

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



April 16, 2025

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:35 on April 16, 2025 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 Chief Daniel Adams of the Margate City Fire Department. 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 thirty-second annual Valor Awards presentation and the fourteenth annual recognition of firefighters with fifty or more years of active service. President Mackintosh reported that Dcn. Rich Maxwell was not in attendance as his wife had just passed and that Howard Berchtold, Executive Committee Chairman, and Dan Collins, past chief Estell Manor, were both dealing with health issues. President Mackintosh asked that everyone keep them all in their prayers.

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 thirteenth year and thanked the elected local and county officials for supporting the fire service. Chief Adams 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 spoke of his love for the fire service and having served many years in both career and volunteer departments. Chief Adams noted that many in his family have served with the Longport Fire Department since his grandfather, Robert Knox Adams Sr., joined in 1947, and that his mother was just honored last year for fifty years of service. Chief Adams reported that the Longport Historical Society will be dedicating the Volunteer Fire Company Room at the Longport Historical Museum to The Adams Family on June 7th to honor their dedication to the Borough of Longport. Chief Adams took a moment to speak about the importance of volunteering within your community and read a quote from Author DeAnn Hollis about volunteering, "The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others." Chief Adams concluded by stating how good it is to see old faces and new faces attending the awards and recognition every year.

Guest

President Mackintosh welcomed and introduced County Executive Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County, who was only able to stay briefly before leaving for another event. Denny reported that he had missed getting around due to recovering from a broken back for the last three months. Denny reminisced with a couple of stories about Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz, who started the valor awards and service recognition, and how he misses that Whitey was always there. Denny thanked everyone for the work they do to make Atlantic County what it is. Denny took some time to speak about the effort to consolidate dispatch operations, provided some insight on how the last effort went with the issues encountered, and stated that he understands the continued need and supports the effort. Denny reported that to keep the effort moving forward will require buy in from municipal leadership and asked that everyone stay the course on selling this to them and that he will help in any

way that he can. Denny thanked everyone for what they do and thanked the “50” Year Service Award recipients for their dedication and commitment.

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 – 18 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the March 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 \$101,817.75, 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: \$15,687.90 / Savings: \$5,022.99 / Checking: \$48,452.01 / Money Market: \$1,010.19 / CD – 4.247%, matures 4/5/2026: \$31,644.66

Guests

President Mackintosh welcomed and introduced guests; Atlantic County Commissioner John W. Risley Jr.; Atlantic County Clerk Joseph J. Giraldo; Atlantic County Director of Public Safety Michael A. Fedorko; and Atlantic County Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr.

Committee Reports

Atlantic County Radio Communications – President Chuck Macintosh reported that select members of the working group will meet with county officials next week to present the feasibility study.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$5,054.39, 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 - \$5,054.39 (credit card)

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

President Mackintosh reported on the request that the county associations draft letters of support to restore federal funding and staffing for critical fire service programs within the National Fire Academy and NIOSH. The letters are being sent to Senator Cory Booker, Senator Andy Kim, and Congressman Jeff Van Drew. The Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association has already sent letters seeking to restore these critical programs. It was noted that all departments and individuals, including family and friends, can and should be submitting comments and letters in support of the fire service. Putting something in writing is the best way to ensure that it becomes part of the record. Secretary Mellon read the two letters into the record.

Re: National Fire Academy

On behalf of the county fire service, and specifically the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association, I am writing you today to express this Association’s request that the National Fire Academy be re-opened to ensure that America’s fire and emergency services can receive the training they need to protect communities across the country.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency issued a notice stating it will be cancelling all in-person classes offered by the National Fire Academy, in Emmitsburg, Maryland to “evaluate agency programs and spending to ensure alignment with

Administration priorities.” While we understand the Administration’s desire to review government programs, we are concerned about the public safety impact of closing the campus with little notice and with an indefinite timeline. We request that the review be completed expeditiously so the campus can reopen.

The National Fire Academy’s mission is to provide specialized training courses and advanced management programs for middle- and top-level fire officers, fire service instructors, technical professionals, and representatives from allied professions. Each year, NFA offers training to approximately 100,000 members of the fire and emergency services. These students are drawn from all 50 states and represent the wide breadth of the American fire service, volunteer, paid on call and career fire departments.

The training offered by NFA is specialized training, similar to the leadership training offered by the military war colleges for current and future military officers. Training at the NFA has been a priority of every Administration since NFA was first established by Congress in 1974 and should remain a priority for every Administration moving forward.

NFA addresses gaps in professional training not offered at the local level. Working in partnership with state fire training academies, to address the needs of volunteer and smaller fire departments who cannot travel to Emmitsburg, it also delivers advanced level training in states all around the country by regional delivery. As an additional consequence of FEMA’s actions, classes at state training academies using NFA instructors have been cancelled.

Please reinstate classes at the NFA to ensure the fire service can receive the training necessary to continue to perform its mission in protecting communities across our nation.

Thank you for supporting the fire service and your consideration of our request.

Re: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

On behalf of the county fire service, and specifically the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association, I am writing you today to express this Association’s request to urge you to reinstate vital fire service programs at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). These programs are critical resources for America’s fire and emergency services.

The National Firefighter Registry (NFR) for cancer represents a landmark initiative to understand and address the increased cancer risks faced by firefighters. The NFR plays a crucial role in collecting data, identifying trends, and helping to shape policies that enhance firefighter health and safety.

The Firefighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP) is another essential program that investigates firefighter line-of-duty deaths, providing recommendations that improve training, operational procedures, and safety protocols—directly reducing firefighter fatalities and injuries.

The National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) ensures the effectiveness of personal protective equipment (PPE), particularly respirators, which are vital for firefighters and EMS personnel responding to fires, hazardous material emergencies, and medical calls.

Finally, the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) remains a vital lifeline for first responders and their families, providing essential health benefits for those affected by the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and the associated cleanup efforts.

Congress has consistently supported these programs, and it is crucial that they continue receiving the necessary funding and personnel to protect those who risk their lives for public safety.

Thank you for supporting the fire service and your consideration of our request.

Good of the Order

Kim Feinstein reported that the 100th Anniversary Committee will be at the ACUA Earth Day Festival on April 26th and additional volunteers are requested.

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

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 there were no nominations for valor received by the deadline and that three firefighters will be honored for having achieved fifty years of service. President Mackintosh thanked the “50” years of service recipients for having the dedication and commitment for all those years.

“50” Year Service Awards

President Charles J. Mackintosh presented each of the “50” Year Service Award recipients with a uniform bar, gold life member card, and certificate from the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association. This is the fourteenth year of the annual recognition of firefighters with fifty or more years of active service. All honorees also received recognition from the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners and Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson. Chief Roy Talley, Absecon Fire Dept., and Chief Nicholas Bleyhl, Estell Manor Fire Co., were in attendance to honor their respective recipients.

“50” Year Service Award Recipients:

Stanley E. Kolbe Sr., Absecon Volunteer Fire Department

Mark J. Marrone, Absecon Volunteer Fire Department

Jeffrey Cornew, Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Company

Chief Dan Adams congratulated the recipients and spoke of the need to pass on and instill the same dedication into the younger generations.

President Mackintosh thanked everyone for attending.

Chief Adams thanked everyone for attending on behalf of the Margate City Fire Department and closed by reciting “A Fireman’s Prayer”.

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting and awards presentation was adjourned at 20:10. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on May 21, 2025 in Pomona, Galloway Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. May 3, 2025	12:00	Magma Gym, Galloway, NJ	Open Gym & Touch-A-Truck benefiting Bayview VFC
Sat. May 17, 2025	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill
Sat. May 17, 2025	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30) *DRIVE THROUGH ONLY
Sun. Jun. 1, 2025	12:00	Dorothy VFC	68th Annual Chicken BBQ & Craft Fair (12:00 - 18:00)
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)
Sat. Nov. 8, 2025	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. Jun. 6, 2026		Germania VFC	Germania Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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	Hammononton 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. 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**

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

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