

**NEW JERSEY/NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION**  
**FEBRUARY 24, 2023**  
**MONTVALE FIRE DEPARTMENT, MONTVALE, NEW JERSEY**

Meeting called to order by 1st Vice-President B. Hennig at 2000 hours. Invocation given by Chaplain W. Drew. Flag salute led by Secretary R. Weyer.

Attendance: 1st Vice-President B. Hennig, Secretary R. Weyer, Asst. Secretary N. Naylis, Asst. Treasurer A. Silverman, Financial Secretary J. Schwedhelm. Sergeant-at-Arms R. Ryan. Chaplain W. Drew. Trustees G. Cerbasi, P. Conner, P. Fenske, F. Gluckler, G. Naylis, R. Neerhout, and J. Richardson. Past Presidents N. Carroll, P. DeVries and S. Kufel.

Minutes: There were no additions or corrections to the minutes and a motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes from the last general meeting.

Guest speaker: Montvale Fire Chief Geoff Gibbons welcomed everyone to Montvale's firehouse. He then spoke about the ongoing problems with lithium batteries and the equipment his Department uses to fight these types of fires in cars.

President's report: President R. DeYoung was absent but his report was read by 1st Vice-President B. Hennig. He thanked the committee chairmen and all the Board members for all the work put into running the lithium battery seminar and for helping make this a successful event. He thanked the Montvale Fire Department for hosting tonight's meeting.

1st Vice-president's report: B. Hennig thanked everyone who attended the seminar and helped out behind the scenes doing the work needed to make the seminar a success. He reminded everyone of the open dates in 2024 that need a host for the NJ/NY meetings. He stated the Convention will be in Lyndhurst on June 2nd this year but there will be no journal.

2nd Vice-president's report: A. Chiodo reported some changes were made to the by-laws at the last E-Board meeting. He checked *Robert's Rules of Order* and found the President can make motions at meetings. The murder mystery fundraiser he was working on was voted down by the E-Board due to the cost of the event with no guarantees enough tickets will be sold to make a profit. Some ideas expressed for fundraising is to sell challenge coins, T-shirts, conduct a super 50/50, and attend restaurants that give a percentage of their profits for a night to the NJ/NYVFA. He further stated we have 707 members but have only received back 150 personal information update cards that were sent out.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report was read by Asst. Treasurer A. Silverman. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the report. A. Silverman reports \$5,200 has been received from the clothing bins.

Financial secretary's report: J. Schwedhelm reported this past month \$1,020 personal dues, and \$525 company dues totaling \$1,545 were collected. Overall, \$2,125 has come in. 17 new

members have joined this organization. If anyone knows of anyone who has passed away, please notify him.

The Signal: G. Naylis reported *The Signal* was printed and mailed out.

Awards: P. Conner stated April 1st is the deadline for all awards and nominees are needed in all categories.

Political action: G. Naylis reported the State is moving forward with ACR171 which is a property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters. This requires a constitutional amendment and if it passes, it would be put on the ballot in November to be voted on by the public. The State Firemen's Association officers are meeting with legislatures to deal with cancer screening for volunteer firefighters. Progress is being made and he hopes it will pass and be enacted this year.

Rockland County Firemen's Association: Evan Humphrey, who is the 1st Vice-President, brought the membership up to date on all the happenings going on in Rockland County. His county has implemented a 10% tax credit for property owners who are active volunteer firefighters. The NY State Fire Chiefs meeting will be in Syracuse in June this year. The Rockland County Fire Chiefs Association's next meeting will be March 16th. The Rockland County Volunteer Firemen's Association meeting is March 10th at Excelsior Engine Company off of Rt. 304. The Rockland County Fire Academy is being overhauled at this time and they recently have gotten a new Pierce engine. The New York Firemen's Home is functioning fine and they made it through Covid unscathed with no one answering their final alarm..

New Jersey State Firemen's Association: G. Naylis reported all financial reports were submitted on time which is very important because if you miss the deadline, you are not seated at or paid for the Wildwood Convention. Field Audits are taking place on March 29th and April 6th for 34 local Departments.

Bergen County Fire Academy: P. Conner stated the new building is up and running but the concrete live burn section is still curing. Online training for Fire I looks to be moving forward after P. Conner pushed strongly to bring this type of training back.

Bergen County Fire Chiefs Association: P. DeVries reported they have been speaking about the 911 dispatch system and the new Bergen County Ambulance Service being created. Next meeting is in Cresskill in May.

Bergen County Firemen's Home Association: G. Naylis reported things are going well and the Home's fundraising efforts are in full swing and he asks all fire companies who received a donation request to please give because the money raised goes right back to entertain the residents. There are about 70 guests at the home and a lot of progress is finally being made between the Home and the State Firemen's Association. The next meeting is March 14th.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Secretary R. Weyer announced Byron Reinhardt of Little Ferry has put in an application for membership. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept this new person as a member.

Sergeant at Arms: R. Ryan reported 49 people were in attendance.

Good and Welfare: C. Miller of the Montvale Fire Department stated Montvale is coming up on their 100th anniversary next year and announced some of their fundraising efforts they are having and would appreciate support.

Adjournment: N. Carroll thanked Montvale for hosting this meeting and providing the food. Chaplain W. Drew gave the closing prayer. A motion was then made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting. 1st Vice- President Hennig adjourned the meeting at 2110 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Weyer, Secretary (recorded the minutes)  
Nancy Naylis, Asst. Secretary (typed the minutes)