

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org

February 4, 2026

Eau Claire Sta. 1

Meeting called to order at 19:06 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 show 13 departments represented with 22 members. Donations collected during the meal totaled \$100. To offset the cost of the meal, the BCFA offered \$100 to Eau Clair Fire Department. They accepted the \$100 and donated \$50 back to the BCFA.

Minutes for January were presented . A motion made by Tom Wicker with support from Adrian Willauer to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The January treasurer's report was presented. The checking balance is \$885.71, the money market balance is \$37,642.13, and the car show balance is \$1,812.44, totaling \$40,340.28. A motion was made by Tyler Burks with support from Denny Sexton to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Emergency Management:

- BCFA Congratulates Captain Rockey Adams on his retirement after serving 25 years of service to our community.
- BCFA also Congratulated Captain Dave Albers on his promotion to Captain of the Emergency Management/Homeland Security Division.

Chief's Association:

- Next Meeting February 18th.

Training Committee:

- The CTE students to catch up on the classes missed due to school snow days.
- FF I&II had joint survival training with Van Burren County.
- Make sure you check SMOKE and watch E-Mails for any updates and trainings including Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties.
- Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety is offering 2026 a list of Training Academy Courses and Blue Card Work Shops. Information listed on BCFA web site.

MITRT5:

- Short in members representing the Berrien County area.

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

- Still making progress on developing how to equip and maintain the truck to have it ready for on call response when needed.

Hazmat:

- Work group put together to transfer command structure and equipment to the fire service.

Resource Directory/Website:

- Car Show updates and 2026 donation listings.
- Page of Honor has been updated
- Check the web site for the updated list of trainings and events.

Sheriff:

- Southwest Michigan Polar Plunge to support the Special Olympics Michigan at the Watermark Brewing Company Stevensville on Feb. 7th at 10am.

New/Old Business:

- 2026 meeting calendar in preparation, host requests have been sent out and waiting for official confirmation. Callender is complete through October 2026.
- Request to the attending body for an Audit Committee for the 2025 audit. No response.
- Request to the attending body for a By-Law Review Committee. No response.

Announcements/Communications:

- A moment of Silence was observed in honor of Robert Lozmack with 27 yrs served on the Galien Fire Department.
- March 8th Niles Twp Pancake Breakfast 8-11am
- Welcome New Royalton Twp Fire Chief Zach Bernard. BCFA congratulates Chief Jonatzke on his retirement.
- Welcome Saint Joseph Charter Twp Sta 1 Assistant Chief Jim Robertson. After 51 years of service Gerry Kabelman has semi-retired on the department.

Thank you to Chief Norm Carl and crew for hosting the meeting at Eau Clare.
The evening program with True's towing was cancelled due to weather

Lanny Duffal, with support from Tom Wicker, made a motion to close the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 19:36.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Graham
Sec / Treas

The next meeting is March 4th

Galien Twp Fire Department

18:30 meal

19:00 meeting