

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org

April 3rd, 2024

New Buffalo (City) at Twp. Sta. 2

Meeting called to order at 19:01 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

Officers present: President Gerry Kabelman, 1st Vice President Craig Brent, and Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Graham.

Roll call of departments indicate 13 departments represented with 28 members present. Meal donations collected \$101.

The minutes for the month of March was presented. Motion made by Mark German with support from Chris Huston to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report for the month of March indicated the balance in checking at \$3,606.80. Money market balance is \$21,447.84. A balance of \$7,465.71 in the car show account. Combined total of \$32,520.35. A motion made by Joe Dyniensi with support from Dan Mandalis to approve the report. The motion carried

Bills submitted for payment:

- Payment needed in the amount \$1,460.00 to Alert All Corp. for 2000 plastic helmets for Fire Education Center. Motion made by Doug deBest with support from Mike Essig to pay the bill. The Motion carried.

Communications:

- Berrien County Recycle event April 9th 2-6 at LMC
- Berrien Springs/Oronoko Pancake Breakfast April 14th, 7:30am-11:30am.
- Sodus Twp. Pancake Breakfast April 21st, 7am-12:30pm.
- Bertrand Twp. Pancake Breakfast May4th, 8am-11am.
- Buchanan Twp. Fish Fry May 4th, 3pm-8pm.
- Lest We Forget June 22nd-23rd.
- Benefit Car Show June 29th, check for updates, contact information, and sponsor information listed on the mi-BCFA.org website.

911/Dispatch:

- New call takers in training for dispatch.
- Dispatchers Appreciation Week is April 14th-20th.
- Buchanan Communication tower is making progress.

Chief's Association:

- Next Chiefs Meeting is April 23rd, at 8:30 am.

Training Committee:

- Check-in on SMOKE for more information and to register on the many courses offered in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. Particularly important that every department member check in on SMOKE and verify that all their information is up to date.
- April 25th written/April 27th practical Help requests will be sent out for the practical at the fairgrounds.
- Company Officer 1 class starting April 16th.
- RIT classes May 17th, 18th, and 19th.
- St .Joe Twp. Sta. 1 Leadership & Mental health training April 20th, 9am-4:30pm.

Resource Directory/Website:

- Patches being updated on departments web page.
- Coloring books needed for the Fire Education Center.
Requests were sent out to Fire Chiefs.

Landing Zones:

- As of April 21st at 7am West Michigan AirCare out of Kalamazoo stop all services

Hazmat:

- Available for department trainings.

Sheriff:

- New mobile command unit has arrived. Special mention to Dave Albers in all his efforts in making the command unit a reality for Berrien County.
- Swatting calls waring. –hoaxing emergency services –false reporting—sending large responses—to cause harm—is a criminal offense.
- Recent bomb threats a big concern.

Old Business:

- 2023 audit – Audit committee has reviewed the audit and has approved it as presented. A motion to pay Sec/Treas Graham the annual \$400 by Doug deBest with support from Mark Germen. Motion carried.

New Business:

- The BCFA shows our appreciation towards Berrien County Dispatchers on the week of April 14th-20th to pay towards their shift meals. A motion to pay \$300 towards the meals presented by Joe Dyniensi with support from Chris Huston. Motion carried.

Host Chief Houston thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the township for their help with the meeting meal.

Bob Rogers from SERVPRO was the presentation for the evening.

A motion to adjourn the meeting by Doug Wise and supported by Andrew Flick. motion carried. meeting adjourned at 19:33.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Graham

Sec / Treas

**The next meeting May 1st, 2024
Niles City
18:30 Meal
19:00 BCFA Meeting**