

**ABRIDGED REPORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
WALL TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY
FEBRUARY 24, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Ordway at 9:00am, 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.

Vice President Hankins led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Ordway asked Counsel Cavallo to administer the oath of office to Executive Committeemen Naylis, Walker, Florio and Mazzarella

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was held with all officers and Executive Committee members present except for Executive Committeeman Lenarski, who was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Abridged Minutes and Verbatim Minutes of the November 18, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting were approved as distributed on a motion by Executive Committeeman Handlin, seconded by Executive Committeeman Fazekas. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

OFFICERS REPORT:

Vice President Hankins reported the following:

- 1) He appeared in front of the Assembly Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee. He discussed the special task force report that he is Chairman of. He spoke with Assemblyman Danielson, who is very receptive to the Volunteer fire service with training issues. He did mention to the assemblyman that it is not this association's job to recruit and retain members. We are a relief association. And, certainly that is the position that all executives should take as well.

Secretary Pelaia Reported the following:

- 1) He reminded everyone that the Active Membership Reports are due in the office or postmarked by February 28, which is this coming Tuesday. Of the Active Membership Reports already submitted, 10% had to be returned due to mistakes, mostly because the secretaries did not read the instructions.
- 2) Election petitions for Officers, Executive Committee, and those Firemen's Home Managers whose terms are expiring are due in the State Office by June 1, 2024. Home Managers elections this year are for Camden, Monmouth, Salem, Somerset, and Warren County.

First Assistant Secretary Martone reported the following: A draft of the Treasurer Manual Trustee manual was sent to the executives for review. He will be posting the final manuals shortly.

Second Assistant Secretary Dreby's Report: A letter was sent to treasurers regarding what he is looking for when he reviews the bank statements.

Treasurer Mullen's Report: He thanked everyone for their well wishes during his health issue. He then reminded the executives that they must submit their receipts for their caucus to him. He also stated that he is working with the IRS on the penalties issued to associations who filed their IRS FORM 990 manually rather than on-line in the 2022 filing. **PLEASE REMEMBER: the 2023 filings for the 990N, 990EZ and 990 must be submitted online.** Everyone was reminded that a copy of your 990's or a copy of your extensions must be submitted to the IRS by May 15, 2024, and to us by June 14, 2024.

Field Examiner Hollingsworth's Report: The written report is in the packets. On the suggestion of Executive Committeeman Handlin, there is a report included in the packets showing what the million dollars associations are paying in Special Relief. She also mentioned that when she sends correspondence to a local association, she sends a copy to their executive, to keep them informed. Beginning this year, the local bank statements will be stapled to the financials, so that they will be available during Field Exams.

Counsel Cavallo's Report: No report.

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

- 1) The office will be closed on March 29 for Good Friday.
- 2) He asked if any executive is not going to run for reelection? No executives responded.
- 3) Membership Reports are due on February 28, 2024.
- 4) First Quarter Relief Report is due by April 30. It must be done online. There are four associations whose Financial Reports have not been received. He has tracking numbers on three of them. The fourth has not done anything on their report. He will be asking under New Business to put them Out of Accord. The association is from Middlesex County.
- 5) The Convention Delegates submission must be completed online with a due date of May 1, 2024. As a reminder, he said that the Relief Delegates and Exempt Delegate are now on the same form.

6) He reminded everyone that sometimes the field has issues filling out forms online. He asked that if anyone has a problem, please notify the State Office immediately.

7) He felt that the workshop at the convention was poorly attended for what it cost. He would like to return to county workshops, anticipating that going forward, we will do 10 one year and 11 the following year. In the future, he would like to have one workshop for secretaries and another for treasurers.

8) Field Examination dates and locations are all set. Any association who cannot make their Field Exam must notify the Field Examiner ahead of that night. Also, those locals who will not be attending a Field Exam must notify the Field Examiner in advance of their county's Field Exam.

9) He reminded all Executives that Caucuses and Field Exams must be conducted at an ADA Compliant facility.

10) He reminded everyone that if they receive an e-mail from him to please make sure that it is from him. There are a lot of scams out there and someone has been sending e-mails in his name.

11) This year, we will be removing any member who has five consecutive 0% runs and drills reported on their Active Membership Reports. Every local secretary who has a member affected will receive a letter from the office. Should the secretary have someone who was on Military Leave or another significant reason for not making the five years, they can call the office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADVISORY/ SPECIAL / SUPPLEMENTAL COMMITTEE: Executive Committeeman Walker stated that there is a report in the packet. There were 12 Applications for Special Relief so far this year. There was \$50,000 paid out, whereas \$9,750.00 was paid by the locals. In 2023, \$702,239.00 was paid out by the State Association and \$107,260.00 was paid by the locals.

COMPENDIUM COMMITTEE: Chairman Roemmich reported that the committee met on February 1, 2024. Five items were discussed:

1) Resolution #6 from last year's Convention which was adding siblings to the burial benefit. This will be discussed further under New Business.

2) Resolution #5 from last year's Convention which was to notify the member who was dropped from the rolls of the association. The State Association does not have the addresses of all its members. They recommend that we notify all local officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief) and recorded in the Local Associations Minutes when a member is removed.

3) There was a discussion on laddering the structure for administrative expenses. The committee is taking that under advisement at this time. This will be addressed again at a future meeting.

4) There was some discussion on the tablets. President Ordway said that Counsel Cavallo has prepared a form that everyone must sign when receiving their tablet.

5) There was a discussion regarding credits for duty nights. Since associations do it differently, they decided not to discuss it at this time. They want to leave it to the discretion of the local associations currently and review it later.

DELEGATE AND LIFE MEMBER COMMITTEE: Executive Committeeman Florio said the committee met via Zoom meeting and the present Delegate and Life Member expense allowance would be sufficient for the current year. There was also discussion that the host county does not receive a lodging expense. There was information received by the committee that there was a local association in the host county that was down to \$6000.00, and they were debating on whether they could pay relief because they wanted to pay their salaries. Further investigation was that they were also paying \$8000.00 in convention expenses when they are 20 to 30 minutes from Convention Hall. This will be discussed later chairman.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Treasurer Mullen reported that the Finance Committee Report is in your packet. The committee found everything in order.

FIREMEN'S HOME COMMITTEE: Chairman Otterbein submitted his report. He reported the following:

- 1) After April 1, 2024, to apply to the Firemen's Home, instead of being a member of a fire company for one year, you must have 84 months of service. This coincides with our qualification requirement. Any member not in our association must have a document or letter stating that the applicant has 84 months of service in good standing.
- 2) The Firemen's Home Managers Executive Board has been dissolved.

HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE: The report has been submitted. A meeting was held on February 15. Since 2017 the Health Care program rose from \$100,000 to \$10 million dollars. There was some discussion on temporarily freezing new Applications for Assisted Living and new applications for spouses. This will be discussed and voted on under New Business. President Ordway mentioned that his 17-year spreadsheet is in the packets, and you will be able to see the growth of the Health Care Program.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: Chairman Handlin said that everything is stable now and the committee will be meeting with Treasurer Mullen soon. President Ordway stated that we notified local associations about the number of banks who are offering much higher interest rates than what they were used to getting.

LEGISLATIVE: First Assistant Secretary Martone reported that his report is in the packets. He will schedule a committee meeting shortly. President Ordway reminded everyone that the weekly legislative reports are now on our website.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE: We have received one resolution so far. The deadline for submitting resolutions is May 1.

SALARY COMMITTEE: No report. The committee will be meeting before the next Executive Committee Meeting with a recommendation for the next fiscal year.

FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION – Chairman Naylis reported that his report is in the packets. There are a lot of issues going on with the Fire Commission. One is to mandate physical fitness activities as part of Firefighter 1 and 2. Another item that was discussed is that Junior Firefighters can attend firefighter training at certified fire training facilities. All juniors and probationary members can ride apparatus if they confine their activities to what is permitted by law. This includes being insured and supervised.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: No report.

APPLICATIONS: Secretary Pelaia said that he, along with President Ordway and Executive Committeeman Mecsey, attended a meeting with the Mansfield Firemen's Relief Association regarding the dissolving of a company. Members of the company will move to another company in Mansfield. All the paperwork is in order. Executive Committeeman Spiegel made a motion, seconded by Executive Committeeman Handlin, to dissolve Company #2 from the Mansfield Firemen's Relief Association. **Passed.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Field Examiner Hollingsworth reported that there is a list in your packet with the associations which are under review.

2) President Ordway said that we have one association, Helmetta, that did not submit their Financial Standing Report. He double checked and realized that they hadn't started it yet. Executive Committeeman Reeves made a motion, seconded by Executive Committeeman Florio, to place Helmetta FRA#152 Out of Accord. **Passed.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made at 10:45am by Executive Committeeman Lane, seconded by Executive Committeeman Kelly, that we move to Executive Session. **Passed.**

At 11:10am, a motion by Executive Committeeman Naylis, seconded by Executive Committeeman Florio that we move back to open session. **Passed.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Secretary Pelaia stated that we had two associations request that members be removed from the rolls of our association for crimes of moral turpitude. Middletown Twp. FRA #215 requested that four members be removed. We just received the address of the fourth person, so we will be voting today to remove three of them: Edward Fallon, Vincent Falci and William Long as well as Donald Jervis from Bloomfield FRA #37. **On a Roll Call Vote: Passed 20-0.**

- 2) Vice President Hankins stated that there are two members from the Cherry Hill FRA #69 who have been given qualification due to line of duty injuries. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Phillips, seconded by Executive Committeeman Florio to grant qualification to Wesley Schall. **On a Roll Call Vote: Passed 20-1.** The second member is Matthew Dunne. Matthew Dunne is still waiting for the State of New Jersey's Division of Pension and Benefits to approve his disability status. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Jubert, seconded by Executive Committee Scheuer, to grant qualification to Matthew Dunne once the Division of Pension and Benefits approve his disability pension. **Passed 20-1.**
- 3) President Ordway discussed subsidy associations. He stated that last year the subsidy associations were associations that had less than \$50,000 in their treasury and their insurance check was less than \$17,500. There was discussion on how we can reduce the number of associations under subsidy. President Ordway recommended that we raise the yearend balance from \$50,000.00 to \$52,500.00 and increase their insurance check to \$20,000.00. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Phillips, seconded by Executive Committeeman Florio that subsidy be changed to \$52,500 and their check would be \$20,000.00. **On a Roll Call Vote Passed 18-2.**
- 4) A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Handlin, seconded by Executive Committeeman Lane, to move the May meeting from May 11 to May 4 so that these changes can be further investigated prior to the assessment checks being sent to the local associations on May 15. **Passed.**
- 5) President Ordway recommended that the insurance check to associations be changed from 60-40 to 65-35. He also recommended the reinstatement of percentage of balance withholding that was initially used to fund the Special Relief Fund. He is recommending a .5% (1/2 Percent) X (times) their December 31 balance. Executive Committeeman Kurdyla asked the President to explain this special assessment. President Ordway explained that years ago if your December 31 balance was \$200,000, they took 1% (\$2,000.00) to put it in the Special Relief Fund. A lengthy discussion ensued, which also included freezing applications for assisted living and freezing applications for a spouse. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Fazekas, seconded by Executive Committeeman Speigel, to table this until the May 4 meeting. **On a Roll Call Vote Passed 17-3.**
- 6) A motion to freeze receiving applications for assisted living Applications in the Health Care program was made by Executive Committeeman Reeves, seconded by Executive Committeeman Kelly. There was a motion by Executive Committeeman Fazekas seconded by Executive Committeeman Speigel to table this to the May Meeting. **On a Roll Call Vote Passed 15-5.**

- 7) There was a discussion regarding adding siblings as potential receivers of the Burial Benefit. President Ordway reminded everyone that we will have to notify all siblings when a sibling is to receive the Burial Benefit. He also reminded all that this is for the basic benefit only. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Phillips, seconded by Executive Committeeman Scheuer, to add siblings as a potential receiver of the Burial Benefit. After some discussion, Executive Committeeman Naylis made a motion to table the motion. **On a Roll Call vote the motion to table was rejected 4 yes – 16 no.** Since the motion to table was defeated, the motion to add siblings as potential receivers was voted on. **According to the Compendium, the vote must have 2/3 majority to pass.** **On a Roll Call vote, 11 yes-9 no DEFEATED since there wasn't 2/3 of the majority.**

The second part of the Compendium Report was if the member was killed in the Line of Duty, the difference between the Basic Benefit and the Line of Duty benefit will be paid in accordance with the Public Safety Officers Benefit (PSOB) guidelines. **On a Roll Call Vote passed 18-2.**

- 8) From the Compendium Committee, there was a resolution at the convention that we notify those members that are removed from the rolls. President Ordway said that we do not have addresses for our members. Since we do not have addresses for all our members, a recommendation was made that we notify all five officers including the Chief and that it be put into the local association's minutes. On a motion by Executive Committee Handlin, seconded by Executive Committeeman Kurdyla to notify all five officers when resignations and transfers are made and that they also be included in the local association's minutes. **Passed.**
- 9) Secretary Pelaia said that sealed bids were received for supplying the ribbons/badges. The successful bidder was Turnout Fire & Safety from Jersey City for \$1.06 per badge. They have supplied our badges for the last four or five years. The National Medal of Honor bid \$2.76 per badge, which is \$1.70 higher per badge. Due to the number of badges that we have left over, the Executive Committee asked if we could find out a price for a lesser quantity. The secretary will get that information and bring it up at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Morris County Manager Keyser thanked President Ordway and Executive Committeeman Otterbein for their report from the Firemen's Home regarding the qualification to enter the home. He noted that the qualification is a policy change rather than a By-Law change.

Mark Belles of Morris Plains FRA #228 asked that a template of the letter that we send out removing members who have had five years of 0% be placed on the Secretary's Tab on our website.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

President Ordway reminded everyone that the next meeting will be May 4. He thanked everyone for their participation at the meeting, He said that anyone who requested a tablet can pick it up after the meeting,

Vice President Hankins stated that there is information regarding stress in the packets. He reminded everyone that this information will be included in the caucus packets as well.

Executive Committeeman Speigel mentioned that he, along with President Ordway and Vice President Hankins, will be meeting on Tuesday, February 27 with the Convention Center and the Mayors of the Wildwoods regarding parking, transportation, and restrooms on the boardwalk. They will also be meeting soon with the Hotel/Motel Association.

Executive Committeeman Mazzarella reiterated that we went over a lot during the meeting with some very important discussions. He urged that the Executive Committee digest what was discussed and come up with a good decision for the betterment of our firefighters and our benefits.

Executive Committeeman Phillips thanked everyone for the cards and phone calls he received during his recent illness.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Executive Committeeman Florio, seconded by Executive Committeeman Lane, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Thomas J. Pelcia
Secretary

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

1711 Route 34 South, Wall Township, NJ 07727

DATE OF MEETING: February 24, 2024

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PRES ABS

NAME	OFFICE	PRES	ABS	Vote # 1 - Removal of 4 Members due to Moral Turpitude.		Vote # 2 - Grant Qualifying Time to FF Wesley Sohail Line # 069-03-257 Due to on the Job Injury.		Vote # 3 - Grant Qualifying Time to FF Matthew Durine Line # 069-03-255 Due to on the Job Injury.	
				YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
ROBERT F. ORDWAY	PRESIDENT	X							
JOSEPH T. HANKINS	VICE PRESIDENT	X							
THOMAS J. PELAIA	SECRETARY	X							
BRIAN E. MARTONE	1ST ASS'T SECY	X							
RICHARD K. DREBY	2ND ASS'T SECY	X							
EDWARD R. MULLEN	TREASURER	X							
JENNIE HOLLINGSWORTH	FIELD EXAMINER	X							
FRANK P. CAVALLO, JR.	COUNSEL	X							
GEORGE M. MORRIS	ASS'T COUNSEL	E	E						
CINDY L. BADGER	ATLANTIC	X		X		X		X	
GERARD J. NAYLIS	BERGEN	X		X		X		X	
STEPHEN C. FAZEKAS	BURLINGTON	X		X		X		X	
NORMAN F. FIGUEROA, JR.	CAMDEN	X		X		X		X	
DANIEL F. SPEIGEL	CAPE MAY	X		X		X		X	
JAMES F. REEVES	CUMBERLAND	X		X		X		X	
RICHARD C. OTTERBEIN	ESSEX	X		X		X		X	
GLENN D. ROEMMICH	GLOUCESTER	X		X		X		X	
LAWERENCE J. HANDLIN	HUDSON	X		X		X		X	
JOHN R. PHILLIPS	HUNTERDON	X		X		X		X	
JOSEPH M. LENARSKI	MERCER	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
ANDREW MAZZARELLA	MIDDLESEX	X		X		X		X	
ROBERT J. KELLY	MONMOUTH	X		X		X		X	
EUGENE T. MINELL	MORRIS	X		X		X		X	
JOSEPH JUBERT	OCEAN	X		X		X		X	
JOHN V. LANE	PASSAIC	X		X		X		X	
FRANCIS X. WALKER, JR.	SALEM	X		X		X		X	
ALLEN F. KURDYLA	SOMERSET	X		X		X		X	
DANIEL L. SCHEUER	SUSSEX	X		X		X		X	
NICHOLAS J. FLORIO	UNION	X		X		X		X	
JOSPEH MECSEY 3RD	WARREN	X		X		X		X	
TOTALS		28	2	20	0	20	0	20	0

GUESTS: Past Secretary, Sanford Weinberg
 Past Executive Comm. Warren Co., Konard Mellert
 Daniel Dunn, Cape May Co Firemen's Home Manager
 Garrick Miller, Middlesex Co Firemen's Home Manager
 Gary Keyser, Morris Co Firemen's Home Manager

William Smith, Past President NJ State Fire Chiefs
 Mark Belles, Morris Plains Relief Assoc.
 Justin Hanson, Jackson Relief Assoc.

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

1711 Route 34 South, Wall Township, NJ 07727

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PRES ABS

NAME	TITLE	PRES	ABS	Vote # 4 - Change Subsidy Association Amounts to Acct. Balance \$52,500 and Check amount to \$20,000.		Vote # 5 - Motion to Table Discussion on Spouses.		Vote # 6 - Motion to Table Discussion on Assisted Living.	
				YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
ROBERT F. ORDWAY	PRESIDENT								
JOSEPH T. HANKINS	VICE PRESIDENT								
THOMAS J. PELAIA	SECRETARY								
BRIAN E. MARTONE	1ST ASS'T SECY								
RICHARD K. DREBY	2ND ASS'T SECY								
EDWARD R. MULLEN	TREASURER								
JENNIE HOLLINGSWORTH	FIELD EXAMINER								
FRANK P. CAVALLO, JR.	COUNSEL								
GEORGE M. MORRIS	ASS'T COUNSEL								
CINDY L. BADGER	ATLANTIC			X		X		X	
GERARD J. NAYLIS	BERGEN			X			X		X
STEPHEN C. FAZEKAS	BURLINGTON			X		X		X	
NORMAN F. FIGUEROA, JR.	CAMDEN			X		X		X	
DANIEL F. SPEIGEL	CAPE MAY				X	X		X	
JAMES F. REEVES	CUMBERLAND			X			X		X
RICHARD C. OTTERBEIN	ESSEX			X		X		X	
GLENN D. ROEMMICH	GLOUCESTER			X		X		X	
LAWERENCE J. HANDLIN	HUDSON				X	X		X	
JOHN R. PHILLIPS	HUNTERDON			X		X		X	
JOSEPH M. LENARSKI	MERCER			E	E	E	E	E	E
ANDREW MAZZARELLA	MIDDLESEX			X		X		X	
ROBERT J. KELLY	MONMOUTH			X		X			X
EUGENE T. MINELL	MORRIS			X		X		X	
JOSEPH JUBERT	OCEAN			X			X		X
JOHN V. LANE	PASSAIC			X		X		X	
FRANCIS X. WALKER, JR.	SALEM			X		X		X	
ALLEN F. KURDYLA	SOMERSET			X		X		X	
DANIEL L. SCHEUER	SUSSEX			X		X		X	
NICHOLAS J. FLORIO	UNION			X		X		X	
JOSPEH MECSEY 3RD	WARREN			X		X			X
TOTALS				18	2	17	3	15	5

GUESTS:

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

1711 Route 34 South, Wall Township, NJ 07727

DATE OF MEETING: February 24, 2024

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PRES ABS

				Vote # 7 - Motion to Table Discussion on adding Siblings to Death Benefit Section of Compedium.		Vote # 8 - Change Compedium to add Siblings to be able to Receive Regular Death Benefit.		Vote # 9 - Change Compedium to Follow Federal PSOB Guidelines for Line of Duty Death.	
				YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
ROBERT F. ORDWAY	PRESIDENT								
JOSEPH T. HANKINS	VICE PRESIDENT								
THOMAS J. PELAI	SECRETARY								
BRIAN E. MARTONE	1ST ASS'T SECY								
RICHARD K. DREBY	2ND ASS'T SECY								
EDWARD R. MULLEN	TREASURER								
JENNIE HOLLINGSWORTH	FIELD EXAMINER								
FRANK P. CAVALLO, JR.	COUNSEL								
GEORGE M. MORRIS	ASS'T COUNSEL								
CINDY L. BADGER	ATLANTIC				X		X	X	
GERARD J. NAYLIS	BERGEN			X			X	X	
STEPHEN C. FAZEKAS	BURLINGTON				X		X	X	
NORMAN F. FIGUEROA, JR.	CAMDEN				X	X		X	
DANIEL F. SPEIGEL	CAPE MAY				X	X			X
JAMES F. REEVES	CUMBERLAND				X		X	X	
RICHARD C. OTTERBEIN	ESSEX				X	X		X	
GLENN D. ROEMMICH	GLOUCESTER				X	X			X
LAWERENCE J. HANDLIN	HUDSON				X		X	X	
JOHN R. PHILLIPS	HUNTERDON				X	X		X	
JOSEPH M. LENARSKI	MERCER			E	E	E	E	E	E
ANDREW MAZZARELLA	MIDDLESEX				X	X		X	
ROBERT J. KELLY	MONMOUTH			X			X	X	
EUGENE T. MINELL	MORRIS				X	X		X	
JOSEPH JUBERT	OCEAN			X		X		X	
JOHN V. LANE	PASSAIC			X		X		X	
FRANCIS X. WALKER, JR.	SALEM				X		X	X	
ALLEN F. KURDYLA	SOMERSET				X	X		X	
DANIEL L. SCHEUER	SUSSEX				X	X		X	
NICHOLAS J. FLORIO	UNION				X		X	X	
JOSPEH MECSEY 3RD	WARREN				X		X		X
TOTALS				4	16	11	9	18	2

GUESTS:

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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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

Secretary's Report **February 24, 2024**

In addition to the Normal duties performed by the Secretary, I report the following:

- 1) Assisted the office staff with processing the Active Membership Reports.
- 2) Attended the Compendium Committee Meeting, Delegate and Life Member Committee Meeting and the Health Care Committee Meeting
- 3) Attended a joint meeting with the Stockton and Sergeantsville Relief Associations regarding a future merger with President Ordway, Vice President Hankins and Executive Committeeman Phillips.
- 4) Attended a meeting with the Red Bank Officers, Representatives and Trustees regarding Relief issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas J. Pelaia

Thomas J. Pelaia
Secretary

NJSFA Treasurer's Report
February 24, 2024

1. The quarterly reviews, by PKF O'Connor Davies, of our General and Special Funds are about to get underway for our fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.
2. I'm continuing to work on resolving many Local Associations' IRS penalties due to their mailing of Form 990 and 990-EZ, instead of electronically filing in prior years, despite our many warnings to the Locals. To date, all penalties have been successfully abated.
3. We are continuing to work with Intuit to implement Direct Deposit for payrolls and pension payments. It will be optional for employees and retirees, and you will be notified when it becomes available.
4. Discussion on the taxability of funds advanced for the twenty-one County Caucuses that went unspent for those Caucuses.

Other Notes:

Finance Committee:

Their report from the February 5th meeting was distributed. The Committee found the financial records to be in satisfactory condition and made no recommendations.

Pension Committee:

We met this morning:

1. Two of our Pension Recipients passed since we last met:
 - Catherine Ritorto died on November 30
 - H. Lee Baker died on December 20

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

February 24, 2024
FIELD EXAMINERS REPORT

The following applications for Supplementary Relief, Special Relief, and Health Care were processed thus far in 2024.

Applications	Received	Approved	Denied	Active Claims	Amount Paid YTD
Special Relief	14	12	2		\$ 50,000.00
Supplementary Relief	8	6	2		\$ 67,692.00
Health Care Program	35	35	0	390	\$ 2,694,417.58

Notes

- After reviewing the 2022 applications a few more associations were requested to be placed on review.
 - Bergen
 - -Bergenfield
 - -East Rutherford
 - -Ridgefield
 - -Fairview
 - Middlesex
 - -New Brunswick
 - -Perth Amboy
 - Carteret
- Field Exams are set, and letters have been mailed to local associations.
- Financials are closed.
 - Issues seen this year: officers are trustees, associations not sending in bank statements, not having three members on the audit committee.
 - As of now I have 7 associations that sent in incomplete financials and could end up out of accord.
- I have updated the special relief committee report to show the total payout for special relief by the local associations per your request.
- Starting with the 2023 financials you will see the bank statements are attached at the request of many.

Sincerely,

Jennie Hollingsworth

Field Examiner

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REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
QUARTER ENDING: DECEMBER, 31 2023

PAGE NUMBER: 2

CLAIMS FILED BETWEEN OCTOBER 01, 2022 AND DECEMBER 31, 2022	260	
CLAIMS FILED BETWEEN OCTOBER 01, 2023 AND DECEMBER 31, 2023	202	
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 01, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022	248	
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 01, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023	198	
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 01, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022	248	\$2,881,424.67
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 01, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023	198	\$2,307,771.40
1 - WIDOW	103	\$1,221,300.00
2 - DAUGHTER	39	\$434,375.00
3 - SON	33	\$355,850.00
4 - MOTHER	1	\$10,500.00
6 - UNDERTAKER	21	\$229,205.00
7 - STEP-DGT	1	\$6,000.00
8 - STEP-SON	1	\$6,000.00
N - CAREGIVER	7	\$64,820.00
Q - BROTHER	1	\$3,721.40
	200	\$2,331,771.40

EXPLANATION - NO CLAIMS

NO CLAIMS WERE FILED

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 QUARTER ENDING: DECEMBER, 31 2023

PAGE NUMBER: 1

CHECKS ISSUED IN VARIOUS AMOUNTS

1 @	\$1,487.00	\$1,487.00
1 @	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
1 @	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00
1 @	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00
1 @	\$2,075.00	\$2,075.00
1 @	\$2,667.00	\$2,667.00
1 @	\$3,640.00	\$3,640.00
1 @	\$3,721.40	\$3,721.40
1 @	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
1 @	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
1 @	\$5,550.00	\$5,550.00
1 @	\$5,775.00	\$5,775.00
2 @	\$6,000.00	\$12,000.00
2 @	\$6,225.00	\$12,450.00
1 @	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
1 @	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
1 @	\$8,300.00	\$8,300.00
1 @	\$8,360.00	\$8,360.00
1 @	\$9,333.00	\$9,333.00
1 @	\$9,500.00	\$9,500.00
2 @	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
3 @	\$10,500.00	\$31,500.00
1 @	\$10,513.00	\$10,513.00
1 @	\$10,750.00	\$10,750.00
3 @	\$11,500.00	\$34,500.00
1 @	\$11,750.00	\$11,750.00
1 @	\$11,800.00	\$11,800.00
174 @	\$12,000.00	\$2,088,000.00
		\$2,331,771.40

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

Francis X. Walker
James Reeves Jr.
John Lane
Edward R. Mullen, CPA, Secretary-Treasurer
Jennie Hollingsworth, Field Examiner
Gary D. Schwartz, M.D. Consultant

Date: February 24, 2024

To: Executive Committee

From: Special Relief Committee

The Special Relief Committee Report

- Applications Approved YTD: 12
- For a total of \$50,000
- Paid out by locals \$9,750

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SUMMARY APPROVED</u>	<u>TOTAL PAYOUT</u>	<u>TOTAL PAYOUT BY LOCALS</u>
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	
2022	159	\$757,456.00	
2023	171	\$702,239.00	\$107,260.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Francis X. Walker

Francis X Walker, Chairman

Compendium Committee Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2024

The meeting of the Compendium Committee was called to order at 11:00am by Chairman Glenn Roemmich

ATTENDEES: Chairman Roemmich, Executive Committee Members , John Lane, Gerard Naylis, Joseph Jubert, Nicholas Florio, Allen Kurdyla, Richard Otterbein, and Officers: President Ordway, Vice President Hankins, Secretary Pelaia, First Assistant Secretary Martone, Second Assistant Secretary Dreby, Treasurer Ed Mullen, Counsel Cavallo and Field Examiner Hollingsworth

Item #1: Resolution #6 from the 2023 Convention. This is an amendment to the Compendium regarding Article VI Section 2 by adding to the list of who the benefit will be paid to, that siblings be added to the list of individuals eligible to receive payment to the Burial Benefit. Counsel Cavallo distributed a copy of a proposed change to Article VI section 2 of the Compendium (see attached). President Ordway then reminded the Committee, should the benefit go to a sibling, all other siblings must be notified. On a motion by Executive Committeeman Otterbein, seconded by Executive Committeeman, that this change be brought to the Executive Committee for action at their next meeting. **Motion Passed**

Item #2: Resolution #5 from the Convention. This is Resolution specifically requests that the State Association provide written notification to any member removed from the Membership Rolls. Secretary Pelaia then stated some facts. First and foremost, we currently have on the rolls 53,434 Active Members as of this morning. Secondly, we currently notify the Local Secretary and Fire Chief when a member is resigned or transferred. President Ordway then stated that when the Local Secretary receives these notifications that they should notify the member that they have been resigned. Secretary Pelaia also mentioned that when we send a packet, Red Books etc. to the 538 Local Officers, we receive approximately 5 to 10 returned from the Post Office saying, "Moved and No forwarding Address". This means the Secretary hasn't forwarded to us his Change of Address. Field Examiner Hollingsworth then mentioned that she has been sending information to the Local Secretary and copying all the Local Officers so that they all know what is happening. After much discussion a motion was made by Executive Committeeman Naylis, seconded by Executive Florio that All Local Officers receive the letter from the office informing them that a member has been transferred or resigned, and it will now be mandatory to list both Resignations and Transfers in the Local Associations Minutes. **PASSED**

Item #3: There was discussion on Executive Committeeman Handlin's request that the Compendium Committee look at laddering the structure for Administrative Expenses where the larger associations who do more work would be able to pay additional monies to the Local

Officers instead of the present cap. Discussion followed and it was decided to look at the whole picture and come up with guidelines for future discussions.

Item #4: There was discussion on the Rules and Regulations regarding the use of the computer tablets being issued to the Officers and Executive Committee. President Ordway said that Counsel Cavallo has drafted a document that each person receiving a tablet will have to sign when the tablet is issued. President Ordway stressed that the tablet is for New Jersey State Firemen's Association business only. He also stated that with the tablets everyone will get a NJSFA Email address. (Example – (*countyexecutive@njsfa.com*)).

Item #5: There was much discussion regarding allowing credit towards qualification for duty nights. It was realized that each Association has different ways to help members achieve their Qualifications. It was then determined, since everyone does have a different way, that at this time it should be a decision of the Local Association .

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30am

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Pelaja

Secretary



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

Nicholas Florio
530 Chester Avenue
Roselle Park, NJ 07204

Home: 908-620-1516
Email: nickfloriosr@aol.com

Date: January 31, 2024

To: Officers and Executive Committeepersons

From: Nick Florio Chairman of Delegate and Life Members Committee

Subject: Delegate and Life Members Convention Expense Allowance

Meeting: January 20, 2024 via Zoom

In Attendance:

President R. Ordway, Vice President J. Hankins, Secretary T. Pelaia,

2nd Assist. Secretary R. Dreby,

Committeemen: Florio (Chair), J. Lenarski, J. Mecsey III, D. Scheuer

Committee discussed the concerns of the delegates and life members regarding convention expenses. Although expenses may have increased, the committee felt the allotted expense allowance was sufficient for this year's convention.

NOTE: Delegates attendance to the Caucus and the two-day Convention are mandatory. Life Members attendance to the Caucus and the two-day Convention is not mandatory.

The Committee also discussed the Host County's lodging expenses as possibly not being a necessary expense. Further discussion is needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Florio

New Jersey Fire Safety Commission Meeting Update

WALL TOWNSHIP, NJ – The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission held its bi-monthly meeting on January 17, 2024 at the offices of the New Jersey State Firemen’s Association in Wall Township.

The NJ DFS Director and State Fire Marshal Rich Mikutsky gave the following report:

1. There is a new Deputy Commissioner at DCA, Kate McDonnell. She replaced Deputy Commissioner Rob Long who retired on 12/1/23. Ms. McDonnell has previous experience working in the Governor’s office and the General’s Attorney office prior to her transition her new appointment with DCA.
2. Work continues towards the re-adoption process for the Fire Service Deployment Act. The Act expires in March after being extended back in the early fall.
3. The Division of Fire Safety held our holiday safety demo on November 20th thanks to the support of the Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board, Sprinkler Fitters Local 696, and the Monmouth County Fire Academy.
4. Supervisor Tynan of the Office of Fire Department Programs and I participated in the ASIM SAVER (Active Shooter Incident Management / Standardized Active Violent Event Response) executive briefing at the ROIC on November 21st.
5. The NJ DFS met with executive board members of the NFFF on November 27th. This to advance our relationship with them and provide more training in New Jersey.
6. We are pleased to announce that S-281/A-3791 (Greenstein, Turner / Sumter, Reynolds, DeAngelo) concerning automatic fire sprinkler systems within newly constructed townhouses was signed into law on 1/16/24. “Townhouse” means a single-family dwelling unit constructed in a group of three or more attached units in which each unit extends from foundation to roof and with a yard or public way on not less than two sides. The new law takes effect on the first day of the seventh month after enactment, except that the DCA Commissioner may take anticipatory action necessary to implement the provisions of the new public law.
7. A-4125/S-2712 (Haider, Swain, Stanley/Singleton, Greenstein) which prohibits the sale, manufacture, distribution, and use of firefighting foam containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and requires DEP to establish a collection and disposal program; and appropriates \$250,000. was signed on 1/8/24
8. S-2057/A-1174 (Turner, Greenstein/Jasey, Benson, Quijano) requires certain documentation of needs of students with disabilities during school security drills and emergency situations and in school security plans; requires staff training on needs of students with disabilities in emergency planning. SIGNED on 1/8/24
9. The NJ DFS Fire Investigation Unit performed 321 investigations in 2023. 68 were arson fires, and our K9’s were deployed 39 times. Additionally, there were 8 FF LODDs reported – 2 operational LODDs from Newark ship fire; 5 medical-related within 24 hours; 1 COVID. 2024 case numbers are expected to significantly increase because the unit is now logging and reporting for all “calls for service”, which includes actual investigation responses, and incident notifications where no response is needed.

Previously, "notification only" calls were only logged at dispatch. As such, 2024 cases are currently at 46, with 15 of those being actual investigation responses, which is on-track with last year for responses year to date. K9 Remi is now fully certified for Ignitable Liquid Detection as of January 1st. She is the partner of Investigator Letts in the central region. However, she is temporarily out-of-service as she recovers from being spayed on January 11. With her certification, we are now back to full K9 strength with 4 K9 Teams. Further, after multiple manufacturer and State contract delays, we have finally ordered 3 new K9 trucks to replace our oldest units which have become plagued recently by major mechanical maintenance problems and excessive repair costs.

10. The US Coast Guard public hearing into the Newark ship fire investigation & 2 LODDs began last week and are continuing this week. The overall incident investigation is being led by USCG, with ATF handling the primary origin & cause, and NIOSH handling the LODD analysis. Formal findings and/or recommendations are expected in the future.
11. DFS was involved with investigation of the multi-alarm fire at the old Singer Sewing factory complex in Elizabeth on January 5&6. ATF led the fire investigation and brought in their National Response Team (NRT) for multiple days. They determined a unit of fire origin, and the fire cause is currently Undetermined but not suspicious in nature. There were also significant fire code issues here which contributed to the severity of the fire.
12. DFS Community Risk Reduction (CRR) efforts continued for the past two months. The 20th Annual New Jersey Youth Firesetting Intervention Conference was successfully held back on November 30th & December 1st. Planning has already begun on the 21st Annual Conference which will take place on December 5-6, 2024, under its new name: The Anthony R. Braig Conference on Youth Firesetting Intervention.
13. 2024 New Jersey Fire Safety Calendars have been distributed to all counties. Thank you to City Fire (Commissioner Paul McGrath), the NJ Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (Dave Kurasz), Sprinkler Fitters Local 696 (Commissioner Kevin Bellew), and Atlantic City Electric for making this possible.
14. The Kickoff Event for the 26th edition of the Operation-7 Save-a-Life program will be held on January 23rd in New York City. Distribution of the actual alarms is always ongoing via the CRR Unit, but we should expect a new shipment in the spring sometime. This year we are going to be joined by our new Acting Commissioner, Jacquelyn Suarez.
15. The director gave a listing of Division of Fire Service activities for the year 2023 covering the various DFS bureaus and units. There were numerous meetings, training events, operational responses. For the calendar year 2023 there were a total of 77 fatal fires with 58 of those fatalities occurring in residential occupancies (approximately 75%).
16. The NJ DFS Office of Training & Certification ended the year by processing 24,245 certifications for 2023. These included:
 - FF1/FF2/ARFF: 2,580
 - ARFF Apparatus Driver/Operator: 22
 - HazMat: 14,535
 - Incident Management: 2,597
 - Fire Officer: 155

- Fire Official/Inspector: 1,298
- Fire Police: 102
- Investigator: 432
- Instructor: 2,312
- Contractor's Certifications: 212

17. The Division and Kean held a Hazardous Materials: WMD Awareness & Operations TTT on January 16th and 18th, 2024, to review the new NFPA 470, 2022 Edition, Chapters 5, 7, 9.2 and 9.6 via the Zoom platform.
18. Starting January 1, 2024, the Recruit Firefighter 1/Hazardous Materials credentialing program will be teaching to the NFPA 470 – Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Standard for Responders, 2022 Edition.
19. Starting January 1, 2024, the Office of Training & Certification will start asking for documentation of a written and practical exam for all Hazardous Materials: Incident Commander online courses. This will coincide with the already enacted administrative procedure of asking for written and practical exams for the online HazMat: Awareness and Operations courses before accepting them towards state certifications.
20. The Firefighter 2 Written Equivalency Exams ended on December 31, 2023, with 53 offerings for approximately 1,510 NJ firefighters.
21. OTC Supervisor Kirkham and Training & Certification Specialist 1 Taylor met with Morris County Fire Academy Chief Pepe, Michael Corbo (Atlantic County), and others on January 29, 2024, at the Morris County PSTA regarding the Division's RIC credentialing program.
22. DFS Director Mikutsky, OTC Supervisor Kirkham, and Kean Univ. FSTP Director Haber will be meeting with top officials of the Port Authority of NY/NJ ARFF and Academy on January 22, 2024, to discuss issues PANYNJ D/C Davitt is having with the NJ DFS and our regulations and requirements regarding the ARFF training program and TTT programs. The FAA has also contacted the Division, Kean, and members of the SME Group regarding the Port Authority's ARFF Unit and the Academy.
23. The old fax machine number of 609-341-3469 will be shut off at some point soon. Please use 609-292-6831 for future faxes.
24. All DFS Certification applications are being revised as of January 2024. The revisions are minor, i.e., phone numbers, fax numbers, supervisor's name, and email address.
25. A reminder that one application (Firefighter 1) will not cover all certification titles (HazMat, etc.) Appropriate certification applications must be utilized.
26. Reminder that Recruit Firefighter 1 students cannot apply for the Incident Management Level 1 certification as soon as they graduate the academy even though they receive a I-200 course completion certificate from the academy – they still need to have the three-years of experience letter signed by the Chief or Training Officer – on department letterhead. A lot of these applications are sent back every year.
27. The Firefighter – Hazardous Materials – Fire Officer applications are slightly backed up again due to multiple, late Firefighter 2 Challenge Exam requests. Program Manager Taylor will be getting caught up as quickly as he can. This also includes the written exam grades and final course rosters.

28. Some good news that we have received approval to hire to backfill the vacant Training & Certification Specialist 1 position.
29. The Basic Fire Police credentialing program is being revised and updated with the assistance of Chief Ron Martinelli and his Fire Police SME Group.
30. Recruit Firefighter 1 Personal Information Forms should be sent to Steve Taylor for processing.
31. We Would like to remind everyone again that the grandfathering clause for Firefighter 1 ended on February 5, 2018. Everyone now must provide a Firefighter 1 course completion certificate from an academy to obtain the state certification.
32. NJ NFA Weekend is scheduled for June 1st and 2nd, 2024. There will be 7 courses to choose from.
 - Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking
 - New Fire Chief: Contemporary Issues
 - Emergency Response to Terrorism: Strategic Considerations
 - Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist
 - Incident Command System and Resource Management for the Fire Service
 - Preparation for Initial Company Operations
 - Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction
33. Eligible Organization Meetings for 2024:
 - Mercer County Dempster Fire Training Center – February 23rd
 - Union County Fire Academy – May 17th
 - Toms River Twp. Fire Academy – August 23rd
 - Atlantic County Fire Academy – November 22nd
34. Reminders:
 - Meetings can only be used to fulfill half of the CEU requirements for the Fire Inspector – Fire Official – and Fire Instructor certifications.
 - CEU credit must be earned within the current certification cycle.
 - excess CEU's cannot be applied to shortages in other categories.
35. The DFS' ARFF (Airport Rescue Fire Fighter) credentialing program will be run exclusively at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, the Newark International Airport, and the Atlantic City Airport. The Middlesex County Fire Academy and Port Authority staff will be involved in every delivery. All materials needed for this course, i.e., student manuals, jet fuel, ARFF crash truck, Purple K extinguishers, etc., will be purchased by the organization(s) sponsoring the course.
36. The Code Enforcement SME group will reconvene soon to update the Fire Inspector and Fire Official courses to the new International Fire Code – 2018 NJ Edition.
37. N.J.A.C. 5:71 regulation revisions are in the process up being reviewed. Some changes to the credentialing program language are being considered.
38. N.J.A.C. 5:73 regulation revisions are currently being worked on and will be sent for review. Some changes this go-around will include the Incident Management 2 requirements for chief level officers and the Incident Management 1 requirement for the Hazardous Materials: Incident Commander certification.
39. The director reviewed activity of the Fire & EMS Crisis Hotline. The total New Jersey FIRE/EMS LIFELINE ACTIVITIES for NOVEMBER included 110 CONTACTS.

Breakdown:

- NJ Fire/EMS Lifeline Peer Prevention Training/Events: 0 Event/ 0 Participants
- NJ Fire/EMS Lifeline Peer Intervention/Peer Support Calls/Chat/Emails: 110 Contacts
- o Incoming Calls: 37
- o Outgoing Calls: 72
- o Contact from Chat: 1
- NJ Fire/EMS Lifeline Opened Peer Support Counseling Cases: 25 Firefighters Served
- NJ Fire/EMS Lifeline Program Performance Telephone Detail:
 - o Inbound Calls 37/Outbound Calls 72
 - o Abandonment Rate 13.51%
 - o Average Speed to Answer 10.6
 - o Average Talk Time: 8 minutes 9 seconds (inbound)/Average Talk Time: 4 minutes 9 seconds (outbound)

All of this activity demonstrates the fact that there are members of our emergency response community that are experiencing crises that warrant attention and assistance.

Fire Code Bureau Chief Lou Kilmer reported the following:

40. The LEA Annual Report is due by January 31. There are no provisions in the regulations for extensions. Failure to file on time may result in loss of LHU rebates to the LEA.
41. The Attorney General's Office reviewed comments received on the new fire code. The AG's office did not identify any problems and made no changes to what the NJ DFS staff did with the comments received. All of this material has now been sent to the Governor's office for review prior to publication and adoption.
42. The Governor vetoed the Christmas Tree burn bill.
43. Work has started on the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code.
44. The school fire suppression survey is still being worked on. Regrettably, the progress has been slow as there are no incentives and no funding has been attached to the requirement mandated by the legislature.
45. Progress is being made in discussions with inspection, testing and maintenance of highway standpipe connections. In particular, the NJ DFS is talking with the NJ Turnpike Authority regarding the NJ Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway and the Atlantic City Expressway. They also engaged in talks with the NJ Department of Transportation on other limited access roadway under DOT jurisdiction.
46. The Governor conditionally vetoed the Fire and Smoke Damper legislation and recommended that any licensing or certification be done under the exist NJ DFS Fire Protection Contractor certification regulations. These changes to the legislation were adopted and the bill has now become law.
47. Kilmer noted that for the calendar year 2023 the NJ DFS completed all LHU inspections which accounted for 85% of the inspections done by the division. Approximately 15% of inspections (all of which were non-LHU) did not get inspected.
48. He also noted that the revenue stream for the DFS has evened out.

49. From a workload perspective Kilmer noted that his staff is allocating ½ day per week to collect outstanding fees and fines.
50. The NJ DFS is interviewing for a local assistance person.
51. The NJ DFS had a pilot delivery of a training program to address the issue of inspection, testing and maintenance in high rise occupancies, particularly such as warehousing types of occupancies where an inspection may need outside professional assistance as permitted under section 103 of the fire code. Initial review has been very good and it is anticipated that this course will be offered in the spring of 2024.

The Statistics and Information Advisory Council noted that the USFA is changing over from NFIRS to a new format to be known as NERIS for fire incident data collection. Stay tuned for additional information on this. Data is now to be send directly to the USFA.

The Public Education Advisory Council is attempting to get the UL handout on electric batteries so is can be made available for use by the fire service.

The Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Advisory Council noted that the dates have been set for the 2024 Annual Conference, which is now named for Anthony Bragg from Camden County. The dates are December 5 & 6.



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 13, 2024

To: Officers and Executive Committeepersons

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

Subject: NJS Firemen's Home Report

Meetings: 12/9/23 Executive Board Meeting; 1/13/24 Full Board Meeting; 2/10/24 Full Board Meeting

12/9/23 Executive Board Meeting

- Governor has approved the 2024 – 2025 Home Budget.
- Bid specs for roof replacement and elevator project are being completed.
- Finance: Bills: \$329,569.00 for the monthly period 11/11/23 through 12/8/23; motion to approve passed.
- Census (as of 11/30/23): 62 Long Term, 9 in Memory Care; 8 Residential = 79.
- Application Committee discussing the criteria for admission into the Home.
- Copy of the proposed By-Law revisions distributed. Vote on the proposed revisions to be held at the January 2024 Full Board meeting.
- **Long Range Planning: Committee held its first meeting. Discussed assorted items, including a potential building addition, and obtaining pricing for an actuarial study.**
- Next meeting: Full Board – January 13, 2024, at the Home.

1/13/24 Full Board Meeting

- License agreement with RVRSA discussed; \$17,000 offer proposed for the lease; motion to approve lease passed.
- Roof Contract to be released for bid over the next few weeks and the elevator contract will be ready for release shortly.
- Finance: Bills: \$558,720.32 for the monthly period 12/9/23 through 1/9/24; motion to approve passed.

- Census (as of 12/31/23): 60 Long Term, 8 in Memory Care; 8 Residential = 76. One application review during the month deemed ineligible due to behavior issues.
- Applications Committee presented and the Board passed a revised Qualification Rule for Entry into the Home. An 84-month entry requirement was approved; the one (1) year qualification was dissolved. See the attached Qualification policy.
- By-Laws: Proposed changes to the By-Laws were reviewed, discussed, and approved by the Full Board. See the attached By-Law changes. Of note, the Executive Board has been dissolved.
- Long Term Planning Committee: Committee met and are investigating assorted items such as generators, roofs, driveways, and parking areas for future potential repair/replacement including preparation of a replacement schedule. The committee received a quote of \$3000 to \$5000 for an actuary study for a provider. Motion to approve \$3000 to \$5000 for the study was approved.
- NJSFA Hudson Executive Handlin requested production of the Bill List that was OPRA requested in July. Superintendent Veras stated due to a software issue, the information could not be issued earlier. The information will be provided as soon as practical.
- Next meeting: Full Board – February 10, 2024, 9:00 AM, at the Home.

2/10/24 Full Board Meeting

- Home is investigating a Legionella situation at the Home. Testing has been performed. There is a strong suspicion it was brought into the building by a guest from outside the Home.
- Golf Outing to take place at the Knoll West Golf Club in Parsippany on June 27, 2024; 8:00 AM shotgun start. Lunch will be provided at the Home after golf.
- RVRSA has approved a license agreement with the Home.
- Bid responses for an elevator modification have been received.
- Bid documents for roof project are near completion.
- A new kitchen dishwasher is to be leased.
- Finance: Bills: \$467,385.93 for the monthly period 1/10/24 through 2/6/23; Motion to approve bills passed. Monthly unaudited income/expense report attached.
- Census (as of 1/31/24): 59 Long Term, 8 in Memory Care; 7 Residential = 74. 2/10/24 Applications Committee Report attached. Clarification: Applications Committee clarified the new admissions policy which will go into effect on April 1, 2024. The 84-month policy applies to new firefighter applicants only. If the firefighter is in the system now, they are grandfathered under the new standard. To reiterate, the 1-month admissions policy applies to all firefighters in the system prior to April 1, 2024.
- Long Term Planning Committee: No actuary hired to date. The committee will be moving forward with an actuary soon.
- Next Meeting: Full Board – March 9, 2024, 9:00 AM, at the Home.

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

02/10/2024

The Applications Committee held their meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, at 9:00 am.

Attending were: Mgrs. Freeman, Cunningham, Miller, Keyser, and DeVirgilio. Mgr. Jeffer was excused.
Medical Staff: A. Bundrick and U. Baumgartner.

Guest(s): Chairman Apgar
Superintendent: Veras

The committee reviewed 5 applications. Four were accepted. One is being held for attorney review.

Since the last meeting there was one admission through Jan. 31, 2024.

The monthly census as of 01/31/2024:

Long Term Care: 67 (includes eight in Lathrop Station).

Residential: 7

Total: 74

Four residents residents answered their final alarm, one each from Morris County and Somerset County and two from Hudson County.

The next meeting will be at the home, on Tuesday March, 5 2024, at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert E. Freeman II
Applications Chairperson

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRY INTO THE HOME

Applicants must meet one of the following qualifications for entry into the NFH:

Has a qualification certificate from the NJSFA.

If the certificate can not be found, the local Relief Sercetary or Chief will present a statement showing the applicant had 84 months of active service.

Applicant(s) from a Fire Company or Department not associated with the NJSFA must present proof of 84 months of active service using the NJSFA standards at the time of service. This will be accomplished by the Chief and Township (City or Boro) Clerk presenting a notorized statement to that effect.

The exception will be any active firefighter injured in the line of duty will be eligible for admission in to the NFH.

This policy will take effect April 1,2024.

All applications that are submitted/completed before April 1, 2024 will be reviewed by the committee.

By-Laws Changes

Article IV – Executive Committee

- Remove this section.
- Throughout the By-Laws – replace “EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE” with “FULL BOARD” or remove as appropriate.

Article 1 – Meetings

- Sec 1. Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Managers shall be held at the home in the Town of Boonton NJ, on the second Saturday of each month or as scheduled at 0900 hrs except for the September Meeting which will be held in Wildwood at the NJ State Firemen’s Convention. Managers are required to attend 8 of the 12 meetings.
- The October meeting shall be the reorganization meeting
- Section 2 – Remove the entire section (Executive Committee)

Article VI – Order of Business

- Section 9 – CHANGE TO: Twelve (12) members of the Board of Managers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Application for Admission – General Information (Part B) Page 2, #4:

- The applicant must have served as an active firefighter for a minimum of 7 years and possess a State of NJ Division of Fire Safety certification as determined by the municipality, Fire District or Fire Department, with the exception of Irreversible medical conditions as approved by a vote of the Board of Managers.

NEW JERSEY'S FIREMENS HOME
2023-2024 Budget Report
Combined Statement of Revenues and Expenses
July 1, 2023 - January 31, 2024

FOR BUDGETING PURPOSES ONLY

DESCRIPTION OF EXPENSES	Est Current Month		Actual	Balances		Year to Date Budget-		Year to Date Actual		Balances
	Budget-Approp.			<Over> or Under	Approp.		Approp.		<Over> Under	
Manager's Travel	\$ 12,500.00	\$	28,549.10	\$	(16,049.10)	\$ 150,000.00	\$	\$130,641.61	\$	19,358.39
Telephone Services	\$ 6,666.67	\$	5,761.40	\$	905.27	\$ 80,000.00	\$	\$31,117.64	\$	45,882.36
Postage	\$ 375.00	\$	(243.80)	\$	618.80	\$ 4,500.00	\$	\$0.00	\$	4,500.00
Insurances	\$ 28,750.00	\$	16,808.85	\$	11,941.15	\$ 345,000.00	\$	\$306,721.43	\$	38,278.57
Household & Security Services	\$ 27,750.00	\$	25,022.16	\$	2,727.84	\$ 333,000.00	\$	\$372,249.82	\$	(39,249.82)
Other Professional Services	\$ 12,916.67	\$	11,442.75	\$	1,473.92	\$ 155,000.00	\$	\$38,289.94	\$	116,710.06
Professional Services-Housekeeping	\$ 51,666.67	\$	1,584.53	\$	50,082.14	\$ 620,000.00	\$	\$391,568.44	\$	228,431.56
Professional Services - Acctg	\$ 6,558.92	\$	1,994.25	\$	4,564.67	\$ 78,707.00	\$	\$88,010.80	\$	(9,303.80)
Professional Services - Legal	\$ 621.45	\$	3,575.00	\$	(2,953.55)	\$ 7,457.40	\$	\$23,709.75	\$	(16,252.35)
Professional Services - Actuarial	\$ 1,242.90	\$		\$	1,242.90	\$ 14,914.80	\$	\$8,750.00	\$	6,164.80
Professional Services - Medical	\$ 15,743.40	\$	11,266.92	\$	4,476.48	\$ 188,920.80	\$	\$74,817.86	\$	114,102.94
Professional Services-Food Service	\$ 88,333.33	\$	93,104.25	\$	(4,770.92)	\$ 1,060,000.00	\$	\$682,872.42	\$	377,127.58
Staff Training & Travel	\$ 2,500.00	\$	390.00	\$	2,110.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$	\$6,427.27	\$	23,572.73
Stenographer	\$ 916.67	\$	1,158.75	\$	(242.08)	\$ 11,000.00	\$	\$6,350.15	\$	4,649.85
Stenographer Summary	\$ 256,541.67	\$	200,414.96	\$	56,126.71	\$ 3,078,500.00	\$	\$2,164,527.13	\$	913,972.87
Mainfl Bldg. & Grounds	\$ 11,666.67	\$	4,864.10	\$	6,802.57	\$ 140,000.00	\$	\$68,265.04	\$	71,734.96
Maint Equipment	\$ 3,750.00	\$	2,794.31	\$	955.69	\$ 45,000.00	\$	\$42,214.98	\$	21,526.68
Maint Vehicles	\$	\$		\$			\$	\$0.00	\$	
Maint & Repair Summary	\$ 15,416.67	\$	7,658.41	\$	7,758.26	\$ 185,000.00	\$	\$110,480.02	\$	74,519.98
Improvements Site	\$	\$		\$		\$	\$	\$0.00	\$	
Improvements Bldg	\$ 28,458.33	\$	29,029.86	\$	(571.53)	\$ 341,500.00	\$	\$105,723.86	\$	235,776.14
Improvements -Equipm.	\$ 6,166.67	\$		\$	6,166.67	\$ 74,000.00	\$	\$1,669.25	\$	72,330.75
Improv-Diefl Cont Equip	\$	\$		\$			\$	\$0.00	\$	
Capital-Bldg Addl -New Bldg (As Per Title 54.18-8)	\$	\$		\$			\$	\$0.00	\$	
Summary	\$ 34,625.00	\$	29,029.86	\$	5,595.14	\$ 415,500.00	\$	\$107,293.11	\$	308,106.89
Transfers to Medical Account	\$	\$		\$		\$	\$		\$	
Transfers to Property Fund	\$	\$		\$		\$	\$		\$	
Total Expenses	\$ 1,021,958.33	\$	1,249,662.03	\$	(227,703.70)	\$ 12,263,500.00	\$	\$7,367,804.04	\$	4,895,695.96
Not Balance Of										
Revenue & Expenses	\$	\$	(295,105.78)	\$	(295,105.78)		\$	\$4,908,217.69	\$	4,908,217.69

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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 5, 2024

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

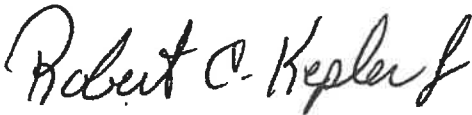
Dear Mr. President:

A regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on February 5, 2024 at the office of the Association. At that time, the accounts of the Association were audited for the Second Quarter ending December 31, 2023. 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.

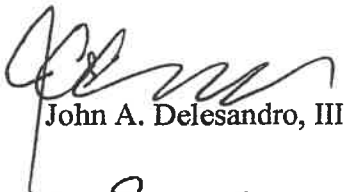
The reviews covered the reconciliation of all checks, vouchers, ledger entries and bank statements for the General fund, Burial Fund, Pension, General Checking, Assessment and Special Relief accounts. The Association income documents, bank statements, and credit and debit documents were found to be accurate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



John A. Delesandro, III



Edward A. Pettit, Jr.

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Jennie M. Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

Legislative Committee Report February 24, 2024

To: Officers & All Members of the Executive Committee,

The 2022-2023 Legislative Session ended on January 9, 2024, and had a total of 10,590 bills introduced. The Legislative Committee tracked 195 bills that relate to the fire service. The Governor signed 519 bills into law for this session. There was 11 of our tracked bills that were signed into law (see attached for a complete list of signed tracked bills). We finished the year attending as many Assembly and Senate Committee Meetings as possible to be present for the bills that were in our tracking lists.

The 2024-2025 Legislative Session has started and is currently at 7,055 introduced as of this report. I have broken down the committee's tracking lists to three, Fire & Emergency Services, Pensions, and Firemen's Home (recently added to our tracking lists). The bills in the Firemen's Home tracking list are unique to them i.e. health care workers and nursing home/long term care bills. The total of our tracked bills is 212, with 111 bills in Fire & Emergency Services, 36 bills in Pensions, and 65 bills in Firemen's Home. There are currently no bills sitting on the Governor's Desk and he has not signed any bills to date.

On Thursday, Vice President Hankins and I attended some Assembly and Senate Committee Meetings in Trenton to show support for some of our tracked bills. We continue to attend as many committee meetings in Trenton as possible.

I have not yet picked a meeting date yet for the Annual Legislative Committee Meeting but as soon as I have a date set, I will share it with everyone.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian E. Martone
Legislative Committee Chairman
First Assistant Secretary

Health Care Committee Minutes

February 15, 2024

The meeting of the Health Care Committee was called to order at 11:00am by Chairman James Reeves

ATTENDEES: Chairman James Reeves, Executive Committee Members, Joseph Mecsey, Joseph Jubert, Frank Walker(guest), Konrad Mellert(guest) Officers: President Ordway, Vice President Hankins, Secretary Pelaia, First Assistant Secretary Martone, Second Assistant Secretary Dreby, Field Examiner Hollingsworth. Committeeman Minnell was excused.

Item #1 Chairman Reeves opened the meeting, saying that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss Assisted Living. Field Examiner Hollingsworth then began the conversation that she received a call from the son of a firefighter that is currently receiving a Health Benefit in Assisted Living. She also reminded all that we do not pay for the living expenses in an Assisted Living facility. We only pay for the medical level of care. She received a call from the son regarding the Reimbursements. She went on to say that this member was receiving \$10,000 a month. She then continued to say when we eliminated paying for the housing part of Assisted Living that she notified everyone in the program and this member began to receive then a reimbursement for only \$6,000 per month. She went on to say that when a Social Worker went to see his mother who has dementia, the Social Worker said she needed also to be in a facility, After the mother was admitted the son reached out to Jennie Hollingsworth saying what can be done since they both are there, and he cannot afford the cost. Field Examiner Hollingsworth and Executive Committeeman Jubert then went on to explain that in most cases there is a contract that must be signed that a resident will remain in the facility for a period (e.g. 3 years). There was then some discussion regarding the cost to the Association going up monthly. Field Examiner Hollingsworth said that we are getting approximately 25 applications monthly. We currently have 384 members and spouses currently in the Health Care Program. Chairman Reeves then mentioned that we went from \$100,000 the first year to 14 million dollars a year presently for the Program. Treasurer Mullen stated that there is a finite amount of money coming into the program. At the present time we cannot predict how much money we will need for this program. Chairman Reeves asked the treasurer if we need an actuarial study for this program. Treasurer Mullen stated that he doesn't feel an Actuary Study can be done. He said as the years go on our membership becomes older and ultimately many of them will need the care, the program is only going to increase. The program is growing and is only going to grow in the future, which will cost the Association more money. Executive Committeeman Jubert mentioned is that maybe we should be looking at need like what is done for Relief. Treasurer Mullen and Field Examiner Hollingsworth both agreed. President Ordway then inquired how

many recipients are receiving Health Care that are still in their homes? Field Examiner Hollingsworth said that there is a good number of people in the program that are still living at home and that number is increasing with many people wanting to remain in their home. It was also discussed that recipients should back up their need by submitting proof of income, if any. This item will be continued at the next meeting.

Item # 2: Field Examiner Hollingsworth then brought forward a situation where a member joined the Military and was diagnosed with ALS. He is Non – Verbal. He is currently in Home Health Care. He is now approaching his 5 years of 0% and will probably be dropped from the Rolls of the Association. President Ordway then mentioned with all our programs, when we change something, any member receiving benefits is normally grandfathered but at this time, since then member is going to be dropped from the membership, no action needs to be taken since he will no longer be eligible for Health Care.

Item #3: There was discussion regarding Assistant Living. After some discussion a motion was made by Executive Committeeman Jubert, seconded by Executive Committeeman Mecsey that at this time. that we freeze all Assisted Living Applications effective February 28, 2024, until we review the criteria of what needs to be paid. **Passed**

Item #4: There was discussion about freezing all spouse applications. After discussion it was determined that due to the complexity of the program we freeze all new applications for spouses, effective February 28, 2024, at this time. A motion was made by Chairman Reeves seconded by Executive Committeeman Jubert. **Passed**

Meeting Adjourned 12:25pm

FREE ONE-ON-ONE PERSONALIZED FINANCIAL COACHING

FEELING STRESS?

High student debt?
Low credit score?
Too many bills?

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EDUCATION FUND**

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What Folks Are Saying About Us!

"Thank you so much, you don't even know how these sessions are really helping me to see clear my financial situation and how to work to make it better."

- Bank Staff, Wayne, NJ

"As a leader of a non-profit, I am always looking for ways to show my staff how much their hard work is appreciated. Many of our employees are raising children, working more than one job, going to school, or paying off student loans. Self-care is so important in this field; by asking NJ Citizen Action to provide workshops and individual financial counseling, I was able to provide a service that gave people an opportunity to review their personal goals and develop a plan to reduce their financial stressors. I highly recommend NJ Citizen Action."

- Nonprofit CEO, Secaucus, NJ

"I've learned how to live without the financial crisis."

- Social Worker, Jersey City, NJ

"I was able to narrow down and identify my financial goals and also reach them in such a short time! What was helpful was learning tools that worked for me and truly develop the confidence I needed."

- Entrepreneur, Newark, NJ



**NEW JERSEY
CITIZEN ACTION
EDUCATION FUND**

Phone: 973.273.0315 • Email: Coach@njcitizenaction.org • www.njcaef.org

Who Are We?

Founded in 1983, **New Jersey Citizen Action Education Fund (NJCAEF)** is a nonprofit organization that works to empower low- and moderate-income people through free financial skills-building education, outreach and counseling programs.

How Can We Help You?

Are you tired of living paycheck-to-paycheck? Are you struggling with bills and/or student loan debt?

Our free Financial Coaching is personalized and designed to help you set goals, make a plan and build the habits to manage your finances effectively. Our financial coaches will work to:

- **Improve your credit score**
- **Reduce your debt**
- **Build your savings**
- **Assist with student debt**
- **Determine and reach your goals**

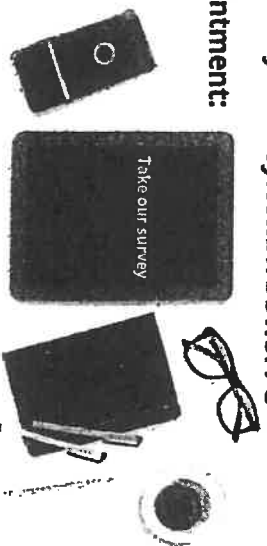


How To Get Started

Take our survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/DSWSFFPG

Or call us to make an appointment:

973.273.0315



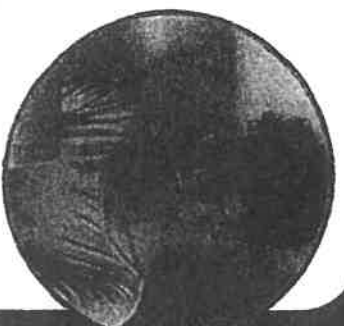
Our success stories!

Yvonne's long term goal is home ownership.

She is not ready for NJCAEF's First Time Home Owner program. However, Financial Coaching helps her build the habits she needs for money management no matter her future goals.

Disputing credit report items and addressing collections has helped increase her credit score.

She's taken on a second job to reduce her debt. She's saving for the future and this will increase as her debt is paid off.



Guillermo is a college graduate who has not found

a job in his field. He's struggling to pay back his student loans especially since he has started a family. Recently, Guillermo's tax refund was garnished. He began Financial Coaching and we helped him find his way through the student loan system to a better payment process. Because of Financial Coaching Guillermo has learned to live within his means, reduce stress and make ends meet.



Rose has been struggling with credit card debt.

She heard about Financial Coaching at her job. We helped Rose create a budget and recognize her spending habits. She made changes to lifestyle and was able to reduce her spending. Once her budget was balanced she tackled debt by using the tools we offered. Now Rose uses her budget, not credit cards to determine her spending. Within three years she is saving money and is debt-free.

