

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*



April 19, 2023

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:35 on April 19, 2023 at the Atlantic County Anthony "Tony" Canale Fire Training Center by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Howard Berchtold. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. President Mackintosh welcomed all to the meeting which serves as the thirtieth annual Valor Awards presentation and the twelfth annual recognition of firefighters with fifty or more years of active service.

## **Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief**

President Mackintosh thanked the Margate City Fire Department for hosting and introduced Chief Daniel Adams. Chief Adams welcomed everyone to the annual valor awards and expressed how proud the Margate City Fire Department is to be hosting the awards for the eleventh year. Chief Adams spoke of the importance of leadership and leading by example before moving on to a personal note about how this service is special and emotional for him as two family members are being recognized for achieving fifty years of service. Chief Adams mother, Winifred, and father, William, will both be recognized. William Adams will be posthumously recognized for achieving fifty years of service in 2010. William passed shortly after achieving fifty years and before recognition awards were started. Chief Adams then read a quote from Chief Edward F. Croker, Chief of Department FDNY 1899-1911. "I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling. Our proudest moment is to save lives. Under the impulse of such thoughts, the nobility of the occupation thrills us and stimulates us to deeds of daring, even of supreme sacrifice." Chief Adams thanked all for attending on behalf of the Margate City Fire Department and ended his remarks by asking everyone to join him in reciting "A Fireman's Prayer".

## **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 – 24 of 43

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2023 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

## **Dispensing of Business**

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

## **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.

## **Introduction of “Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition”**

President Mackintosh welcomed all to the awards presentation and “50” year service recognitions. President Mackintosh reported that twelve firefighters will be honored for having achieved fifty years of service. President Mackintosh thanked all valor award recipients for having the courage to do what needed to be done and then also thanked the “50” years of service recipients for having the dedication and commitment for all those years.

President Mackintosh welcomed and introduced guests; Atlantic County Commissioners: Chairman John W. Risley Jr., Vice-Chairman Andrew W. Parker III, Maureen Kern, Richard R. Dase, and James A. Bertino; Atlantic County Clerk Joseph J. Giraldo; NJ Assemblywoman Claire Swift; NJ Assemblyman Donald A. Guardian; Atlantic County Director of Public Safety Michael A. Fedorko; Atlantic County Director of Fire Training Brian Middleton; and Atlantic County Fire Marshal David G. Buzby. All guests offered words of gratitude for the fire service in Atlantic County and all the effort put into providing that service with emphasis on appreciation of those tonight being honored for valor and those having served for fifty years. Director Fedorko also expressed those sentiments on behalf of Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson, who was unable to attend.

## **Valor Awards**

Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold commented on a great attendance that has filled the room to capacity and noted that we are blessed to have such a great fire service in Atlantic County. Howard thanked the County Executive, the County Board of Commissioners, and the Director of Public Safety for their continued support for the fire service. Howard also thanked 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Billy Merola who served as Chairman of the Valor Awards Committee and Fire Marshal Dave Buzby for all his assistance with the awards and the program. Howard commented on how great it is that all of the career and volunteer departments all work so well together to protect the citizens, visitors, and property in Atlantic County while also teaming up to provide task force assistance to neighboring counties throughout New Jersey when requested.

Chairman Howard Berchtold and President Charles J. Mackintosh presented each of the Valor Award recipients with their awards from the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association. This is the thirtieth year of the Valor Awards presentation. Recipients have included firefighters, police officers, medical personnel, and civilians. All honorees also received recognitions from NJ Assemblyman Donald A. Guardian, and Assemblywomen Claire S. Swift; the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners; and Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson.

### **Those being honored for valor are:**

*Captain Ricky Wilkes Jr., Pomona Volunteer Fire Company & Stockton University Police Department, Meritorious Citation*

Howard Berchtold introduced Chief Joseph Bereheiko, Pomona Volunteer Fire Company, who provided a summary of the incident on February 15, 2022. Captain Ricky Wilkes Jr. was attending a basketball game at Stockton University on February 15, 2022 when he witnessed a player fall to the court in cardiac arrest. Captain Wilkes began chest compressions while another bystander retrieved an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and continued compressions while AED pads were applied. One shock from the AED allowed for the return of circulation and breathing before the arrival of local EMS.

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*Assistant Chief John Belfi III, Minotola Volunteer Fire Company, Unit Citation*

*Captain Joseph Drogo, Minotola Volunteer Fire Company, Unit Citation*

*Firefighter Tony Abriola, Minotola Volunteer Fire Company, Unit Citation*

*Firefighter Jim Abba, Minotola Volunteer Fire Company, Unit Citation*

Howard Berchtold introduced Deputy Chief Lou Nardone, Minotola Volunteer Fire Company, who provided a summary of the incident on March 24, 2022. On March 24, 2022 Minotola and East Vineland Volunteer Fire Companies responded to Buena Gardens for an activated fire alarm. On arrival, the crew from Minotola Ladder 11-26 proceeded to the west wing where they observed a smoke condition through the fire doors. Upon entering the area, they found the resident of the involved apartment on the hallway floor. The resident was conscious, covered in soot, and unable to walk. The crew carried the resident to a safe area where Buena EMS provided treatment and transported the injured resident to the hospital.

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*Captain Stanley Kolbe, Pleasantville Fire Department, Unit Citation*  
*Firefighter Felix Borges, Pleasantville Fire Department, Unit Citation*  
*Recruit Firefighter Peter Libretti, Pleasantville Fire Department, Unit Citation*  
*Recruit Firefighter Kristen Cortes, Pleasantville Fire Department, Unit Citation*

Howard Berchtold introduced Chief Scott Trythall, Pleasantville Fire Department, who provided a summary of the incident on December 19, 2022. On December 19, 2022 Pleasantville Engine 1 responded to a mutual aid request in Northfield for a working structure fire involving heavy fire and smoke conditions. The crew from Engine 1 was assigned to conduct a primary search of the rear bedrooms in search of three missing dogs. All three dogs were successfully located and rescued.

Chief Scott Trythall welcomed Firefighter Felix Borges back to duty as he has just returned to work after recovering from a serious motor vehicle accident.

### **“50” Year Service Awards**

Chairman Howard Berchtold and President Charles J. Mackintosh presented each of the “50” Year Service Award recipients with a uniform bar, gold life member card, and framed certificate from the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association. This is the twelfth year of the annual recognition of firefighters with fifty or more years of active service. All honorees also received recognitions from NJ Assemblyman Donald A. Guardian, and Assemblywomen Claire S. Swift; the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners; and Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson.

Howard Berchtold thanked the Fire Chiefs and Company Presidents for keeping the Association advised on members achieving fifty years of service and thank Association Secretary Robert Mellon for keeping the records updated. Howard noted that many firefighters in his family started with the Egg Harbor City Fire Department and this Association started in Egg Harbor City in 1923 with EHC Chief R Breder serving as the first President. Chief Daniel Adams spoke on the impact his parents had on him and their dedication during their years of service with the Longport Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Adams noted that his mother was the first female President of a Volunteer Fire Company and served as the first female Delegate to the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association convention. With great sadness we report that William A. Adams passed in 2020, shortly after achieving fifty years of service and prior to the start of the recognition of those serving fifty years. William’s grandson, Firefighter Daniel Adams Jr., was present to accept on his behalf.

### **“50” Year Service Award Recipients:**

*Wayne J. Mangold, Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department*  
*Keith E. Mullineaux, Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department*  
*Joseph Donio, Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department Sta. 1*  
*Dennis M. Berenato, Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department Sta. 2*  
*John H. Warren Jr., Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department Sta. 2*  
*William A. Adams, Longport Volunteer Fire Department (posthumous recognition, served 1960-2010)*  
*Winifred G. Adams, Longport Volunteer Fire Department*  
*Robert VanDyke, Longport Volunteer Fire Department & Atlantic City Fire Department*  
*Louis G. Carey, Northfield Volunteer Fire Company*  
*Michael L. Burshtin, Richland Volunteer Fire Company*  
*Mickey Bird, Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company #1*  
*Hank Guenther, Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company #2*

### **Good of the Order**

Howard Berchtold congratulated all 50-year service award recipients and thanked all the families that supported them for all those years. President Mackintosh thanked everyone for attending and congratulated all of those that have been recognized.

President Mackintosh reminded everyone that the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be held on October 7, 2023 at the Egg Harbor City Lake. President Mackintosh reported that there is still much work to doing prior to and at the event and volunteers will be needed. Anyone with ideas or willingness to help the planning committee are welcome to join them.

Thank you to the Margate City Fire Department and FMBA Local 41 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business at hand, the meeting and awards presentation was adjourned at 20:40. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on May 17, 2023 in Oceanville, Galloway Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Sat. May 20, 2023	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)
Sun. May. 21, 2023	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast (08:00 - 12:00)
Sun. Jun. 4, 2023	12:00	Dorothy VFC	66th Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
Sat. Jun. 17, 2023	11:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	
Wed. Jun. 21, 2023	18:00	Smithville Inn, Smithville	Beef & Beer to Benefit Oceanville VFC
Sun. Jul. 16, 2023	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast with Santa (08:00 - 12:00)
Sun. Jul. 16, 2023	22:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Backyard Oasis Raffle Drawing at Mt. Carmel Festival
Tues. Aug. 8, 2023	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Aug. 11, 2023		Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Sat. Aug. 12, 2023		Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Sep. 15, 2023	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention & Memorial Service
Sat. Sep. 16, 2023	07:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention (Voting Only)
Sun. Sep. 17, 2023	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast (08:00 - 12:00)
Sun. Sep. 24, 2023	09:00	4 Polhemustown Rd, Allentown, NJ 08501	NJ Fire Museum Annual Open House (09:00 - 15:00)
Sat. Oct. 7, 2023	12:00	Egg Harbor City	Atlantic County Firefighters' Assoc. 100th Anniversary Celebration (12:00 - 17:00)
Sat. Oct. 7, 2023	17:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Linda Shields, Jersey Shore Medium (17:00 - 21:00)
Sun. Oct. 15, 2023	11:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Meatball Sub Sale (11:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Nov. 4, 2023	11:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale (11:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Nov. 11, 2023			
Sun. Nov. 12, 2023	11:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Sub Sale (11:00 - 14:00)
Sun. Dec. 3, 2023	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Ladies Auxiliary	Breakfast with Santa (08:00 - 12:00)
Sat. Sep. 7, 2024	12:00	Oceanville VFC	Oceanville Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration (Noon-5PM) (Rain Date - Sep. 8th)

**ACFFA Meetings****Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

Wed. May 17, 2023	19:30	Oceanville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 21, 2023	19:30	Milmay VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 19, 2023	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 16, 2023	19:30	Mays Landing VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 20, 2023	19:30	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 18, 2023	19:30	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 15, 2023	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 20, 2023	19:30	West Atlantic City VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jan. 17, 2024	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 21, 2024	19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee**

Fri. May 5, 2023	19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 7, 2023	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 1, 2023	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Nov. 3, 2023	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jan. 5, 2024	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

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

Mon. Jul. 17, 2023	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Oct. 16, 2023	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jan. 8, 2024	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association**

Wed. May 10, 2023	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jun. 14, 2023	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jul. 12, 2023	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Aug. 9, 2023	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Sep. 13, 2023	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Oct. 11, 2023	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Nov. 8, 2023	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 13, 2023	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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Tues. Jan. 30, 2024	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
February 2024-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----

**Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.**

Thurs. Jul. 27, 2023	19:30	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 25, 2024	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 25, 2024	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association