



New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts

March 1, 2025, meeting start time 09:30 hours

Located at Adelphia Fire Station, 993 route 33 Freehold NJ

Agenda

Flag Salute

Roll call of officers

President Robert Donahue / Vice President ~~Richard Horton~~

Treasurer Greg Santonastaso / Secretary Artie Hayducka

Guest: Kirk LeBlanc, Representative VFIS

Lynn Nowak, Legislative Lobbyist

Treasures report – Greg Santonastaso

Secretary Report – Artie Hayducka

Nominations for office

Nick Lombardi - North

Peter Goldring – Central

John Mulholland South

Benjamin Guerrini At Large

Old Business

New Business

NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS
QUARTERLY REPORT
BY LYNN NOWAK- Porzio Governmental Affairs
MARCH 1, 2025

DCA REGULATIONS – ADOPTED

The Feb 3, 2025 NJ Register announced the readoption, without amendment, of rules regarding **“the maintenance and operation of buildings and equipment in such a manner as will provide a reasonable degree from fire and explosion and that will otherwise effectuate the purposes of the Uniform Fire Safety Act.”**

Also on Feb 3, 2025, the Register announced the readoption of rules for **fire service training and certification**. Also without amendment.

BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

S2580, Bucco/Singleton/**A3894**, Murphy - Amends certain fire safety statutes to update licensure and equipment requirements and liability, fee, and penalty provisions. *Among other things, this bill changes the guiding entity for the installation of smoke-sensitive devices in two-family homes from the National Fire Protection Association Standard No. 74-1984 to regulations established by the Department of Community Affairs. It also removes the portable fire extinguisher requirement. It also changes conditions of licensure for fire inspectors and fire officials. It also addresses changes of ownership of certain buildings and responsibilities of new owners for unabated fire violations and/or unpaid fees.*

Signed into law, Feb 3, 2024, P.L. 2024, c. 19

PENDING BILLS

Tax Credits/Exemptions for First Responders

S2083, Gopal/Corrado/**A1754**, Rumpf- Allows certain volunteer firefighters, rescue and first aid squad members to claim \$2,000 gross income tax exemption. *I have spoken with Senator Gopal’s office and his staff is going to make sure that the language defining volunteer firefighters includes fire district volunteers.*

S2386, Gopal/**A3532**, Donlon- Provides gross income tax credit to active members of volunteer emergency service organizations for use of personal motor vehicle in performance of active duty.

In definition of “volunteer emergency services organization” – fire districts are included.

SCR82, Gopal/**ACR110**, Peterpaul - Proposes constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to provide partial property tax exemption of up to 15 percent of assessed value for primary residence of certain volunteer first responders.

All three Senate bills were heard and released by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on May 16. I registered NJ State Association of Fire Districts support for all three. A3532 was heard in the Assembly Public Safety and Preparedness Committee on June 3 and I registered support. The first two bills were 2nd referenced to the Budget/Appropriations Committee in each house. The Resolution is currently waiting approval by each house.

S2386 was considered and passed unanimously by the Senate on Feb 25. It and its Assembly companion are awaiting consideration by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

No further action on S2083/A1754 or SCR82 or ACR110.

Changes in Fire Safety Statutes

Fire Escape Inspections

S2948, Singleton/**A4266**, Venezia - Requires that certain fire escape inspections be performed by structural engineer or employee with certified fire escape inspection company. *This bill adds fire escapes to the statutory definition of fire protection equipment and defines requirements for fire protection contractor who is responsible for inspecting fire escapes and exterior stairways per above definition.*

S2948 was considered by the full Senate on Feb 25, 2025 and passed (30-8). Significant floor amendments were made to the bill back in Oct of 2024. A4266 was heard, amended and released by the Assembly Regulated Professions Committee on Jan 16, 2025. S2948 and A4266 are awaiting consideration by the Assembly Housing Committee.

Volunteer Exemption from Payment to UI for Stipends Received

A1429, Haider/**S788**, Johnson - Exempts certain volunteer first responders from coverage under "unemployment compensation law"; excludes from gross income amounts received for certain volunteer emergency services.

A1429 was heard and released by the Assembly Labor Committee on Oct 29. I registered fire district support. It was 2nd referenced to the Assembly Appropriations Committee
S788 is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Labor Committee on Mon, March 3. I will register fire district support.

Health Benefits for Volunteers

S1388, Singleton/**A3086**, Guardian - Permits inclusion of volunteer firefighters and other emergency responders within municipal eligible employee group for purposes of the small employer health benefits plan statutes.

*This bill was heard and released by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on Sept 30. I testified asking that fire districts be explicitly included (conversations with staff reinforced my and Rich Braslow's feeling that as written, the bill is unclear whether or not fire districts are included). Senator Singleton, the sponsor and chair of the Committee stated that he understands our request and that further amendments can be made at another date as the bill will be referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations. **The bill was referred to that committee and no action has been taken to date. No action has been taken in the Assembly. A potential fiscal impact is likely to delay this bill moving forward.***

Fire Hydrant Repair

S3121, Greenstein/A2480, Quijano - Requires certain local authorities to inspect, maintain, and repair fire hydrants in planned real estate developments.

This bill was also heard and released by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on Sept 30. Fire districts are not included and my further review of the bill showed that we do not want to be.

Training for Electric Vehicle Fires

A4005, Karabinchak/S1687, O'Scanlon - Requires firefighters and EMTs to receive training for handling electrical vehicle (EV) fires.

With Asm Herb Conaway moving to the US House of Representatives, Asm Rob Karabinchak became the bill's prime sponsor. Per conversations with him and his COS, the new sponsor has requested that the bill be heard in Assembly Transportation at their next hearing.

Fee on Firefighter Plates

A4284, Danielsens/S3366, Bucco - Eliminates fee for special plates for firefighters and members of first aid or rescue squads

*A4284 passed the full Assembly back in June. **It passed the Senate Transportation Committee on Jan 30, 2025. It is awaiting consideration by the full Senate.***

Water Company Mandates

A1152, Murphy – Prohibits water companies from assessing more than one charge per fire hydrant to fire departments, fire districts or volunteer fire companies for use of fire hydrants. *A1152 was introduced on Jan 9, 2024 and referred to the Assembly Public Safety and Preparedness Committee.*

The NJ State Association of Fire Districts has proposed amendments to this bill that would also place a limit on rate increases to no more than two percent per year and prevent an effective date for a rate increase prior to the first date of the ensuing fiscal year.

A1153, Murphy– Requires water companies to provide representative of fire department, fire district or volunteer fire company access fire hydrants for water flow rate testing purposes.

A1153 was introduced on Jan 9, 2024 and referred to the Assembly Public Safety and Preparedness Committee.

No further action on these bills.

Treasurer's report for NJSAFD / PNC BANK

As of 3/1/2025

Deposits from Dues collected since the last meeting = \$21,000.00

Current Checking Account = \$ 37,769.78

To be Paid currently:

Cash out of Pocket, Artie Hayducka = \$397.63

Cash out of Pocket, Nick Lombardi = \$1600.00

Porzio Governmental Affairs = \$6180.00

Balance after Payments = \$29592.15

Last Months Refreshments were \$46.95 (paid)

This Months refreshments will be on next month's report

Money Market Account: \$50,000.00 at 3.5% (not 0.0001)

Looking for a motion to move \$30,000.00 to a fixed CD.

(at whatever the best time frame and percentage)

Leave \$20,000.00 in the Money Market at 3.5%

Thank You,

Greg Santonastaso

Treasurer

Secretary's report = Artie Hayducka

Constance Contact bill \$245.66

US Postage Stamps \$146.00

Website Parking + 3 months \$5.97

Total out of pocket cash is \$397.63

We collected 70 dues which came to \$21,000 as of March 1. 2025

Congrats, your email results are in!

1 message

Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 8:20 AM

Constant Contact <reply@c.constantcontact.com>

Reply-To: Constant Contact <reply-6489176-122_HTML-278905079-10959851-307940@c.constantcontact.com>

To: hayducka426@gmail.com

[Log in](#)

Your email results are in!

Based on your email's first 48 hours, here's a quick snapshot of [your campaign](#) NJSAFD ZOOM MTG 3 1 2025 / Reminder:



Open Rate

51.2%



Click Rate

15.2%

[View results](#)



Congressional Fire
Services Institute

GET ENGAGED, STAY ENGAGED



**35th Annual National Fire and Emergency
Services Symposium**

SEMINAR PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 12, 2025 | WASHINGTON, DC

(1) Igniting Innovation: Fighting Fire with Emerging Technologies:

- Urban conflagration (exposure issues)
- Resource allocation (working with less resources)
- More data inspired resources
- More demand for electricity
- Data centers
- Green energy
- Forced to adopt technologies
- Dangerous smoke from these types of fires
- AI detection & sensing

(2) Managing Large Outdoor Special Events for The Fire Service

Whether it's a concert in the park, a 10K race, a music festival, a large sporting event, or a nationally televised annual parade, they all bring a set of unique hazards & concerns from a community risk perspective. Fire Departments & fire code officials are critical stakeholders who must be engaged as members of the event planning team to set conditions for safety that control, ingress/egress planning, crowd management, & emergency notifications. Concerning issues include:

- Inclement weather conditions

Unified command
Contingency plans
Adequate security
Crowd control (density management)
Barricade placement
Event Action Plan for all involved agencies

(3) **NERIS: It is All About the Data!**

Improving Data Collection
Using Standard Terminology
Faster & Simpler to use / more straight forward
Roll-out. 3rd & 4th quarter 2025

(4) **Code Red: Threats To Codes and Standards Across the Country and The Need for Action**

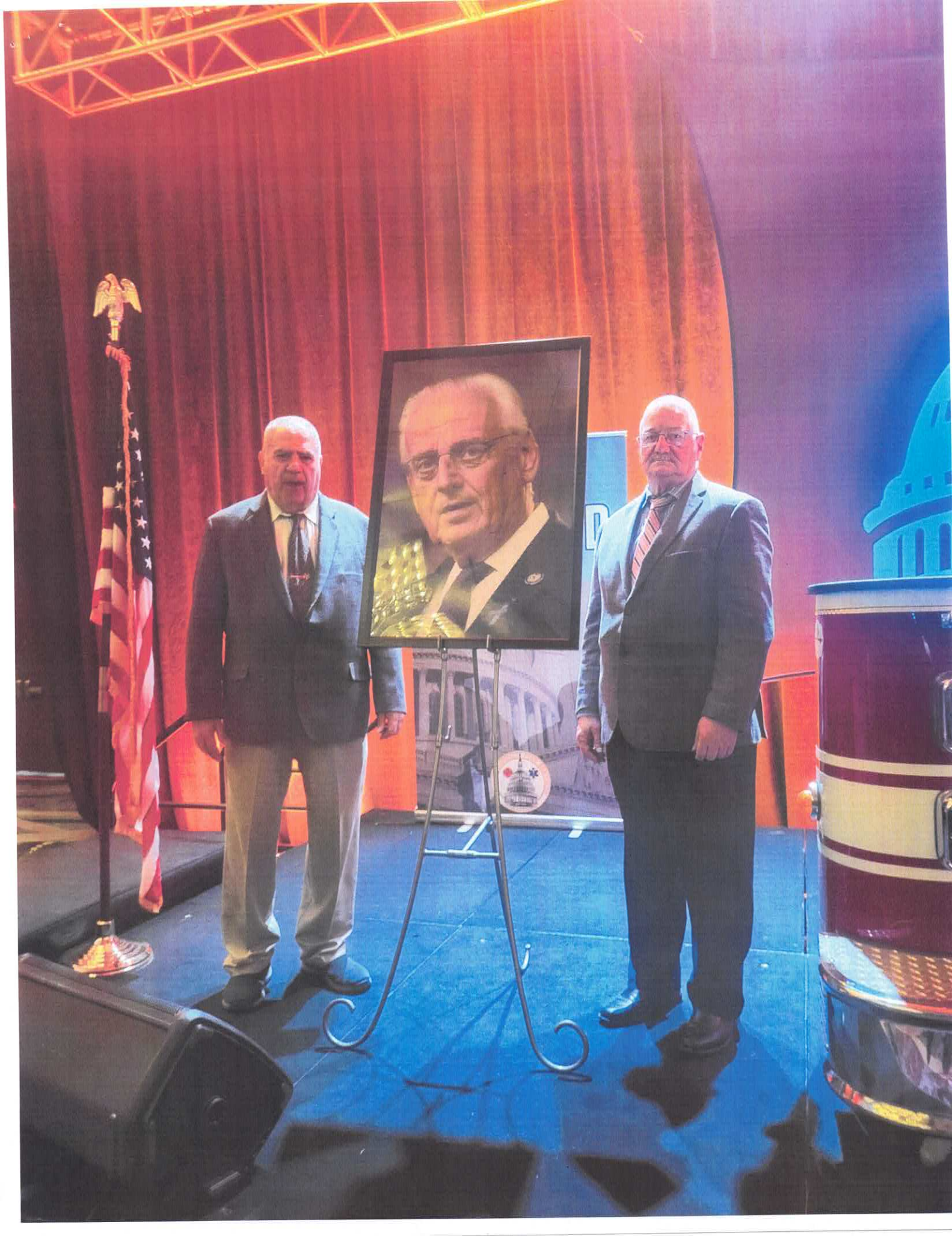
Maintaining a relationship with your politicians
Tax incentives for sprinklered townhouses
Advocate for a “Common Voice”

(5) **Training for Success: Enhancing Recruitment and Retention in the Fire Service**

Bringing in outside speakers:
Nationally known speakers from state agencies
What type of topics: EMS, fire, extrication, etc.
Appropriate times & dates, convenient for members
Location contingent upon weather.

Assemblyman Pascrell remembered.

On February 13, a select group of New Jersey emergency responders were invited to participate in a tribute to Assemblyman Bill Pascrell who passed away last August. Fire Commissioners Nick Lombardi & Artie Hayducka traveled to Washington DC to the annual Congressional Fire Services Institute Caucus (CFSI). Pascrell co-chaired the CFSI caucus. He advocated for fire grants for all Fire Departments across the nation, especially for New Jersey. He spearheaded the "FIRE ACT of 2000", also known as the Firefighters Investment & Response Enhancement Act, which gave Federal Dollars to Fire Departments across the USA. He also created the AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) which included volunteers, which he called "the forgotten part of the public safety equation". The caucus is held annually & is designed to educate members of Congress about the needs & challenges of our nation's Fire & Emergency services to help understand how the government can support the needs of their local First responders. Approximately 1300 emergency personnel attended this year's caucus & met with their Senators & Congress members on Capitol Hill. Nick & Artie were sponsored by The NJ State Association of Fire Districts & VFIS insurance.





3-1-25

Print name	County	Township	District
ARTZ Hayden	Middlesex	PISCATAWAY	#1
Greg Santowastaso	Middlesex	Piscataway	*1
NICK Lombardi	"	"	"
Douglas Tilson	Monmouth	MANLORD	#1
GEORGE PATTEN	"	HOWELL	#2
FRANK BIDDLE#	"	"	#2
PETER GOODRINK	"	"	"
Thomas Kourek	Monmouth	Howell	#5
JAMES Harper	"	"	5
KENNETH Harper	"	"	5
T YOUNG	ZOOM		
BSL GUERRINI	ZOOM		
CHUCK MURTAGH	ZOM		
MILY RUBINOWITZ	ZOM		
TIM O'DONAZIL	ZOOM		
PSIU GARDING	ZOOM		
Robert Donstue	Monmouth	Howell	5