

# **BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: [mi-bcfa.org](http://mi-bcfa.org)

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Corwell Lakeland St. Joseph

Meeting called to order at 19:06 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

Officers present: President Gerry Kabelman, 1st Vice President Craig Brent, and Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Graham. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Donnie Johnson was absent.

Roll call of departments indicate 10 departments represented with 17 members present. Meal donations collected \$53.

The minutes for the month of December was presented. Motion made by Doug deBest with support from Brian Dwan to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report for the month of December indicated the balance in checking is \$3,973.80. Money market balance is \$21,275.88. A balance of \$115.67 in the car show account. Combined total of \$25,365.35 A motion made by Denny Sexton with support from Corey Burks to approve the report. The motion carried.,

## **Bills Submitted and BCFA Announcements:**

- Retirement gift for Sheriff Bailey in the amount of \$275 was purchased from Twin Cities Awards.

## **Communications:**

- Check web page for listed pancake breakfasts and local events

A moment of silence was requested in HONOR of the following;

- Art Gnadtker Wesaw Twp. Dec. 27th
- Eugene Seats Benton Harbor Dec. 23rd
- Wayne Tjader Bridgman Dec. 21st
- Mike Pease Niles Twp. Dec. 17th
- Tom Albrecht Tri-Unit/Lincoln Nov.17th

Information added to the **Page Of Honor** on the web site.

## **Chief's Association:**

- Next Chief's Meeting is on January 17 at Corwell Health hospital Saint Joseph 10:30 AM (RSVP to Chief Myers by Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> if planning to attend)

## **Training Committee:**

- FF I & II class and High School classes going well and looking for helpers after 3 pm on Saturdays to assist in mid-term reviews.
- Ice Rescue class Jan 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Check-in on SMOKE for more information and to register on the trainings offered in our local area. Particularly important that every department member check in on SMOKE and verify that all their information is up to date. Instructors use this information training registers.

- **AEP TRAINING NOTE:**

AEP offering First Responder FREE safety training materials. New e-learning certification course. [www.indianamichiganpower.com](http://www.indianamichiganpower.com) under "SAFTEY"

## MITRT5

- Anyone interested in becoming a member reach out to Rory or Doug

### Landing Zones:

- Landing zone classes.
- Fundraiser calendars possible for the Association to consider

### Resource Directory/Website:

- New trucks have been posted. Need any pictures of old trucks that served your department.
- The recent firefighter obituaries will be posted on the page of honor web site.

### Old Business:

- NONE

### New Business:

- Audit committee needed. Two people needed. Non officers. Denny Sexton and Steven Phenegar were nominated and accepted to serve as the 2023 audit committee
- Doug deBest presented a motion request to host a First Responder Mental training that cost \$500 and can only be scheduled on a Saturday. Jim LaVanway supported the motion. Motion carried.

### Updated information:

Resilience and Self-Care for First Responders has been scheduled for Saturday morning March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am – 11:00 am at Saint Joseph Charter Twp. Sta. 1 This is a State of Michigan FFTC approved course and each firefighter that completes this course will receive a certificate.

Register in Smoke Course Number : 2024 – 2 - 11- Q61Z - 0397  
No cost to attending firefighters.

The Berrien County Firefighters Association would like to thank our host Al DiBrito of Corwell Lakeland Health, the accommodating hospital staff helping with set up, Mark Berger of Medflight for sponsoring tonight's meal from Barnstormer's Pizza.

The evening program on Responding to Incidents Along the Railroad Tracks or At a Railroad Crossing! What to Know!

A motion to adjourn the meeting by Corey Burks and supported by Tim Jesswein carried meeting adjourned at 19:39.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Dennis Graham*  
*Sec / Treas*

**The next meeting February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Michiana Shores** (Michigan Times)  
**6:30 Meal**  
**7:00 BCFA Meeting**