

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



March 19, 2025

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on March 19, 2025 at the Elwood Volunteer Fire Company by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by President Mackintosh. President Mackintosh reported that Howard Berchtold is under the weather, Dcn. Rich Maxwell's wife is in the hospital, and asked that they all be kept in 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 Lou Critelli of the Elwood Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Critelli welcomed all to Elwood and Mullica Township.

Guests

President Mackintosh welcomed and introduced Joseph Giraldo, Atlantic County Clerk; and James Curcio, Atlantic County Surrogate.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 45 of 172 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 21 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2025 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer, totaling \$97,334.87, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. Treasurer Mellon also reported that \$30k has been transferred from Bank of America to Parke Bank.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Parke Bank / Parke Bank / Parke Bank
Checking: \$54,720.36 / Savings: \$5,022.86 / Checking: \$5,448.80 / Money Market: \$1,006.63 / CD, matures 4/5/2025: \$31,136.22

Special Presentation

President Mackintosh welcomed and introduced Eric Nilson from Greenbranch Recovery. Eric presented information about the Firstbranch program run by Greenbranch Recovery. The program is a confidential treatment program for NJ's first responders. It is a closed group intensive outpatient program for first responders struggling with substance abuse disorder and mental health conditions. Focus areas include trauma informed care, medication-assisted treatment, therapy for post-

traumatic stress disorder, coping strategies, and counseling for anger management. Eric provided some handouts and contact information, and it will also be emailed out with the meeting minutes. Included is information for an open house scheduled at Greenbranch Recovery and Wellness, in Egg Harbor Township, on Wednesday March 26th. Eric has invited everyone to the open house and tour of the facility.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Vice-Chairman Levon “Lefty” Clayton summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Executive Committee held on March 7, 2025, and thanked the Cardiff Vol. Fire Co. for hosting. The Executive Committee is waiting for a review of all insurance policies by Glenn Insurance and Lefty noted that he and Kim Feinstein will soon meet with Glenn Insurance. The radio communications working group has received the final draft of the “Centralized Fire/EMS Dispatch Center Feasibility Study” from ADCOMM Engineering LLC and will meet to review, prior to scheduling meetings with the County Executive. The fundraising committee will meet to start planning for a golf tournament. Kim Feinstein reported to the committee that volunteers will be requested to represent the association at the ACUA Earth Day event on April 27th. This will include table and tent setup, fire safety information, and sales of 100th anniversary merchandise. Lefty reported that the committee discussed the upcoming 200 Club Memorial Brunch, and it was determined that a recommendation would be made, after an offer from Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association President Butch Kienzle, that the Firefighters’ Association would put in \$125, and the Chiefs’ Association would put in \$100 towards the \$225 cost of a full-page ad. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for May 2, 2025 in Longport.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – President Mackintosh reported that the next meeting of the fire training advisory board is scheduled for April 21, 2025 at the training center.

Training – Director of Training Brian Middleton reported that Firefighter I and Firefighter II are both running and provided an update on some classes that had to be canceled due to low enrollment. Brian reported that six of the instructors attended the NJDFS train-the-trainer course so that the academy can start teaching the RIC (rapid intervention crew) course. Brian noted that anyone currently holding any current RIC course certificate may challenge the RIC certification test instead of attending the new course and that the RIC Leader certification will require a Fire Officer certification. Brian introduced the two new Fire Instructors: Duane Brock, Deputy Chief Atlantic City Fire Dept., and Sean McDevitt, Captain Mays Landing Fire Co. and past Instructor at Cape May Fire Academy. Brian reported that they are still looking to hire two more Instructors and that some interviews have already been scheduled.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported on the March 9th general alarm structure fire in the Smithville section of Galloway Township and the March 13th second alarm commercial structure fire in Pleasantville. Chip reported that a NJ Division of Fire Safety workshop has been scheduled for April 9th at 7PM, just prior to the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ meeting at 8PM, at the Bargaintown Fire Company. Chip reported that he is seeking guidance from the county as to the cost of utilizing the foam supply and that four instructors are now certified to teach the Fire Police course that they hope to have scheduled by the summer. Chip reported that several Ocean County fire companies are currently being inspected by NJ DFS and NJ PEOSH and reminded everyone to keep up on all requirements. Chip reported that the biennial drill at the airport is scheduled for May 17th and that an airshow is now scheduled for July in Atlantic City.

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 April 9, 2025 at the Bargaintown Fire Company.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch, Atlantic County Board Manager, reported on a recent planning meeting for the expansion of the home where they reviewed five plans and selected two for further evaluation.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that three members will be recognized for fifty years of service. Billy noted that the updated application/nomination guidelines and forms will be ready for the 2026 submissions.

FDIC 2024 – Billy Merola reported that the instructors attending FDIC (Fire Dept. Instructor Conf.) in 2024 attended a total of thirty-five classes collectively totaling fifty-two- and one-half hours. President Mackintosh requested more detail on how attending FDIC has benefited the Atlantic County training program. Brian Middleton reported that the instructors received CEUs towards their instructor certification renewal. Billy Merola reviewed some of the Atlantic County classes that have been created or benefited from FDIC attendance including Autism Awareness, Flashover Simulator, Fire Ground Command, Fire Dynamics, Forcible Entry, Company Operations, Three Degrees of Mayday, Backdraft Explosions, Electric Vehicle Fires, Command Considerations, and Rapid Intervention. Billy reported on how all those courses are relevant to the fire service and that they occasionally need to be updated to current standards.

NJ Forest Fire Service – C8 Section Warden Ashley House reported that much of NJ is still in an extreme drought and that it is now wildfire fire season. Ashly reported on how backyard fires can spread rapidly and provided an update on the NJ FFS air support contract that runs from late March through April.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – President Chuck Macintosh reported that the working group will meet on March 24th to start planning meetings with county officials.

Audit – Kim Feinstein reported that the committee met on April 13th where they reviewed the books and records. They found the \$59 was spent on NJ sales tax in the prior year. The committee recommended that the NJ ST5 sales tax exemption form be readily available and be utilized to avoid sales tax. The committee also recommended carbo copy checks to facilitate an easier audit process. Kim thanked Treasurer Jaimie Mellon for being well organized and keeping complete records.

Finance – Kim Feinstein reported that a meeting with Glenn Insurance will be scheduled to discuss current insurance policies and to review possible VFIS policies.

Public Relations – Kim Feinstein reported that he is looking for volunteers to represent the association at the ACUA Earth Day event on April 27th. This will include table and tent setup, fire safety information, and sales of 100th anniversary merchandise.

Fundraising – President Mackintosh reported that they have started calling local golf courses to get pricing for hosting a tournament.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Dennis Sharpe reported on the recent hold on federal grants and reminded everyone of several other grants that are available to the fire service including Wawa, Nutella, Grainger, NJ Forest Fire Service, and Budweiser.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association approve sharing the cost of a full-page ad in the program book for the 200 Club of Atlantic & Cape May Counties - Memorial Brunch with the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association contributing \$100 and the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association contributing \$125 towards the total cost of \$225, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

President Mackintosh reported that the NJ Firemen's Home has their annual golf tournament scheduled for June and that the association is a regular sponsor at the bronze level.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to sponsor the New Jersey Firemen's Home 2025 Golf Outing at the bronze level with a \$200.00 donation, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Lefty Clayton provided an update on the shutdown of the National Fire Academy (NFA) and how that is a great loss to the fire service. Lefty opined on his six times attending courses at the NFA. Lefty reported that he had called Congressman Jeff Van Drew's office to express his displeasure and demand that they work on getting the NFA reopened. Butch Kienzle asked that the association look at drafting a letter of support to be sent to our elected federal representatives and that he will do the same with the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association. President Mackintosh asked Secretary Robert Mellon to look into drafting a letter of support for the reopening of the NFA.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$18,177.46, 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 - \$9,032.46 (credit card) / 200 Club of Atlantic and Cape May Counties - \$125.00 (Split Ad cost w/ ACFCA) / NJ Firemen's Home - \$200.00 (Bronze Sponsor Golf Tournament) / 5 Horn Consulting, LLC - \$8,820.00 (transition class)

Good of the Order

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

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:25. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on April 16, 2025 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Fire Training Center and hosted by the Margate City Fire Department. This meeting will include the "Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition" program. Class-A uniforms are requested.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sun. Apr. 6, 2025	12:00	Tropicana Casino	200 Club of Atlantic & Cape May Counties - Memorial Brunch
Fri. Apr. 11, 2025	17:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	13th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner
Sat. Apr. 12, 2025	09:00	NJFM, 4 Polhemustown Rd, Allentown, NJ	NJ Fire Museum 5th Annual Swap Meet (09:00 - 15:00)
Sat. Apr. 12, 2025	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. May 17, 2025	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill
Wed. Jun. 18, 2025	18:00	Smithville Inn, Smithville	Beef & Beer to Benefit Oceanville VFC
Fri. Aug. 8, 2025	18:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Sat. Aug. 9, 2025	13:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Tues. Aug. 12, 2025	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Sun. Aug. 17, 2025	10:00	Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, Millville, NJ	Annual Fire Muster & Firefighters' Family Day presented by Glasstown Antique Fire Brigade
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
Sun. Sep. 28, 2025	09:00	NJFM, 4 Polhemustown Rd, Allentown, NJ	NJ Fire Museum Annual Open House (09:00 - 15:00)
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Sat. Jun. 6, 2026		Germania VFC	Germania Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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. 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**

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

Wed. Apr. 9, 2025	20:00	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. May 14, 2025	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jun. 11, 2025	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jul. 9, 2025	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Aug. 13, 2025	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Tues. Sep. 10, 2025	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Oct. 8, 2025	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Nov. 12, 2025	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 10, 2025	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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Tues. Jan. 27, 2026	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
February 2026-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jul. 24, 2025	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 22, 2026	19:30	Elwood VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 23, 2026	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association