

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



June 21, 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on June 21, 2023 at the Milmay Volunteer Fire Company by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by Howard Berchtold. Howard spoke of the recent passing of Chief Vincent J. Jones Jr. (ret.), Margate City Fire Department, and asked everyone to keep Chief Jones and the Jones family in their thoughts and prayers. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Jacob Ruga of the Milmay Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Ruga welcomed all to Milmay.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 35 of 172

Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 17 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2023 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.

Special Guest

NJSFA Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger introduced Vice President Joseph Hankins of the NJ State Firemen's Association. VP Hankins reported that the NJSFA convention is scheduled for September 15th and September 16th in Wildwood. On September 15th, registration will run from 7:00 am to 10:15 am. The Memorial Service will start at 10:00 am with the business meeting immediately following. On September 16th, registration and voting will run from 7:00 am until 12:00 noon. A workshop will be run on September 16th for local officers and those with interest in getting more involved at the local level of the NJSFA. The workshop covers many of the requirements and procedures for running a local within the NJSFA. VP Hankins also reported that twelve members from Atlantic County are currently utilizing the NJSFA Healthcare Assistance/Rehabilitation Program.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on July 7, 2023 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Station 1. Howard requested that all Association Officers, Executive Committee Members, Atlantic County NJSFA Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger, NJFH Atlantic County Board Manager Oscar Dutch, Director of Training Brian Middleton, Fire Marshal Dave Buzby, Fire Coordinator Chip Stockton, and any other committee chairs to please attend in class A dress uniform so that photographs may be taken for the 100th Anniversary program book. Howard requested that anyone that is unable to attend please let him know so that other arrangements may be made.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for July 17, 2023.

100th Anniversary Celebration – Howard Berchtold reported that the committee is working hard. Final drafts of the merchandise artwork are being reviewed. Howard shared printouts of the artwork. Howard reported that the band and four food trucks have been booked. Howard provided an update on changes to the planned parade route. They are working with Atlantic County OEM Director Vince Jones, who is consulting with the Egg Harbor City Police Chief, on the parade plan and route. The plan is now for the parade to start at the Egg Harbor City Industrial Park with judging, proceed down Bremen Avenue to Route 30, to Philadelphia Avenue where bands and marchers would join in down to the Egg Harbor City firehouse, where bands and marchers would finish, and apparatus then continues down Philadelphia Avenue to the Egg Harbor City Lake. Howard thanked Kim Feinstein for chairing the committee and all those that are working on the committee. Howard noted that additional help is still needed on the committee. Howard reported that all the larger program book ads have been sold and asked everyone to help promote ad sales in the book.

Training – Director Brian Middleton reported the Firefighter I class took their exam on June 20th. The Fall 2022/Spring 2023 Firefighter I graduation ceremony is scheduled for 7 PM July 10th at the Egg Harbor Township Community Center. The next Firefighter I class will start on August 17th and the next Firefighter II class will start on September 11th. Brian reported that the repair plan for the drill tower has been put out for bid and that the County has been able to allocate funds for the refurb of the confined space simulator. Brian reported that a letter announcing the Firefighter II challenge exams in Atlantic County has been sent out and the deadline to register is July 15th. Mike Corbo reported that two tankers are needed for the Advanced Pump class on June 24th and asked that a couple departments volunteer. This is a good opportunity for any departments that have members needing tanker operations training time. Brian reported that twelve students from the Cedar Creek and Absegami High Schools in The Greater Egg Harbor Regional School District visited the Fire Academy on May 30th. NJ Forest Fire brought sent a helicopter to demonstrate a couple of water drops. The Atlantic City Fire Department was conducting live burn training in the burn building and the Egg Harbor Township Fire Department demonstrated fire attack on a car fire. The visit went very well. Brian reported that the ACFFA Comcast account has been canceled and the equipment is being returned. The County has provided a Wi-Fi hotspot and it appears to be working well. Howard Berchtold reported on the recent class cancellation issues and noted that they issues have been addressed and should not be a problem moving forward.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported on the recent Fire Police response into Burlington County during forest fire on June 11th. Chip reported that he asked Director Middleton about scheduling a Fire Police class so that more may be certified in Atlantic County. They both spoke with a contact in Burlington County about the training required. Mike Corbo reported that the Scullville Volunteer Fire Company has a Fire Police class scheduled for their members with Ron Martinelli from Cumberland County and that Ron may be willing to provide a class for Atlantic County if requested. Chip reported that he forwarded an email from the NJDFS concerning proper NIMS plain language radio communications and noted that this was in response to reported issues in counties to the north. Chip reported that he will be working with the county and Estell Manor to test for reported radio dead zones in the area around Head of the River Road. Chip reported that the NJDFS has been backed up processing an enormous volume (4,000+) of applications for Haz-Mat - On Scene Incident Commander certification and noted that many have been improperly completed and are being returned. Chip reported on a 3rd alarm fire in Atlantic City earlier in the day. First arriving police officers were able to remove five victims and the fire department removed five additional victims. Chip reported on possible reimbursement for non-emergency tanker response and that he will research further to see how that works with mutual aid agreements in place.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reminded everyone that if their local was not audited last year then they are to bring all their relief applications to the caucus to be audited this year. NJSFA Vice President Joseph Hankins reported on bills introduced both at the state and federal levels to cover volunteer firefighter cancer screenings and a bill introduced at the state level that would provide property tax deductions for volunteer firefighters in municipalities that elect to offer the deduction. The legislative committee will provide updates on the bills if there is any movement and Joe

reminded everyone that the only way to get bills to move past committee is by everyone reaching out to let their legislators know that there is interest in moving those bills. Oscar Dutch inquired about the time the NJSFA Workshop in Wildwood will be scheduled for at the convention. Joe reported that the workshop would be scheduled for a two-hour window on Saturday morning while the voting is being conducted. Further details to follow. Oscar noted that Cindy had a workshop scheduled for Atlantic County a couple years ago and it is very informative and helpful for those that currently serve, or aspire to serve, as officers in their local associations.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the home currently has eighty-two guests. The summer BBQs have finally resumed, and Bergen County hosted the first BBQ of the season. Oscar reported on the state discussing requiring homes to have single occupancy rooms and noted that the Board of Managers rethought the impact of that and have concluded that the home would not be impacted by that as much as they had initially thought it would.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported on the meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held on June 14, 2023 at the Collings Lakes Volunteer Fire Company. Butch reported that Bill Klingberg from the Families Behind the Badge Children's Foundation spoke at the meeting. The Foundation raises funds to support the families of fallen and critically injured first responders by running the one-day Ben to the Shore charity bike ride. The Foundation needs additional assistance from Fire Police for traffic control on the Atlantic County section of the bike ride. Butch reported the Pleasantville Fire Department Youth Firesetter Program has been certified and is available for referrals from all Atlantic County. The first intervention program will run soon. Butch reminded everyone that the 177th NJANG Fire Department has the one-hour intro to aircraft fire program available to all fire departments.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that the 4H fair is scheduled for August 11th and 12th. Howard reported that the Association will set up an information booth and sell 100th Anniversary merchandise with the permission of the 4H Fair Association. Howard reported that an apparatus display application has been emailed out and that they are seeking antique fire apparatus for display during the Friday night antique car show. Dennis Sharpe will be coordinating the apparatus display that will include Saturday afternoon and evening times. Howard reported that they are working on hosting a Firefighter competition on Saturday afternoon and that the 4H Fair Association would really like to see the competition return. Competition details will be shared once everything is worked out.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

Butch Kienzle inquired if there was any update about the LEAP grant application. Howard Berchtold reported that there has been no news, but they still hope for an update before the end of the week.

New Business

Butch Kienzle reported that Renault Winery and Resort reached out to him about getting first responder vehicles for a First responder Vehicles & Family Fun Day they have scheduled for July 29th.

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

Joe Hankins reported that he serves on the board of the New Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Joe reported that they will soon put together a Women in the Fire Service display and requested that anyone with photos of women in the fire service in Atlantic County can email them to him for inclusion in the display. Photos can be in turnout gear or class A uniform. Joe noted that they are also seeking additional photos for the current display of Black Fire Chiefs in New Jersey. Joe reported that the museum is now open every Saturday at 9 AM and has an Annual Open House scheduled in September and asked everyone to please try and visit. Joe can be reached at JosephH@njsfa.com

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

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Howard Berchtold. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:35. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on July 19, 2023 in Linwood.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Wed. Jun. 28, 2023	17:00	Serene Custard & Golf, Vineland	Ice Cream & Mini Golf Fundraiser to Benefit Minotola VFC (17:00 - 21:00)
Mon. Jul. 10, 2023	19:00	Egg Harbor Twp. Community Center	Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony
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
Sat. Aug. 5, 2023	16:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	26th Annual Spaghetti Dinner (16:00 - 19:00)
Tues. Aug. 8, 2023	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Aug. 11, 2023	18:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Sat. Aug. 12, 2023	13:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Sat. Aug. 12, 2023	afternoon	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Firefighter Competition
Sun. Aug. 20, 2023	10:00	Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, Millville, NJ	42nd Annual Fire Muster & Firefighters' Family Day presented by Glasstown Antique Fire Brigade
Fri. Sep. 15, 2023	08:00	Wildwood	Five Mile Beach Vol. Firemen's Assoc. hosts NJ Fire Expo (Tents & Exhibits)
Fri. Sep. 15, 2023	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey State Firemen's Association Annual Convention & Memorial Service (Reg. 07:00-10:15)
Sat. Sep. 16, 2023	07:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey State Firemen's Association Annual Convention (Voting Only 07:00-12:00)
Sat. Sep. 16, 2023	08:00	Wildwood	Five Mile Beach Vol. Firemen's Assoc. hosts NJ Fire Expo (Tents & Exhibits)
Sat. Sep. 16, 2023	morning	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey State Firemen's Association Workshop
Sat. Sep. 16, 2023	14:00	Wildwood	Five Mile Beach Vol. Firemen's Assoc. hosts NJ State Firemen's Convention Parade
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. Sep. 30, 2023	08:00	Elwood VFC @ White Oaks Country Club	19th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
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	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
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)
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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. 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
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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. 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
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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. 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
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
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