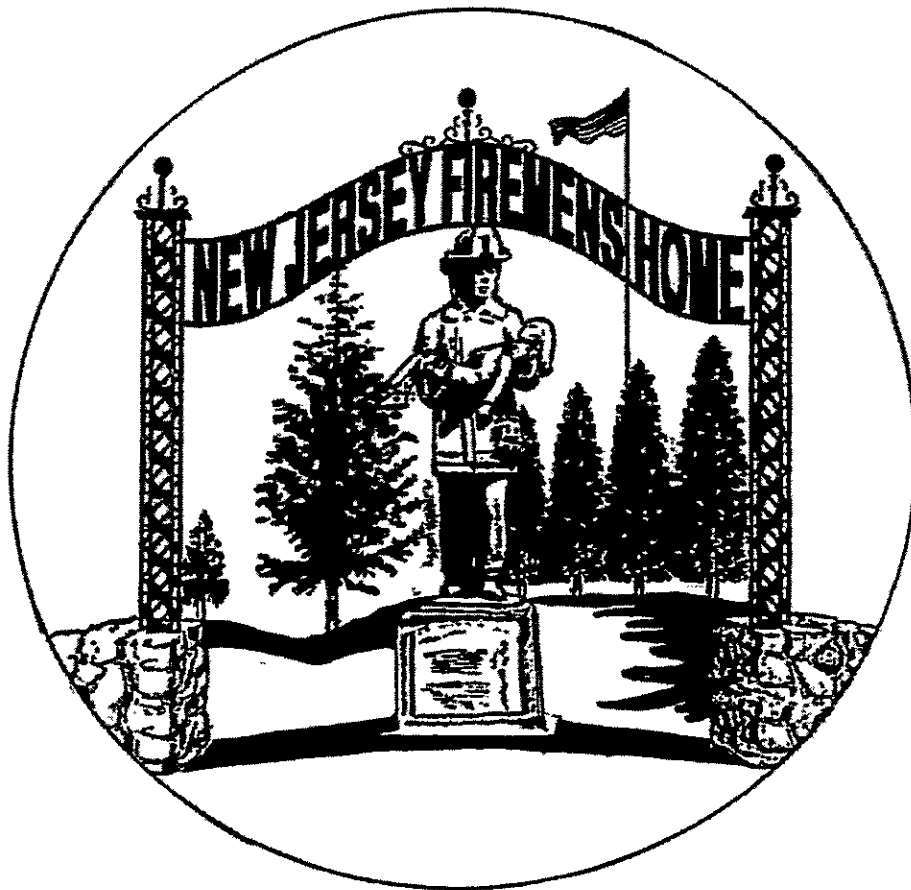


New Jersey Firemen's Home Full Board Meeting



June 14, 2025

The June 14, 2025 meeting of the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers was called to order by Vice-Chairman Apgar at 0900 hours and was followed by the pledge of allegiance. An invocation was provided by Manager Dutch.

Mr. Hull advised that proper public notice had been provided

Roll call was taken with all managers present except Chairman Washer, Mr. Jeffer, Mr. Lugossy, Mr. Miller, Mr. Gigilio and Mr. Wilson who were excused. *The Salem county manager position remains vacant.

The minutes from the May 10, 2025 Board meeting were approved.

Communications:

Secretary Hull reported no communications.

Reports of Officers:

Secretary:

Mr. Hull advised that he is working on the annual report for the caucuses and conventions. If anyone has anything they wish to highlight, see Mr. Hull.

Treasurer:

Mr. Sutphen advised that we are closing our 2024-25 fiscal year and all of the numbers look good.

Superintendent:

Mr. Veras reported that BBQ season is well underway and they had the maiden voyage of the outdoor kitchen. We received a \$20,000 credit from Unidine to cover what we contributed to the project.

Mr. Veras advised that the State Health Benefits is in dire financial straits describing it as in a "death spiral". He met with a consultant on Thursday who will be putting together a proposal for us to look into other benefit providers. They estimate the State Benefits to be "done" in eighteen months.

Mr. Veras advised that we have 132 golfers signed up for our event and we hope to have a great day.

Mr. Apgar inquired about the \$20,000 credit for the outdoor kitchen. Mr. Veras advised that it more than covered our expenses and allowed us to do some landscaping and hanging baskets.

Legal Counsel:

Mr. Bell reported that he is working on an employee issue that they are addressing. He wished everyone a Happy Fathers' Day.

Buildings and Grounds:

Mr. Keyser provided a written report from Maintenance Director Hodierne listing the status of various projects. A copy is attached. Mr. Keyser reported the water testing is ongoing and will be for probably six more months. The elevator project is done with no more items on the punch list. The outdoor kitchen is up and running and outside looks great.

Applications:

Mr. Freeman provided a written report of the application committee meeting held on June 10, 2025 which is attached. The report indicated 70 guest in Long Term Care and 5 in Residential Care for a total of 75 guests. Since the last meeting, there was two admissions to

the Home. No residents answered their final alarm this month. There are 11 applications with pre-admission meetings to be scheduled. The committee recommends having full applications submitted including the psychiatrist reports. The committee also discussed disruptive guests and the recourse the Home can take. The next meeting for the Applications Committee is 0900 hours on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at the Home.

Vice-Chairman Apgar asked Mr. Freeman to elaborate on what the disruptions are.

Mr. Freeman reported that there are 2 guests that are taking up a majority of the Staff and Nurse's time. In short, being pains in the butt. They order stuff off Amazon with no room to store the items. They take up the Superintendent's time. The Committee feels the Managers need to do their job under Title 30. We decide who is here.

Superintendent Veras advised that Title 30 and how unique of a facility the Home is only came up when residents challenged the house rules. These guests order items like 42 inch TVs and there is no room to put these things. One of their rooms is so packed that it can not be accessed in the event of an emergency. They are "resource suckers" according to Mr. Veras. They are unfair to other guests including roommates. One opens windows all the time and guests across the hall complain. It is not fair to the other 74 residents that the staff has to focus so much time on him. The statue went to the Department of Health, it went to legal and the DOH advised that the "statue runs". It may be time to give them the option to go elsewhere and use the State Association's program. It is not fair to the other guests who are trying to live out the remainder of their lives in peace, rest and comfort.

Mr. Keyser inquired if those guest's families were aware that they are a problem.

Mr. Veras responded that the families are not active.

President Ordway asked if the process involves a hearing.

Mr. Veras responded that it involves 30 day notice with corrective actions listed. This is an established process and had been used for a guest who had vodka bottles hidden in his toilet tank. He is bringing up the process because some managers might not be aware.

Mr. Strube stated that we should begin the process.

There was discussion about several managers being excused, to which Mr. Joas asked why have a meeting if we can't vote on anything?

Mr. Bell advised that this was the first time the matter was brought to his attention.

A motion was made to issue a 30 day notice with corrective action. The motion passed.

Ms. DeVirgilio then asked about the number of guest on the wait list (22 was response).

Mr. Joas asked about if we are doing the psych reports or holding off.

Mr. Veras advised that the applicants should get the psych reports in so we can see if they are a good fit or not for the home, before they go on wait list and they we find out they are not good after being on the list for a while.

Ms. DeVirgilio commented that we can't keep changing things month to month, it makes us look like idiots. Some of us already reported on the change from last month and now we have to go back and say it changed again. We should think about it better next time.

If a guest is on wait list over 6 months they would have to spend money on another psych exam.

Mr. Freeman commented that this is not an issue if they are transferring from another facility.

Mr. Strube suggested having applicants hold off on the exam until they are closer to admission.

Mr. Mitch commented that the benefits of the NJ Firemen Home outweigh the potential cost of two exams or any fund the applicant may have to lay out.

Mr. Veras added that he is going to look into the possibility of having our in house psychiatrist conduct the exams if they need a second exam. This would become part of her duty. The initial psych would serve as a baseline on the applicant. He feels this is being fair to the applicant.

Employee Committee:

Mr. Dutch reported that everything was quiet.

Finance and Budget Committee:

Mr. Sutphen read a written report from the June 10, 2025 meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee which is attached. The committee reviewed revenue and expense reports from July 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025, as well as vouchers for the period of May 11th through June 9, 2025. Bills were reported in the amount of \$565,753.70.

Two applicants have applied for reduced rent. One was accepted and the other is still under review. The committee is also looking at raising the CNA pay rate to keep up with the market in order to maintain staff.

The next meeting of the committee will be at 0800 hours on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at the Home.

Insurance:

Mr. Strube advised that with the exception of what Mr. Veras reported on the State Health Benefits, there is nothing new to report.

Legislative Committee:

Mr. Lugossy was excused and provided Mr. Hull with a report. The report detailed that the Governor signed into law bill# A4163 which requires Health Insurance Providers cover biomarker precision medical testing. Signed into law on April 3, 2025. Pamphlet law 2025-Chapter 49.

Mr. Lugossy also received a copy of a letter from State FMBA President Ed Donnelly to the Congressional Delegation written on behalf of New Jersey's 6500 FMBA members requesting introduction of the expanding health care options for first responders act. This was previously introduced as bills HR6030 and S3112 which establishes Medicare buy in for first responders aged 50-64 who retired or separated from service due to injury or illness. Many first responders who retire early due to disability experience health challenges and are no longer eligible through their employer or sponsor agency are too young for Medicare.

By-laws:

Mr. Apgar advised no report.

Museum:

Mr. Hull advised no report.

Public Relations:

Mr. Mitch advised he had not report. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Giglio were proceeding with the giveaways and Mr. Dunn has it squared away from Wildwood.

Ethics and Code of Conduct:

Mr. Sutphen advised that he no report.

Pension:

Vice-Chairman Apgar had no report.

Inventory:

Mr. Mitch advised progress

Golf Committee:

Mr. Signorello reported that he hopes the weather holds up. He thanked Mr. Veras for the help. A couple of managers can't make it but we should be good with volunteers. Mr. Veras advised registration starts at 6:30. Mr. Signorello asked everyone to be there at 6:29.

Liaison to the State Association:

Mr. Hull advised that he had informal conversations with Mr. Otterbein and President Ordway. Mr. Hull advised that he received a copy of an email that Mr. Ordway had sent to the State's lobbyist in the spirit of cooperation in looking for funding for the Home's potential projects.

Inspections:

Mr. DeVirgilio advised they will have the inspection done by Monday.

Long Term Planning/Addition Committee:

Mr. Sutphen commented on the waiting list and the issue with the psych exams stating that we wouldn't have these problems if we had an addition.

Mr. Cunningham then gave a report that a sub-committee has been created to look into the scope of work to be done at the Home.

State Firemen's Association:

President Ordway advised that they are getting ready for the convention. No further report.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Keyser reminded guests that the \$850 guest fee resumes on July 1st.

Ms. DeVirgilio inquired if our contract with the Board of Education has been completed.

Mr. Bell advised that the contract has been signed and insurances are in place.

New Business:

Mr. Signorello commented on the picnic that was held Thursday stating that Prince and his gang knocked it out of the park. The outdoor kitchen is beautiful. The steak and shrimp he prepared was awesome. He is looking forward to having it at the Golf Outing.

Payment of Bills:

Mr. Hull reported the total bills in the amount of \$565,753.70. Upon motion, a roll call vote was taken and the bills payment was approved.

Motions and Resolutions:

None

Public Participation:

Mr. Roy Young Jr., Maywood Fire Department, introduced himself as he is running for Bergen County Manager. He wants to help folks and do the right thing by being a part of the team.

Executive Session:

None had.

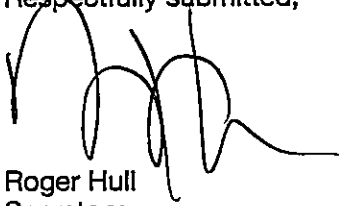
Good and Welfare:

Mr. Apgar wished everyone a Happy Father's Day and a safe ride home.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 0947 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a trailing line, positioned above the printed name.

Roger Hull
Secretary