

NEW JERSEY/NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022
WALLINGTON PARK ROW HOSE COMPANY 3, WALLINGTON, NJ

Meeting called to order by President R. DeYoung at 2000 hours. Invocation given by Chaplain W. Drew. Moment of silence was offered for former Wallington fire chief Mark Tomko who passed away in June. Flag salute led by Secretary Weyer. Wallington Fire Chief Brian Batchelor was introduced and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced Wallington's 100th anniversary celebration will take place on June 10, 2023 and stated anyone wanting to attend is more than welcome.

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 and Chaplain W. Drew. Trustees G. Cerbasi, P. Conner, F. Gluckler, T. McCoy, G. Naylis, and R. Neerhout. Past Presidents N. Carroll, P. DeVries, and S. Kufel.

Special guest: Doug Tobin from Metropolitan Medical Corporation spoke of the importance of having an anti-choking device on your apparatus. He demonstrated how it works and reported it continues to save lives. His company sells all types of medical equipment, offers safety programs and certification programs.

President's report: R. DeYoung welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced where he has been asked to be a guest speaker lately and what he spoke on. He asked everyone to take home each of the pamphlets up on the front desk and read them! He stated more ads are needed for *The Signal* to keep it going, stated the budget committee met and made adjustments to the budget, and thanked the by-law committee for working on updating the by-laws.

1st Vice-president's report: B. Hennig stated he hoped we all had a great summer and then announced the months of April and October in 2023 are open and a host town is needed for our NJ/NY meetings. March, April, September and October in 2024 need host towns also. Lyndhurst will sponsor the Convention in 2025.

2nd Vice-president's report: A. Chiodo expressed his condolences to Wallington for the passing of former Chief Tomko. He reported he is still looking for new and interesting fundraisers. He spoke of holding a murder mystery dinner or a candlelight bowling evening if anyone is interested. He stated the upcoming beefsteak dinner is October 29th in Bergenfield and everyone needs to sell tickets. He would like to see more members join this organization and reminded everyone to update their beneficiary forms

for the death benefit from the NJ/NY. The next NJ/NY meeting will be in Lyndhurst in October.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer G. Saigh read his report. One death benefit was paid out. No money has come in from the clothing bins for the past three months. Seems there are a few competitors out there in the clothing business which affects the amount of money H & M Leasing Corp. takes in. Any fire department that can put a clothing bin in their town should contact G. Saigh. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made, seconded, and approved.

Financial secretary's report: J. Schwedhelm read his report. 51 fire companies and 96 personal members still have not paid their dues. A motion to accept Schwedhelm's report was made, seconded and approved.

The Signal: G. Naylis stated *The Signal* keeps going out with timely information and learning tips. He always needs new advertisers for *The Signal* and asks the members to help find more.

Awards: Scholarship applications are online and will be in *The Signal* in January. P. Conner stated the cut off date is April 1st to submit them back.

Political action: G. Naylis reported the governor signed another cancer screening Bill for career firefighters who are not receiving State Health Care Benefits. The State Association is trying to get this type of coverage for volunteers to be paid for by your town's Relief Association as the cost right now is about \$90-\$95 and not covered by insurance. President DeYoung reminded all firefighters to wear your SCBA mask at fires and during overhaul to help keep carcinogens out of your lungs. Remember to wipe the smoke and burn particles off of your exposed skin and make sure you wash your gear. You should also wash out the washing machine to make sure all contaminated particles thoroughly wash away.

New Jersey State Firemen's Association: At the Wildwood Convention, all officers were reelected to the positions they were serving and all resolutions passed. The pink and blue convention attendance reports need to be submitted by your Relief secretary for the delegates and life members to be paid. The third quarter Relief paid reports are due by October 30th and must be done online. The E-Board from the Boonton Firemen's Home voted to expand the health care program for qualified members in a nursing home to a maximum of \$12,000 a month. The at-home care is still \$6,000 a month for qualified members and \$2,000 for a spouse of a qualified member.

State Exempt Association: F. Gluckler reported the Exempts are having a 50/50 raffle to be drawn at the June Convention next year and it could be a nice amount of money. R. DeYoung stated at the last State Exempt Association meeting he was put in as the executive committeeman for Bergen County which he is very proud of.

Bergen County Fire Academy: P. Conner stated he attended the Advisory Board meeting on September 8th in Mahwah. The new construction at the Academy is complete and an open house is scheduled for October 8th at 10:30 a.m. New instructors were hired and they are looking for more. October 20th is the in-person firefighter graduation at the Bergen County Academy in Hackensack. There will be no more car fire instruction at the Academy; that kind of training will be left to the individual towns to do. Two fire safety trailers have been refurbished and are ready to be taken out for instruction. You will need a 2-5/16 ball hitch to tow it and it needs to be towed by an F250 or F350 pick up truck. The next Advisory Board meeting is November 10th at 7 p.m.

Bergen County Fire Prevention Association: A. Silverman stated October 5th is the annual dinner meeting at Seasons Restaurant. The fire code book should be out by the end of the year and there are a few code changes so let your fire official and fire inspectors know. One big change is with wood mulch. It must be kept 18" away from a building due to it being a fire hazard.

National Volunteer Fire Council: G. Heflich spoke about cancer in the fire service and how bad it is and asked everyone to take the pamphlets up front. He would like to see people join the NVFC because it offers so many good things which he named and they are free to members.

New Jersey Firemen's Home Association: G. Heflich stated he is working hard to straighten out some of the problems with management going on inside the Home. He stated things going on just aren't on the up and up. Heflich asks questions at their Board meetings but never gets any answers and is mostly ignored.

G. Naylis stated on behalf of the BCFHA, he thanked everyone for their support and for coming out to the two picnics at the Home. He thanked President DeYoung and his crew from the Maywood FD for bringing their old engine to the Home in August and visiting with George Steiger who turned 99. This gesture really made Steiger's day. President DeYoung stated Steiger was a Maywood firefighter and will be turning 100 on August 5th next year. DeYoung hopes to get a caravan of firetrucks to go up to the Firemen's Home and do a drive-by for Steiger. Naylis would like to see all fire departments consider making a contribution to the Home Association when they get the

donation request envelope in January. The funds raised helps the Home Association run the programs for its residents which they enjoy and really look forward to.

G. Heflich added it used to be if you were on dialysis you could not live at the Home but that has changed now as the Home can now transport its residents to and from dialysis treatment facilities. Lastly, there are no more fees per month for a firefighter going into the Home.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Good and Welfare:

F. Gluckler spoke about the service awards given out at the NJ/NY at the Convention. He asked the members to come up with names of people who qualify for these awards and should be recognized for all they do for the fire service. Applications are online.

Fire Chief Bachelor picked the winning ticket for the live burn training fundraiser in Bergenfield. The winner was Dave Gluckman from the Dumont, NJ fire department.

Sergeant at Arms: R. Ryan stated there were 47 people at this meeting. N. Carroll gave the vote of thanks to Wallington for hosting this meeting. Chaplain T. McCoy gave the closing prayer.

Adjournment: A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting. President DeYoung adjourned the meeting at 2140 hours.

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