

**NEW JERSEY/NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER 2, 2022
NEW MILFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT, NEW MILFORD, NJ**

Meeting called to order by President R. DeYoung at 2008 hours. Flag salute led by Secretary R. Weyer. Invocation given by Chaplain W. Drew. New Milford Fire Chief Jared Birnbaum gave the welcoming speech. The November meeting was moved to December due to a conflicting date with the New Milford FD's November calendar.

Attendance: President R. DeYoung; 1st Vice-President B. Hennig; Secretary R. Weyer; Asst. Secretary N. Naylis; Treasurer G. Saigh; Asst. Treasurer A. Silverman; Sergeant-at-Arms R. Ryan and Chaplain W. Drew. Trustees G. Cerbasi, P. Conner, F. Gluckler, T. McCoy, G. Naylis, and R. Neerhout. Past President N. Carroll.

Minutes: There were no additions or corrections to the meeting. Secretary Weyer stated she received one piece of correspondence: a Happy Thanksgiving card from Maureen Schwabik of H&M Leasing with a \$1,000 check inside that goes to the winner of the Joseph Costello award at the Convention.

President's report: R. DeYoung thanked B. Hennig and A. Chiodo for running the October meeting in his absence. He stated a new sign-in sheet for members attending our meetings was created and the new upgraded personal information cards that were spoken about last meeting came in and will be added inside the dues notices. DeYoung met with the chief of the Little Ferry FD and presented him with four gift cards for the family in his town who suffered a bad fire in their home. DeYoung wished everyone a happy holiday and a great New Year!

1st Vice-president's report: B. Hennig reported all meetings in 2023 have hosts and there are three openings in 2024 for March, April and September. Hillsdale will take the Convention in 2023 and they are happy they can split the journal proceeds with the NJ/NY. Hennig thanked F. Gluckler for all his help securing Hillsdale for the Convention.

2nd Vice-president's report: A. Chiodo was absent but he submitted the following report: he offered his condolences to the Saddle Brook FD for the line of duty death of Captain Basil Pizzuto. He reported there are about 143 members who haven't paid dues but there is no way to contact them as there are no phone numbers or email addresses on the applications. He asked everyone to fill out the new information cards purchased by this organization as it asks for this important information. The tentative date for the murder mystery fundraiser is March 3, 2023. He wished everyone happy holidays and a Happy New Year!

Treasurer's report: Treasurer G. Saigh read his report and a motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the report. Discussion on the clothing bins held. T. McCoy asked if bins can be placed outside apartment buildings. G. Saigh stated as long as you get permission from the owner, it would be allowed.

The Signal: G. Naylis stated *The Signal* is all set to go for the November/December issue. He stated it is loaded with pertinent information so make sure you read it.

Political action: G. Naylis stated Bill A2886 provides employment protection for paid first responders diagnosed with PTSD. It passed the Assembly and is expected to pass in the Senate. We should support this Bill because if it passes and you are a public employee, it would cover you if you suffer from PTSD as a result of your volunteer activities. A Bill was introduced by Senator Durr from South Jersey to require training on electric vehicles and lithium ion batteries as it is becoming a major firematic issue.

New Jersey State Firemen's Association: G. Naylis stated members with zero percentage responses for five years in a row will be dropped from the rolls following 2023. 1,333 members of the State Association fall into this category. The Wildwood Convention for 2023 will again be a two day event starting at 11 am on Friday with walk through voting on Saturday.

New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association: F. Gluckler stated the Exempt Convention will be held in Phillipsburg in June one week after the NJ/NY Convention.

Bergen County Fire Academy: P. Conner reported the Academy will be putting information out on what type of training can be done in their new buildings as they are not getting the much anticipated crowds they thought they would get.. He also asked if hybrid/online training can be brought back which would help cut the commute to the Academy but he is getting push back. O'Conner vows to keep fighting for this kind of training. The latest new construction is five months ahead of schedule, the Class A burn building is almost done, and the next building going up is the six bay apparatus building. The Academy is still short of per diem instructors so if anyone is interested, contact the Academy. The next Academy Board meeting is January 12, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Bergen County Fire Chiefs Association: A. Silverman stated the next meeting is in Cresskill on December 12th. New members are needed as these meetings are not well attended and this may become a dying organization.

Bergen County Fire Prevention Association: A. Silverman stated the next meeting is in Closter on December 14th. This organization gets a big turn out and is doing very well for itself.

Bergen County Firemen's Home Association: G. Heflich announced he was reelected as President. The \$850 monthly cost to live in the Firemen's Home has been waived. He updated everyone on the shenanigans going on in the Home and he plans to keep an eye on what is going on there.

National Volunteer Fire Council: G. Heflich stated this is a great organization with many benefits but he can't get people to join and can't understand why. He spoke about what all this organization does and what is going on within.

Unfinished Business: A nomination was made, seconded and carried to accept Peter Fenske of Ridgefield Park as the newest trustee for the NJ/NY. He, along with R. Neerhout were presented with their trustee badges and Asst. Secretary N. Naylis was presented with her Asst. Secretary badge by President DeYoung.

New Business: G. Naylis reported the NJ/NY training committee is working on sponsoring a seminar about lithium ion batteries and electric vehicles to be offered on February 11, 2023 - venue to be announced. The cost will be \$40 and includes a full day of instruction, hand out materials, coffee breaks, and lunch. R. Ryan suggested to inform the public about the dangers of these batteries in your fund drive letters.

Good and welfare: Updates were given on the health of our members and family members who have been ill. F. Gluckler stated if anyone has any gear they are looking to dispose of, please make sure it goes to a needy fire company - they can be found within the United States and in foreign countries.

Sergeant at Arms: R. Ryan stated 31 people were in attendance tonight. B. Hennig gave the vote of thanks to the New Milford FD for hosting this meeting. T. McCoy gave the closing prayer.

Adjournment: A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2115 hours by President DeYoung.

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