

# **BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

**Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org**

**January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**D.C. Cook Training Center**

Meeting called to order at 19:04 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

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

Roll call of departments show 10 departments represented with 25 members present  
Donations collected during the meal totaled \$72.

Minutes for December were presented . A motion made by Doug deBest with support from Tom Wicker to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The December treasurer's report was presented. The checking balance is \$813.71, the money market balance is \$37,627.75, and the car show balance is \$1,062.43, totaling \$39,503.89. A motion was made by Doug deBest with support from Sam Badreddine to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Emergency Management:**

Radiological Security and Response training on January 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> at the BC Health Department Building in Napier.

### **Chief's Association:**

- Next Meeting December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Training Committee:**

- Make sure you check SMOKE and watch E-Mails for any updates and trainings including Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. Benton Harbor has up coming classes
- The Chief meet and greet was well attended and received.

### **MITRT5:**

- Only 5 members on the Berrien County team. Applicants needed to help maintain a team in our area. Call early when needed. Teams may need to travel long distances from the Kalamazoo area when a request is made.

### **H.A.R.T. : Helping Area Response Teams**

- Corey and Dennis have been in contact with Mario and the project is moving forward on equipping and putting the truck in service after trainings have been completed.
- The truck has been delivered to the Benton Harbor Salvation Army location and the storage location at the Emergency Services Building at the fairgrounds.
- Applications are available for helping with assistance getting the Rehab truck to the call when requested. They do provide training to those who qualify. Anyone interested can contact Corey or Dennis for more information

**Hazmat:**

- Undergoing transition plans with Chiefs Association

**Resource Directory/Website:**

- Gathering information to create listings of EV related items like plugs and fire blankets
- Check for updates and changes on types and quantities of foam available at each department
- Check the web site for the updated list of trainings and events.

**Sheriff:**

- Congratulations to Captain (Rockey) Adams for **25yrs.** Of Service!
- Added 3 on patrol in addition to a few more going through training in the near future.

**Communications:**

- Niles Twp. Pancake Breakfast Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> at Sta.2 from 8-11 am.

**New/Old Business:**

- 2026 meeting calendar in preparation, waiting on 2 confirmations for July and November.
- Evaluate how to boost up attendance to monthly meetings, this is for fire fighters to have an open opportunity to get familiarized with local departments, what they have and what you can offer when needed.
- Gathering car show donations after mailings that were sent out. A postage bill will be presented for the mailings.
- A motion was made by Doug deBest with support from Donnie Johnson to approve spending \$500 on a 4-hour session “Arches to Ashes Fighting Fires in Fast Food Restaurant’s” on April 11<sup>th</sup>,2026.motion carried.

Thank you to D.C. Cook for hosting the meeting and the presentation for the evening on response and fire suppression at D.C. Cook facilities.

Joe Scanbn with support from Donnie Johnson made a motion to close the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 19.53.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dennis Graham*

*Sec / Treas*

**The next meeting is February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Eau Clair Fire Department Sta. 1**

**18:30 meal  
19:00 meeting**

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