

**NEW JERSEY/NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2022
OLD TAPPAN FIRE DEPARTMENT, OLD TAPPAN, NJ**

Meeting called to order by President R. DeYoung at 2006 hours. Invocation given by Chaplain W. Drew. Flag salute led by Vice-President B. Hennig. Moment of silence held in memory of trustee Alden Blackwell who recently passed away. Deputy Fire Chief Brian Morgan of the Old Tappan Fire Department was introduced and welcomed the members.

Attendance: President R. DeYoung, Vice-President B. Hennig, 2nd Vice-President A. Chiodo, Secretary R. Weyer, Asst. Secretary N. Naylis, Treasurer G. Saigh, Asst. Treasurer A. Silverman, Financial Secretary J. Schwedhelm, Sergeant-at-Arms R. Ryan, and Chaplain W. Drew. Trustees G. Cerbasi, P. Conner, F. Gluckler, and G. Naylis. Past Presidents P. DeVries and S. Kufel. Will Smith, President of the State Fire Chiefs, gave a quick speech on training, and Charles Lind, President of the New Jersey Deputy and Battalion Chief's Association gave a short speech on an upcoming seminar on October 1st about leadership in the fire service and what you should be doing as chief. He also stated this group is always looking for new members and any chief, captain or lieutenant can join. Guest speaker Glenn Corbett from the Waldwick Fire Department showed a slide presentation and spoke about New Jersey's largest fire from 1902 in Paterson, NJ where 459 homes burned.

President's report: R. DeYoung welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated the web site is up and running with lots of information on it and asks everyone to check it out and especially fill out and update your beneficiary card. The snow tubing fund raising event is now scheduled for March 1st at 6 p.m. See Jerry Naylis for tickets. He stated there are numerous pamphlets up on the front desk that are very important and everyone should take a copy with them. The NJ/NY Convention is June 3rd in Oradell. The Montvale Fire Department will host the 2024 Convention as it is their 100th anniversary. G. Heflich, the NJSVFA delegate to the NVFC, was not in attendance but submitted a very detailed report that was read to the membership.

1st Vice-president's report: B. Hennig stated it is good to see everyone at this meeting and a list of future meetings can be found in *The Signal* as well as on the newly printed reminder cards available to all up on the front desk. He stated all meetings have speakers for the rest of 2022 but February, March, April and October in 2023 are open and need hosts. We anticipate the Convention will be in Hillsdale in 2023 and in 2024 it will be in Montvale.

2nd Vice-president's report: A. Chiodo welcomed all to the meeting. He stated two firefighters in California died in a fire due to their Scott Paks being defective and lawsuits are pending. He spoke of the beefsteak fundraiser he is trying to put together at the Fiesta possibly on a Thursday night in the summer that will be open to all. The Fiesta would charge the NJ/NY \$47.00 per person so the ticket cost will be higher. Further discussion regarding this fundraiser will take place at an upcoming E-Board meeting.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer G. Saigh read his report. A motion to accept it was made, seconded, and approved. There will be no clothing bin checks coming in for a while due to the owner having financial problems and damage done to his vehicles that empty the bins. He already owes the NJ/NY two months in back income. G. Saigh stated funds will have to be raised going forward as right now there are 341 members on file due a death benefit when they pass away but the budget cannot support those claims with the funds on hand. G. Saigh reported the NJ/NY scholarship deadline is April 20th, The valor award and unit citation deadline is May 1st. If you need an application, it is on the website. F. Gluckler reported on the Rudy Appeld and Ladies Auxiliary Awards available through the NJ/NY and asked the membership to please find people who deserve to be honored for these awards which will be given out at the annual convention.

Financial secretary's report: J. Schwedhelm read his report. He stated a total of \$1,310 in personal dues was received and \$550 in company dues. He stated there are a lot of outstanding dues and asks everyone to please pay what they owe. The audit of the books will be done in July.

Trustee's report: It was mentioned the by-laws need to get updated.

G. Naylis gave the following report: 572 new Bills have been filed this month in the New Jersey legislature making over 3,500 Bills filed since January 11th. One Bill is asking for a \$5,000 income tax exemption for all firefighters; this has been asked for before and usually goes nowhere. New legislature districts for the State Firemen's Association have been drawn. The adoption process for the Junior Firefighter regulations and the new fire code are moving forward; they are in the NJ Governor's hands right now for review prior to being published in the NJ Register. From the NJ State Firemen's report - 8 towns have not submitted their reports and they are due in 3 days. 17 towns have their field audits coming up in Bergenfield on April 18th and they must be balanced and devoid of errors. The New Jersey Firemen's Home Association is still looking to build a home in South Jersey but it is not feasible. More memory care beds are needed in the Boonton Home and Naylis suggested adding more of these types of beds in the Home.

In 2021, 33 million dollars was almost taken from the Relief Association by the State of NJ because the Governor wanted to use it for other items in his budget. It was successfully rebuffed. Naylis is working on creating a cancer screening program as well as suicide prevention activities for members of the NJ State Firemen's Association. He believes the money set aside for 15 nursing home beds by the NJ Firemen's Home Board of Managers would be better spent advocating for widespread cancer screening and suicide prevention of our members.

Past president's report: Chaplain W. Drew stated Neil Carroll is home from the hospital, on dialysis, and has a long recovery ahead of him.

F. Gluckler reported the New Jersey Exempt Firefighter's Association Convention is being held on June 11th in Iselin.

A. Silverman reported the 2022 Fire Code is almost ready and should be out soon.

NJ/NY Convention report: S. Kufel stated there will be a journal printed up and available for the convention and he is looking for anyone who wants to run an ad in the journal. The convention is being held at St. Joe's Elementary School, 305 Elm Street in Oradell on June 3rd. He is looking for a bagpiper so if anyone knows of someone, let Kufel know. There is no parade but it is the 125 anniversary of the Oradell fire department so they are happy to hold the convention.

Old business: None.

New business: Secretary Weyer read the application of the NJ/NY's newest member, Abigail Schwedhelm, of Little Ferry. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the new applicant for membership.

The Sergeant-at-Arms reported there were 54 members at this meeting. The next meeting of the NJ/NY is in Rochelle Park on March 25th.

Adjournment: A motion was then made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2138 hours. A closing prayer was offered by Chaplain W. Drew.

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