ABRIDGED REPORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION Wall TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY February 26, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Ordway at 9:00A.M in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. He stated that notice of this meeting was posted on the New Jersey State Firemen's website as required pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975). The fire exits were pointed out. He also stated that there will be an Executive Session towards the end of the meeting

Vice President Hankins led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Ordway asked for a moment of silence.

Executive Committeeman Mellert gave the invocation.

President Ordway asked Counsel Cavallo to administer the oath of office to Field Examiner Jennie Hollingsworth.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was held. All Officers and Executive Committee members present. President Ordway then formally introduced Field Examiner Hollingsworth who responded that she is thankful for everyone support.

President Ordway then asked Past Field Examiner Kenny to come forward for a presentation in appreciation for his work as Field Examiner for the past 10 years. The Executive Committee responded with a standing ovation. Mr. Kenny thanked all for their support throughout the years

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Abridged Minutes and Verbatim Minutes of the November 20, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting were approved as distributed on a motion by Executive Committeeman Scheuer seconded by Executive Committeeman Fazekas. Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Secretary Pelaia said there was no current Communications other than those in your packet. A motion was made to accept the correspondence submitted, by Executive Committeeman Handlin seconded by Executive Committeeman Walker. Motion carried.

LIFE MEMBERS: None

OFFICERS REPORT:

Vice President Hankins report: He reported the following:

- 1) He thanked all the Executives for submitting the Caucus dates and locations. They are now posted on our website.
- 2) He stated that he and First Assistant Secretary Martone are working on the Convention Committees, and they will probably need to revamp some of their duties
- 3) He stated that he is on the subcommittee from the Firemen's Home. The committee is in discussions with the Home Managers subcommittee regarding our concerns. He said we will take no action on any concerns until we are satisfied.

Secretary's Report: He reported the following:

- 1) He reminded everyone that Local Associations must use Membership Applications with a revision date of 5/19 or later. He stated when applications are received with dates prior to 5/19, that they are returned to the Secretary's. The applicant does not become a member until the correct application is received and a line number issued.
- 2) He reminded all that election petitions to have a name printed on the ballot for Officers, Executive Committee and Firemen's Home Manager are due in our office by June 1, 2022. Petitions are available on the Forms tab on the Home Page of our website.
- 3) Convention Resolutions are due in our office no later than May 1, 2022.
- 4) Our Statutes, Compendium, By-Laws, and Secretary Treasurer Manual are being updated this spring and will be posted on the website when complete.

First Assistant Secretary Report: The Convention Committee workers list will be sent to the Executives in May

Second Assistant Secretary Report: He stated that he is waiting for the Contract from the Video Company who will videotape the Memorial Service at this year's Convention. He also reminded the Treasurers that when they send their Bank Statements in that they include copies of the cancelled checks. Some banks do not provide them, and they should be asked if this can be done. He also requests that they put in the memo part of the check, what the check is for. This will expedite the review process.

Treasurer Report: The Final audits of the Regular Account and Retirement Accounts for the past fiscal year have been received and distributed to the Executive Committee. The Auditors have now started the quarterly audits for the current fiscal year. He also stated that he is working with the IRS on the penalties issued to Associations who filed their IRS FORM 990 manually rather then on-line in the 2020 filing. PLEASE NOTE: Effective with the 2021 filings for the 990N, 990EZ and 990 must be submitted virtually beginning 1/1/2022.

Field Examiner Report: Her written report is in the packets. She thanked all the Executives who signed up to assist with the Field Exams. There are a few more spots where help is needed. If an Executive can assist, please notify Jennie.

Counsel Cavallo Report: No Report for the open meeting but he will report on current litigation in Executive Session.

Assistant Counsel Morris Report: Counsel Morris informed everyone that there is a report in their packet regarding the Open Public Records Act (OPRA). If anyone has any questions regarding it is asked to see him after the meeting.

President's Report: He had no written report but reported the following:

- 1) He reminded everyone that the office will be closed on April 15 for Good Friday.
- 2) Field Exams: He thanked all the Executives for setting up the locations and to all Executives who signed up for working at the Exams. We still need some more Executives to work. Please notify Field Examiner Hollingsworth if you are available to work.
- 3) Reports:
- a)The first quarter Relief Paid report is due April 30. They must be submitted online. Hard copies will not be accepted.
- b)Officer Listings were due on January 31. 100% were received on time.
- c)The Annual Financial Standing report was due on January 20. There were 3 reports not submitted on time. Action will be taken under New Business.
- d) Membership Reports are due February 28. Next year it will be mandatory to do these reports online.
- e) President Ordway reminded everyone that Delegate and Alternate reports are due by May 1.
- f) IRS Form 990 are due to the IRS on May 15, and a copy to us by June 14. Form 990 and 990EZ must be submitted online with the IRS and you will need a CPA, Tax Accountant, or a Service Provider to file these for you. You can still file the 990N postcard version online.
- g) He reminded everyone that the earlier that you start to prepare reports, the more time that you will have to contact us in case you need help.
- **4)** There is a year-to-date comparison report in your packets comparing 2000 vs 2021 for which we paid out benefits.
- 5) We are anticipating a two (2) day Convention in September unless something major occurs. We will be discussing the agenda under New Business.
- 6) Since we are dealing with the Legislature more and more, he asked Counsel to investigate a DBA (DOING BUSINESS AS) the New Jersey State Firefighters Association. This will show the Legislature that we represent all genders in our Association.

- 7) There are 5 counties who will have elections for Firemen's Home Manager. They are Cumberland, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, and Morris. These elections will be held at the County Caucuses. The procedure as done last year will be the same. If a candidate wants his name on the Ballot, he needs to fill out a petition and submit it to our Secretary by June 1, 2022. Petitions are available on the Forms tab on our website or by calling the State Office.
- 8) President Ordway then spoke about Caucuses. The Executive Committee needs to decide if we have a meeting or just a walk-through Caucus. He would like to see whatever way is chosen that it be the same for all counties. As was done in the past 2 years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADVISORY/ SPECIAL / SUPPLEMNTAL COMMITTEE: Executive Committeeman Mellert stated that there is a report in the packet

COMPENDIUM COMMITTEE: Executive Committeeman Walker reported the Compendium Committee met and the minutes are in everyone's packet and will also be attached to these minutes. We will be voting on several items under new business.

DELEGATE AND LIFE MEMBER COMMITTEE: Executive Committeeman Roemmich said he had no report for this meeting. There will be a report at the next meeting

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee Report is in your packet. The Finance Committee found everything in order.

FIREMEN'S HOME COMMITTEE: There is a report in the packet.

HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE: The Report has been submitted.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: There is a report in your packet. There will be further discussion under New Business. Executive Committeeman Naylis asked if we are aware of any issues with our investments due to the situation in Ukraine. Treasurer Mullen stated that they have not met since the invasion, but our investment brokers are watching the situation carefully.

LEGISLATIVE: First Assistant Secretary Martone reported that his report is in the packets. He mentioned that the Firemen's Home Bill A6233 sponsored by Assemblyman Burzichelli was withdrawn from the committee agenda prior to being discussed. The Assembly Committee prior to the hearing received 732 registration forms opposing the Bill.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE: No Report

PENSION COMMITTEE: Treasurer Mullen reported that the committee met this morning and a change regarding the benefit to unmarried recipients was distributed this morning. This will be voted on in new business.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE: No Report

SALARY COMMITTEE: No Report and the committee will be meeting before the next meeting with a recommendation for the next fiscal year.

FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION – He reported on the highlights of the January Fire Commission Meeting. The updated Fire Code is expected to be released in the first part of this year. The Division also had a flyer made regarding sources that a firefighter can reach out to if they need help. Chairman Naylis had some made and they were distributed to the Executives.

APPLICATIONS: Paperwork was received from the Lakewood Firemen's Relief Association for a new Company, and everything was in order A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Florio and seconded by Executive Committeeman Kelly to accept the new Company. Passed 21-0

OLD BUSINESS: There was a motion put on the table at the last Executive Committee meeting to have the May Executive Committee meeting held in Wildwood. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman and seconded by Executive Committeeman Kelly to remove the motion from the table. Passed 21-0. With the motion now off the table which said we should go to Wildwood; On a Roll Call Vote DEFEATED 21-0. The May meeting will be held at the State Office.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Compendium Chairman Walker reported that the Compendium Committee reviewed the Executive Committee's decision at our last meeting that the Legislative Committee will not receive a Convention Allowance paid by the State. It was realized that the Compendium states that they will be paid. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman seconded by Executive Committeeman Spiegel to pay the Legislative Committee, a Convention Allowance for attending the Convention and a Committee allowance if they attend their Caucus and give a report. On a Roll Call Vote Passed 18-3 2) The Compendium Committee discussed the Burial Benefit paying the surviving Spouse, civil union partner domestic or common law partner at the time of death and what happens if they are not living with each other at that time. The Committee said that there would be no recommendation since the Compendium is specific on this matter.

3) A recommendation was brought forward that we change the Convention Agenda whereby we conduct all business including The Memorial Service, Reports, and Speeches, etc. as part of Friday's Agenda. On Saturday we will conduct the Election of Officers and voting on Resolutions the same way as was done last year. President Ordway then said that Secretary Pelaia put together a spreadsheet (which is in the packets with the time of each session of the past 4 years. He stated that most of these reports are now included in the information packet that is given out at the Caucus.

A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Handlin, seconded by Mr. Mellert, that we agree with change the agenda put forward by the Compendium Committee. Discussion on the motion were: is the Memorial Service going to be the same as in the past and the answer was Yes, Are the speakers going to be introduced by name only? The Congressional and State Leadership will probably say a few words. Finally, are the Election results going to be available at the close of voting. President Ordway said that after the voting last year the results were posted online within 10 minutes, of the votes being counted. On a Roll Call Vote Passed 19-2

President Ordway then stated that the Agenda for the Convention will be worked out and available at the May Meeting,

- 4) President Ordway asked the Executive Committee if they would like to have the walk-through caucuses as been done the past 2 years or a meeting as was done before the pandemic. He stated that all caucuses should either be walk through or meeting type. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Mellert that we have a full caucus which includes both a meeting and voting, Seconded by Executive Committeeman Florio Ona a Roll Call Vote Passed 15-6
- 4) Vice President Hankins stated that a Resolution was distributed prior to the meeting regarding non married participants should they pass away while still employed. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Kelly and seconded by Executive Figueroa Ona a Roll Call Vote Passed 19-0-1
- 5) President Ordway said there were two Associations who did not submit their Financial Standing report on time. They were South Harrison in Gloucester County and Washington Boro in Warren County. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Philips. Seconded by Executive Committeeman Scheuer that these 2 Associations, not be seated for the 2022 Convention. There was also discussion regarding a letter that was received prior to the meeting from Washington Boro requesting an appeal. The request was denied since there is no appeals allowed. On a Roll Call Vote Passed 20-1.

- 6) President Ordway then stated that Helmetta Association who is not being seated for the 2022 Convention for not submitting their Pink and Blue Vouchers on time, now have failed to submit their Financial Standing Report on time. President Ordway stated that they can be held Out of Accord. Whereby the State Office would take control of their Association. This also means that no new members will be accepted, and current members will not receive percentages from the day they are put out of accord. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Naylis, seconded by Executive Committeeman Reeves that we place Helmetta under review and if they do not submit the Financial Standing Report and Active Membership Report by March 15, 2022 ,that they be put Out of Accord. On a Roll Call Vote Passed 21-0.
- 7) President Ordway then asked Executive Committeeman Naylis if the Association in Bergen County that is under review, ready to come out of review. Executive Committee Naylis said that progress is being made but he feels they have a way to go before they come out of review. He would like to address this at our Next Executive Committee Meeting.
- 8) President Ordway stated that there is the Active Membership Report due on February 28 and the first Quarter Relief Paid Report due April 30. He asked for approval that the Officers can put anybody who does submit these reports on-time, not to be seated at this year's Convention so they can let their members know that they are not seated. A motion was made by Executive man Kelly, seconded by Executive Committeeman Kurdyla to have the Associations who do not submit these reports on time not to be seated. Passed 21-0
- 9) President Ordway then said we are looking at our finances with the numbers approved for Special and Health Care. We feel that on the state level we may be at a deficit of 1.8 million dollars. We are estimating that the field this year has grown by approximately 6.3 million dollars this year. So, the recommendation by us is to go to a 60% that the State office holds and 40% to the This will no affect anybody receiving supplemental funds. This will not affect the smaller Associations as they will get a minimum of \$10,000.00. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Naylis, seconded by Executive Committeeman Reeves to have a 60%(for the State/and a 40% for the Local Associations) split. There was discussion on the motion. Executive Committeeman Handlin said he feels that it is the right move to make because the funds are going into our programs especially Special Relief and Health Care. President Ordway also mentioned that reviewing the State Office expenses over the past 5 years, they have remained steady. Executive Committeeman Otterbein then asked how the Association's decrease would affect the Administrative Expenses for the Local Associations. President Ordway responded that it will not have any affect since Administrative Expenses are calculated prior to the split in funds. There was much discussion on this from the Executive Committee because some Associations aren't

aware that Administrative Expenses are calculated on the total funds and interest. On a Roll Call Vote, Passed 21-0

- 10) Executive Committeeman Naylis recommends that we take an active role in Cancer Screening for our members. First Assistant Secretary Martone stated that that the bill passed last year was only for Career Firefighters covered by New Jersey State Health Benefits. Some legislators are moving to have all firefighters covered for Cancer Screening. President Ordway said that he is awaiting word from one of the Major Hospital Corporations in the State who is developing a Cancer Screening program for Firefighters. The program has been delayed with its roll out due to the pandemic and is awaiting further news about this.
- 11) Executive Committeewoman Badger asked questions on a part-time career firefighter regarding percentages. President Ordway responded that this is a discussion we are having in the office presently and it is being forwarded to the Compendium Committee for review.
- 12) Executive Committeewoman Badger inquired id she can poll her Associations regarding the type of Caucus they want, being a meeting or a walk through. President Ordway responded that for fairness he feels that all the caucuses be run the same way, BUT. He said that the Caucus is the Executive Committee persons meeting and they will have the final say regarding the way the caucus will be run.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Prior to opening the meeting to Public Comment, President Ordway informed all that at the last Executive Committee a question was asked if the information in the Executive Committee's packet can be made available to the guests attending the meeting. Counsel Cavallo said that since the information in the packet has not been voted on, it would be inappropriate to have it circulated before the vote.

President Ordway then opened the meeting to public comment and asked First Assistant Secretary Martone to read the following: The New Jersey State Firemen's Association welcomes comments from the members of the audience. He further stated the secretary will note all comments and that because of this he asked anyone speaking to state their name and address before speaking and to keep their comments to a 3-minute time limit. Concerns stated or actions requested by the public will be taken under advisement by the Executive Committee for Investigation, discussion and possible action or disposition later:

1) William Smith, the president of the New Jersey State Fire Chiefs Association brought everyone up to date with their future programs:

There was no further Public Comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Spiegel, seconded by Executive Committeeman Kelly to move to Executive Session. Executive Session at 10:47am.

A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Lane, seconded by Executive Committee Otterbein to return to the Regular Session at 11:40am.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- 1)President Ordway said we accomplished a lot today and thanked the Executive Committee for all their hard work.
- 2) Executive Committeeman Lenarski requested that everything we need to vote on should be sent to the Executives prior in a timely manner. Secretary Pelaia responded that almost everything was sent out to the Executives including the items that were specifically mentioned. President Ordway stated that we will make sure those specific items will be in the packets in the future.

AJOURNMENT: With no other business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Executive Committeeman Fazekas seconded by Executive Committeeman Scheuer at 11:47am.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Pelaia Secretary

1711 Route 34 South, Wall Township, NJ 07727

DATE OF MEETING:	February 26, 2021
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PRES ABS

ROBERT F. ORDWAY	PRESIDENT	X) o o	7	<u>a</u>		
JOSEPH T. HANKINS	VICE PRESIDENT	X		1 ≥ 8	Meeting in Wildwood for 2022.	9 0	from the State Office for Annual Convention.	enc		
THOMAS J. PELAIA	SECRETARY	X		ĺ≝iŧ	000	ati;	Ei Ei	Ag Ag		
BRIAN E. MARTONE	1ST ASS'T SECY	X		- Hold May Committee	Ď.	gis	g g	ge	Ž.	
RICHARD K. DREBY	2ND ASS'T SECY	X		- 8	n Wilc 2022.	Vote #2 - Legislative	m the State Office Annual Convention.	E	iai Col 2022.	
EDWARD R. MULLEN	TREASURER	X		Vote #1 - Executive	<u>=</u> %	27 8	S C C C	Vote #3 - Change Agenda for Annual Convention 2022.		
JENNIE HOLLINGSWORTH	FIELD EXAMINER	X		Vote #1 Executiv	ing	Vote #2	the like	#3 . Ann		
FRANK P. CAVALLO, JR.	COUNSEL	X		▎옭ὤ	eel	> =	e e	te #		
GEORGE M. MORRIS	ASS'T COUNSEL	X		1	Σ	ပိ	, f S ,		-	
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CINDY L. BADGER	ATLANTIC	X			X	X		Х		
GERARD J. NAYLIS	BERGEN	Х			Х		Х		Х	
STEPHEN C. FAZEKAS	BURLINGTON	Х			Х	X		Х		
NORMAN F. FIGUEROA, JR.	CAMDEN	Х			Х	X		Х		
DANIEL F. SPEIGEL	CAPE MAY	X			Х	Х		Х		
JAMES F. REEVES	CUMBERLAND	X			Х	Х		Х		
RICHARD C. OTTERBEIN	ESSEX	Х			X	Х		Х		
GLENN D. ROEMMICH	GLOUCESTER	Х			X	Х		Х		
LAWERENCE J. HANDLIN	HUDSON	Х			Х		Х	Х		
JOHN R. PHILLIPS	HUNTERDON	X			Х	Х		Х		
JOSEPH M. LENARSKI	MERCER	Х			Х	Х			Х	
ANDREW MAZZARELLA	MIDDLESEX	X			Х	Х		Х		
ROBERT J. KELLY	MONMOUTH	X			Х		Х	Х		
EUGENE T. MINELL	MORRIS	Х			Х	Х		Х		
JOSEPH JUBERT	OCEAN	Х			Х	Х		Х		
JOHN V. LANE	PASSAIC	Х			Х	Х		Х		
FRANCIS X. WALKER, JR.	SALEM	Х			Х	Х		Х		
ALLEN F. KURDYLA	SOMERSET	Х			Х	Х		Х		
DANIEL L. SCHEUER	SUSSEX	Х			Х	Х		Х		
NICHOLAS J. FLORIO	UNION	Х			Х	Х		Х		
KONRAD A. MELLERT	WARREN	Х			Х	Х		Х		
TOTALS		30	0	0	21	18	3	19	2	

GUESTS: Past Secretary, Sanford Weinberg

Past Field Examiner, James Kenny

Bruce Horvath, Middlesex County Firemen's Home Manager William Smith, President NJ State Fire Chief's Association

Will Hollingsworth, Litte Egg Harbor Twp. Nick Lombardi, Piscataway Relief Assoc. Rich Weil, Lakewood Relief Assoc. Bob Sorino, Lakewood Relief Assoc.

1711 Route 34 South, Wall Township, NJ 07727

DATE OF MEETING: February 26, 2021

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PRES ABS

ROBERT F. ORDWAY	PRESIDENT	_ ≥				ء		
JOSEPH T. HANKINS	VICE PRESIDENT	<u> </u>	22	9	of S.	it		
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BRIAN E. MARTONE	1ST ASS'T SECY		ngs		lan Hici	lot (
RICHARD K. DREBY	2ND ASS'T SECY	Vote #4 - Hold Full County	Caucus Meetings 2022	Vote #5 - Accept Resolution to Change	Pension Plan for unmarried participants.	- 8 ± 8		
EDWARD R. MULLEN	TREASURER	Į Ť	ž	# ig	isio ied	e #6 - Not S gton Boro, couth Harris Gloucester.		
JENNIE HOLLINGSWORTH	FIELD EXAMINER	4	Sno	ote	Pen narr	Vote #6 - Not Seat Washington Boro, Warren & South Harrison, Gloucester.		
FRANK P. CAVALLO, JR.	COUNSEL	<u>ë</u>)au	^ ä	T E	ash <	∞5	
GEORGE M. MORRIS	ASS'T COUNSEL		O		ر	Š	××	
		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	
CINDY L. BADGER	ATLANTIC	X		X		X		
GERARD J. NAYLIS	BERGEN	X		X		X		
STEPHEN C. FAZEKAS	BURLINGTON		Х	X		X		
NORMAN F. FIGUEROA, JR.	CAMDEN	Х		X		X		
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JAMES F. REEVES	CUMBERLAND		X	X		X		
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GLENN D. ROEMMICH	GLOUCESTER		X	Х		X		
LAWERENCE J. HANDLIN	HUDSON		Х	X		Х		
JOHN R. PHILLIPS	HUNTERDON	X		X		Х		
JOSEPH M. LENARSKI	MERCER	X		X		Х		
ANDREW MAZZARELLA	MIDDLESEX	X		Х		Х		
ROBERT J. KELLY	MONMOUTH	Х		Х		Х		
EUGENE T. MINELL	MORRIS	X		Х		Х		
JOSEPH JUBERT	OCEAN	X		Х		Х		
JOHN V. LANE	PASSAIC	X		Х		Х		
FRANCIS X. WALKER, JR.	SALEM	Х		Х		Х		
ALLEN F. KURDYLA	SOMERSET			Х		Х		
DANIEL L. SCHEUER	SUSSEX		Х	Х		X		
NICHOLAS J. FLORIO	UNION	Х		Х		Х		
KONRAD A. MELLERT	WARREN	Х			Х		X	
TOTALS		15	6	19	1	20	1	

GUESTS:

1711 Route 34 South, Wall Township, NJ 07727

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PRES ABS

ROBERT F. ORDWAY	PRESIDENT			T	_	T	
JOSEPH T. HANKINS	VICE PRESIDENT	Place Helmetta nder review,	2 or d.	% to	ag ≅	1	
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JENNIE HOLLINGSWORTH	FIELD EXAMINER	te #7 - #152	Financials due 3/15/22 Placed out of Accord	Vote #8 - Change	Split starting in May 2022.		
FRANK P. CAVALLO, JR.	COUNSEL	Vote #7 #152	Jan Pac	eg 9	60/40		
GEORGE M. MORRIS	ASS'T COUNSEL		<u>i</u>	> 8	9		
		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
CINDY L. BADGER	ATLANTIC	Х		X			
GERARD J. NAYLIS	BERGEN	Х		X		İ	
STEPHEN C. FAZEKAS	BURLINGTON	Х		Х			
NORMAN F. FIGUEROA, JR.	CAMDEN	Х		Х			
DANIEL F. SPEIGEL	CAPE MAY	Х		Х			
JAMES F. REEVES	CUMBERLAND	Х		Х			
RICHARD C. OTTERBEIN	ESSEX	Х		Х	Х		
GLENN D. ROEMMICH	GLOUCESTER	Х		X			
LAWERENCE J. HANDLIN	HUDSON	Х		Х			
JOHN R. PHILLIPS	HUNTERDON	Х		Х			
JOSEPH M. LENARSKI	MERCER	Х		Х			
ANDREW MAZZARELLA	MIDDLESEX	Х		Х			
ROBERT J. KELLY	MONMOUTH	Х		Х			
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FRANCIS X. WALKER, JR.	SALEM	Х		Х			
ALLEN F. KURDYLA	SOMERSET	Х		Х			
DANIEL L. SCHEUER	SUSSEX	Х		Х			
NICHOLAS J. FLORIO	UNION	Х		Х			
KONRAD A. MELLERT	WARREN	Х		Х			
TOTALS		21	0	21	0		

GUESTS:

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUARTER ENDING: DECEMBER, 31 2021

CHECKS ISSUED IN VARIOUS AMOUNTS

IDDC	111 11	Madesinieditis	
1	@	\$500.00	\$500.00
1	@	\$793.00	\$793.00
1	@	\$1,066.67	\$1,066.67
1	@	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
1	@	\$2,133.33	\$2,133.33
1	@	\$2,381.00	\$2,381.00
1	@	\$2,555.00	\$2,555.00
1	@	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00
3	@	\$4,000.00	\$12,000.00
1	@	\$4,274.00	\$4,274.00
1	@	\$4,718.50	\$4,718.50
1	@	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
1	@	\$5,545.00	\$5,545.00
2	@	\$5,750.00	\$11,500.00
1	@	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
1	@	\$6,260.00	\$6,260.00
1	@	\$6,455.00	\$6,455.00
1	@	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
1	@	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
1	@	\$7,281.50	\$7,281.50
1	@	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
1	@	\$7,726.00	\$7,726.00
1	@	\$9,119.00	\$9,119.00
2	@	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
1	@	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00
2	@	\$10,750.00	\$21,500.00
1	@	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00
1	@	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00
2	@	\$11,750.00	\$23,500.00
136	@	\$12,000.00	\$1,632,000.00
3	@	\$24,000.00	\$72,000.00
			\$1,924,458.00

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OLIADTED ENDING, DECEMBED 21 2021

QUARTER ENDING: DECEMBER, 31 2021

CLAIMS FILED BETWEEN OCTOBER 01, 2020 AND DECEMBER 31, 2020	309	
CLAIMS FILED BETWEEN OCTOBER 01, 2021 AND DECEMBER 31, 2021	249	
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 01, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020	252	
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 01, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021	164	
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 01, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020	252	\$2,833,885.00
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 01, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021	164	\$1,912,458.00
1 - WIDOW	81	\$965,655.00
2 - DAUGHTER	32	\$350,600.00
	_	
3 - SON	29	\$323,455.00
4 - MOTHER	3	\$27,119.00
5 - FATHER	3	\$31,500.00
6 - UNDERTAKER	18	\$178,879.00
7 - STEP-DGT	1	\$12,000.00
F - GRAND-MOTHER	1	\$500.00
N - CAREGIVER	3	\$34,750.00
	165	\$1,924,458.00

EXPLANATION - NO CLAIMS

NO CLAIMS WERE FILED

PAGE NUMBER: 2

1711 Route 34 South, Wall Township, New Jersey 07727-3934 Telephone: (800) 852-0137

Robert F. Ordway, President Joseph T. Hankins, Vice President Edward R. Mullen, CPA, Treasurer Thomas J. Pelaia, Secretary Brian E. Martone, 1st Asst. Secretary Richard K. Dreby, 2nd Asst. Secretary Frank P. Cavallo, Esq., Counsel ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Konrad Mellert
Francis X. Walker
James Reeves Jr.,
Edward R Mullen, CPA, Secretary-Treasurer
Jennie Hollingsworth, Field Examiner
Gary D. Schwartz, M.D. Consultant

Date: February 26, 2022

To: Executive Committee

From: Special Relief Committee

The Special Relief Committee Report,

• February 17, 2022

• Applications Approved: 10

• For a total of \$58,000

Last year for the same period we approved 17 applications for a total of \$77,915.00

<u>YEAR</u> 2011	APPROVED 155	TOTAL PAYOUT \$177,774.00
2012	172	\$197,225.86
2013	117	\$140,500.00
2014	133	\$146,516.34
2015	138	\$143,550.00
2016	135	\$131,000.00
2017	180	\$396,632.00
2018	168	\$357,819.13
2019	197	\$400,192.69
2020	206	\$867,283.00
2021	178	\$812,217.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Konrad Mellert

Konrad Mellert, Chairman

1711 Route 34 South • Wall Township, New Jersey 07727-3934 Telephone: (732) 798-8137 • (800) 852-0137 Fax: (732) 938-2580

Robert F. Ordway, President Joseph T. Hankins, Vice President Edward R. Mullen, CPA, Treasurer Frank P. Cavallo, Esq., Counsel Thomas J. Pelaia, Secretary Brian E. Martone, 1st Asst. Secretary Richard K. Dreby, 2nd Asst. Secretary Jennie Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

February 26, 2022

FIELD EXAMINERS REPORT

The following applications for Supplementary Relief, Special Relief, and Health Care were processed since January 2022.

	Applications Received	Approved	Returned/D	enied	Amount Paid YTD
Supplementary Relief	7	6	0	1	\$60,500.00
Special Relief	10	10	0	0	\$58,000.00
Health Care	38	38	0	2	\$837,670.29

Field Exams will begin on March 28th continuing till May 23rd the attached has the dates, locations, and sign up for assisting the Field Exams.

Sincerely,

Jennie Hollingsworth

Jennie Hollingsworth Field Examiner

New Jersey State Firemen's Association Compendium Committee Meeting Minutes 01/13/2022

The meeting of the Compendium Committee was called to order at 9:00am by Chairman Frank Walker

Roll Call: Chairman Frank Walker, President Robert Ordway, Vice President Joseph Hankins, Secretary Thomas Pelaia, First Assistant Secretary Brian Martone, Second Assistant Secretary Richard Dreby, Treasurer Ed Mullen, Executive Committeeman John Lane, Executive Committeeman Daniel Speigel (via Zoom), Executive, Executive Committeeman Konrad Mellert, Executive Committeeman Eugene Minnell (via Zoom), Executive Committeeman Glenn Roemmich, Executive Committeeman Daniel Scheuer was excused.

Item #1: First Assistant Secretary Brian Martone started a discussion regarding Legislative Committee members receiving a Convention Allowance from the State Office for attending the Convention. He said that we eliminated the State Office giving them a Convention Allowance, and if they attended the Convention that their Association would give them the allowance that Life Members receive. Some members were inquiring what would happen if the committee member was not a Life Member how would he get an allowance. During the discussions, Executive Committeeman Speigel informed everyone that the Compendium states "Section 1. The President shall appoint annually, a Legislative Committee to consist of one member from each County who must be members of a Local Firemen's Relief Association in the County they are to represent. The First Assistant Secretary shall be appointed as chairman of the Legislative Committee.

Section 2. The President and Counsel of the State Association shall be ex-officio members of the Legislative Committee.

Section 3. The Legislative Committee shall examine all legislative matters pertaining to this Association or to firefighters in general and shall introduce such legislation and aid in its passage, as was decided on by action of the convention or Executive Committee. They shall report to the convention and to the Executive Committee and when, in their judgment, it is to the best interest of the Association. They shall also approve or disapprove any pending legislation. The necessary expenses of said Committee for attending meetings and conventions shall be paid by this Association".

The discussion then moved to the committee members discussing payment for attending meetings. In the past they were given the normal Committee Members allowance for attending the Annual Legislative Committee each spring. The Annual Legislative Committee meeting was changed last year to a Zoom Meeting. Since there was no travel involved, they were not given an allowance. It was then discussed about paying them an allowance to attend county meetings. An issue was then brought up that some counties have monthly meetings and others do not. A decision was then made to return to giving them a Convention Allowance and that they receive a Committee Allowance for attending their annual county caucus only. **PASSED**

Item #2: The next item on the agenda was the payment a surviving spouse, civil union partner, domestic partner or common law partner at the time of death. What happens if they were not living together at the time of death for some reason or another. It was decided to leave the Compendium as is and if there is any issue that may arise in an individual case that it be investigated by the local association and their investigation be presented to the Advisory Committee for a decision.

Item #3: President Ordway deferred to Secretary Pelaia on a suggestion to change the convention agenda. Secretary Pelaia asked the committee to consider changing the agenda for the Convention whereby the Friday Session include all the reports and speakers, and the Saturday Session only be the voting for Officers, like the way it was done last year. A draft of the agenda along with a report of the length of the times that each session took over the past 5 years (attached). The Committee looked favorably on the proposal and recommended that it be presented to the Executive Committee Meeting in February.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15am

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Pelaia Secretary

1711 Route 34 South • Wall Township, New Jersey 07727-3934 Telephone: (732) 798-8137 • (800) 852-0137 Fax: (732) 938-2580

Robert F. Ordway, President Joseph T. Hankins, Vice President Edward R. Mullen, CPA, Treasurer Frank P. Cavallo, Esq., Counsel

Thomas J. Pelaia, Secretary Brian E. Martone, 1st Asst. Secretary Richard K. Dreby, 2nd Asst. Secretary Jennie M. Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

February 7, 2022

Robert F. Ordway, President New Jersey State Firemen's Association 1711 Route 34 South Wall Township, NJ 07727-3934

Dear Mr. President:

A regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on February 7, 2022 at the office of the Association. At that time, the accounts of the Association were audited for the second quarter ending December 31, 2021. Treasurer Edward R. Mullen was available as needed and cooperated fully with the Committee in providing satisfactory answers to any questions that arose during the audit.

The reviews covered the reconciliation of all checks, vouchers, ledger entries and bank statements for the General fund, Burial Fund, Pension, General Checking, Assessment and Special Relief accounts. The Association income documents, bank statements, and credit and debit documents were found to be accurate and in satisfactory condition.

The Committee considers the accounts of the Association to be in satisfactory condition and has no recommendations to make at this time.

Very truly yours,

Robert C. Kepler, Jr., Chairperson

Ellan

Edward A. Pettit, Jr.

John A. Delesandro, III

Visit us on the web at www.njsfa.com



NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN — ESSEX COUNTY

Richard C. Otterbein 18 Sunset Road West Caldwell, NJ 07006

Home: 973-226-3446

Cell: 973-809-3004 Email: rotterbein@yahoo.com

Date: February 16, 2022

To: Officers and Executive Committeepersons

From: Rich Otterbein, Chairman, NJSFA Firemen's Home Liaison Committee

Subject: NJS Firemen's Home Report

Meetings: 1/8/22 Full Board Meeting

2/12/22 Executive Board Meeting

1/8/22 Full Board Meeting

- Dining Room renovation continuing.
- Census 57 Long Term; 5 Residential = 62 total guests.
- 11 guests recovered from COVID
- Applications: 14 applications reviewed; 1 application waiting to decide to come to the home; 3 waiting on paperwork; 1 waiting financial paperwork; 1 was refused admission; 1 care needs cannot be met, 1 with a pending legal issue; 1 decided to stay at home.
- Finance: Bills (month ending 1/5/22): \$423,464.86 (operating expenses excluding salaries); motion to pay approved no Bill List presented to the Managers.
- McDougall reported on discussions with NJSFA; good meetings were held credit to all;
 waiting for dates for another meeting from NJSFA EC Chairman John Lane.
- Home Chairman Grenci wants to construct a joint letter concerning negotiations with the NJSFA.
- Grenci asked the By-Laws Committee to evaluate monthly Full Board meetings in lieu of bi-monthly Executive Board meetings. Grenci suggested holding meetings in the North, Central and South areas of the State. By Laws Committee to review and prepare a report concerning the suggestion. Grenci requested that the By Laws Committee consider preparing a Resolution concerning ending bi-monthly Executive Board meetings and replacing these meeting with full Board meetings.
- Not in attendance: Dutch, Strube, Denny, Oser and Attorney Ward

2/12/22 Executive Board Meeting

- Guest visitation now allowed.
- Building and Grounds reported that on-site parking for employees and visitation guests has become an issue.
- Dining Room renovation continuing.
- Census: 56 Long Term; 5 Residential = 61 total guests; 3 deaths; 4 applicants admitted.
- Applications: 11 reviewed; 1 scheduled to be admitted on 2/21; 1 scheduled to be admitted on 3/2; 2 to be admitted (dates to be announced); 1 declined admittance; 1 refused admittance; 1 not ready to admit; 1 postponed; 1 legal issue; 2 paperwork issues.
- Finance: 1/9 2/8: \$\$400,060.58 (operating expense excluding salaries); motion to pay approved no Bill List presented to the Managers.
- Legislative following Assembly Bill A-2205 Gross Income Tax Credit for Firefighters.
- By Laws Grenci questioned EB Chairman Dutch concerning the last months request to
 evaluate monthly Full Board meetings in lieu of bi-monthly meetings. Dutch commented
 that the By Laws Committee was waiting for a written request. Grenci responded that
 the By Laws committee was instructed to conduct a review by verbal request at last
 month's meeting. Item not resolved.
- McDougall reported on the meeting held with the NJSFA. Waiting for another date which will be after the NJSFA EC meeting scheduled for 2/26/22.
- Firefighters Community Nursing Home Mr. Dutch reported that contracts have been sent out to various Nursing Homes in the southern part of the State.
- NJSFA President Ordway reported that required mandated reports are being received at the State Office.
- New Business Signorello requested that if the NJSFA or any Manager becomes aware of an issue or item needing to be addressed at the Home that a call be placed to the Home immediately and not to wait until a meeting to discuss:
- Jeffer questioned the amount of Budget surplus being carried by the Home and what is the written control policy for these funds. Is there a written policy concerning access? Current surplus is \$6 million; 1 million to be applied to the Community Nursing Home project (2.5 million in the Budget approved by the Governor 1 million from the Home surplus 1.5 million from the 2% insurance Tax funds). McDougall indicated that there is a written policy, but it was not available at the meeting. A discussion took place concerning the need to maintain a Budget Surplus and, if so, how much of a surplus should be carried. Writers Note: What is the need for a rather large surplus when emergency funds, if needed, could be obtained from the NJSFA. Discussion carried to next meeting.
- Resolution accepting a contractor change for infection prevention and control services was approved.
- A discussion took place concerning the Budget for the Community Nursing Home project and any surplus in the funds for the project at the end of the next fiscal budget year. Any surplus will be carried over to the following year's budget.

1711 Route 34 South • Wall Township, New Jersey 07727-3934 Telephone: (732) 798-8137 • (800) 852-0137 Fax: (732) 938-2580

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Date: February 26, 2022

To: Executive Committee

The Health Care Committee Report:

HOME HEALTH CARE NEW CLAIMS Y/T/D 38 FIREFIGHTER Y/T/D 22 SPOUSE Y/T/D 16 PAID YTD \$837,670.29 ACTIVE CLAIMS 214

HEALTH CARE
2017 35 \$ 99,600.06
2018 44 \$ 141,376.99
2019 71 \$ 329,791.83
2020 87 \$ 1,566,201.17
2021 190 \$3,942,739.45

Sincerely,

James Reeves

James Reeves Health Care Committee

1711 Route 34 South • Wall Township, New Jersey 07727 Telephone: (800) 852 0137

Robert F. Ordway, President Joseph T. Hankins, Vice President Edward R. Mullen, CPA, Treasurer Frank P. Cavallo, Esq., Counsel Thomas J. Pelaia, Secretary Brian E. Martone, 1st Asst. Secretary Richard K. Dreby, 2nd Asst. Secretary Jennie M. Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

Legislative Committee Report February 26, 2022

To: Officers & All Members of the Executive Committee,

The 2020-2021 Legislative Session ended on January 11, 2021. There were 11,427 total bills introduced by both the Senate and Assembly. Out of that total number of bills, there were 734 that were sent to the Governor's Desk. The Governor signed 670 of them into law. The Legislative Committee tracked 124 bills that related to the fire service. The Governor signed 8 of those bills into law (I have attached a list of our tracked bills that were signed into law during this legislative session).

The Firemen's Home Bill sponsored by Assemblyman Burzichelli during the last Legislative Session, A-6233/S-4287, was held from the Assembly Appropriations Committee Meeting by Assemblyman Burzichelli and was not heard. I requested from the Office of Legislative Services a copy of all registration forms (testimony slips) that were submitted for this bill for that Committee Meeting. OLS sent me the file and there were 732 registration forms submitted for the Assembly Appropriations Committee Meeting all of them were in opposition for this bill. I want to thank everyone for all their assistance in either making phone calls, writing emails, or helping in showing opposition for this bill.

The 2022-2023 Legislative Session has just begun and there is a total of 5,278 bills as of this report. Most of these bills were automatically reintroduced and/or pre-filed from the last legislative session. The Legislative Committee is currently tracking 75 bills that relate to the fire service. As new bills are introduced throughout the session, I will add them to our tracking lists.

The annual Legislative Committee Meeting date has not been set yet, however, I will pick a date in April and let everyone know of the set date.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian E. Martone Legislative Committee Chairman First Assistant Secretary

2022 CAUCUS LOCATIONS SORTED BY DATE

Exec Meeting Convention #1 Convention #2	WARREN	CUMBERLAND	SALEM	MERCER	OCEAN	GLOUCESTER	ESSEX	HUNTERDON	CAPE MAY	BURLINGTON	HTUOMNOM	BERGEN	ATLANTIC	CAMDEN	SOMERSET	PASSAIC	UNION	MIDDLESEX	HUDSON	MORRIS	SUSSEX	County
Convention Center Convention Center Convention Center	INDEPENENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE STATION 73	MAURICETOWN FIRE COMPANY	To Be Determined	West Trenton Vol. Fire Company	WHITING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	To Be Determined	VERONA COMMUNITY CENTER HALL	Sergentsville Fire House	Rio Grande Fire Station	Lenola Fire Company Memorial Hall	Long Branch Middle School	PARAMUS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL	EGG HARBOR CITY FIREHOUSE	To Be Determined	BRADLEY GARDENS FIRE COMPANY	HAWTHORNE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB	CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION	Woodbridge Community Center	Immaculate Conception Church	WHARTON FIRE COMPANY	Fredon Vol. Fire Department	Caucus Location
4501 Boardwalk 4501 Boardwalk 4501 Boardwalk	24 CEMETERY STREET	9544 NOBLE STREET		40 West Uperferry Rd.	120 LACEY ROAD (RT 530)		880 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE	761 Sergentsville rd	1120 Route 47 South	229 N Lenola	350 Indiana Ave.	425 PARAMUS ROAD	631 PHILADELPHIA AVE (RT 563)		24 OLD YORK ROAD	150 MAITLAND AVENUE	113 CHIEGO PLACE BY WESTFIELD AVE WEST	600 Main Street	1219 Paterson Plank Rd.	10 ROBERT STREET	443 A State Route 94 South	Address
Wildwood Wildwood Wildwood	BELVIDERE	MAURICETOWN		Ewing	MANCHESTER (WHITING)	TBD	VERONA	Stockton	Rio Grande	Moorestown	Long Branch	PARAMUS	EGG HARBOR CITY		BRIDGEWATER	HAWTHORNE	ROSELLE PARK	Woodbridge	SECAUCUS	WHARTON	Newton	City
Z Z Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	٤	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	State
08260 08260 08260	07823	08329	08069 TBD	08528	08759	7 7	07044	08559	08242	08075	07740	07652	08215	08110	08807	07506	07204	07095	07094	07885	07860	State Zip
9/15/2022 9/16/2022 9/17/2022	8/25/2022	8/25/2022	'BD	8/24/2022	8/22/2022	7 TBD	8/18/2022	8/17/2022	8/17/2022	8/16/2022	8/15/2022	8/11/2022	8/9/2022	8/8/2022	8/8/2022	8/4/2022	8/3/2022	8/3/2022	8/1/2022	7/28/2022	~	Caucus Date
9AM	7PM	7:PM		7:30 PM	7:00PM		7:00PM	7:00PM	7:00 PM	7:00PM	7:00PM	7PM	7PM	7PM	7PM	7PM	7:30PM	7PM	7PM	to be set	7:00PM	Caucus Time

All Caucus workers please be on site by 5:45 PM for prompt 6PM registration start

REVISED

2/22/2022



Memorandum

Date:

January 14, 2022

To:

Robert F. Ordway, President

From:

George M. Morris, Associate Counsel

Subject:

Open Public Records Act and Emails

Please accept this memorandum as follow-up to our discussion regarding the impact and use of private email accounts or other electronic communications to perform Association business at the State and local levels.

The purpose of OPRA, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 to -13, is plainly set forth in the statute: "to insure that government records, unless exempted, are readily accessible to citizens of New Jersey for the protection of the public interest." Mason v. City of Hoboken, 196 N.J. 51, 57 (2008) (citing N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1). To accomplish that objective, OPRA establishes a comprehensive framework for access to public records. Specifically, the statute requires, among other things, prompt disclosure of records and provides different procedures to challenge a custodian's decision denying access. OPRA mandates "all government records shall be subject to public access unless exempt." N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1. Therefore, records must be covered by a specific exclusion to prevent disclosure. The Act defines "government record" to include, but not limited to:

[A]ny ... information stored or maintained electronically ... or in a similar device, or any copy thereof, that has been made, maintained or kept on file in the course of his or its official business by any officer, commission, agency... N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1.

The OPRA framework contemplates a swift timeline for disclosure of government records. Unless a shorter time period is prescribed by statute, regulation or executive order, a records custodian must grant or deny access to a government record "as soon as possible, but not later than seven business days after receiving the request." N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i). Failure to respond within seven business days "shall be deemed a denial of the request."

Storage of a record on a <u>private computer</u> or contained within a <u>private email account</u> does not create an exception. Under OPRA, a proper request for an email or emails must only include the following three (3) characteristics:

- Content and/or subject
- Specific date or range of dates
- Sender and/or Recipient name

COUNSEL WHEN IT MATTERS

The courts recognize that an email concerning public business, even if sent or received through a private account, remains subject to release. In one case considering access to private accounts, the requestor sought, among other things, a list of users the Mayor had blocked from his personal Facebook account. Larkin v. Borough of Glen Rock, BER-L-2573 (June 15, 2018). The custodian denied the request noting that the account is a private page and the Borough did not have custody or involvement in its maintenance or creation. The Court rejected the custodian's arguments finding that the private account, intertwined with communications about the Mayor's public and private life, which speak to issues of public business, remains a government record within the definition of OPRA. Quoting Meyers v. Fair Lawn, GRC decision 2005-127, the Court decided "the right to access an email via OPRA is based on the content and nature of the email itself, not in the specific account from which the email was sent." Glen Rock makes clear "There is no law that requires public officials to send or receive emails, texts or telephone calls, yet if they do so and are discussing government business, then those emails, texts and cellphone logs are subject to OPRA..."

Because of this, the State Association, as well as each local relief association, are highly encouraged to create and use separate and distinct email accounts for Association business. LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY WORK WITH THEIR MUNICIPALITY, FIRE DISTRICT, FIRE DEPARTMENT OR FIRE COMPANY TO ESTABLISH THESE ACCOUNTS. This practice has several important benefits. First, such accounts make storage and retrieval of documents easier if, and when, the Association or the local association receives an OPRA request. Second, because Association related business emails are public records, the Association and local associations are required to keep these records for the appropriate records retention period. It is assumed, that an email concerning Association business is a "communication" which must be stored for three (3) years. If the State records retention schedules are updated, additional guidance will be provided. Finally, the alternative (i.e. use of private email accounts for public business). creates substantial obstacles for the records custodian to ensure that all responsive documents are gathered and provided when the Association receives an OPRA request. Typically, this would mean that the custodian must send the members certifications to sign each and every time the custodian receives a request for emails, text or similar electronic messages. If the member falsely certifies that no electronic documents exists when they did, or still exist, the member is subject to sanctions by the court and may be personally liable to pay prevailing party attorney fees. This could mean thousands of dollars out of the individual's pocket because the member refused to exclusively use an Association email account. It is simply not worth the risk.

In summary, members, for their own protection and to protect the Association should immediately implement Association-based email addresses which are backed-up to an Association controlled server and exclusively use these addresses as the only form of electronic communication for Association business. Similarly, all local relief associations should also set up email address working with their local entity (Fire District, Fire Company, etc.) Further, members should immediately discontinue use of any other type of private electronic device, messaging or text service when discussing Association business to eliminate the pitfalls of access, storage and retrieval of messages when they are requested under the Open Public Records Act and to ensure that all communications are properly stored according to State records retention schedules.

Comparison 2020 vs 2021

JANUARY - DECEMBER	1/1/2020 thru 12/31/2020	1	1/1/2021 thru 12/31/2021		Incr. \$ Paid	Incr. % Paid	Paid out by
* Healthcare - FF	\$1,573,001.17	124	\$3,886,605.46	148	\$2,313,604.29	147.08%	State Office
Healthcare - Sp	\$0.00	0	\$166,034.49	53	\$166,034.49		State Office
Special Relief	\$871,283.00	201	\$794,460.00	178	-\$76,823.00	-8.82%	State Office
Total - State	\$2,444,284.17		\$4,847,099.95		\$2,402,815.78	98.30%	
BURIAL CLAIMS JANUARY - DECEMBER	1/1/2020 thru 12/31/2020		1/1/2021 thru 12/31/2021		Incr. \$ Paid	Incr. % Paid	<u>Paid out by</u>
Burial Claims	\$12,068,462.11	1067	\$11,781,343.10	1037	-\$287,119.01	-2.38%	State Office

^{* 2021} Healthcare payments are going to members from all 21 Counties

Local Relief Paid Comparison - Local & Supplemental Actual Paid Combined - Paid out by Local

	YTD Total
2018	\$4,283,313.18
2019	\$4,736,931.39
2020	\$4,736,568.64
* 2021	\$4,618,727.35
1 year Difference	\$ (117,841.29)
	-2.49%

^{* 2021} Total is approximate and not final