

# **BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

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

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Niles City

Meeting called to order at 19:05 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

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

Roll call of departments indicate 11 departments represented with 23 members present. Meal donations collected \$103.

The minutes for the month of April was presented. Motion made by Nick ?? with support from Corey Burks to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report for the month of April indicated the balance in checking at \$1,746.80. Money market balance is \$21,554.12. A balance of \$10,060.79 in the car show account. Combined total of \$33,361.71. A motion made by Denny Sexton with support from Corey Burks to approve the report. The motion carried.

## **Communications:**

- Bertrand Twp. Pancake Breakfast scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> has been canceled.
- Buchanan Twp. Fish Fry May 4<sup>th</sup>, 3pm-8pm.
- North Berrien 2 The RESCUE Life Saving Training May 13<sup>th</sup>, 6-9 pm at Coloma Twp. Hall
- Lest We Forget June 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>
- Benefit Car Show June 29<sup>th</sup>, check for updates, contact information, and sponsor information listed on the [mi-BCFA.org](http://mi-BCFA.org) website.
- Baroda Fireworks July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers welcome to help.

## **911/Dispatch:**

- New dispatchers and a call taker in training.
- Dispatchers Appreciation Week was April 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> A signed Thank-you card was received by the BCFA for the donation towards providing meals for each shift of dispatchers throughout the week.
- Buchanan Communication tower no new updates.

## **Emergency Management:**

- Sending out 2024 ERG's
- KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship May 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.
- LEPC meeting June 4<sup>th</sup>. All welcomed to attend.
- DC COOK reception center drill in New Buffalo in June/July.

## **Chief's Association:**

- Next Chiefs Meeting is May 15th, at 8:30 am.
- Radio communications power point/video.
- Incident Command Guidelines.

## **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.
- FF I&II classes have tested. 11 passed in the Saturday adult class and 3 passed in the high school class. Attending students that did not pass have committed attending retake testing soon.
- Company Officer 1 class started with 12 students in the program.
- RIT classes May 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. Register on SMOKE
- MAY 3<sup>rd</sup> is the training survey deadline, please take the time to fill this out before the deadline. Any questions contact Corey B.

- Last month the BCFFTC with partnership with Berrien Springs schools and RESA has ordered a driver simulator trailer with trained operators and will be available to area agencies this fall. Very useful tool to be used for new drivers who are not eligible to drive fire apparatus taking classes.

**Resource Directory/Website:**

- Check the website for local special announcements, trainings, breakfasts, and fish fry.
- Please send in any changes your department has for the Directory
- Coloring books needed for the Fire Education Center.  
Requests were sent out to Fire Chiefs.

**Landing Zone:**

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

**Hazmat:**

- Semi into a house in Saint Joseph Twp.
- Unit is attending events throughout the county this month.

**Sheriff:**

- 2023 annual report sent to the board of commissioners and viewing available online.
- Memorial for fallen Police Officers taken place on MAY 15<sup>th</sup>, at noon. Taking place at the Law Enforcement Memorial in Saint Joseph on the bluff.
- Sending two through the LMC academy.
- Undersheriff Greg Sanders introduced.

**Old Business:**

- CAR SHOW June 29<sup>th</sup> , 9-2. Shorter times this year.
- Sheriff department helping with escorts and Sheriff Mounted Division.
- Month ahead of fund raising, the 19 spots filled on the t shirt.
- Plenty of room to display any old or new fire trucks.
- Audit complete and paid.
- 501c \$25 payment sent to the State of Michigan.

**New Business:**

- Request to move the July 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to **July 10<sup>th</sup>**. North Berrien willing to honor the date change.
- The HART program was disbanded, and discussion presented to the BCFA asking for support to the program to get it up and running again. Plans to start a committee to oversee the progress of HART under our 501c . The need is there.
- A motion presented by Corey Burks with the support of Dennis Graham to start research with a committee on HART setup. Motion carried.

Host Chief Nick Gowen thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Chief Gowen introduced Chad Taylor retired captain from Elkhart Fire Department discussing proper gas monitor procedures as the evening presentation.

A motion to adjourn the meeting by Donnie Johnson and supported by Paul Rainwater. motion carried. meeting adjourned at 19:39.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dennis Graham*

*Sec / Treas*

**The next meeting June 5th, 2024**

**Niles Twp. Sta.2**

**18:30 Meal**

**19:00 BCFA Meeting**