

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



July 16, 2025

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:35 on July 16, 2025 at the Linwood Fire Department by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Deacon Rich Maxwell. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Martin Walley of the Linwood Fire Department. Chief Walley welcomed everyone Linwood.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 39 of 172

Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 20 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the June 18, 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 \$103,123.99, as submitted by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon and read by Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Clayton E. Tucker.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Parke Bank / Parke Bank / Parke Bank
Checking: \$10,552.18 / Savings: \$5,023.36 / Checking: \$54,883.07 / Money Market: \$1,020.72 / CD – 4.247%, matures 4/5/2026: \$31,644.66

Special Presentation

Atlantic County Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger, New Jersey State Firemen's Association (NJSFA), welcomed and introduced NJSFA Vice President Joseph Hankins and 1st Assistant Secretary Brian Martone. Vice President Hankins provided a summary from the NJSFA Advisory Board meeting held on July 10, 2025. The Board approved nine special relief applications totaling \$36,001.12, the year to date is \$306,152.12, and six supplemental applications for \$87,000.00, year to date \$536,939.00. The Board reviewed and approved fifty-five (55) burial claims totaling \$673,030.00. The average age of the deceased firefighters was 76 years old. Twelve of the burial claims were cancer related. Total burial claims YTD are fifty-five (55) and burial claims run July 1st to June 30th. There was a total of eight hundred fifty-nine (859) burial claims for the prior year, paying out \$10,116,833.36. Currently three hundred thirty-two (332) firefighters, or those spouses remaining on the program, are being provided with monthly reimbursement through the Health Care Reimbursement Program and over one thousand (1,000) members have benefited since the program started. There have been forty-one (41) from Atlantic

County who have utilized the Health Care Reimbursement Program with fifteen (15) currently receiving monthly reimbursement.

Committee Reports

Firefighter Health and Wellness – Howard Berchtold spoke of his current battle with advanced mouth and neck cancer and his good recovery outlook due to quick diagnosis and treatment after seeking care for unexplained swelling with no other notable symptoms. Howard thanks the surgical staff of Jefferson Hospital and the Atlanticare cancer treatment center staff for the positive outcome. Howard spoke of the need for all firefighters, and everyone in general, to seek care when signs or symptoms could lead to something bigger if not caught early. Howard spoke of the advancements allowing for much earlier detection of many cancers and highly effective treatments when caught early. Howard noted that his mouth and neck cancer is very likely attributed to the HPV (Human Papillomavirus) virus that everyone has been exposed to at some point. The virus is no more than bad cold or flu like for most people but has a strong probability of causing many cancers at a later point in life. Those cancers include cervix, vagina, and vulva in women; penis in men; anus in both men and women; back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils (oropharynx), in both men and women. Cancer usually takes years, even decades, to develop after a person gets HPV. There is no way to know who will develop cancer or other health problems from HPV. Howard reported that everyone older than twenty should get regular screenings for those cancers since they have likely already been exposed to HPV and that for the children, or grandchildren, there is a vaccination that should be considered. HPV vaccination can prevent over 90% of cancers caused by HPV, as well as anal, vaginal, cervical, and vulvar pre-cancers (abnormal cells that can lead to cancer). HPV vaccines work best when given at age 11–12 years, before contact with the HPV virus. NJSFA 1st Assistant Secretary Brian Martone reported on the state coverage for career firefighters to receive cancer screenings and his effort to get that coverage extended to volunteer firefighters.

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reviewed the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held on July 11, 2025 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Station 1. The committee learned that Vince Jones will not be attending the July meeting of the association but will be at the August meeting. Both the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association and the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will recognize Vince for his years of service with the county. The committee was also informed that Fire Photographer Heather Berchtold was involved in a motor vehicle accident, that she is ok, and recovering at home. The committee was informed that the roof operations simulator needs to be replaced, estimated at \$78k, and that the matter will be presented to the County for consideration. The committee discussed the upcoming "The Art of The Company Chauffeur" class and the goal of hosting more one-off seminars if attendance goes well. The upcoming academy training schedule was reviewed, and it was reported that the County is planning to start the instructor gear room rebuild soon. Treasurer Jaime Mellon informed the committee that she will be contacting Suburban Propane due to the costs going up when a set rate should have been locked in. The committee had an extensive discussion about the current insurance policies and brokers noting that more data is needed to advance the discussion and to review the probability of pricing a supplemental policy for the instructors.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Fire Training Advisory Board is scheduled for July 21, 2025 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center. Howard reported that they will discuss the need to replace the roof operations simulator and seek support from the county for the estimated \$78k cost. Howard noted that letters from the Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board, the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association, and the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association seeking county assistance might be something to think about.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Marc Corsiglia reported on the meeting held on July 9, 2025 was well attended and that Lee D'Ottavio, Howell Rescue Systems, was in attendance with his truck and demo tools. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at the Laureldale Volunteer Fire Company.

Atlantic County Radio Communications –Howard Berchtold reported on a meeting with the County Executive Denny Levinson and that the County awarded an additional \$10,000 contract to ADCOMM for collection of local, regional, and national data related to those potential costs of NG911 and unified CAD/RMS and how much of the cost will be covered by local operations versus state funding and grants. The additional report is expected to be completed by mid-August. The working group will meet again to review that data when the report is received. A meeting with the County Commissioners will be scheduled after review, and they will likely be seeking a unified PSAP instead of continuing with the current eleven PSAPs.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that the 4H Fair is scheduled for August 8th and 9th and that ACFFA will setup the public relations tent and seek fire apparatus to be displayed or provided educational demos for the public on Saturday August 9th.

Training – Lefty Clayton reported that the rebuild of the confined space simulator is almost complete and has mostly been handled in-house along with refurbishing the storage sheds. Howard Berchtold extended thanks to all the instructors working on those projects.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported on the nine inches of rain that fell in the East Vineland area of Buena Vista Township on July 10th and on Atlantic City Airshow with practice on July 15th and the show on July 16th lasting only two and a half hours. Chip reported on, and thanked, all the in county, and out of county, support for the airshow. Chip also reported on the recent class about HCT F-500 Encapsulator Agent (new firefighting foam) hosted by Cologne Vol. Fire Company.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported that the Atlantic County Caucus is scheduled for 7PM on August 12th in Egg Harbor City, registration will start at 6PM. The convention is scheduled for September 12 and 13 in Wildwood. The memorial service followed by the meeting is at 11AM on September 12th with registration from 7AM until 11AM. There will only be registration and voting on September 13th from 7AM until 11AM.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch reported that summer BBQs have been ongoing at the home. There are currently seventy-eight guests in the home and eleven are in preadmission for future openings. Oscar reported that eighteen guests passed in 2024 and they recently held a memorial service. Oscar noted that seven years of service as a firefighter is now required for admission to the home. Oscar thanked the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association for their ongoing support by sponsoring a hole at the home’s annual golf tournament. The recent tournament went well and was enjoyed by the one hundred twenty-four that were in attendance. Oscar reported that there has been no update from the home expansion committee and noted that he received his copy of the letter from this association to the home’s Board of Managers stating that expansion of the home is not supported. Oscar reported that an Antique Fire Muster is scheduled to be held on September 20, 2025 at the home.

Fundraising – Kim Feinstein reported that he is looking into getting a table setup for the convention in Wildwood to continue selling the association 100th Anniversary merchandise.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$38,753.28, were submitted by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon and read by Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Clayton E. Tucker. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Chase Credit Card - \$2,343.61 (credit card) / Downbeach Decks LLC - \$1,000.00 (confined space repair, Matt McCully) / Instructor Payroll - \$35,409.67 (direct deposit & one paper check)

Good of the Order

President Mackintosh noted that it was good to have Howard Berchtold back at a meeting and reported that he had been missed.

Thank you to the Linwood Fire Department for hosting the evening and providing refreshments.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Rich Maxwell. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:30. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on August 20, 2025 in Weymouth, Hamilton Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Jul. 19, 2025	21:30	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	"Backyard Oasis" Raffle Drawing at Mt. Carmel Festival
Sat. Jul. 26, 2025	10:00	Storybook Land, EHT	2025 Mother Goose Muster - Firetruck & Emergency Vehicle Show& First Responder Appreciation Day
Sat. Aug. 2, 2025	16:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	28th Annual Spaghetti Dinner (16:00 - 19:00)
Sun. Aug. 3, 2025	10:00	CLAFAA @ Cooper River Park	Annual Fire Muster
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	11:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey State Firemen's Association Annual Convention & Memorial Service (Reg. 07:00-11:00)
Sat. Sep. 13, 2025	07:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey State Firemen's Association Annual Convention (Voting Only 07:00-11:00)
Sat. Sep. 20, 2025	09:00	New Jersey Firemen's Home	Antique Fire Muster (09:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Sep. 27, 2025	18:30	Dorothy VFC	4th Annual Designer Bag Bingo (Doors Open 17:00)
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
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Sat. Jun. 6, 2026		Germania VFC	Germania Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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. 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. 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. 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