New Jersey Firemen's Home
Full Board Meeting



October 10, 2026

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2026
Location: New Jersey Firemen's Home
Called to Order:9:08 AM

Roll Call:
Managers present 19, (Managers Dutch and Berckes excused); Superintendent John Veras; Legal Counsel Mr. Bell via Zoom.

Approval of Prior Minutes:
- September 17, 2026 Minutes — approved

Communications:
- A letter of appreciation was received from Marian Hendy and family, thanking the staff of the New Jersey Firemen's Home for the compassionate and professional care provided to her husband, Jim Hendy.

Chair's Report:
- A special welcome was extended to guest Frank Luckner, a 101-year-old resident who recently moved to the Home from Hillsdale, Bergen County. Mr. Luckner was accompanied by a friend and expressed appreciation for being at the Home.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary:
- Nothing additional to report at this time.

Treasurer:
- Organization is approximately one-quarter of the way through the current budget year. Work has begun on the next budget, which is expected to be ready for a vote in November.

Superintendent:
- The first CNA training class is being organized as a daytime program to accommodate Department of Health proctoring requirements.
- A community service project was organized by staff, residents, and family members in support of a local food drive in Boonton. Donations were collected, and residents assembled food bags containing pasta, sauce, and other items for community members in need.
- Water testing continues following previous concerns. Several negative results have been received, and additional testing will continue.
- Lawn reseeding work is underway to improve the appearance of the grounds.
- Distributed a spreadsheet explaining the Home's licensed capacity and current utilization of available space. He emphasized that the Home operates under two separate licenses:
    - Long-term care: 82 beds, including 10 memory care beds.
    - Residential care: 14 beds.
        - The Superintendent explained that residential residents are generally independent and do not require the same level of nursing oversight as long-term care residents. He further explained that not all long-term care residents qualify for memory care, and memory care beds cannot be considered interchangeable with standard long-term care beds.

Legal Counsel (Mr. Bell):
- Reported that he will have further discussion during closed executive session.
- Working with By-Laws Chairmen on modernizing and updating the By-Laws.

Committee Reports:

Buildings & Grounds (Keyser):

- Fall decorations and plantings have been completed throughout the facility.
- The State Division of Fire Safety is reviewing the removal of four sprinkler heads in an area of the building.
- Work continues with Gallagher Bassett regarding liability matters and repairs to the ABA ramp railing following damage.
- The chiller project has encountered delays. The contractor recently advised that the chiller is on backorder. A letter from Carrier has been requested to confirm the equipment's availability. Further action, including possible legal involvement, may be necessary.

Applications (Freeman):

- Census (as of 09/30/26): Total 70 residents (breakdown read into record)

Employees (Miller):

- Draft Superintendent's contract is being forwarded to the attorney for review.

Finance & Budget (Miller):

- Reviewed 9/8/2026 – 10/5/2026 operating expenses; $480,635.40 approved by committee.

Insurance (Strube):

- Health insurance premiums are increasing by 9.76%. It was noted that the increase would have been approximately 32%–34% had the organization remained with the previous arrangement.

Legislative (Miller):

- The committee reported that 268 bills are currently being tracked:
  - 159 Fire and Emergency Services bills.
  - 59 Environment and Home bills.
  - 50 Pensions bills.
- President Hankins and Mr. Miller attended a legislative hearing. President Hankins testified specifically on Senate Bill S1566.

Bi-Laws (Joas):

- The committee reported that four additional policies will be distributed to managers:
  - Legislative
  - Museum
  - Pensions
  - Liaison to the State Association
    - The policies have been reviewed by legal counsel. Managers will receive a minimum of 30 days to review the documents before consideration for approval.
- Revisions to the bylaws were being prepared for distribution to committee members for review and comment; chairmen would like the updates/changes finished by end of year.

Museum (Hull):

- Donation from a prospective resident containing Newark Fire Department yearbooks, helmets, and other memorabilia.
- Commemorative mug from Wildwood was transported to the museum.

Public Relations (Miller):

- Recognized those who helped transport materials, coordinate deliveries, and set up the display at the convention hall in preparation for Friday's activities.
    - He also thanked everyone involved in distributing the bags and noted that positive feedback had been received.
- Managers were encouraged to submit ideas for next year's event.

Ethics & Code of Conduct (Dunn):

- No report

Pension (Apgar):

- No report

Inventory (Wilson):

- No report

Golf (Signorello):

- No report

Liaison to State Association (Hull):

- The committee reported that it is awaiting the results of the efficiency study. The anticipated timeframe for receiving the results is approximately mid-November.

Inspection (Miller):

- Inspection will be completed after the meeting.

Long-Term Planning (Sutphen):

- Managers requested clarification regarding the next steps needed to establish an accurate project cost, including whether architectural and engineering firms should be engaged. It was explained that the Board previously reviewed conceptual plans prepared by KDA, including Concept 2A. However, no formal vote authorizing the construction of an addition had taken place.

State Firemen's Association (Ordway):

- State Firemen's Association hopes to begin live streaming its Board meetings by November.

Unfinished Business:

- None

New Business:

- Mr. Miller introduced a motion to increase the quarterly stipend for managers by $250 per quarter, representing an additional $1,000 annually and seconded by Mr. DeYoung. Roll call vote was taken and motion passed.

Paymen,t of Bills:

- $480,635.40— Motion to approve; roll call approved.

Motions & Resolutions:

- None

Public Participation:

- Mr. Otterbein of Essex County requested clarification regarding the Board's meeting schedule and noted inconsistencies in the dates listed.
    - It was clarified that regular meetings are intended to be held on the second Saturday of each month. The meeting schedule will be reviewed and corrected as necessary
- Mr. Otterbein asked whether the Home is officially classified as a nursing home.The Superintendent confirmed that the long-term care portion of the facility operates under a nursing home license and is classified as a skilled nursing facility.
- Frank Walker, Salem County Executive Committeeman, requested clarification regarding Bessie Ayars appointment and election to the Board. Discussion clarified that Ms. Ayars was initially appointed to represent Salem County for the September meeting and subsequently elected at the county caucus to fill the unexpired term.
- Thomas Washer raised a question regarding the appointment of his replacement and whether the replacement would serve the remainder of his unexpired term or be required to stand for election at the next caucus.
- Dan Spiegel of Cape May County addressed the Board regarding the ongoing expansion discussion. He referenced the 2025 State Association convention, where Resolution No. 4 was approved by the delegates and life members opposing expansion or additional funding for the Home. He also noted that the Home has not consistently operated at full occupancy and that the State Association's home healthcare reimbursement program has already assisted man firefighters throughout New Jersey. He encouraged managers to return to their respective county associations to obtain clear direction regarding expansion.

Good & Welfare:

- Proclamation was presented to Penny Giglio by Managers Miller, Beslanovitch and Mr. Carmine.
- Mr. Freeman thanked the managers for the basket while he was out.
- Appreciation to Prince for all the hard work that he is pulling many extra shifts for the home.
- Mr. Hankins brought in some donations from his local masonic club.
- Mr. Freeman brought donations from Russo Farm for the guests to decorate for the holiday.

Executive Session:

- BPAS investigation conclusion.
- Continuation of current litigations discussed and approved to move forward.

Adjournment:

- Meeting was adjourned at 11:23 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy DeVirgilio
Secretary

New Jersey Firemen's Home Reorganization Meeting



October 10, 2026

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2026
Location: New Jersey Firemen's Home
Called to Order: 9:00 AM

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation by Manager Wilson
- Public notice had been provided in the official newspaper, the Star Ledger, and on the home's website per Chairmen Apgar.

Roll Call:
Managers present 18, (Managers Dutch and Berckes excused); Superintendent John Veras; Legal Counsel Mr. Bell.

Oaths:

- Attorney, Mr. Joe Bell Sr., administered the oath of office to the following newly elected and re-elected managers

John Mitch Cumberland County

Timothy Apgar Hunterdon County

Robert Toole Mercer County

Gary Keyser Morris County

John Beslanovitch Monmouth County

Virgil Rome Sussex County

Bessie Ayars Salem County

Garrick Miller Middlesex County

Joseph Hankins NJSFA President

Second Roll Call:
Managers present 19, (Managers Dutch and Berckes excused); Superintendent John Veras; Legal Counsel Mr. Bell.

Appointment of Election Judges:

- Chairman Apgar then selected Mr. Signorello and Mr. Hull to serve as election judges. Each candidate could select a challenger if there is a contested election.

Appointment of Officers:

- Mr. Bell Sr. was appointed Chairman Protem and he opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Managers and all other Board positions.
    - Motion by Mr. Keyser to keep the slate of Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, Treasurer and Secretary as is. Mr. Bell Sr. then asked if there were any other nominations.
    - Secretary casts one vote.
        - Vice Chairmen Mr. Miller
        - Treasurer Mr. Sutphen
        - Secretary Ms. DeVirgilio

Approval of Professional/Misc. Appointments for 1 year term:

- Motion by Mr. Keyser and Second by Mr. Dunn to approve all positions.
  - Pension Actuary Mary Reinhardt
  - Insurance Broker Round Hill Risk Partners, LLC
  - Medical Director Dr. Joel Adler/ Aspen Medical Associates
  - Consulting Psychiatric Physician Dr. Julie Tropeano
  - Portable X-Rays Specialty Portable X-Ray Inc.
  - Stenographer Mary Ann Saeger
  - Designation of Official Newspaper Star Ledger
  - Auditors Yodice & Company
  - Solicitor Joseph Bell Sr.

Approval of Full Board Meeting Dates:

- Motion by Mr. Keyser and Second by Mr. Signorello.

Adjournment of Re-Organization:

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:08am.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy DeVirgilio
Secretary