteen applications being reviewed. The first female guest arrived in the Spring and another with an application

submitted. The home has just hired a physical therapist and a new psychiatrist. The next project scheduled is the renovation of the dining room. Several guest rooms have had positive airflow systems installed and a new TV system has been installed. Oscar reported that they are still waiting on final NJ DOH inspections for the opening of the memory care unit. Oscar reported he has completed his twenty-first year on the board and that he is seeking reelection to represent Atlantic County on the home's Board of Managers. Oscar was questioned about the home's yearly funding, budget, and southern home plans. Oscar reported there is a fact-finding committee looking into the possibility of getting beds for firefighters in homes already operating in southern New Jersey and what those costs would be. There has not been any data to review yet.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle summarized the minutes of the July 14, 2021 meeting of the chiefs' association. Christina Ramos, with California Casualty Auto and Home Insurance, gave a presentation about the insurance products available to firefighters. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at the Laureldale Volunteer Fire Company, Hamilton Township.

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.

A department was requested to volunteer to carry the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association banner at the front of the county unit attending the parade in Wildwood. The Egg Harbor Township Fire Department has volunteered to do so. The secretary will send a letter designating EHTFD to lead the unit with any other departments following by order of their county district number. Online registration still required 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.

Good of the Order

Ed Vincent reported that the Absecon Fire Department has scheduled a housing for their new tower and a dedication of their new station on October 23, 2021. There will be a parade and refreshments. The membership of the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department is looking forward to seeing everyone in October.

Thank you to the Linwood Fire Department 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 21:00. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on August 18, 2021 at the Weymouth Volunteer Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Aug. 7, 2021	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display/Demos
Sat. Aug. 7, 2021	16:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	24th Annual Spaghetti Dinner (16:00 - 19:00)
Mon. Aug. 10, 2021	18:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus & NJSFA Voting (Arrive, Vote, Leave) 18:00-20:00
Sun. Aug. 15, 2021	10:00	Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, Millville, NJ	40th Annual Glasstown Antique Fire Brigade
Fri. Sep. 17, 2021	09:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention (Arrive, Vote, Leave) 09:00-15:00
Fri. Sep. 17, 2021	08:00	Wildwood	Five Mile Beach Vol. Firemen's Assoc. hosts NJ Fire Expo (Tents & Exhibits) 08:00-18:00
Sat. Sep. 18, 2021	08:00	Wildwood	Five Mile Beach Vol. Firemen's Assoc. hosts NJ Fire Expo (Tents & Exhibits) 08:00-13:00
Sat. Sep. 18, 2021	14:00	Wildwood	Five Mile Beach Vol. Firemen's Assoc. hosts NJ State Firemen's Convention Parade
Sat. Sep. 25, 2021	09:00	NJ State Fireman's Home -Boonton, NJ	Antique Fire Association Of NJ 40th Anniversary Antique Fire Truck Show (09:00-15:00)
Sun. Sep. 26, 2021	09:00	NJFM, 4 Polhemustown Rd, Allentown, NJ	NJ Fire Museum Annual Open House (09:00 - 15:00)
Sat. Oct. 23, 2021	12:00	Absecon VFC	Building Dedication, Housing, & Parade
Sat. Nov. 13, 2021	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
-----	-----	-----	-----
Sat. May 14, 2022	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

Wed. Aug. 18, 2021	20:00	Weymouth VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 15, 2021	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 20, 2021	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 17, 2021	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 15, 2021	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
-----	-----	-----	-----
Wed. Jan. 19, 2022	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 17, 2022	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. Sep. 3, 2021	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Oct. 29, 2021	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
-----	-----	-----	-----
Fri. Jan. 7, 2022	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board**

Mon. Oct. 18, 2021	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
-----	-----	-----	-----
Mon. Jan. 10, 2022	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Aug. 11, 2021	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
Wed. Sep. 8, 2021	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
Wed. Oct. 13, 2021	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
Wed. Nov. 10, 2021	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
Wed. Dec. 8, 2021	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
-----	-----	-----	-----
Tues. Jan. 25, 2022	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association
February 2022	-----	-----	NO MEETING

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

-----	-----	-----	-----
Thurs. Jan. 27, 2022	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 28, 2022	19:30	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association