

**NEW JERSEY/NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S 108th CONVENTION**  
**JUNE 2, 2023**  
**LYNDHURST FIRE DEPARTMENT, LYNDHURST, NJ**

Meeting called to order by President R. DeYoung at 2018 hours. Invocation given by Chaplain W. Drew. The salute to the flag was led by 1st Vice-President B. Hennig. The National Anthem was sung by Past President P. DeVries.

Fire Chief Michael Cuccarese welcomed everyone to the Lyndhurst firehouse. Special guests were introduced including Paul Schlegel, past president of the Rockland County Volunteer Firemen's Association, and Robert Ordway, President of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association. Rich Lindsay volunteered to be tonight's emcee for the Convention.

Attendance: President R. DeYoung, 1st Vice-President B. Hennig, 2nd Vice-President A. Chiodo, Secretary R. Weyer, Asst. Secretary N. Naylis, Treasurer G. Saigh, Asst. Treasurer A. Silverman and Financial Secretary J. Schwedhelm. Sergeant-at-Arms R. Ryan. Chaplain's W. Drew and T. McCoy. Trustees G. Cerbasi, P. Gluckler, G. Naylis, R. Neerhout, J. Richardson. Past Presidents N. Carroll, P. DeVries, S. Kufel, and new officers P. Briscoe and R. Brondi.

President's report: R. DeYoung welcomed everyone to the Convention and thanked the Lyndhurst FD for hosting this years' Convention especially on such short notice. He thanked all the committees that worked very hard throughout the year. He stated this is his last meeting as President and he spoke about what a great organization the NJ/NY is and hopes it keeps getting better and stronger. He thanked everyone who helped him out in one way or the other throughout his Presidency.

1st Vice-president's report: B. Hennig welcomed everyone to his home firehouse and stated it was his 42nd anniversary today of joining the Lyndhurst FD. He stated the Lyndhurst FD has held the Convention in 1939, 1948 and 1966 which was their last firemen's parade, and he looks forward to the Convention in two years when it returns to Lyndhurst. He thanked the members of his Department for stepping up and hosting the Convention, as well as Chief Mike Cuccarese and ex-chief Rich Lindsay for being the emcee. B. Hennig apologized for not attending the annual Memorial Service at the Academy as he had to work. He thanked the retiring officers from this Association for all their hard work and wished them good luck and then welcomed the new incoming officers and wished them good luck..

2nd Vice-president's report: A. Chiodo welcomed all to the Convention and thanked Lyndhurst FD for their hospitality on such short notice. He enjoyed working with the officers for the past two years and looks forward to working with the new officers. He thanked two long term members of the NJ/NY who are retiring as they are in their 90's, namely, George Saigh and Frank Gluckler. They will be sorely missed. He stated this Association has over 700 personal, Company and Department members but only three members are trying hard to raise funds for the Association and thanked R. Weyer, G. Naylis and J. Malool for all their help. He thanked J. Malool for running the Memorial Service at the Academy and G. Naylis for doing a great job with *The Signal*. He stated it is important that every member update their beneficiary information so when the member dies, they get the \$1,000 death benefit. A. Chiodo stated we are the NJ/NY Volunteer Firemen's Association from Bergen and Rockland Counties. Everything is done in Bergen County and nothing in Rockland counties. He would like to get participation from Rockland County this year as they get the same benefits as Bergen County. Lastly, he congratulated all the scholarship and award winners who are being recognized here tonight at the Convention.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer G. Saigh read his report. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded, and approved. G. Saigh reported the treasurer's records will be turned over to the auditor on June 30th.

Financial secretary's report: J. Schwedhelm read his report. There are 119 fire company members and 41 have not paid their dues. There are 304 personal members and 89 have not paid their dues. A motion to accept J. Schwedhelm's report was made, seconded and approved. He asked to be notified when someone in your fire company dies, so he can see if they filled out a death benefit form.

Bergen County Firemen's Home report: G. Heflich stated things at the Home are running better now than four years' ago. There are 73 residents in the Home and he goes once a week to talk to the men living there. He asks that more people go up there to speak to the residents to let them know they aren't forgotten.

Rockland County Firemen's Home report: There are 85 residents in their Home and the facility is full.

Rockland County FASNY report: The FASNY Convention is in Niagara Falls, NY this year. The Hudson Valley Convention is August 11th in Tarrytown, NY. Other dates and activities were reported on.

Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters Association: June 9th in Suffern, NY is the next meeting of this group.

New Jersey State Firemen's Association: Robert Ordway, President of this Association, congratulated outgoing President R. DeYoung for his service for the past six years to the NJ/NY and offered best wishes and good luck to the incoming President and new officers. He stated the Wildwood Convention will be held on September 15 and 16, 2023. Caucus are scheduled throughout the state and petitions are all in for those who are running for various offices in this group. You can find the list of people who are running and the positions they are vying for on the State's website on the homepage.

G. Naylis, Bergen County's Executive Committeeman was introduced and he stated his extensive report is in *The Signal* and asked everyone to read it there. He exclaimed that in the past year, the Relief Association has paid out 26 million dollars in relief, health care and death benefits to the firefighters and their families in New Jersey which goes to show you they are doing their job! The healthcare program was started only a couple of years ago and over 500 people are taking advantage of this program which is a total success. A workshop is planned for Saturday morning during the Wildwood Convention for anyone interested in learning about the Relief Association.

Scholarships/Awards: The Nick Gatti presidential award scholarship and the Helene Fields award scholarship as well as the other ten scholarships awards, citation awards, plaques, badges and 50 year member certificates were presented at this time. For a list of all the winners, see the booklet given out at the Convention.

2nd Vice-President A. Chiodo presented outgoing President R. DeYoung a well deserved plaque from the E-Board of the NJ/NY.

Election of Officers: For 2023-2024, B. Hennig was elected President; A. Chiodo was elected 1st Vice-President; R. Neerhout was elected 2nd Vice-President; R. Weyer returns as secretary; N. Naylis returns as assistant secretary; P. Brisco was elected treasurer; P. DeVries was elected assistant treasurer; J. Schwedhelm returns as financial secretary and J. Guenther returns as assistant financial secretary. Trustees from 2023 through 2028 are as follows: T. McCoy, E. Humphrey and R. Brondi. The secretary cast one vote for all uncontested positions.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: The winners of the Larry Rauch Fire Training Award for a day of live burn training at the Bergenfield Fire Training Center are the Saddle Brook and Haworth Fire Departments.

Outgoing President R. DeYoung gave his goodbye speech saying thanks to all the members for supporting him and for everything we have done for him. He thanked the E-Board for the plaque awarded to him tonight. He spoke of what an honor it is to be a member of this organization and he wished everyone who is retiring and the new members coming in the best of luck. He stated it was nice to hear all the names of the deceased members who passed away during the last year read at the annual Memorial Service at the Academy. A total of 150 names were read; 118 from Bergen County and 32 from Rockland County. He was proud to just hand out \$8,000 in scholarship money and spoke of the joy of giving this money to help shape these kids' futures. He spoke of his mentor in the fire service - 99 year old George Steiger from the Maywood FD. G. Steiger will be 100 this August and lives at the Boonton Home and this man remains a great friend. He spoke how sad it is for him not to have his father on earth any longer to see all he has accomplished within his fire department and other organizations but his mother was in the audience tonight and he introduced her. He thanked everyone who has meant so much to him and he finished by saying what an honor and pleasure it was being the President of this Association and he stated he will be ever present working on committees where help is needed.

Good and Welfare: R. Ryan, Sergeant-at-Arms, reported there were 127 people at the Convention.

1st Vice-President B. Hennig stated he is proud to be part of this Association and how great this Association really is. He stated as the incoming President, he has big shoes to fill but is up to the challenge. He thanked everyone who has helped him along the way.

Adjournment: The benediction was given by Chaplain T. McCoy. A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting. Outgoing President R. DeYoung handed the meeting gavel to incoming President B. Hennig as he officially takes over now. President B. Hennig adjourned the meeting at 2210 hours and thanked everyone for attending.

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