

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*



January 21, 2026

## **Annual Memorial Service**

The annual memorial service of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association commenced at 19:30 on January 21, 2026 at the Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department and was conducted by President Charles J. Mackintosh and Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. with Chaplain Deacon Richard Maxwell giving the invocation and homily, the memorial candles being lit by 1st Vice President Dennis C. Sharpe and 2nd Vice President William L. Merola Jr., and the bell being tolled by Robert Winkler as Secretary Robert A. Mellon read the roll of the Firefighters of Atlantic County who answered their last alarm during the past year.

Firefighters of the Final Roll were:

### **ATLANTIC CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Robert Edwin Schumacker, Sr.

Joseph Peter Previti, Jr. "Capt. Crazy"

### **BARGAINTOWN FIRE COMPANY / ATLANTIC CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Gerald Lee Dixon "Jerry"

### **BAYVIEW FIRE COMPANY**

Bruce Brennenstuhl

### **DOROTHY FIRE COMPANY**

Emmett R. Kresge, Jr.

### **EAST VINELAND FIRE COMPANY**

Robert L. Casazza

Edward John Bachinsky

### **EGG HARBOR CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Theodore O. Reinhard, Jr. "Ted"

Paul H. Rundio

### **ESTELL MANOR FIRE COMPANY / NEW JERSEY FOREST FIRE SERVICE**

Daniel Joseph Collins

### **FARMINGTON FIRE COMPANY**

Howard E. Willetts, Jr.

### **GERMANIA FIRE COMPANY / LINWOOD FIRE COMPANY**

Herbert Ernest Mimler, Jr.

### **GERMANIA FIRE COMPANY**

Louis Albert Schairer

John Kurtz, Jr.

### **LONGPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT**

John Anthony Stroebele, III

### **MAYS LANDING FIRE COMPANY**

Robert A. Hamilton "Bobby"

Robert W. Ingersoll "Bob"

Joseph Herbert

### **OCEANVILLE FIRE COMPANY**

Dr. Dennis Weiss

Joseph Harry King, Sr.

### **OCEANVILLE FIRE COMPANY / BAYVIEW FIRE COMPANY**

Michael Douglas Lancaster

### **PLEASANTVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

LeRoy Josiah Borden

Edward Feldman

### **POMONA FIRE COMPANY**

Bruce R. Guenther

John R. Filling "Jack"

### **SCULLVILLE FIRE COMPANY**

Arthur L. Handson

### **SOMERS POINT FIRE COMPANY #1 / NORTHFIELD FIRE COMPANY**

Michael J. Weierbach, Sr.

### **SOMERS POINT FIRE COMPANY #1**

Michael H. Kennedy, Jr.

Charles D. Ross, Sr.

### **SOMERS POINT FIRE COMPANY #2**

Robert A. Dutcher

### **SWEETWATER FIRE COMPANY**

Harry R. Craig, Jr.

### **VENTNOR CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Thomas Martin Anderson "Tom"

Bertram Sabo, Jr. "Bert"

### **WEYMOUTH FIRE COMPANY**

John M. Barrett, Jr.

### **177<sup>th</sup> FIGHTER WING FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Stephan Makar

The "Striking of the Four Fives" was tolled on the bell by Robert Winkler, "The Lord's Prayer" was sung by Donna Marie and Howard Berchtold, followed by the playing of "Taps" by Bugler Joe Ward. The memorial service closing prayer was conducted by Chaplain Deacon Richard Maxwell.

## **Call to Order**

The annual reorganizational meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 19:50 on January 21, 2026 at the Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department by President Charles J. Mackintosh. The meeting was opened with the flag salute. President Mackintosh then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Opening Remarks**

President Charles J. Mackintosh welcomed all to the annual reorganizational meeting. President Mackintosh asked that everyone remember and honor those that have passed. President Mackintosh then took a moment to read a prepared statement.

“Good evening, everyone. Thank you for coming. On behalf of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association, I want to welcome each of you — our members, families, friends, and neighbors — to today's memorial gathering.

This is always a special and emotional day for us. It's a day when we pause from our busy lives to remember those who stood beside us in the firehouse, on the call, and in our hearts. These men and women weren't just firefighters — they were our mentors, teammates, and friends. They were part of our family.

When we lose one of our own, it leaves a space that can never truly be filled. But moments like this help remind us that their spirit still lives on — in the stories we share, in the lessons they taught us, and in the way they made us stronger, braver, and more caring people.

Firefighting isn't something any of us do for recognition. We do it out of love — for our community, for each other, and for those who depend on us. The people we honor today understood that deeply, and they lived it every day.

So, as we remember them today, let's not only feel the sadness of their absence, but also the pride of having known them. Let's celebrate their courage, their kindness, and the legacy they leave behind in every station, every call, and every heart they touched.

Thank you all for being here, and for helping us keep their memory — and their light — alive.”

President Mackintosh introduced Chief Walter “Butch” Kienzle III of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department. Chief Kienzle welcomed the membership and guests to Egg Harbor City. Chief Kienzle then introduced the line officers of the fire department and reported that Egg Harbor City Mayor Lisa Jiampetti was unable to be in attendance.

## **Introduction of Invited Guests**

President Mackintosh welcomed and introduced guests: John W. Risley Jr., Chairman Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners; James A. Bertino, Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners; Joseph J. Giraldo, Atlantic County Clerk; Joseph O'Donoghue, Atlantic County Sheriff; Michael A. Fedorko, Department Head of Atlantic County Department of Public Safety; David G. Buzby, Atlantic County Fire Marshal; and Clyde W. “Chip” Stockton Jr., Atlantic County Fire Coordinator.

## **In Attendance**

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 53 of 172      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 26 of 43

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

## **Dispensing of Regular Business**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the regular business except for the report of the treasurer and the paying of the bills.

## **Report of Treasurer**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer, totaling \$97,653.47, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Parke Bank / Parke Bank / Parke Bank  
Checking: \$6,265.14 / Savings: \$3,023.70 / Checking: \$54,665.43 / Money Market: \$1,043.35 / CD, matures 4/5/2026: \$32,655.85

## **Paying of Bills**

The bills, totaling \$173.91, 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 - \$173.91 (credit card)

## **Remarks**

President Chuck Mackintosh reported on some of the training stats from 2025. Two career academies ran with a total of twenty-two recruits. Two evening/weekend Firefighter I classes ran with a total of seventy-two recruits. Two evening/weekend Firefighter II classes ran with a total of forty-five Firefighters trained to the higher standard. A total of thirty-nine live burns were conducted for various company level training evolutions. A total of eight flashover training classes were conducted for various company level training. There were eight specialty classes providing advanced training to a total of one hundred fifty-eight Firefighters.

Howard Berchtold offered remarks on the state of the association and thanked all the families for their support that allows our membership to do the many jobs within the county fire service. Howard thanked the Officers and members of the Executive Committee for their effort over the last year and commented on how well the year went. Howard thanked Atlantic County government leadership for their partnership with this association to provide one of the finest training programs in New Jersey. Howard noted that this partnership with Atlantic County government is integral to the success of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association and the Atlantic County Fire Academy at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Fire Training Center. Howard reported that the training center is now over thirty years old and it does not show due to the incredible partnership of the county career and volunteer fire departments, the dedication of the Fire Instructors, and the support of Atlantic County government leadership.

Howard took a moment to speak of his battle with cancer over the last year and the support he received from Dcn. Rich Maxwell even as Dcn. Maxwell had a hard year with the loss of his wife. Howard reported on the increased recognition of cancer diagnosis within the fire service and the ongoing successful efforts to recognize several cancers as now being presumptively job related and the ongoing push to provide for cancer screening for all members in the fire service. Howard reported that they are working on additional presentations about cancer in the fire service and screening programs available. Howard reported that there will be a push to increase fundraising on behalf of the association in 2026 to assist with increasing costs to conduct business. Immediate plans include a local business discount card program and a golf tournament. Howard also reported that the effort to get a central 9-1-1 call center with fire/EMS dispatch in Atlantic County will continue and noted that twenty, of twenty-one, NJ Counties already have some form of centralized call taking and dispatch. Howard asked all members to keep talking about the need for the centralized call taking and dispatch emphasizing the importance of public safety by minimizing delays.

## **Installation of Officers for 2026**

John W. Risley Jr., Chairman - Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners, installed the following into office for the year 2026:

President	Charles J. Mackintosh
1st Vice President	Dennis C. Sharpe
2nd Vice President	William L. Merola Jr.
Secretary	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer	Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sec./Trea.	Clayton E. Tucker
Chaplain	Dcn. Richard Maxwell
Sgt.-at-Arms	Charles Harlan
Executive Comm.	Howard Berchtold Jr., Levon S. "Lefty" Clayton, Marc J. Corsiglia,

Kim Feinstein, Joe Hartman, Walter R. "Butch" Kienzle III,  
Christopher Kislow, C. Robert Winkler III

Not present were:

Sgt.-at-Arms                      Wayne Dilks, William Donath  
Executive Comm.                Eugene M. Sharpe

**Good of the Order**

John W. Risley Jr., Chairman Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners, reported that he expects the Board of County Commissioners to introduce and vote on a resolution to support of the concept of a central 9-1-1 call center with fire/EMS dispatch in Atlantic County at their February meeting.

President Chuck Mackintosh asked everyone to stay safe and wished all a Healthy, Happy New Year.

President Mackintosh reminded everyone that the Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition will be held in April and that January 31<sup>st</sup> is the cutoff date for receiving the nominations of valor and submitting the names of those that have achieved fifty years in the fire service.

Thank you to the Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the evening.

**Adjournment**

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Deacon Richard Maxwell.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:20. The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on February 18, 2026 in Longport.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Fri. Mar. 27, 2026	17:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	14th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner
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. 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. 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. Apr. 20, 2026	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 20, 2026	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Oct. 19, 2026	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 11, 2027	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association**

Tues. Jan. 27, 2026	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs 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