

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



October 15, 2025

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:35 on October 15, 2025, at the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company, by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by Howard Berchtold. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Jess Hand of the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Hand welcomed all to Dorothy, Weymouth Township.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 34 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 September 17, 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 \$105,302.70, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Parke Bank / Parke Bank / Parke Bank
Checking: \$4,205.24 / Savings: \$5,023.59 / Checking: \$62,727.76 / Money Market: \$1,030.86 / CD – 4.247%, matures 4/5/2026: \$32,315.25

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for November 7, 2025 in South Egg Harbor at 19:30. Howard noted that the committee usually attends the spaghetti and crab dinner at the Never There Gun Club in Hammonton before the meeting but that dinner is being held on October 24th this year.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Fire Training Advisory Board is scheduled for October 20, 2025 at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center.

Atlantic County Radio Communications – Howard Berchtold reported that members of the working group attended the October 7th meeting of the County Commissioners to present the “Centralized Fire/EMS Dispatch Center Feasibility Study”

and the “NG9-1-1 Cost Impact Analysis” reports submitted by ADCOMM Engineering LLC. They led off the presentation with a short PowerPoint and a review on how cell phones can be sent to different PSAPs depending on which towers they connect to and how having thirteen PSAPs has led to some initial dispatch confusion when a cell phone call was received to a PSAP that coincidentally had similar street names within their coverage area. They also reviewed how as many as seven to nine dispatch centers are being contacted to get mutual aid units dispatched to larger incidents such as the Frog Rock Golf and Country Club structure fire in Hammonton the very morning of the Commissioner’s meeting. They informed the Commissioners that Atlantic County is the last county in NJ not having some sort of centralized system and emphasized that this is about centralizing the systems for efficiency and uniformity and in no way disparage the work being done by the current highly qualified dispatchers. The goal is to reduce, and eventually eliminate, fractured systems currently operating and reach the goal of efficient and uniform operations with all current, and future, technical upgrades. They reviewed the potential cost of the NG911 upgrades comparing multiple call centers vs a central call center. Howard reported that the Commissioners were engaged, were asking questions, and appeared to be supportive of the proposal. Howard thanked Vince Jones and Chuck Uhl for providing great supportive data for the reports. Howard reported that the next steps will include a meeting with municipal leadership, meetings allowing public input, and a public relations campaign.

Training – Director Brian Middleton reported that the instructor gear room refurb will likely start in November. Brian reported on new procedures with the NJ Division of Fire Safety for Firefighter registration and certification. The state is moving to an all-digital format. All new recruits must have a myNewJersey account and a New Jersey DFS number before starting Firefighter I. The Fire Academy staff have assisted the current class with this new process; Fire Chiefs will be responsible for handling future recruits before the next Firefighter I class. NJ DFS certifications will no longer be mailed and will be sent via email and available online via a myNewJersey account. Brian reported that the roof operations simulator purchase is moving forward and that there is a one-to-one-and-a-half-month lead time for delivery.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reviewed recent multi-alarm calls including the Frog Rock Country Club in Hammonton on October 7th and a large pallet fire October 8th off Weymouth Rd. in Mullica. Chip reported that he is working on 2026 mutual aid updates and has sent emails to all Fire Chiefs requesting those updates.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported that all special and supplemental applications for relief are due by the Monday prior to a NJSFA Advisory Board meeting and that all applications need to be received by December 1st to be considered for 2025. Cindy reported that the new membership application is marked “Form 100-A – REV 9/25” and will be the only version accepted. Any applications received on older forms will be kicked back. Cindy reported on recent concerns of credit card debt on relief applications. Cindy reviewed the concerns with Jennie Hollingsworth, NJSFA Field Examiner, and it was noted that if someone has an ongoing history of credit card debt, through several applications for relief over time, then they should be required to seek debt consolidation and counseling before filing any additional applications for relief.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the Board of Managers held their reorganizational meeting and elected new officers. Oscar reported that the Board of Managers will work on scheduling a review of phased plan proposals to eliminate multi-guest rooms and convert the home into all single occupancy rooms.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Butch Kienzle reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 in Bayview, Galloway Township, and that Robert Morris, Vice President of the New Jersey State Fire Chief’s Association, will be in attendance to provide an update from that association and to share information about the benefits of membership and collaboration at a state level.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that the committee met for an hour and a half, prior to this meeting, to start reviewing the nominations submitted thus far. Billy noted that at least two additional meetings will be scheduled as they seek further details and clarification for those that have submitted nominations. President Chuck Mackintosh reminded everyone that nominations for valor and submission for service recognition (50 years of service completed) are due no later than January 31st for the following April recognition ceremony.

Fundraising – Kim Feinstein reported that sales of 100th Anniversary merchandise at the F&SS 2025 Road Rally on October 9th only netted \$20 and Kim thanked the volunteers who assisted that evening. President Chuck Mackintosh reported that they continue to work on researching/planning a golf tournament to be held in 2026.

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 \$4,271.63, 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 - \$3,541.13 (credit card) / Barnegat Vol. Fire Co. - \$700.00 (refund, properly canceled tuition) / State of NJ - \$30.50 (annual report)

Nomination of Officers

The first of two rounds of nominations were held. Levon S. “Lefty” Clayton and Clayton Tucker were not in attendance but did send notice that they would accept nomination to continue to serve in their current position. Those nominated are as follows:

President (1)	Charles J. Mackintosh
1 st Vice President (1)	Dennis C. Sharpe
2 nd Vice President (1)	William L. Merola Jr.
Secretary (1)	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer (1)	Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	Clayton Tucker
Chaplain (1)	Dcn. Rich Maxwell*
Sgt.-at-Arms (3)	Wayne Dilks*, William Donath*, Charles Harlan
Executive Comm. (9)	Howard Berchtold Jr., Levon S. “Lefty” Clayton, Marc J. Corsiglia, Kim Feinstein, Joe Hartman*, Walter R. “Butch” Kienzle III, Christopher Kislow, Eugene M. Sharpe*, C. Robert Winkler III*

***have not yet formally accepted nomination and must do so before elections.**

Good of the Order

Elwood Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting Bags, Brews, & Bites Corn Hole Tournament at No 79 Restaurant on October 18th.

Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting their take-out Roast Beef Dinner on October 18th.

Buena Boro Fire Department will be hosting their Roast Beef (Sandwich) Sale on October 25th.

Sean Macri reported that Michael Bakuckas completed “The Solo: AC to Cape – 82K Run” from Atlantic City to Cape May to support the Tunnel to Towers Foundation on September 27th with two additional runners who joined him. They completed the fifty-one-mile run in approximately ten hours and had raised \$10,000 at the time they presented information at the September meeting of this association. Sean did not know how much the current fundraising total was.

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

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Howard Berchtold. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:15. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on November 19, 2025 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Oct. 18, 2025	12:00	Elwood VFC @ No. 79 Restaurant	Bags, Brews, & Bites Corn Hole Tournament
Sat. Oct. 18, 2025	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30) *TAKE OUT ONLY
Sat. Oct. 25, 2025	11:00	Buena Boro VFD	Roast Beef Sale (11:00 – 14:00)
Sat. Nov. 8, 2025	15:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. Dec. 13, 2025	19:00	Hammonton VFD	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (lineup 18:00 & parade 19:00)
Sat. Jun. 6, 2026		Germania VFC	Germania Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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. 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. 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. 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
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. Nov. 20, 2025	19:30	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Feb. 26, 2026	19:30	Elwood VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. May 28, 2026	19:30	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Aug. 27, 2026	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Nov. 19, 2026	19:30	***TBD***	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association