

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*



November 19, 2025

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on November 19, 2025, at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2, 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. Chaplain Maxwell wished everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Introduction of Host Chief**

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Michael Sweeney of the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Sweeney welcomed all to Somers Point and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

## **In Attendance**

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 47 of 172

Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 22 of 43

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the October 15, 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 reported on, and summarized the minutes of, the Executive Committee meeting held on November 7, 2025, in South Egg Harbor. Howard reported that Dana McCullough, from Vernon Advisors, was unable to meet with the committee on November 7<sup>th</sup> and was able to meet with some of the committee members just prior to the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The committee is reviewing the offerings of Vernon Advisors as to fundraising and credit card acceptance. Howard reported that the Executive Committee reviewed the 2026 Atlantic County Fire Academy training budget proposal, with a total of \$25,232, and the 2026 Atlantic County Fire Academy training capital purchase proposal, with a total of \$12,000, for nozzles, valves, and a Blitz Fire Monitor. Howard reported that the Executive Committee reviewed the 2026 administrative budget proposal, with a total of \$6,396. The Executive Committee is recommending approval of the 2026 Atlantic County Fire Academy training budget proposal, the 2026 Atlantic County Fire Academy training capital

purchase proposal, and the 2026 administrative budget proposal under new business. Howard reported that the committee received a request from Director Middleton for \$500 to be used towards the annual instructor year-end holiday/appreciation meal with the instructors sharing the remaining costs for the event and noted that the committee recommends that the association approve the request. The committee reviewed several fundraising initiatives being worked on. President Chuck Mackintosh provided an update on the effort to schedule a golf tournament for late spring of 2026. Chris Kislow reported on a discount card program that utilizes local businesses. Chris noted that a trial run of the program would only require \$500 to create a minimal order of cards, and the committee is recommending the association approve the \$500 for a trial run of the discount card fundraiser. Commitments from approximately ten local businesses willing to offer a discount would be sought out to be included on the card. The discount cards would then be sold to raise funds for the association. Chris reported that they will target early 2026 to kick off sales of discount cards. Howard reported that the committee continues to review and research insurance policies. Rob Winkler and Chris Kislow recently met with a representative from Aflac, and they are continuing to research what policies are, and are not, available. Howard reported that the committee continues to seek out health and wellness speakers and program that are of interest for the association. Howard reported that he is looking into Atlanticare and Jewish Family Services to see if their Critical incident stress and mental health programs would be beneficial to the county fire service for both professional and/or personal needs. Rob Winkler had reported to the committee that Egg Harbor Township offers their firefighters access to their employee assistance program (EAP) and suggested that all fire companies inquire with their municipal leadership to see if they offer the same. Treasurer Jaime Mellon informed the committee of recent Bank of America charges due to the balance dropping below a minimum threshold the accountant accidentally deducted payroll taxes from Bank of America instead of Parke Bank. Treasurer Mellon noted that she was able to get the charges reversed and convert the accounts to a different type with lower thresholds until all debits have cleared and the association leaves Bank of America. Howard reported that he referred a review of the Secretary and Treasurer stipends to the finance committee to determine if an increase may be warranted. Howard Berchtold congratulated Dennis Sharpe and reported that he had one of his photographs make the centerfold spot in Vol42No6 Nov-Dec 2025 edition of Fire Apparatus Journal. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for January 2, 2026, in Pomona at 19:30 and will be the reorganizational meeting for 2026.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the instructor gear room project is expected to start in January and the roof operations simulator is under construction with a tentative delivery in December. Howard noted that he would like to see a public relations event scheduled, after the roof operations simulator has been in service and is operating smoothly, to thank the county leadership for their support and have them see how it is utilized for training. Howard reported that the next meeting of the Fire Training Advisory Board is scheduled for January 12, 2026, at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center.

**Atlantic County Radio Communications** – Howard Berchtold reminded everyone that Atlantic County has scheduled a presentation of the “Centralized Fire/EMS Dispatch Center Feasibility Study” and the “NG9-1-1 Cost Impact Analysis” reports, submitted by ADCOMM Engineering LLC, to be held at the training center at 6PM on Manday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. The county has requested those planning to attend RSVP by email or phone so that they have an idea of expected attendance. This meeting is for all those interested including public safety, municipal leadership, and the public. Howard requested that chiefs reach out to their respective municipal leadership and encourage them to attend.

**Fire Marshal** – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reminded everyone to notify him, or Secretary Mellon, of any firefighter deaths in 2025 for inclusion in the annual memorial service program. Dave wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Fire Coordinator** – Deputy Fire Coordinator Jacob Ruga reported on the wildland fire structural protection training scheduled for January 17, 2026. John Yochim reported that Elwood Fire Company will be the host for the next tender task force drill. The Fire Coordinator is still working on 2026 mutual aid 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 and that the application can be scanned/mailed. Any applications received on older forms will be returned. Cindy reported that some local associations have not been having bank statements sent to the state office and that will need to be corrected. Cindy noted that a new employee has been hired to file all local association IRS 990 forms from the state office.

**NJ Firemen’s Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that there are currently nineteen potential guests now on a waiting list to get into the home.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association** – Butch Kienzle reported on the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held in Bayview. It was unanimously decided to recommend Chip Stockton be reappointed as Atlantic County Fire Coordinator for 2026/2027. The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, in Sweetwater, Mullica Township. Nominations and elections of officers will be on the agenda. Butch wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition** – Billy Merola reported that the committee met prior to this meeting to continue reviewing the nominations submitted thus far and to review the guidelines and rules in relation to submitting a nomination for valor. Billy noted that the committee will meet again before the next meeting of the association in Bargaintown at 6PM on December 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 31<sup>st</sup> for the following April recognition ceremony.

**Fundraising** – President Chuck Mackintosh reported the committee continues researching/planning a golf tournament to be held in May or June 2026 and that the committee will meet in January to review proposals and hopefully select a hosting location and set the event details.

### **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

### **Deferred Business**

There was no deferred business to act upon.

### **New Business**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association approve the 2026 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Budget proposal, with a total of \$25,232, and the 2026 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Capital Purchase proposal, with a total of \$12,000, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association approve the 2026 Administrative Budget proposal, with a total of \$6,396, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association approve \$500 to be used towards the annual instructor year-end holiday/appreciation meal with the instructors sharing the remaining costs for the event, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association approve \$500 towards a trial run of the discount card program with two hundred fifty cards created after the committee finds ten local businesses to offer a discount for a period of one-year and then sell the cards for \$20 each, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

### **Bills**

The bills, totaling \$6,646.18, 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 - \$621.69 (credit card) / NJ WEB - \$586.99 (taxes) / NJ GIT/LBR - \$620.21 (taxes) / Suburban Propane - \$469.29 (propane) Atl. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association - \$40.00 (fwd. dues for ACFFA paid to ACFFA) / MES - \$4,308.00 (1 set turnout gear)

### **Nomination of Officers**

The second of two rounds of nominations were held. All positions are uncontested, and all nominees have accepted their nomination to office, either in person or via electronic means. Those nominated are as follows:

President (1)                      Charles J. Mackintosh

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (1)        Dennis C. Sharpe

2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (1)	William L. Merola Jr.
Secretary (1)	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer (1)	Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	Clayton E. Tucker
Chaplain (1)	Dcn. Richard 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, Joseph Hartman, Walter R. "Butch" Kienzle III, Christopher Kislow, Eugene M. Sharpe, C. Robert Winkler III

**Good of the Order**

President Chuck Mackintosh wished everyone a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.

Thank you to the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2 for hosting the evening and providing refreshments.

**Adjournment**

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Richard Maxwell. Dcn. Maxwell wished everyone a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. 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 December 17, 2025 at the Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company. Election of officers for 2026 will be conducted.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Wed. Nov. 26, 2025	18:00	Bayview VFC @ Motts Creek Inn,	Thanksgiving Eve - Fireman's Night Out
Mon. Dec. 1, 2025	18:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Fire Training Center	Meeting/Presentation, Central Dispatch and Call Center
Sat. Dec. 13, 2025	19:00	Hammonton VFD	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (lineup 18:00 & parade 19:00)
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Sat. Jun. 6, 2026		Germania VFC	Germania Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration

**ACFFA Meetings****Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

Wed. 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. 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**

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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. 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. Nov. 20, 2025	19:30	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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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