



The New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts Meeting was held at the Adelphia Fire Station 930am at 993 Route 33, Freehold New Jersey on Dec 2nd, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 930 am. by President Craig Aumack with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

Reorganization of the Executive staff has occurred, and this is what followed: Robert Donahue will take over as President. The Vice President position is open for now. Craig Aumack is stepping down to Treasurer. Edward McDermott is leaving his position due to personal matters. Artie Hayducka will remain as Secretary. All the trustee positions are open, and we are hoping to fill all vacancies at the March 2nd, 2024, meeting which will be held at the Adelphia Fire Station.

In Lakewood, NJ we have some legal issues still pending in which the Insurance company is handling. This includes other issues and where and when we hold our meetings.

Congressional Fire Service Institute will be holding its annual event starting April 29 & 30th, 2024. Each year both Artie Hayducka & Nick Lombardi attend this event with permission from the NJSAFD body and at the Dec 2nd meeting it was approved for them to attend this year's event, but they should not exceed \$800.00 each for hotel fees per person.

Legislative report – see attached report from Lynn Nowak.

Treasures report - see attached report from – Edward McDermott n/a

Secretary report - see attached report from Artie Hayducka

Old business – none

New business - none

**NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS
QUARTERLY REPORT
BY LYNN NOWAK- Porzio Governmental Affairs
DECEMBER 2, 2023**

FY24 BUDGET - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) FIREFIGHTER GRANT PROGRAM

The Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 again contains \$10 million more in funds to the ARP Firefighter Grant Program. Previously, this program provided funds to 293 fire entities for “proper protective, cleaning and sanitizing equipment during a time of community need.” I believe that many fire districts took advantage of this program last year (2022, Fiscal Year 2023).

This includes:

- Protective clothing (turnout clothing ensembles, pants, garments, helmets, hoods, gloves, footwear, etc.);
- Cleaning and Advanced Cleaning equipment;
- Oxygen equipment;
- PPE; and
- Other fire/virus protection equipment as determined to be appropriate by the Division of Local Government Services (“DLGS”).

The DCA Division of Local Government Services has again issued the request for applications for these grants for the same above purposes. Applications must be submitted through the NJDCA SAGE Portal and are due no later than 5:00 P.M. EST on December 8th, 2023. <https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlgs/programs/arpffg.shtml>

BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT REPORTING

S297, Greenstein /A493, Murphy - Requires ALL public agencies and government contractors to report cybersecurity incidents to New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness within 72 hours of the incident. Public agency of the State is defined as any public agency of the State or political subdivision thereof. Fire districts are definitely included.

Signed into law, March 13, 2023, P.L. 2023, c.19.

It went into effect 30 days after becoming law, so approximately June 13, 2023. Here is the link to the page on the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Website where cybersecurity incidents should be reported.

<https://www.cyber.nj.gov/>

BILLS CONDITIONALLY VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR

Testing of Smoke Control Systems

S3516, Cruz Perez/**A5179**, Verrilli - "**Fire Life Safety Damper and Smoke Control System Verification Act**" -Requires routine maintenance and operational testing of smoke control systems in certain buildings by certain qualified personnel.

S3516 was heard and released by the Senate Economic Growth Committee on Jan 26. NJ State Association of Fire Districts support was registered. It was heard and released by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on March 16. A5179 quickly moved through the Assembly in March, after clearing two committees, it passed the full Assembly (74-0) on March 30. It passed the full Senate unanimously on June 26 and is on the Governor's desk.

Governor Murphy gave this bill a conditional veto (CV) on Nov 20. In order for it to become law, the Assembly and Senate need to concur with the Governor's changes before the session ends in January of 2024.

The CV states that many of the provisions of the bill are redundant with requirements found in the Uniform Fire Code, creating confusion. Further, the responsibilities it gives to DCA (eg. building owners submitting compliance certificates to DCA) is "out of step with the current regime" where local enforcing agencies are responsible for inspection and enforcement. He does retain the system created by the bill for contractor certification.

BILLS IN PLAY IN THE LAME DUCK

FIRST RESPONDERS PTSD PROTECTION ACT

A2886, Moen/**S703**, Beach - Provides employment protections for paid first responders diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder under certain conditions.

A2886 passed the full Assembly unanimously on Nov 21, 2022. It was received in the Senate on Dec 1 and its next step will be consideration on the floor.

The full Senate has not considered it yet but as it is the last step before going to the Governor's desk, it very well could come up in the lame duck.

FIRE SAFETY LEGISLATION

S281, Greenstein/**A3791**, Sumter – "**New Townhouse Fire Safety Act**"; requires automatic fire suppression systems in new townhomes.

S281 was introduced on Jan 11, 2022 and referred to the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee. A3791 was introduced on May 2 and referred to the Assembly Housing Committee. S281 was heard and released unanimously, with amendments, by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on Nov 27. NJ State Association of Fire Districts support was registered. As expected, the Builder Association testified strongly in opposition. The Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board and the NJ State Firemen's Association testified in favor.

PROCUREMENT COST SAVINGS

A5687, Greenwald/**S4074**, Beach - Requires boards of education, municipalities, counties, and certain other local contracting units to determine and utilize cost-saving practices when procuring goods and services.

These bills were just introduced in Nov. A5687 is on the Assembly State and Local Government Committee agenda on Mon, Dec 4. Per Rich Braslow, the legislation does include fire districts.

FIREFIGHTING FOAM PROHIBITION

S2712, Singleton/**A4125**, Haider- Prohibits sale, manufacture, distribution, and use of firefighting foam containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

S2712 was released by the Senate Environment Committee in Dec of 2022. It was subsequently amended twice on the Senate floor. A4125 is scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee on Mon, Dec 4. It will likely be amended to be identical to the Senate bill.

EMT TRAINING FUND

A3772, Mukherji/ **S2223**, Oroho - Revises requirements to receive reimbursement from the EMT training fund.

A3772 passed the full Assembly in January of 2022. A3772/S2223 is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on Nov 30 (this report was submitted on Nov 29). This is very likely to get to the Governor's desk in lame duck.

Per Craig: This bill changes how the state classifies a volunteer EMT (and therefore eligible for training reimbursement). Currently, if an EMS agency bills for service, the state considers EMTs associated with that service as non-eligible (regardless of whether they get paid or not). This bill revises that classification as to whether the individual EMT is volunteer rather than whether the service bills.

REVISIONS TO WORKERS' COMP

A161, Wirths/**S651**, Oroho - Revises workers' compensation coverage for certain injuries to volunteer and professional public safety and law enforcement personnel.

A161 is on the Assembly Labor Committee agenda on Thurs, Nov 30. S651 was previously released by the Senate Labor Committee and is awaiting consideration by the Senate Budget Committee. The fact that is up at this point in lame duck, gives in indication that it could move through.

REVISIONS TO OPRA

A5613 - Makes various changes to process for requesting access to government records for commercial purposes.

A5614 – Increases membership of Government Records Council; provides for advisory opinions; requires complaints to be initiated with council; limits attorney's fees; appropriates \$250,000.

A5615 - Provides for protective orders to limit requests for access to government records in certain cases.

A5616 - Makes various changes to process for requesting access to government records.

This package of bills was introduced by Assemblyman Danielsen on June 15 and referred to the Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee, which he chairs. Unlike previous OPRA and OPMA reform bills that have been pending for years, this package is targeted at giving relief to public agencies related to egregious OPRA requests. MORE IMPORTANTLY, SENATOR SARLO IS TALKING ABOUT INTRODUCING HIS OWN OPRA REFORM PACKAGE, ALSO LEANING TOWARD GIVING RELIEF TO PUBLIC AGENCIES.

BILLS OF INTEREST UNLIKELY TO MOVE IN THE LAME DUCK

PERIOD OF USEFULNESS FOR FIRE ENGINES

S3807, Bucco/Sarlo/A5567, Torrissi - Extends period of usefulness of fire engines for bonding purposes from 10 to 20 years; eliminates exclusion of passenger cars and station wagons.

S3807 was heard and released by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on June 1. NJ State Association of Fire Districts support was registered. Please note the current law, being amended here, gives the power to determine usefulness of any purpose, according to its reasonable life computed to the date of the bonds to the GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOCAL UNIT, so fire districts are included. The Assembly bill was introduced in June and does not have a Democrat as sponsor/co-sponsor.

CANCER SCREENING EXAMINATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

S3405, Gopal/A5081, Stanley - Mandates access to periodic cancer screening examinations for volunteer firefighters; increases tax on fire insurance premiums.

S3405 was heard and released by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on Feb 9. NJ State Association of Fire Districts support was registered. Note that the tax on the fire insurance premiums to fund this initiative was amended out so it is unclear how this will be funded. Hence, it was referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee for additional review. A5081 has not yet been considered by the Assembly.

AMBULANCE/EMT LEGISLATION

S2946, Singleton/A4505, Murphy - Increases Medicaid reimbursement for ambulance transport from \$58 to \$200.

The bills were heard in Committee in each house in 2022 and then 2nd referenced to another committee neither of which has heard them this year.

Per Craig: This bill may affect any fire district that provides ambulance service and bill for service. Per a meeting with Sen Sarlo, chair of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, a budget resolution was requested to fund this in the FY24 Budget Bill. This

resolution did not make it into the final FY2024 Budget. While there is no formal fiscal note attached to the bill, it is believed that the cost will be \$20 million. THIS IS VERY LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE BUDGET PROCESS IN THE NEW SESSION AS A CRISIS IS LOOMING IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEDICAL TRANSPORT.

TRAINING FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE FIRES

A4476, McCarthy-Patrick/ S2281, Durr – Requires firefighters and EMTs to receive training for handling electrical vehicle (EV) fires.

The Assembly bill was introduced on September 22, 2022 and referred to the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee. S2281 was introduced on June 22, 2022 and referred to the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee.

WATER COMPANY MANDATES

A1345, Mosquera/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.

A1345 was introduced on Jan 11, 2022 and referred to the Assembly Law and Public Safety 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.

A1346, Mosquera/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.

A1346 was introduced on Jan 11, 2022 and referred to the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee.

I have spoken with the chair of the committee, Asm Bill Spearman and it appears that the water companies have weighed in with serious concerns. He suggested that we perhaps sit down with the representatives of the water companies, with assistance from his office, to discuss our main issue: raising the rates in the middle of a fiscal year. However, limiting the increase to 2% is something that they probably will not consider.

CAPITAL PURCHASES

A2715, Dancer, Murphy – Permits fire districts to undertake capital projects upon resolution of board of fire commissioners. (Removes the voter approval mandate for fire district capital purchases and debt issuances.)

Introduced on Feb 14, 2022 and referred to the Assembly State and Local Government Committee.

At our Sept 2022 meeting with her, Asw Murphy agreed to work with us on language that will accomplish the fire districts' needs and pass legislative muster. This bill is another even more

difficult lift. I think we need to regroup on this one particularly with the death of Assemblyman Dancer. It may be something we can pursue in the new session after the election.

FIRE SAFETY/FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS/FIRE EXTINGUISHERS /SMOKE ALARMS

S181, Stack/ Requires certain residential buildings to have fire barriers in common attic areas. *This bill was scheduled to be heard by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on June 1. However, the bill was held. There is no Assembly companion.*

A1673, Quijano/S996, Ruiz – Requires fire suppression systems in new single and two-family homes.

A1673 was introduced on Jan 11, 2022 and referred to the Assembly Housing Committee. It has not yet received a hearing in committee. S996 was introduced on Jan 31, 2022 and referred to the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee.

ELECTION-RELATED LEGISLATION

A5260, Atkins - Requires availability of outside voting process for elderly or voters with disabilities when their assigned polling place does not meet accessibility requirements. *Introduced on Feb 28 and referred to Assembly State and Local Government Committee. There is no Senate companion.*

A4299, Danielsens/S3324, Zwicker - Permits county boards of elections to open certain ballot drop boxes for fire district elections

A4299 was introduced on June 20 and referred to the Assembly State and Local Government Committee. S3324 was introduced on Nov 14 and referred to the Senate State Government Committee.

A4948, Greenwald /S3365, Stack- Requires mail-in ballot applications to include prepaid postage. The cost of the postage is to be covered by the State.

A4948 was heard and released by the Assembly State and Local Government Committee on Dec 8, 2022. It was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for further consideration. The Senate bill was heard and released by the Senate State Government Committee on Feb 2 and referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

A3818, Haider/Rooney – Designates specific dates for fire district “special elections.” *Fortunately, this bill appears to be on the way-back burner. I think that the Association along with Woodbridge fire commissioners and the two fire unions helped to do this. There is still no Senate companion which is also a good signal.*

This bill was heard by the Assembly State and Local Government Committee on May 12 along with a variety of bills, supported by the Speaker, to expand voting access. Prior to the hearing, Craig and I had a Zoom meeting with the sponsor, Asw Haider, to discuss the impetus for the bill and the problems it presents to fire districts.

I testified in opposition to the bill at the hearing, explaining how the selected dates are arbitrary and do not work with the existing calendar of dates for districts who still hold elections in February and submission of budgets to DCA. The bill was released from the Committee. Subsequently, I discovered that the designated dates are the ones set in law for school district special elections. Please note that the two firefighter unions submitted slips in opposition to the bill. The lobbyist for the PFANJ has told me that they will provide further support in opposition if needed.

I also spoke with the Chief of Staff in the Assembly Majority Office and Rich, Craig and I met with the aide in in the Majority Office who is handling the bill. The bill was heard and released by the Assembly Judiciary Committee on June 9 and I again testified in opposition. It then received a highly unusual third committee reference to Assembly Appropriations which has not considered it. There is no companion bill in the Senate. WHILE SEVERAL OTHER BILLS IN THE SPEAKER'S PACKAGE MOVED IN THE SPRING OF 2022, THIS ONE DID NOT.

USE OF CANNABIS BY FIREFIGHTERS

A3868, Mosquera/S2723, Beach – Prohibits PAID first responders from use of recreational cannabis.

A3868 was introduced on May 9 and referred to the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee. The Senate bill was introduced on May 26 and referred to the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee.

The Cannabis Regulatory Commission issued a Guidance for Workplace back in Sept. I need to connect with Rich Braslow on this.



Artie Hayducka <hayducka426@gmail.com>

cash out of pocket NJSAFD

1 message

Artie Hayducka <hayducka426@gmail.com>
To: Artie Hayducka <hayducka426@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 29, 2023 at 3:29 PM

Secretary report for Dec 2, 2023

The following is cash out of pocket for me.

NJ Annual report for Gov - \$33.00

NJ Fire & EMS Inst. \$250.

Aplus website update - \$242.21

Total cash is \$525.21

I would also like to ask the if Both Nick Lombardi & I can attend the CFSI Dinner in Washington DC. The dinner is the 24th & 25th of April 2024

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

The meeting will be held at Adelphia Fire station at 930
am on 993 Route 33, Freehold New Jersey.

Agenda

Reorganization of Executive staff

Replacement positions

Nomination of Officer

On going Issues with Lakewood

Trustee positions needing to be filled.

CFSI in Washington DC

Legislative report from Lynn

Treasures Report

Secretary Report

Wildwood Convention for 2024

Old business

New Business

And anything else that comes up!



12-2-23

Print name	County	Township	District
HA YOUNG	MIDDLESEX	PISCATAWAY	1
NICK LOMBARO	"	"	"
Robert Donahue	MONMOUTH	Howell	5
Jane Harper	"	"	"
Kenneth Harper	"	"	"
Leanne	"	"	"
S Koubek ^{zoom}	"	"	"
FRANK BIDDLE ^{III}	MONMOUTH	Howell	2
GEORGE PATTER	"	"	"
JEFF DIGRANTIS	"	"	"
Richard Horton	Berlin	Riverside	70
John B. Wong	Monmouth	Marlboro	1
Tim Donnell	Pitts Grove		
CRAIG AUMACK	Middlesex	Piscataway	4
Robert Rice	Albany	Howell	2
John Mulheik	Cherry Hill		