

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org

August 5th, 2026

BCYF (Fairgrounds)

Meeting called to order at 19:07 hours by President Kabelman.

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

Donations collected at the meal totaled \$182.

Roll call of departments show 14 departments representing 43 members present.

Minutes for July presented. A motion made by Doug deBest with support from Tyler Burks to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The July treasurer's report including the checking balance, the money market balance, and the car show balance were presented to the attending members. A motion was made by Tyler Burks with support from Sam Bedreddine to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Bill's Submitted

Car show T-Shirts -- \$660

Fair Fire Ed fire hats -- \$880

Korn Dog Meal -- \$286.01

Fair Fire Ed prizes & candy \$567.24

Presentation to the Sheriff with a check for \$10,000 from proceeds from the 2026 car show.

Motion made by Doug deBest with support from Frank DeLaTorre to approve payment on presented bill's. Motion carried.

A generous donation was presented to the BCFA in the amount of \$400 to cover the expenses of the meal from Friends of Berrien Springs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Emergency Management:

- School will be starting soon, planning on school lock down drills

Chief's Association:

- Next Meeting August 19th, at the fairgrounds Emergency Service Building.
- New Number system running old numbers are not being used anymore.
- Reminder that tablet access information is to be strictly used confidentially.

Committee Training:

- New school year CTE Program student station visits
- County Training Funding usage, what will be offered dates/locations
- Training sessions across the county are listed on Smoke and the BCFA websites.

MITRT5:

- Always looking for new members and did have one call out in Portage, car into building.

Resource Directory/Website:

- Changes made with new number system for each department are in progress.
- It is important to keep those updates and possible pictures of trucks coming in
- Make sure to check web site for the extensive list of upcoming trainings and events

Hazmat:

- Cass County response – fuel tanker roll over – Pokagon Twp.

HART:

- Basically, we have full access to the truck and need to have a work detail on the unit and recruiting more volunteers to help with this project. More planning is being made between the local Salvation Army branches and their contacts on response zones and stocking the truck.

Old/New Business

- Annual elections committee Corey Burks and Adrian Willaner presented Gerry Kabelman as President and Donnie Johnson as 2nd Vice President to the floor.
- A nomination for Adrian Willauer for 2nd Vice President was also presented and accepted to the floor.
- Motion to close and proceed with elections by Dale Stover with support by Doug deBest. Motion carried.
- Nomination for Gerry Kabelman remain President was accepted and carried.
- A run-off election for 2nd vice president showed the winner was Adrian Willauer.
- Motion to accept and close the elections by Dale Stover with support of Tom Guidice. Motion carried.

Announcements:

- On behalf of the Fair board Cory Burks thanked those who volunteer their help throughout fair time. An Appreciation breakfast is planed on August 29th from 8 am – 10am in the flower barn.
- Fire Education building sign up list has slots still open to please be filled.
- 800mhz radios available for on duty personnel. Scan QR code to sign in and out of duty and if you are using one of the radios.

Host Chief Doug Myers welcomed and thanked everyone for their help in maintaining Fire coverage throughout the week of the Berrien County Youth Fair.

The evening program went over fair rules, updates, parking locations, and coverage sign up

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dale Stove and supported by Jessica Walker' Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 19:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Graham

Sec / Treas

**The next meeting is on September 2nd
Niles Twp. Sta. 2 (3rd St.)
18:30 meal 19:00 meeting**