



109 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

The Signal

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Volume 61 No. 6 Official Publication of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association **JULY/AUGUST 2022**

From the President's Pen...

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our association. As we go through the summer months, let's think about our health with the heat and humidity and stay hydrated and rotate crews as needed. I congratulate the Paramus and Westwood fire departments for winning the Fire Service softball league championship game.

Our association has several great things happening and in the works. We were given a live fire training session to raffle off as a fund raiser by the Bergenfield Fire Training Center (BFTC). The winner will be pulled at the association meeting in September in Wallington, NJ. For information or to get in on the raffle please see any officer or trustee. The association is also holding a beefsteak and comedy night on October 29

again in cooperation with the BFTC. Tickets are only \$45 a person. A number of fire departments have already committed to buying a table in support of the association. Don't miss out on this wonderful evening. Plan on getting a table for your fire department and attending.

September 11th is just around the corner. Let's never forget about this horrific day and all the emergency agencies and families that lost people. Pray for those we lost and for their families. And just remember only you can make a difference by volunteering in your community. God bless and stay safe. Please keep our military in your thoughts and prayers.

President Roy De Young, Jr

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TRENTON, NJ – There are currently 7,990 bills that have been introduced for the current legislative session. Following passage of the new state budget for the current fiscal year effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 the state legislature went into recess with no committee activity or legislative sessions scheduled for July or August.

Assembly bill 4217 passed both houses of the legislature and now sits on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature to become law. This bill extends cancer screening to all career firefighters including those not covered in the State Health Benefits Plan. Once signed, all career firefighters including those in the State Health Benefits Plan and those not in the SHBP would be covered for cancer screening.

At the latest meeting of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission State Assemblyman Kevin Rooney of Wyckoff, NJ announced he had introduced several pieces of legislation that are specifically of interest to the fire service.

A 201 – authorizes first responders to obtain, administer and

dispense opioid antidotes with immunity.

A 211 – authorizes certain county fire coordinators to display emergency warning lights on their personal motor vehicle when responding to fires and other emergencies.

A 2205 – allows for a gross income tax credit for volunteer firefighters.

A 2931 – extends certain exceptions for emergency personnel operating personal watercraft while providing rescue services.

A 4357 – permits inclusion of volunteer firefighters and other emergency responders within municipal eligible group for purposes of the small employer health benefits plan statutes.

A 4407 – requires paramedic units to stock cyanide toxicity kits and appropriates \$500,000 to fund the legislation.

Firefighters, emergency first responders and their families may register their support for these bills with their legislators through the state website at www.state.nj.us and going to the Legislature section. Follow the directions for sending an email to your legislators.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD SEPTEMBER 30TH AT
WALLINGTON CO. 203 • 2022 PARK ROW, WALLINGTON, NJ AT 8PM**



The officers and members of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association extend their deepest sympathy to the families of our departed comrades:

Ex-Chief Leon McCoy, Elmwood Park Volunteer Fire Co. # 4, Elmwood Park, NJ FD

Eng./FF Brendan Castronuovo, Tallman Fire Dept., Tallman, NY FD

Ex-Capt. Anthony Prestipino, General Warren Co. 2, Haverstraw, NY FD

Ex-Chief Alfred Gerber, Little Ferry FD and Fire Instructor, Bergen County Fire Academy

Ex-Chief Mark Tomko, Wallington FD

Listings of deceased members is published based on their last address on record and may not be the same as the town in which they served.

Remember Our Troops
Visit us at www.njnyvfa.org

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Membership Meetings-Last Friday of the Month

*Unless otherwise noted. All meetings start at 8:00 PM

2022

- August 11** Bergen County Caucus
New Jersey State Firemen's Association
Paramus Catholic High School
Registration starts at 6:30 p.m.
Caucus begins promptly at 7:30 p.m.
- September 16** New Jersey State Firemen's Association
Annual Convention
Convention Hall – Wildwood, NJ
Check – in starts at 7:00 a.m.
Convention convenes at 10:00 a.m. (note the new earlier start time)
- September 17** NJSFA convention voting
Convention Hall – Wildwood, NJ
Check – in and voting start at 7:00 a.m.
- September 21** NJNYVFA Executive Board meeting
New Milford Fire Company # 2
680 Trenton Street, New Milford, NJ
Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.
- September 30** NJNYVFA monthly meeting
Wallington Co. 203
2022 Park Row, Wallington, NJ 07057
Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.

Anyone wishing to host a meeting, please contact one of our Officers at njnyvfa@gmail.com or their personal email address as listed in this newsletter.

Please bring a face mask to meetings until further notice.



New Jersey State Volunteer Firemen's Association
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NJNYVFA TO HOLD TRAINING RAFFLE

NEW MILFORD, NJ – At the monthly executive board meeting of the New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association held on June 15, 2022 the E-Board voted to accept an offer from the Bergenfield Fire Training Center (BFTC) of a live fire training session at the training center to be raffled off. This is being done as a fund raiser for the NJ&NYVFA. Tickets are available for \$5 each. The winning ticket will be pulled at the September meeting of the association in Wallington. There is no limit to the number of tickets that may be purchased. Individuals, fire companies or fire departments may purchase tickets.

The winner will be asked to designate the fire department or company they wish to be the recipient of the training session. All standard training requirements will be followed including use of PPE and SCBA. The BFTC follows all NJ Division of Fire Safety and NJ PEOSH training regulations. The session will have to be used before the end of 2022.

For information or tickets please contact Jerry Naylis at 201-240-0414 or by email at gnaylis@bergenfieldfd.org.

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Bergen County Executive Committeeman

New Jersey State Firemen's Association

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ELECTRICAL AND AIR-RELATED APPARATUS ISSUES

By Kevin Schade, EVT

In these articles that I have written so far, I have stayed very general about the topics I have chosen. This month we talk more in-depth about two topics. Those topics will be electrical and air-related issues. Some of the practices may not be practical to incorporate into your weekly apparatus check, but they can easily be performed during a drill on a rainy night.

Electrical issues exist in almost every piece of apparatus but they also exist in our equipment. If your apparatus has an onboard generator, you likely also have portable lights, cord reels, etc. All of those items should be checked for proper operation during your weekly checks. However, when was the last time you removed all of the cord from your cord reels (truck mounted or portable) and inspected the cord insulation for damage? Have you ever checked the point at which the cord goes into the reel? That is a stress point and the cord does tend to separate and fray at that point. Now think of the cord reels when they are stretched into a fire building. We may secure the electricity in the fire building but we are reintroducing it into the fire building with the cord reels. Damaged cords could easily lead to electrocution. You don't need to inspect every inch of the cord with a magnifying glass but run a cloth over the cords and take a quick look. If this task is performed with any regularity, any issues should be spotted.

There are a few types of truck-mounted generators but the two most common are hydraulic and diesel-powered. Diesel generators typically use the truck's diesel tank as a fuel source and operate like a common combustion engine. Some basic maintenance points would be to check the air filter/ fuel filter for cleanliness and to check the oil level in the motor. Hydraulic generators are simpler and really only have one main component that should be checked, and that is the level of the hydraulic oil. Like I've said before, use this information as a guide and always consult the manufactures manuals for more detailed specifications. If your apparatus has a generator, it typically will have a breaker panel for all of the different components that it powers. Check that breaker panel and see if the individual breakers are labeled correctly or even labeled at all. This is not a huge issue but it may help that exhausted chauffer at the 3 AM building fire.

Air issues are extremely common for fire apparatus but hopefully, these tips will help you. I've written before that most departments use a Kussmaul auxiliary air pump or a compressor in the firehouse to maintain the truck air pressure. The Kussmaul auxiliary air pump could be mounted anywhere on your apparatus but now I am typically seeing them mounted in the cab or in a compartment. That air pump has a glass bowl that collects water from the compressed air. On the bottom of that bowl, there is a drain screw. Obviously, that is so the water can drain out when water collects. Here is the issue, from the factory the drain screw is closed. Someone needs to maintain that pump and drain the water out otherwise water will be pumped into your trucks air system causing a wide variety of issues. This same principle also applies to compressors

mounted in the firehouse. They too have a drain at the bottom of the tank and need to be bled off now and again. Ultimately, water will eventually get into the air tanks of your vehicle. That is why we drain the air tanks on the trucks regularly and check for excessive water.

Air leaks are everywhere and they only get worse with the age of your apparatus. If you can, roll under your trucks and spray some air fittings with soapy water or a shaken bottle of Windex. This will easily show you leaks and those leaks can be reported to the mechanic your department uses. All of these small tasks will hopefully add up to a safer and more reliable piece of apparatus.

Kevin Schade is a lieutenant in the Bergenfield Fire Department. He is a certified Emergency Vehicle Technician by the EVT Certification Commission and is employed as a fire apparatus mechanic with Seagrave Fire Apparatus.

BERGEN COUNTY FIREMEN'S HOME ASSOCIATION REPORT

BOONTON, NJ – On Sunday July 10, 2022 the Bergen County Firemen's Home Association hosted a picnic at the firemen's home for the guests. The weather was absolutely perfect with shining sunlight and mild temperatures. The afternoon was filled with delicious food, cold beverages, wonderful musical entertainment by the Bloomingdale Coronet Band, a special guest performance by bagpiper Brandon Hogan of the Bergen County Firefighters Pipe and Drum Band, and fellowship provided by the members who spent the afternoon talking, serving and visiting the guests. We also had a special appearance from six members of the Maywood Fire Department who came on their ladder truck to visit their very own George Steger who is a guest at the home. FYI – George turns 99 years young on August 5.

The members of the BCFHA were greatly aided by staff members from the home under the very capable direction of Monica Story. Our NJSFA president Rob Ordway once again displayed his culinary talents by working the grill along with Prince from the home staff working side by side with Rob. A true culinary combo preparing hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, bratwurst, barbeque chickens, and baked beans. The picnic feast was finished off with chilled watermelon and delicious cakes prepared by Lois Ciampo, wife of Nick Ciampo of the Wyckoff FD.

A number of the guests were heard remarking how much they appreciate having the picnics and the visits from fellow firefighters. We had a great afternoon reliving some past memories with our brothers and enjoyed bringing smiles to their faces. The next picnic is scheduled for Sunday August 21 at the firemen's home in Boonton, NJ starting at 12:00 noon.

These picnics and the other parties, entertainment, gifts and special work done by the Bergen County Firemen's Home Association is all made possible by the generous donations from the fire departments and fire companies in Bergen County. Any person or organization wishing to make a donation to the BCFHA may send their check payable to the BCFHA c/o Jeff Parma, Fund Drive Chairman; 277 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, NJ 07640.

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NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

By Jerry Naylis, Bergen County Executive Committeeman

WALL TOWNSHIP, NJ - The NJSFA Executive Committee met on Saturday July 16, 2022 at the state association office in Wall Township. The following items were raised and discussed:

1. Vice President Joseph Hankins reported that the county caucuses are set and assignments have been made for registration at those caucuses.
2. The association has paid out 128 death claims this past month. The average death claim for burial expense is \$10,799. This means the burial benefit amount is currently adequate for the average funeral.
3. Secretary Tom Pelaia reported that all of the county executive committee members have filed nominating petitions for re-election. The county committee members have no opposition.
4. There are five firemen's home manager positions up for election. Four of the affected counties have at least two people running for the manager's position meaning there will be a contested election in four counties.
5. The firemen's home manager in Hudson County, William Oser has passed away. He had one year remaining on his term of office. A special election will be held to fill his unexpired term. There are at least two people running to fill this position. The successful candidate will serve a one-year unexpired term.
6. Convention credentials have been mailed to local association secretaries for distribution to delegates and life members. There were problems with approximately 20 life member cards that are being corrected. These life member cards will be available at the respective county caucuses.
7. August 31 is the last date to change any delegate or life member for this year's convention. The appropriate paperwork has to be in the state office by August 31.
8. The convention seating chart has been updated. Bergen County will be seated on the main floor in the rear of Convention Hall.
9. The Annual Memorial Service will be the first order of business on Friday September 16, 2022 during this year's convention. The Friday session will begin at 10:00 a.m. This is a change from previous years.
10. Registration for this year's convention will start at 7:00 a.m. on both Friday and Saturday. All business will be conducted during the Friday session. The Saturday session will be for voting only. You will need your delegate or life member

card to register, sign in and get credit for attending the convention.

11. Convention Expense checks are not to be made out until after the convention is over. Vouchers and expense forms need to be handed in to the local treasurer for expense tracking purposes.
12. Ed Mullen, State Association Treasurer advised the Executive Committee that the independent audit of the association's finances has been completed.
13. Field Examiner Jennie Hollingsworth reported that she has completed approximately 99% of the reviews of relief applications and has prepared comment sheets for the applications. She had also completed reports on the field audits completed this year. She thanked everyone for their cooperation in getting all of this work completed.
14. The state association office will be closed on Monday September 5 in observance of Labor Day. The office will also be closed on September 16 and 17 during the NJSFA Convention in Wildwood.
15. Second quarter relief paid reports are due in the state association office by July 30. Please make sure that your local treasurer has electronically filed this report on time. Failure to report will result in your local association not being seated for this year's convention.
16. If your local relief association filed an extension request with the IRS for your annual 990 please make sure that your association files their income tax return. A copy of the income tax returns needs to be sent to the state office.
17. The state association has budgeted \$900,000 to be paid into the association's pension program. This is following IRS guidelines for our pension program.
18. The Tuckerton Local Relief Association (Ocean County) has been made an inactive association. The local governing body took action to stop this fire department from responding to calls due to action by the New Jersey PEOSH office because of safety violations. This association will remain inactive until the fire department is reinstated by the local governing body. The state office will be assuming all duties of the local association. Delegates will not be able to attend or collect expense payments for the convention. Life members may attend the convention.
19. The Pensauken Fire Department is consolidating a number of companies and the local relief associations in Pensauken may be consolidating.
20. President Ordway reported on the cancer screening law currently on the Governor's Desk. Ordway said the NJSFA will be pursuing legislation to obtain cancer screening for all firefighters in New Jersey.



Christopher H. Assenheimer
Secretary - Past President
Editor of 5 Trumpet Journal

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21. A request was made to begin examining how volunteer fire departments can provide percentage credit for those departments that may start on duty shifts as a method of service deliver in their jurisdictions.
22. The Executive Committee passed a motion raising the amount of Health Care funding for a member in a nursing home to a maximum of \$12,000 per month to for non-covered expenses. This reimbursement is effective August 1, 2022. There are currently 25 NJSFA members in nursing homes in New Jersey and 11 NJSFA members in nursing homes outside of New Jersey.

BERGEN COUNTY PICNIC AT THE NJ FIREMEN'S HOME ON JULY 11TH



The members of the Bergen County Firemen's Home Association with our resident guest George Steger



Maywood Fire Department with George Steger

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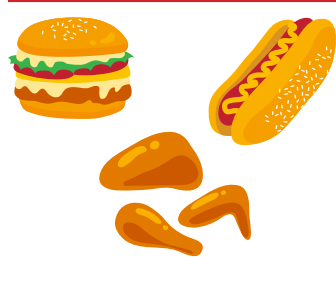
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BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS

- 327 E Ridgewood Ave in Paramus is fully operational and is now completely redundant to the PSOC. This secondary facility is staffed 24/7, currently dispatching the Prosecutor's Office, Sheriff's Department and County Divisions. A Public Safety Telecommunicator from the Mahwah facility, that provides dispatch to local municipalities, is rotated every 28 days. Phase II is in progress, adding bathrooms, shower, bunk rooms, conference room, and a loading dock.
- The 700MHz trunking system buildout is progressing well. The Hackensack Medical Center site is near completion and will be operational in a few months with Alpine to follow. The remaining sites, Cliffside Park/Fort Lee, Carlstadt, and Secaucus will complete the countywide system. Buildout is subject to Motorola supply chain availability.
- The installation of the Public Safety Alert Channel is underway. To date, working off an install list, 12-13 dispatch locations are equipped. The fully encrypted channel is expected to be available by September for all dispatch centers (Police desks, dispatch centers, etc.) within the county.
- The County is developing an operational and pricing plan for Municipal Fire Dispatch. A survey is underway with all municipal fire departments to determine the annual calls for the period 2019 through 2021. In the event your department has not already submitted this information, your cooperation is appreciated. When complete, the proposal will go to the County Executive for review and approval. If approved, roll-out is anticipated over the following months. The plan will be of significant benefit to municipalities, cost effective, not cost prohibitive.
- Fire Service Working Group: In coordination with the Bergen County Fire Coordinators, PSOC has assigned a fire response channel to each Mutual Aid Group/Battalion, increasing to 9 fire response channels. Non-subscribing agencies that have radios with the correct firmware are encouraged to program the county B bank into their radios for maximum interoperability with countrywide fire trunking channels.
- The State has chosen Bergen County as the first county to upgrade all PSAPs to Next Gen 911. This upgrade provides standardized video component, text messaging, mapping,

and plotting capabilities, among other features. It will be operational by the end of the year across all PSAPs.

- The County is building their own fiber network. The fiber is now being run. Phases I and II are complete, Phase III is in progress.
- The LiveSafe Program has recently been retooled. The Bergen County Prosecutor's office announced that this intuitive mobile platform features a panic alert alarm routed to PSOC as well as a number of other advantageous emergency components. The downloadable app enables direct and discreet real time two-way communication with emergency responders, schools, and companies using text, picture, video, and audio. LiveSafe is available for both Apple and Android devices.
- PSOC recently began dispatching for the Meadowland Fire Department, handling its first concert (Coldplay). The FD is pleased with their service and raised level of professionalism the county dispatch provides.
- PSOC is interviewing new candidates for 9 full-time Public Safety Telecommunicators. Information and application at careers@bcpsoc.com. they should contact their vendor prior to calling the DFS for a solution. Often times it is found that the problem is with the vendor's software or the user.

NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION REPORT


SURF CITY, NJ – The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission met in Surf City, NJ on Wednesday July 20, 2022 at the Surf City Fire Company for their bi-monthly meeting. The following items came up during the meeting:

Rich Mikutsky, the State Fire Marshal and the Director of the Division of Fire Safety (DFS) reported:

1. DFS is adding new personnel and has made a number of promotions. DFS is awaiting action by the Civil Service Commission to hire new full time fire inspectors. The division is still hiring part time and per diem fire inspectors in the interim.
2. The issue of fire protection in Frelinghuysen Township was resolved by a negotiations that resulted in a shared services agreement with Green Township. The DFS worked with all parties on development of the shared services agreement.
3. The contract with Kean University is being renewed for delivery of fire code and other fire service training classes.
4. DFS is working on reaccreditation with IFSAC on 11 current certifications and moving to add 5 new certifications.
5. DFS is making changes to the fire official and fire inspection class and test.
6. To date the DFS Fire Investigation Unit has investigated 205 fires. They have been especially active in cases regarding

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wildfires. Of particular note were their efforts in the wildfire that caused significant damage to the Garden State Parkway earlier this year.

7. DFS is in the process of migrating their dispatching and radio operations from Mercer County to Union County.

8. The NFIRS unit is continuing to provide outreach and training on the fire incident reporting system.

9. The Crisis Hot Line has now been running for one year since July 2021. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There have been numerous cases where support and intervention have occurred to help emergency service providers this past year.

Lou Kilmer, Fire Code Bureau Chief reported:

10. The 2018 edition of the fire code has been released to the Governor's Office by the Commissioner of DCA with no changes at all. Of specific notes were the following:

a. Combustible mulch will be required to be at least 18-inches away from any structure

b. All hotels and motels are to be Life Hazard Uses (LHU)

c. Carbon Monoxide systems approved under the Uniform Construction Code will be approved for compliance with the Uniform Fire Code.

11. Sober Living Facilities are required to be inspected and registered as an LHU

12. Chief Kilmer is awaiting a new list from Civil Service so new fire inspectors can be hired.

13. The DFS will be transitioning to a new computer system. The hope is the transition can be completed by January 1, 2023.

14. DFS is looking to reconstitute the Peer Review process.

15. Some LEAs have been accepting affidavits in lieu of inspections for smoke detector, carbon monoxide alarms and fire extinguisher certificates. Chief Kilmer noted that LEAs cannot accept affidavits and that inspections must be done in order to issue any SD/CO/FE certificates. On this issue the issue of fire code inspections, Commissioner Naylis expressed an opinion that fire code inspections should only be done by certified fire inspectors who are trained in the fire code and now must pass a test to become certified. The current practice is that individuals who are not certified fire inspectors or fire officials conduct inspections in non-Life Hazard Use occupancies. Assemblyman Rooney, who sits on the Fire Safety Commission asked what would be necessary to require all inspections to be conducted only by certified fire inspectors or fire officials. Rooney was told it would require a legislative change. He offered to introduce legislation to make that happen.

16. The Bureau of Housing Inspection (BHI) may begin to extend the length of time between inspections. Chief Kilmer commented that going past the current 5-year interval for checking smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms may be too long a period of time to assure these life savings devices are operational.

17. The DFS has been dealing with a group of surgical centers who appealed these centers having to be inspected. The matter went to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on appeal. OAL upheld the position of the DFS. The decision now goes to the Commissioner of DCA for a final decision.

18. The School Fire Suppression Survey is finally going to move forward. While originally thought to only cover fire sprinkler systems, the survey will in fact cover all fire protection systems including all forms of sprinklers and other automatic suppression systems such as kitchen suppression systems and special extinguishing systems. The initial surveys are going to be sent to between 7 and 8 school districts. If the feedback is successful surveys will be sent to all school districts in the state.

19. The DFS is working on legislative updates to the Fire Safety Act. The Act was originally passed in 1983, almost 40 years ago. Many changes have occurred in the years since the Act became law and the DFS is going to recommend a number of changes that need to be done legislatively in order to change them. Some of the items include changing the current certification of fire inspectors and fire officials to licenses, similar to the code enforcers in the Division of Codes and Standards who enforce the Uniform Construction Code. Another item is the requirement to use certified mail, return receipt requested for service of notices under the Uniform Fire Code. The state and local enforcing agencies spend over \$1 million annual on postage alone to meet this legislative requirement.

The Training and Education Advisory Council reported that DFS staff is working on numerous new certified training programs including Apparatus Driver/Operator programs for pump, aerial, tiller, wildland, ARFF, and mobile water supply apparatus. Staff is also working on Incident Safety Officer, Health and Safety Program Manager, Community Risk Reduction, Juvenile Intervention Specialist, Juvenile intervention Program Manager, and Hazardous Materials: Incident Commander and Rapid Intervention Crew.

The Health and Safety Advisory Council reported 2 items from PEOSH. One item was about a respiratory protection inspection of a fire academy in response to a DOL PEOSH referral from an injury investigation. Fire academies need to have a respiratory protection program and they must have a medical evaluation for each instructor. A fire academy must have copies of the medical evaluation available for inspection at the training facility. Additionally, PEOSH is requiring all firefighters working on a fire ground to be SCBA qualified and have current fit tests



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and training in SCBA use. These firefighters cannot have beards that interfere with an SCBA mask seal.

During training session, especially live fire training a dedicated safety officer with no other duties must be appointed.

The ad hoc committee on cannabis did not have an opportunity to meet. Assemblyman Rooney, a member of that committee will be setting up a meeting for the committee.



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