

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org

September 4th, 2024

ROYALTON TWP.

Meeting called to order at 19:12 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

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

Roll call of departments indicate 13 departments represented with 32 members present. Meal donations collected \$151.

The minutes for the month of August was presented. Motion made by Doug deBest with support from Frank DeLaTorre to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report for the month of August indicated the balance in checking at \$4,686.83. Money market balance is \$21,721.67. Balance of \$6,159.08 in the car show account. Combined total of \$32,567.58. A motion made by Tom Wicker with support from Cory Burks to approve the report. The motion carried.

Bills submitted for payment:

- The BCFA Fair Education Center Itemized Expenses for 2024 was presented and explained by Gerry Kabelman that totaled \$712.63. A motion made by Jim Jonatzke with support from Denny Sexton to approve payment of the expenses. Motion carried. Payment presented.
- Car show totals \$18,438, minus itemized expenses, totals to \$10,417.57 which divides in half to \$5,208.79 being presented to the Berrien County Sheriff Department.

Communications:

- HART Rehab committee has met twice in the past few months and have obtained equipment that was used in the HART REHAB unit after it was disbanded. Goals for a vehicle, insurance, donations, needed supplies, and staff trainings are all discussions at the meetings. Next planned meeting on October 9th, at 18:00.

Emergency Management:

- Storm damage in south county was significant and EOC virtually activated to help with the responding departments, AEP, and the road department.

Chief's Association:

- Next Chiefs Meeting **NOTE**: September 18th at 8:30 am. at LAKE Township Public Safety Building.
- Communications Committee, Policy Guideline Committee, and the CAD Committee have been active.

Training Committee:

- High School class has started with 15 students.
- Adult FF-I&II class starting Dec. - May.
- Check in on SMOKE and on the BCFA web site for new listed and updated lists of trainings throughout the county.
- October 1st starts the new training year schedule. Make sure to sign in SMOKE with any changes and if you are an instructor there will be sign in change after Oct. 1st.

Resource Directory/Website:

- Check your departments lists in the Directory for changes so we can keep it up to date.
- More than 300 coloring contest posters have been posted. Just click on poster for enlargement.

Sheriff:

- 2 have finished the LMC Police Academy

Old Business:

- Smoke Detectors are available for free through the State. Departments can register online. 10 departments already have registered. Benton Harbor Fire is the local host pick up site for this program.

New Business:

- The March 5th, 2025 meeting in Watervliet will include a Growing Concerns and Cultivating Safety (Marijuana grow operations concerns) Keeping Firefighters safe when operating around Marijuana growing operations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS;

- 9/11 Hero Climb Sept. 11th, 8:46 am See Web site for details,
- First Responders Appreciation Dinner Sept. 13th. 7-11pm 8830 m-140 Berrien Center
- Bertrand Twp. 75th Anniversary Sept. 14th 10-Noon Bertrand Twp. Hall
- Weesaw Twp. Spaghetti Dinner Sept. 21st. 4-7pm
- New Buffalo Twp. Fired Up 5K Sept.28th

Host Chief Jonatzke thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The evening program topic was a demonstration of the Royalton Twp. insulation vacuum unit.

A motion to adjourn the meeting by Cory Burks and supported by Jim Jonatzke carried meeting adjourned at 19:47.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Graham

Sec / Treas

**The next meeting October 2nd, 2024
St. Joseph City
18:30 Meal
19:00 BCFA Meeting**