

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*



December 17, 2025

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:30 on December 17, 2025 at the Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company 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 Assistant Chief William Hancock of the Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Hancock welcomed all to Bargaintown.

## In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 38 of 172      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 19 of 43

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the November 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 \$91,723.59, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America    /    Bank of America    /    Parke Bank    /    Parke Bank    /    Parke Bank  
Checking: \$6,265.14    /    Savings: \$3,023.64    /    Checking: \$49,082.34    /    Money Market: \$1,037.22    /    CD – 4.247%, matures 4/5/2026: \$32,315.25

## Committee Reports

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for January 12, 2026 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center.

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that 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. Howard reported that Dana McCullough, from Vernon Advisors, will be in attendance to review how their company can assist the association with credit card acceptance and fundraising utilizing a program package that they will discount for the association. Howard also reported that the Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony has been scheduled for 7PM, Monday January 5, 2026, at the Egg Harbor Twp. Community Center. Howard noted that if he is nominated and elected to continue as Chairman, it will be his thirtieth year serving as such. Howard thanked all the association leadership and membership for continuing the great work

that the association does. Howard reflected on the personal difficulties he faced over the past year with medical diagnosis and treatments and thanked everyone that reached out to offer kind words, to encourage him to keep fighting, and help him through a difficult time. Howard reminded everyone that we are all in this together and to remember Faith, Family, Friends, and Firefighters.

**Atlantic County Radio Communications** – Howard Berchtold that the December 1<sup>st</sup> presentation of the “Centralized Fire/EMS Dispatch Center Feasibility Study” and the “NG9-1-1 Cost Impact Analysis” reports was well attended, including from those representing some of the police departments. Howard shared some of his impressions on how the presentation went with those that were in attendance. Howard noted that there was good representation from across the county and that some better clarity of the next steps in the process moving forward will be. Howard emphasized that chiefs should continue the discussion with their municipal leadership by highlighting the potential benefit of a central call center with fire and EMS dispatching, including the primary goals of increasing public safety by minimizing delays. Howard reminded everyone that twenty of the twenty-one counties in New Jersey have some form of a central call center and dispatching. Howard reported that he would like the county fire service to help keep the discussion going and that a public relations campaign may help to do so. Howard recommended that the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association work with the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association to draft a joint letter to the Atlantic County Mayors’ Association highlighting the benefit of a central call center with fire and EMS dispatching. Butch Kienzle recommended that the letter be directed to the Atlantic County League of Municipalities as that may have a greater impact. After some discussion the consensus was that a joint letter could be sent to both organizations. Howard noted that, if approved, he, along with some of the working group, would develop a draft letter to be sent. Howard asked everyone to continue advocating for the central call center with fire and EMS dispatching as this is currently in the early stages of the process as this was a presentation of a feasibility study and there are many more steps involved in developing a plan that works for the benefit of public safety and minimizing delays.

**Training** – Instructor Rob Winkler reported that the Spring 2026 Course Book has been mailed and that the next Firefighter I class will start on February 19<sup>th</sup> and the next Firefighter II class will start on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Rob reminded everyone that all new, and current, Firefighters/Students will need to have a myNJ account and a NJ Division of Fire Safety firefighter ID number before registering for any NJDFS certification courses and that instructions to obtain are included in the latest course book. Rob provided an update on the New Jersey transition to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the firefighter skills textbook and noted that it will likely not transition until later in the year. Rob reported that the instructor gear room project has started and that the refurb of classroom four is ongoing. Rob thanked Chief Gene Sharpe and Asst, Chief Will Hancock, Bargaintown Vol. Fire Company, for the donation of almost 2,000 feet of 1 1/4" hose to replace fire academy hose that failed recent testing after serving the academy longer than would have normally been expected. Rob reported that the final RIC challenge exam is scheduled for April and that the Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony has been scheduled for 7PM, Monday January 5, 2026, at the Egg Harbor Twp. Community Center with thirty-four recruits graduating.

**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 no later than the morning of Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr. reported wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe New Year. Chip reported that he emailed several updates about the state foam takeback program to the chiefs. Fire Departments that have already registered will be able to drop off the foam in Cumberland County on certain dates. No date has yet been set for Atlantic County departments. Chip reported that the Wildfire Structure Triage class scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup> is now at capacity.

**NJ State Firemen’s Assn.** – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported on upcoming reports and their due dates noting that all reports are available to complete ahead of the due date.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association** – Butch Kienzle reported the Chiefs’ Association was copied on a letter sent from Michael Steinman, Coordinator Atlantic County Office of Emergency Management, to Richard Mikutsky, Director / (NJ) State Fire Coordinator, submitting Clyde W. Stockton Jr. for re-appointment to the position of Atlantic County Fire Coordinator and serve a two-year term commencing on January 1, 2026. A copy of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association letter recommending the re-appointment of Clyde W. Stockton Jr. to the position was included with Mr. Steinman’s submission to the State Fire Coordinator. Butch reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be 8:00 PM on January 27, 2026, at the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department and there will be no meeting in February. Butch wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**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 likely meet at least a couple more times to finish the

review of nominations and new guidelines for future 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 31<sup>st</sup> for the following April recognition ceremony.

**Audit** – Kim Feinstein reported that they are looking to schedule the annual audit on January 30, 2026.

**Fundraising** – President Chuck Mackintosh reported that Jaime Mellon was able to obtain a proposal from Seaview Golf for the tournament. Chuck reported that January 12<sup>th</sup> is tentative for the next meeting to review proposals and asked anyone interested in joining the fundraising committee to contact him. Chris Kislow reported he is continuing to work on the discount card fundraiser and that he has the letter to businesses requesting that they join the program.

### **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 to approve the 2026/2027 meeting schedule as submitted by Secretary Mellon.

#### 2026/2027 Meeting schedule for the Executive Committee (meetings at 19:30):

March 13 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri.) – Cardiff	May 1 – Longport
July 10 (2nd Fri.) – Somers Point #1	September 4 – Absecon
October 30 – South Egg Harbor	January 8, 2027 (2nd Fri.) – Pomona

#### 2026/2027 Meeting schedule for the Regular Meetings (third Wednesday of month at 19:30):

March 18 – Weekstown	April 15 - Fire Training Center (Host Margate)	May 20 – Bayview
June 17 – East Vineland	July 15 – Linwood	August 19 – Cologne
September 16 – Hammonton #2	October 21 – Port Republic	November 18 – Somers Point #1
December 16 – Scullville	January 20, 2027 – Egg Harbor City	February 17, 2027 – Longport

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association join with the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association to draft a joint letter to both the Atlantic County Mayors' Association and the Atlantic County League of Municipalities noting some potential benefits of a central call center and fire/EMS dispatch along with requesting to attend one of their meetings to present that information and answer questions.

### **Bills**

The bills, totaling \$40,551.51, 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 - \$1,101.34 (credit card) / Jaime Mellon - \$1,500.00 (Stipend, IRS1099) / Robert Mellon - \$1,500.00 (Stipend, IRS1099) / Suburban Propane - \$1,982.52 (propane) / Atl. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association - \$70.00 (fwd. dues for ACFCA paid to ACFFA) / Instructor Payroll - \$34,397.65 (direct deposit)

### **Election of Officers**

The election of officers was held. All positions were unopposed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the secretary cast the ballot for all unopposed positions. Those elected to office for the year 2026 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**

Chris Kislow reported that Pomona Volunteer Fire Company will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday, October 3, 2026.

President Mackintosh thanked everyone for the ongoing support and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year.

Thank you to the Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company 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 20:25. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on January 21, 2026 in Egg Harbor City. This meeting includes the annual memorial service of the association. Please submit the names of those that have passed during 2025, no later than January 12<sup>th</sup>, so that they may be included in the memorial service program and plan on attending the meeting and service in full class A dress uniform.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Mon. Jan. 5, 2026	19:00	Egg Harbor Twp. Community Center	Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony
Sat. Jun. 6, 2026		Germania VFC	Germania Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration
Tues. Aug. 11, 2026	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 18, 2026		Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 19, 2026		Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Oct. 3, 2026		Pomona VFC	Pomona Vol. Fire Co. 100th Anniversary Celebration
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**ACFFA Meetings****Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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
Wed. Mar. 18, 2026	19:30	Weekstown VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Apr. 15, 2026	19:30	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center (Host -Margate FD)	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation
Wed. May 20, 2026	19:30	Bayview VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 17, 2026	19:30	East Vineland VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 15, 2026	19:30	Linwood FD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 19, 2026	19:30	Cologne VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 16, 2026	19:30	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 21, 2026	19:30	Port Republic VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 18, 2026	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 16, 2026	19:30	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 20, 2027	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 17, 2027	19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee**

Fri. Jan. 2, 2026	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)
Fri. Mar. 13, 2026	19:30	Cardiff VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. May 1, 2026	19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 10, 2026	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 4, 2026	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Oct. 30, 2026	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 8, 2027	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

**Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings****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
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**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association**

Tues. Jan. 27, 2026	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
February 2026-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----
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**Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.**

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