

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

1711 Route 34 South • Wall Township, New Jersey 07727-3934

Telephone: (732) 798-8137 • (800) 852-0137

Fax: (732) 938-2580

Robert F. Ordway, President
Joseph T. Hankins, Vice President
Edward R. Mullen, CPA, Treasurer
Frank P. Cavallo, Esq., Counsel

Brian E. Martone, Secretary
Richard K. Dreby, 1st Asst. Secretary
Stephen C. Fazekas, 2nd Asst. Secretary
Jennie M. Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

ABRIDGED REPORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION WALL TOWNSHIP, NJ

FEBRUARY 21, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Ordway at 9:00 am in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was posted on the New Jersey State Firemen's website as required pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

President Ordway pointed out the fire exits.

Vice President Hankins led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed for our deceased members and their families.

First Assistant Secretary Dreby recited the opening prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Called by First Assistant Secretary Dreby, all members were present, except for William Smith Middlesex County, Joseph Jubert Ocean County, and Daniel Scheuer Sussex County with excused absences.

PRESENTATION:

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Prestigious Arthur J. Glatfelter Distinguished Service Award was presented to Cape May Executive Committeeman Daniel Spiegel by Board Chair Troy Markel and CEO Victor Stagnaro.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Abridged Minutes and Verbatim Minutes of the November 22, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting were approved as distributed on a motion by Executive Committeeman Kelly, seconded by Executive Committeeman Mecsey. **MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMUNICATIONS:

Secretary Martone read a thank you note from Past Warren County Executive Committeeman Konrad Mellert. A motion to accept Communications both read and distributed to the Executive Committee by Executive Committeeman Walker, seconded by Executive Committeeman Handlin. **MOTION CARRIED.**

LIFE MEMBER REPORT:

None currently.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Vice President Hankins:

Vice President Hankins mentioned all the caucus dates are in and posted on our website. He stated that we had a few great workshops in Union, Essex, and Somerset and have one coming up in Morris County on 3/12. He reported that the field exams are coming up and help is needed so please sign up. President Ordway mentioned that if anyone would like to host any one of the types of workshops that we have, General, Trustees, or Secretary/Treasurer please see Vice President Hankins.

Secretary Martone:

Secretary Martone mentioned that he has a few applications that need to be discussed. Belmar # 026 Monmouth County is closing one fire company, Waterford Township #381 Camden County is closing two fire companies and has a name change for the one active company, and East Hanover Township # 427 Morris County is adding a new career staff company.

First Assistant Secretary Dreby:

First Assistant Secretary Dreby mentioned that his Legislative Committee report was in your packet. He mentioned that additional in your packet is a report from our Legislative Lobbyist, Matt McDermott. He reported that he has a new representative from Cape May County for the Legislative Committee and that he is working on scheduling the annual Legislative Committee Meeting which will be held towards the end of March via zoom.

Second Assistant Secretary Fazekas:

Second Assistant Secretary Fazekas reported that the 2026 Memorial Committee has been set up and wants to thank Bryan Lynch for being the Chairman again this year. He stated that the contract was signed with the company who does the video for the Memorial Service for 2026.

Treasurer Mullen:

Treasurer Mullen stated that the annual audit for our general funds is in progress and that the annual audit report of the pension fund was distributed to the Pension Committee this morning at their meeting. He stated that this coming week he will start the process of completing the 990's for the local associations.

Field Examiner Hollingsworth:

Field Examiner Hollingsworth stated that her report is included in the packets along with a list of dates for the upcoming field exams for this year. She stated that there are still some open spaces for anyone willing to help with the field exams. She reported that there are some boxes of local relief applications that need to be returned to the local associations by the county Executives and thanked both First Assistant Secretary Dreby and Second Assistant Secretary Fazekas with all the help in completing this task. She stated that all the counties have been completed except for some of the larger associations, which she only has a few boxes left at this point. Field Examiner Hollingsworth reported on the Relief and Health Care numbers that she provided and stated that the numbers of applications went up for November and December as far as Relief.

Counsel Cavallo:

Counsel Cavallo stated that he has no report at this time.

Assistant Counsel Morris:

Assistant Counsel Morris stated that he has no report at this time.

President Ordway:

1. Office Closures:

The office will be closed for the following various Holidays.

- Friday, April 3rd

2. Reports Due:

- 100% of the Fourth Quarter Relief Paid Reports were received on time.
- 100% of the Officer's Listing Reports were received on time.
- The 2025 Annual Finance Report was due yesterday and 13 are still outstanding. However, we have a bunch of tracking numbers so that number should go down as the mail arrives.
- The Annual Membership Percentage Report is **due by February 28th**, and 196 are still out as of today. Reminder after the membership reports are received any members with five years of zeros will be dropped.
- 990's will now be completed by the state office and if there are any locals that already have completed these please send in the copies. Next year they will be 100% done in the state office.
- This summer we will be updating some of the online reports and forms to help fix some of the issues and changes that have been made.
- First Quarter Relief Paid Report is **due by April 30th**.
- The Delegate Selection Report is **due by May 1st**.
- With any of the online reports, as always, start early in case you have an issue. If you receive any phone calls from any of the associations that have any problems with the reports, have them contact us to assist with getting the problem corrected.
- We make minor changes to some of the forms and as we do, we put them right on the website. Please go to the website for the most up to date forms.

3. 2026 Convention:

- The 2026 Convention will be a two-day Convention on September 18th & 19th.

4. Caucuses, Field Exams, & County Workshops:

- **These must be ADA compliant.** Please keep that in mind moving forward. Please contact Vice President Hankins to confirm your caucus dates and locations and to arrange a date for a workshop in your county.

5. Collecting Local Relief Applications:

- We will be collecting the 2025 Local Relief Application at each County Caucus to be reviewed in the state office. They must submit all of them including the ones rejected except for the ones that were sent in for Special and/or Supplemental Relief. The Special and Supplemental applications have already been reviewed. A guideline has been prepared and if for some reason, they cannot bring them to the Caucus, they will have a deadline of September 30th to get them all to the State Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory Committee:

Chairman Walker stated that applications for special relief which were approved year to date were 11 for a total of \$32,100.00, special relief paid out by Locals is \$13,000.00. Applications for supplemental relief were approved year to date were six, for a total of \$97,536.00. He stated that in 2025 total payout was \$684,029.00, and total payout by Locals was \$125,061.12.

Compendium Committee:

Chairman Roemmich stated that he held a meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2026. He stated that the committee is in the process of reviewing the state statutes, local bylaws, and the compendium for necessary changes. He mentioned that this is an ongoing process with numerous meetings, and the next scheduled committee meeting is Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 9:00 am here in the office. He stated that they hope to have the review and revision of all documents completed with distribution to all Executive Committee members for your review, discussion, and possible approval during May 2, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting. He asked if anyone has any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to send them to him or Secretary Martone.

Delegate—Life Member Committee:

Chairman Florio reported that the committee held a meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2026, to discuss many possibilities for an increase and the conclusion will be brought up under new business, which was in distributed to everyone.

Finance Committee:

Treasure Mullen stated that the Finance Committee report from November 3, 2025, meeting is included in the packet, the report for February 12, 2026, meeting will be forwarded to everyone.

Firemen's Home Committee:

Chairman Otterbein stated that there are two items included in the packet, one is his home report, and the second one is a memorandum that President Ordway asked him to prepare which he will bring up for discussion under new business.

Health Care Committee:

Chairman Reeves stated that his report is included in the packets. He wanted to thank Field Examiner Hollingsworth for all the work she does for the committee. He mentioned some of the numbers that were paid out, \$13.7 million in 2023, \$17.1 million in 2024, and \$16.5 million in 2025. He stated that it seems to be rounding off and leveling as far as the numbers go.

Investment Committee:

Executive Committeeman Handlin stated that the committee met on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, via zoom and he wanted to thank Secretary Martone for hosting along with everyone who attended. He stated that the committee reviewed the investments including all the bonds which are doing well and gaining approximately 6%. He stated that as some of the other investments come due, legacy bonds, they will look to move some of the money accordingly, which is approximately \$12 million. He mentioned that there are four accounts as money market accounts which are not performing with a high yield, and they will look to move some of those

accounts to bonds which are performing well. He stated that these accounts are earmarked funds that back up our Burial Benefit, Health Care, Special Relief.

Legislative Committee:

Chairman Dreby stated that the Legislative Committee's report is in the packets. He stated that he attended a Senate Committee Hearing with Vice President Hankins in Trenton to testify in support of one of the tracked bills and mentioned that there is very little movement as the new Legislative Session has just started.

Long Range Planning/Review Committee:

Chairman Lane stated that the committee met on January 15, 2026, and we reviewed some of the programs and the numbers and that there will be another meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2026, to continue to review the numbers.

Pension Committee:

Chairman Mullen reported that the committee met prior to this morning's Executive Committee meeting. He stated that there was not much activity to discuss and stated that on a sad note, Ernie Greenwald's wife passed away this past month. He mentioned that he has been working on the upcoming budget, and they will recommend making the same contributions as the years in the past at \$500,000 going forward.

Resolution Committee:

Assistant Counsel Morris stated that there is no report at this time.

Salary Committee:

President Ordway stated that Chairman Jubert is not in attendance today and that his report will be shared for the May meeting.

Fire Commission:

Commissioner Naylis reported that the Safety Commission held a meeting on January 15, 2026. He mentioned that they will have a new Fire Marshall which will be appointed with the new Governor as Director Mikutsky retired. He stated that the new fire code is being proposed for review and the next meeting of the Safety Commission will be here at the state office on Thursday, March 19, 2026.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Belmar # 026 (Monmouth County) is requesting to close Fire Company #1 and make them inactive as of February 2025. A motion to close the company by Executive Committeeman Kelly, seconded by Executive Committeeman Florio. **MOTION CARRIED.**
2. Waterford Township # 381 (Camden County) is requesting two fire companies #2 & #3 be closed, and a name change of Fire Company #1, to be named Waterford Township Fire Department. A motion to close the two fire companies and change the name of the one fire company by Executive Committeeman Figueroa, seconded by Executive Committeeman Roemmich. **MOTION CARRIED.**
3. East Hanover Township # 427 (Morris County) is requesting a new career fire company be added, to be named Bureau of Fire Rescue. A motion to add the new fire company by Executive Committeeman Minell, seconded by Executive Committeeman Otterbein. **MOTION CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. President Ordway stated that if there are any Local Associations that need oversight, continue to need oversight, or can be removed from oversight to please contact the Field Examiner via email.
2. Executive Committeeman Speigel asked if anyone looked into the ability to record the meetings. President Ordway responded that we have not yet, but we will work on that.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None required for this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval for the increase to Delegate/Life Member Convention Expenses:

A motion to approve the increase to the Delegate/Life Member 2026 Convention Expenses by Executive Committeeman Speigel, seconded by Executive Committeeman Kelly. **ROLL CALL VOTE: PASSED 18-0.**

2. Joint Study with the Firemen's Home:

A motion to conduct a Joint Study with the Firemen's Home by Executive Committeeman Reeves, seconded by Executive Committeeman Lenarski. **ROLL CALL VOTE: PASSED 18-0.**

3. Permission to allow the Officers to Not Seat any Local who fail to have their reports in on time:

A motion to give permission to allow the Officers to Not Seat any Local who fail to have their reports in on time for the reports that are due after this meeting as done in the past by Executive Committeeman Kelly, seconded by Executive Committeeman Otterbein. Executive Committeeman Handlin asked a question about the Financial Report that Field Examiner Hollingsworth mentioned that had some errors but was submitted. President Ordway stated that once completed, we will review if they are in compliance. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Executive Committeeman Naylis stated that for some time we have been discussing Volunteer Cancer Screening, and he would like the President to appoint a committee to conduct a study on offering Cancer Screening then bring it back to the Executive Committee. A motion for the President to appoint a committee to conduct a study in reference to Cancer Screening for our members was made by Executive Committeeman Naylis, seconded by Executive Committeeman Lane. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Executive Committeeman Joo asked if the Chiefs could have access to the Membership Report so they can help with inputting the data for the percentages as some of his local chiefs have asked for this. President Ordway stated that we have this on multiple tabs for some of the other reports so that it can be done, however, not for this year. It will be added for next year's membership report.

Executive Committeeman Handlin asked that on the officers listing, can the Trustee Chairman be added to that report with contact information. President Ordway stated that we can investigate that and see if it can be added for next year's report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: First Assistant Secretary Dreby read the Public Comment Instructions.

Michael Cleary, Jersey City, stated that it was mentioned about a joint study with the Firemen's Home but asked what the outcome with the unknown computer glitch was. President Ordway stated that internally the Firemen's Home is still investigating that, and he can't comment until that investigation is complete.

Jack Cunic, Denville Secretary, wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday. He asked if there was any progress of the enhancements for the scanning abilities for the convention attendance that was brought up from last meeting. President Ordway stated that at this time there is no additional information that we have concerning this.

Charles Lind, President NJ Deputy & Battalion Fire Chiefs Association, stated that he mentioned in November concerning transparency for the committee reports. He stated that he would like to see the committee members go back to providing a comprehensive report instead of just saying it is in the packet so the public can ask questions. He mentioned that he supports the building of the new firemen's home, and he would like this association to cooperate. He stated that he met with Senator Bucco who told them that he will find the funding in the Legislature. He suggested that the new joint committee be positive. He stated that he is going to monitor this closely to see how this is going to go down. He mentioned that in the past he was in favor of a southern firemen's home. He stated that he has asked the association to sit down and speak concerning all of this and expressed his concerns about a meeting. He stated that he is on a mission to get things done. He agrees with the Volunteer Cancer Screening and appreciates that effort now for this new committee. He stated that he would love to be on this new committee. He mentioned convention resolutions and passed resolutions from past conventions. He mentioned that there was a number glitch at the firemen's home and that you are latching on to this. He stated that there are members who reached out to him anonymously, and he would like to see this get done so that he has a solution and possible funding.

Daniel Smith Jr., Chatham, stated that he has asked about the burial benefit to be increased annually and was asked for an update. President Ordway stated that the Long-Range Planning Committee is investigating this, and they will have a recommendation on all the programs at the next meeting.

President Ordway closed the public portion of the meeting as there was no one else from the public wishing to speak.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

President Ordway stated that the next meeting will be held Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 9:00 am.

President Ordway stated that we discussed several items today and he thanked the committees for their work on the various items. He thanked the Executive Committee for their cooperation in getting through today's agenda. He mentioned for everyone to have a good rest of the day.

Vice President Hankins stated that Past President Joseph Paloa is in need of a Kidney Donation, and it does not need to be an exact match. If you know of anyone that is interested, please reach out to the transport team.

Executive Committeeman Walker congratulated Executive Committeeman Spiegel for his award and wants to recognize his wife and family who all are in attendance to show him their support.

Executive Committeeman Roemmich stated that he would like to thank everyone for their support for the recent passing of his father that he greatly appreciates it.

Executive Committeemen Florio, Otterbein, and Kurdyla thanked the Officers for hosting the workshops in their counties (Union, Essex, & Somerset) and that they very well received.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Executive Committeeman Florio, seconded by Executive Committeeman Handlin. Meeting adjourned at 9:52 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian E. Martone

Brian E. Martone

Secretary

New Jersey State Firemen's Association

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

1711 Route 34 South, Wall Township, NJ 07727

DATE OF MEETING: February 21, 2026

PAGE: 1 of 1

PRES ABS

				Delegate and Life Member Convention Expense increase		Firemen's Fire Home Study			
				YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
ROBERT F. ORDWAY	PRESIDENT	X							
JOSEPH T. HANKINS	VICE PRESIDENT	X							
BRIAN E. MARTONE	SECRETARY	X							
RICHARD K. DREBY	1ST ASST. SECY	X							
STEPHEN C. FAZEKAS	2ND ASST. SECY	X							
EDWARD R. MULLEN	TREASURER	X							
JENNIE HOLLINGSWORTH	FIELD EXAMINER	X							
FRANK P. CAVALLO, JR.	COUNSEL	X							
GEORGE M. MORRIS	ASS'T COUNSEL	X							
CINDY L. BADGER	ATLANTIC	x		X		X			
GERARD J. NAYLIS	BERGEN	x		X		X			
GEORGE T. JOO	BURLINGTON	x		X		X			
NORMAN F. FIGUEROA, JR.	CAMDEN	x		X		X			
DANIEL F. SPEIGEL	CAPE MAY	x		X		X			
JAMES F. REEVES	CUMBERLAND	x		X		X			
RICHARD C. OTTERBEIN	ESSEX	x		X		X			
GLENN D. ROEMMICH	GLOUCESTER	x		X		X			
LAWERENCE J. HANDLIN	HUDSON	x		X		X			
JOHN R. PHILLIPS	HUNTERDON	x		X		X			
JOSEPH M. LENARSKI	MERCER	x		X		X			
WILLIAM J. SMITH	MIDDLESEX	ESC		ESC		ESC			
ROBERT J. KELLY	MONMOUTH	x		X		X			
EUGENE T. MINELL	MORRIS	x		X		X			
JOSEPH JUBERT	OCEAN	ESC		ESC		ESC			
JOHN V. LANE	PASSAIC	x		X		X			
FRANCIS X. WALKER, JR.	SALEM	x		X		X			
ALLEN F. KURDYLA	SOMERSET	x		X		X			
DANIEL L. SCHEUER	SUSSEX	ESC		ESC		ESC			
NICHOLAS J. FLORIO	UNION	x		X		X			
JOSPEH MECSEY 3RD	WARREN	x		X		X			
TOTALS		18		18		18			

GUESTS: Jim Kenny - Past Field Examiner
 13 other guest attendedd, the visitor list is attached.

NJSFA Treasurer's Report
February 21, 2026

1. The annual audit, by PKF O'Connor Davies, of our General Fund is in progress for our fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.
2. The annual audit for the year ended December 31, 2024, by PKF O'Connor Davies, of our Pension Fund has been completed. The final report was distributed to members of the Pension Committee this morning.
3. We will be commencing the preparation of IRS Forms 990-N, 990-EZ and 990 in-house this coming week.
4. Still working with our Retirees to convert pension checks to 'Direct Deposit.'

Other Notes:

Finance Committee:

The report from the Finance Committee's November 3rd meeting is attached. The report from their February 12th meeting will be sent out within the next two weeks.

Pension Committee:

We met this morning. I'll make a brief report.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward R. Mullen, CPA
Treasurer

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

(DBA: New Jersey State Firemen's Association)

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Jennie M. Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

November 3, 2025

Robert F. Ordway, President
New Jersey State Firemen's Association
1711 Route 34 South
Wall Township, NJ 07727-3934

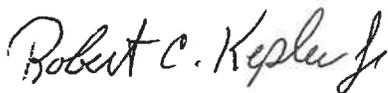
Dear Mr. President:

A regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on November 3, 2025, at the office of the Association. At that time, the accounts of the Association were audited for the First Quarter ending September 30, 2025. Treasurer Edward R. Mullen was available as needed and cooperated fully with the Committee in providing satisfactory answers to any questions that arose during the audit.

The reviews covered the reconciliation of all checks, vouchers, ledger entries and bank statements for the General Fund, Burial Fund, Pension, General Checking, Assessment and Special Relief accounts. The Association income documents, bank statements, and credit and debit documents were found to be accurate and in satisfactory condition.

The Committee considers the accounts of the Association to be in satisfactory condition and has no recommendations to make at this time.

Very truly yours,



Robert C. Kepler, Jr., Chairperson



John A. Delesandro, III



Edward A. Pettit, Jr.

Visit us on the web at www.njsfa.com

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FIELD EXAMINER'S REPORT

Date: February 21, 2026

The following applications for Special Relief, Supplementary Relief, and the Health Care Program have been processed thus far in 2026:

Applications	Received	Approved	Active Claims	Amount Paid YTD
Special Relief	11	10	—	\$32,100.00
Supplementary Relief	6	5	—	\$97,536.00
Health Care Program	8	8		\$2,528,435.17

Notes:

- Field Exams for 2026 have been sent to the local associations.
- I have attended multiple workshops and committee meetings in the last few months.
- I have been processing the financials and advising locals of any issues.

Monthly Breakdown:

- November 2025:
 - Reviewed and processed 312 health care reimbursement claims.
 - Processed 16 new health care claims and multiple renewal claims.
 - Reviewed and processed 34 Special and Supplementary Relief claims.
- December 2025:
 - Reviewed and processed 292 health care reimbursement claims.
 - Processed 10 new health care claims and multiple renewal claims.
 - Reviewed and processed 52 Special and Supplementary Relief claims.

Sincerely,
Jennie Hollingsworth
Field Examiner

Field Exams 2026

Burlington (B) – March 2 – 53 Academy Dr Westampton NJ 08060

NEED 3 Executives

-Joseph Mecsey, Dan Speigel, Frank Walker, Jay Lenarski, Jim Reeves, William Smith, Allen Kurdyla, Glenn Roemmich, Bob Kelly

-Brian Martone, Stephen Fazekas, Neil Gallo, Jim Kenny, Rick Dreby

Mercer – March 10 – West Trenton Fire 40 W Upper Ferry Rd Ewing Twp NJ 08628

NEED 6 Executives

-William Smith, George Joo, Jim Reeves, Joseph Mecsey, Glenn Roemmich, Bob Kelly

-Rick Dreby, Brian Martone, Neil Gallo, Frank Gunson, Jim Kenny

Bergen (A) – April 2 – Montvale Fire Co 35 West Grand Ave Montvale NJ

NEED 4 Executives

-Rich Otterbein, William Smith, Larry Handlin, Joseph Mecsey, Gene Minell, John Lane, Allen Kurdyla, Glenn Roemmich

-Brian Martone, Neil Gallo, Frank Gunson

Bergen (B) – April 9 – Maywood Senior Center 1 Brook Ave Maywood NJ

NEED 5 Executives

-Rich Otterbein, William Smith, Larry Handlin, Joseph Mecsey, Gene Minell, Allen Kurdyla, Glenn Roemmich

-Brian Martone, Neil Gallo, Frank Gunson

Hunterdon – April 14 – Milford Firehouse 21 Water St Milford NJ 08848

NEED 4 Executives

-George Joo, Rich Otterbein, Joseph Mecsey, William Smith, Gene Minell, Jay Lenarski, Glenn Roemmich, Bob Kelly

-Brian Martone, Frank Gunson, Neil Gallo, Jim Kenny

Sussex – April 21 - Ogdensburg Fire Department, Main Street Ogdensburg New Jersey

NEED 6 Executives

-Rich Otterbein, Joseph Mecsey, Gene Minell, John Lane, Larry Handlin, Glenn Roemmich

-Brian Martone, Frank Gunson, Neil Gallo

Gloucester – April 23 - Woodbury Heights 534 Elm Ave Woodbury Heights

NEED 6 Executives

-Joseph Mecsey, George Joo, Dan Speigel, Frank Walker, Jim Reeves, Allen Kurdyla,

-Brian Martone, Stephen Fazekas, Frank Gunson, Jim Kenny, Rick Dreby

Passaic – April 29 – Hawthorne Fire Co 66 Lincoln Ave Hawthorne NJ 07506

NEED 4 Executives

**-Rich Otterbein, Joseph Mecsey, Larry Handlin, George Joo, Gene Minell, William Smith,
Allen Kurdyla, Glenn Roemmich**

-Rick Dreby, Brian Martone, Stephen Fazekas, Frank Gunson, Neil Gallo

MAKE UP – May 7 – NJSFA 1711 Route 34 Wall Twp NJ

NEED 9 Executives

- Joseph Mecsey, William Smith, Daniel Speigel, George Joo

- Jim Kenny

Cape May – September 16 – Wildwood Vol Fire 111 E Pine Ave Wildwood NJ 08260

NEED 3 Executives

**-Joseph Mecsey, George Joo, Frank Walker, John Lane, Allen Kurdyla, Glenn Roemmich,
Larry Handlin, Rich Otterbein, Will Smith,**

-Rick Dreby, Brian Martone, Stephen Fazekas, Neil Gallo

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Francis X. Walker
James Reeves Jr.
John Lane
Edward R Mullen, CPA, Secretary-Treasurer
Jennie Hollingsworth, Field Examiner
Gary D. Schwartz, M.D. Consultant

Date: February 21, 2026

To: Executive Committee

From: Special Relief Committee

The Special Relief Committee Report

- Applications for special relief Approved YTD: 11
 - For a total of \$32,100.00
- Special paid out by locals \$13,000.00
- Applications for supplemental relief Approved YTD: 6
 - For a total of \$97,536.00

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SUMMARY APPROVED</u>	<u>TOTAL PAYOUT</u>	<u>TOTAL PAYOUT BY LOCALS</u>
2019	197	\$400,192.69	
2020	206	\$867,283.00	
2021	178	\$812,217.00	
2022	159	\$757,456.00	
2023	171	\$702,239.00	\$107,260.00
2024	215	\$877,576.00	\$147,830.00
2025	214	\$684,029.00	\$125,061.12

Respectfully Submitted,

Francis X. Walker

Francis X Walker, Chairman

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 QUARTER ENDING: DECEMBER, 31 2025

CHECKS ISSUED IN VARIOUS AMOUNTS

1 @	\$232.00	\$232.00
1 @	\$324.00	\$324.00
1 @	\$400.00	\$400.00
1 @	\$618.00	\$618.00
1 @	\$670.00	\$670.00
1 @	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
1 @	\$2,205.00	\$2,205.00
1 @	\$2,539.66	\$2,539.66
1 @	\$2,574.00	\$2,574.00
1 @	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00
1 @	\$3,882.20	\$3,882.20
1 @	\$3,963.00	\$3,963.00
1 @	\$3,970.84	\$3,970.84
1 @	\$4,400.00	\$4,400.00
1 @	\$4,827.00	\$4,827.00
1 @	\$5,328.00	\$5,328.00
1 @	\$5,984.25	\$5,984.25
1 @	\$6,015.75	\$6,015.75
2 @	\$6,200.00	\$12,400.00
1 @	\$7,072.00	\$7,072.00
1 @	\$7,573.00	\$7,573.00
1 @	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
1 @	\$8,429.16	\$8,429.16
1 @	\$8,437.00	\$8,437.00
1 @	\$8,517.80	\$8,517.80
1 @	\$9,600.00	\$9,600.00
1 @	\$10,118.00	\$10,118.00
1 @	\$10,195.00	\$10,195.00
1 @	\$10,963.00	\$10,963.00
1 @	\$11,395.00	\$11,395.00
1 @	\$11,400.00	\$11,400.00
1 @	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00
1 @	\$11,782.00	\$11,782.00
1 @	\$11,968.00	\$11,968.00
11 @	\$12,000.00	\$132,000.00
1 @	\$12,168.00	\$12,168.00
169 @	\$12,400.00	\$2,095,600.00
1 @	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00
		\$2,474,851.66

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 QUARTER ENDING: DECEMBER, 31 2025

CLAIMS FILED BETWEEN OCTOBER 01, 2024 AND DECEMBER 31, 2024	206	
CLAIMS FILED BETWEEN OCTOBER 01, 2025 AND DECEMBER 31, 2025	221	
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 01, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024	183	
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 01, 2025 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025	201	
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 01, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024	183	\$2,137,373.14
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 01, 2025 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025	201	\$2,474,851.66
1 - WIDOW	88	\$1,063,028.00
2 - DAUGHTER	50	\$540,193.66
3 - SON	30	\$339,074.84
4 - MOTHER	2	\$36,000.00
6 - UNDERTAKER	35	\$384,236.36
7 - STEP-DGT	1	\$4,827.00
8 - STEP-SON	1	\$12,400.00
9 - SISTER	3	\$37,200.00
M - WIDOWER	1	\$12,400.00
N - CAREGIVER	2	\$18,117.80
Q - BROTHER	3	\$27,374.00
	201	\$2,474,851.66

EXPLANATION - NO CLAIMS

24 NO CLAIMS WERE FILED

- 1 FILED NO CLAIM WAS OVER AGE AT TIME OF ADMITTANCE
- 23 FILED NO CLAIM DUE TO SUFFICIENT ESTATE - REC BY ADV. COM.

Compendium Committee Report

February 21, 2026

The Compendium Committee held a meeting on Thursday January 29, 2026.

The committee is in the process of reviewing the State Statues, Local By-Laws and the Compendium for necessary changes. This is an ongoing process with numerous meetings. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 26th at 9 am here in the office.

We hope to have the review and revision of all documents completed with distribution to all Executive Committee members for your review, discussion and possible approval during the May 2nd Executive Committee meeting.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to send them to me or Secretary Martone.

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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Joseph T. Hankins, Vice President
Edward R. Mullen, CPA, Treasurer
Frank P. Cavallo, Esq., Counsel

Brian E. Martone, Secretary
Richard K. Dreby, 1st Asst. Secretary
Stephen C. Fazekas, 2nd Asst. Secretary
Jennie M. Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

Delegate/Life Member Committee Meeting January 8, 2026

This meeting was called to order by Chairman Nicholas Florio at 9:15 am. There were 7 Members/Officers present, Chairman Nicholas Florio, Executive Committeeman Joseph Lenarski, Vice President Hankins, Secretary Martone, First Assistant Secretary Dreby, Second Assistant Secretary Fazekas, and Field Examiner Hollingsworth.

Chairman Florio started the meeting by sharing some copies of an excel spread sheet with some options for an increase to the Delegate/Life Member Expense Allowances for the 2026 Convention. He explained the forms and stated that he polled some of the local associations in his county and tried to get an idea of who stays and who commutes. He stated that he tried to get an understanding of what type of expenses the members had by going to the annual convention with the conclusion that everyone does something a little differently as far as staying and eating. Chairman Florio explained the increases to IRS mileage allowance for 2026 and increases to both lodging and meals which is what is used to calculate the Delegate/Life Member rates. A discussion followed and the committee reviewed the proposed increases and discussed the pros and cons of each. The conclusion of the discussions was that the committee would propose this increase for the February Executive Committee Meeting for milage/lodging/meals. Secretary Martone would share the copies of the spread sheet and the Committee Meeting Minutes with the rest of the Committee as well as the Executive Committee prior to the February Meeting.

Chairman Florio mentioned that the question came up as it has in the past about paying the life members the full amount instead of the current life member allotment of half of the delegate rate. There was a discussion following and it was mentioned that the compendium does clearly say that the Delegates need to be in attendance and that the life members have the option to go and are not required to be there. It was also mentioned and discussed that there are twice as many life members that attend at the current half the delegate rate and that if you increased this to the full amount that would double what we are paying out for convention expenses for life members. The conclusion was to keep the life members at the same rate, which is half of what the delegates receive.

Field Examiner Hollingsworth asked about the current Delegate/Life Member Affidavit forms and the need to change the wording to them due to the Federal Government increasing the 1099 amount from \$600.00 to \$2,000.00 for 2026 tax year. A short discussion followed with the committee agreeing that Field Examiner Hollingsworth will make changes to the form and share a draft copy with everyone.

2026 County Convention Expense Allowance

County	Delegate Expense		Life Member	
	<u>W/Lodging</u>	<u>Commute Only</u>	<u>W/Lodging</u>	<u>Commute Only</u>
Atlantic	\$908	\$288	\$454	\$144
Bergen	\$1,074	\$622	\$537	\$311
Burlington	\$966	\$408	\$483	\$204
Camden	\$962	\$400	\$481	\$200
Cape May	\$866	\$206	\$433	\$103
Cumberland	\$920	\$312	\$460	\$156
Essex	\$1,054	\$582	\$527	\$291
Gloucester	\$952	\$378	\$476	\$189
Hudson	\$1,062	\$600	\$531	\$300
Hunterdon	\$1,024	\$524	\$512	\$262
Mercer	\$988	\$448	\$494	\$224
Middlesex	\$1,024	\$524	\$512	\$262
Monmouth	\$1002	\$478	\$501	\$239
Morris	\$1,056	\$588	\$528	\$294
Ocean	\$972	\$416	\$486	\$208
Passaic	\$1,074	\$622	\$537	\$311
Salem	\$944	\$362	\$472	\$181
Somerset	\$1,028	\$530	\$514	\$265
Sussex	\$1,112	\$698	\$556	\$349
Union	\$1,046	\$564	\$523	\$282
Warren	\$1,066	\$606	\$533	\$303
\$100 DEDUCTION FOR DELEGATES WHO DID NOT ATTEND CAUCUS (N/A FOR LIFE MEMBERS).				
TOTAL EXPENSES LISTED COMPILED BY FORMULA INCLUDING LODGING, FOOD & TRAVEL.				
COMMUTE IS BASED ON 2 DAY TRAVEL.				
APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2026.				



NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN – ESSEX COUNTY

Richard C. Otterbein
18 Sunset Road
West Caldwell NJ, 07006

Home: (973) 226-3446
Cell: (973) 809-3004
Email: essexexecutive@njsfa.com

Date: February 16, 2026

To: Officers and Executive Committeepersons

From: Rich Otterbein, Chairperson, NJSFA Firemen's Home Liaison Committee

Subject: NJ Firemen's Home Report

Meetings: 12/13/25, 1/10/26, 2/14/26 Full Board

12/13/25 Full Board Meeting

- HIPAA refresher conducted. CNA training program update: who pays, fees and cost; working on finalizing details.
- Chairman Apgar announced the Home's intent to re-establish the Home/NJSFA committee meetings to improve coordination with the State Association.
- Ethics disclosure forms distributed.
- Rules of Decorum draft review tabled; By-Laws being reviewed.
- Water testing continues.
- Computer PCs: phased in replacement being discussed.
- Maintenance staff is completing renovations in Dorms B and D.
- Finance: Bills: \$509,298.57 for the period 11/1/25 through 11/30/25. Motion to approve passed.
- Census (as of 11/30/25): 57 Long Term; 6 in Memory Care; 5 Residential = 67. Nine (9) applicants with pre-admission meetings scheduled; two (2) applications closed due to change in interest (See the attachment). There is no waiting list.
- The Ethics and Code of Conduct Committee reviewing an incident between two managers and the Actuary Study room need revision issue.
- Long Term Planning: Manager Sutphen reported that the Committee supports Plan 2A for the proposed renovation project, which includes a five-story addition and removal of Dorms B & D. Funding plan(s) being discussed.
- Closed Session Meeting: Action taken regarding warning of one (1) resident and removal of one (1) resident.
- Next meeting: Full Board – Saturday, January 10, 9:00 AM, at the Home.

1/10/26 Full Board Meeting

- Chairman Apper addressed the issue of posting photographs of guests on social media sites. Photographs of guests should not be posted on any media without the permission of the guest and/or a POA.
- Water testing continues although the frequency of testing will be reduced.
- A Decorum and Ethics procedure was reviewed by the By-Law Committee and approved. The procedure has been turned over to the Ethics and Code of Conduct Committee for implementation.
- A By-Laws draft has been issued for review. Plan is to vote on the draft at next month's meeting.
- A guest discharge issue is under review.
- The Ethics and Code of Conduct Committee completed an investigation of how the Actuary Study future bed need numbers were modified. The investigation findings have been turned over to the Employee Committee for action.
- Home Liaison Chairman Hull will produce a Policy for future joint NJSFA/Home meetings.
- Finance: Bills: \$378,882.04 for the period 12/1/25 through 12/31/25. A bill for \$59.95 was disallowed. Motion to approve passed.
- Census (as of 12/31/25): 56 Long Term; 5 in Memory Care; 5 Residential = 66 (See the attachment). Five (5) applications waiting for pre-admission meetings. Two (2) applications on hold. There is no waiting list.
- President/Manager Ordway asked if the Home had ever considered renovating the current building to eliminate four person room occupancy and create single person room occupancies in that space. Bathrooms for these occupancies could be configured into the spare area of such a renovation. According to Manager Mitch, it is his belief that the Architect thought this would create extra cost because of the age of the building and the many unknowns. Mr. Mitch ended by stating that such a change is something to consider.
- New business: President/Manager Ordway asked if the Managers of the Firemen's Home would be willing to join the NJSFA in a joint analysis of how to best utilize the available State insurance fund money. The process would consist of a separate study by an independent agency to determine how the available insurance fund should be spent to best serve both organizations and the State firefighters in general. Manager Hull moved that such a study be conducted; Manager Dunn seconded motion. As the study would be jointly funded, a roll call vote was taken. Motion passed.
- Next meeting: Full Board – Saturday, February 14, 9:00 AM, at the Home.

2/14/26 Full Board Meeting

- The Home will commence broadcasting Full Board Meetings beginning March 14, 2026. Notice will be provided on the Home website.
- State approved the CNA program to be conducted at the Home.

- Two (2) negative water tests (Legionella) have been obtained.
- Golf Outing to be held on June 16th.
- Two (2) residents with discipline issues have been removed.
- One (1) Essex resident moved out to be closer to his family.
- RFQ for the chiller replacement being finalized.
- By-Law update being reviewed.
- Employee Committee Chair Garrick Miller (Middlesex) reported on the results of an internal investigation of the previously reported BPAS Actuary Study Report Discrepancies. The Ethics & Code of Conduct Committee (chaired by Manager Dunn, Cape May) has determined that the BPAS report distributed to the Long Term Planning Committee by Superintendent Veras, and subsequently issued to the Board of Managers by then Secretary Hull (Ocean), did not match the original BPAS issued document in that the future bed need figures had been altered to reflect a higher number. At a recent committee meeting, the Employee Committee unanimously voted to support retaining a forensic computer consultant to determine how the report was altered. Manager Miller offered a motion to retain a forensic computer consultant to perform a formal investigation which was seconded by Manager Wilson (Warren). During discussion, Manager Sutphin (Somerset) questioned the financing of the investigation. Subsequently, the motion was amended to get three (3) quotes for the service. Roll call vote: 15 YES – 4 NO. Those voting NO – Managers Dutch (Atlantic – also a member of the Employee Committee which voted unanimously to conduct the forensic investigation); Freeman (Burlington); Cunningham (Essex); Strube (Gloucester). A search will be conducted for a suitable consultant.
- Finance: Bills: \$514,206.02 for the period 1/1/26 through 1/31/26. Motion to approve passed.
- Census (as of 1/31/26): 58 Long Term; 5 in Memory Care; 5 Residential = 68 (See the attachment). Two (2) applications waiting for pre-admission meetings. Three (3) applications in review. There is no waiting list.
- NJSFA/HOME Liaison Committee – Joint meeting policy under review. Joint third-party review of 2% Insurance Tax Funds approved by the Managers; subject to pending NJSFA Executive Committee approval.
- Long Term Planning – proceeding with KDA Plan 2A. Manager Sutphin reported that a Request For Quote (RFQ) bid package is to be produced. When questioned, Manager Sutphin stated the RFQ will be minimal in cost (no cost estimate provided in this regard) and that the Managers should consider opening a Building Fund Account to accumulate funds for the building expansion.
- Manager Sutphen reported that he investigated the question of renovating the existing building to address the 4-person guest rooms and associated common bathroom facilities. According to Manager Sutphin, the Home has no way to accommodate handling of residents during such a renovation.
- Four (4) By-Law revisions were approved.
- Superintendent Veras stated that he welcomes the Forensic Computer Investigation approved earlier by the Managers.

- **Next Meeting: Full Board – Saturday, March 14, 9:00 AM, at the Home.**

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

12/13/2025

The Applications Committee held their meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 9:00 am.

Attending were: Mgrs. Freeman, Cunningham, Miller, and Keyser.

Medical Staff attending were U. Bumgartener and A Bundrick.

Superintendent Veras was also in attendance. Chairman Apgar was also in attendance.

The committee signed three applications.

Since the last meeting there were two admission through November 30, 2025

The monthly census as of 11/30/2025 :

Long Term Care:	62 (includes 5 in Lathrop Station).
Residential:	05
Total:	67

Two residents answered their final alarm.

There were 9 applicants with pre-admission meetings to be scheduled. Two Applications were closed for no response or requested to be withdrawn.

The next meeting will be at the home, on Tuesday January 6, 2026, at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert E. Freeman II
Applications Chairperson

Applications Committee Report

January 10, 2026

The Applications Committee meet on Tuesday January 06, 2026, at 9:00am

Managers attending were Miller and Keyser. Chairperson Freeman and Manager Cunningham were excused.

Medical Staff attending were Ursula Bumgartener and Amber Bundrick.

The committee signed one application.

Since our meeting we have had two admissions scheduled. (12/10/2025 and 1/7/2026)

The Monthly census as of December 31st,2025

Long Term Care	61 (includes 5 in Lathrop Station).
Residential	05
Total	66

We have had two residents who answered their final alarm.

There are five applicants with pre-admission meetings waiting to be scheduled.

There are two applications on hold for ether medical issues and updated information needed.

The next applications meeting will be on Tuesday February 10, 2026, at 9:00am at the Home.

Respectfully Submitted

Garrick Miller
Middlesex County Mgr.

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

02/14/2026

The Applications Committee held their meeting on Tuesday, February, ~~14~~¹⁰ 2026, at 9:00 am.

Attending were: Mgrs. Freeman, Cunningham, Miller, Keyser and Washer.

Medical Staff attending were U. Bumgartener and A Bundrick.

Superintendent Veras was also in attendance.

The committee signed three applications.

Since the last meeting there were four admission through January 31, 2026

The monthly census as of 01/31/2026 :

Long Term Care:	63 (includes 5 in Lathrop Station).
Residential:	05
Total:	68

Two residents answered their final alarm.

There were 2 applicants with pre-admission meeting scheduled.

There are currently three applications in review.

The next meeting will be at the home, on Tuesday March 10, 2026, at 9:00 am..

Respectfully submitted,

Albert E. Freeman II
Applications Chairperson



NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN – ESSEX COUNTY

Richard C. Otterbein:
18 Sunset Road
West Caldwell NJ, 07006

Home: (973) 226-3446
Cell: (973) 809-3004
Email: essexexecutive@njsfa.com

MEMORANDUM

To: NJSFA Executive Committee
From: Rich Otterbein, Essex County EC
Firemen's Home Liaison Committee Chair
Date: February 15, 2026
Subject: Joint Evaluation of 2% Insurance Tax Funds

Background

President Ordway, Vice President Hankins, and various State Officers recently attended a meeting with State Senator Anthony Bucco. Senator Bucco represents District 25 in Morris County and is a resident of Boonton, where the Firemen's Home is located. Boonton falls within Senator Bucco's legislative district and is also his hometown.

Discussion Topics

The meeting focused on several topics, with primary attention given to the Firemen's Home and its proposed building expansion. The discussion included the funding requirements for the State Association and Home's ongoing budget needs, the Home expansion project, and the allocation and usage of the 2% Insurance Tax funds to support these initiatives.

Recommendation

Senator Bucco recommended that the New Jersey State Firemen's Association (NJSFA) collaborate with the Firemen's Home to conduct a comprehensive study/review of the allocation and utilization of the 2% Insurance Tax funds. The aim is to ensure that these funds are being used as effectively as possible to benefit firefighters throughout the State. Senator Bucco offered to provide the NJSFA with a list of independent business organizations that could assist in conducting this evaluation. In response to this recommendation, President Ordway reached out to the Firemen's Home Managers to determine their interest in participating in a joint evaluation. At their full board meeting on February 14th, the Home

Managers approved the idea of participating in the study, pending approval from the NJSFA Executive Committee at their meeting on February 21st.

Providing the Executive Committee grants approval, President Ordway has requested that Rich Otterbein and Roger Hull, Ocean County Home Manager, along with their respective Liaison Committees, review the list of independent business organizations submitted by Senator Bucco. They will be responsible for evaluating these organizations and reporting their findings to their respective bodies.

President Ordway will share further information regarding this proposal at the NJSFA meeting on Saturday, February 21st.

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Richard K. Dreby, 1st Asst. Secretary
Stephen Fazekas, 2nd Asst. Secretary
Jennie Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

Date: February 21, 2026
To: Executive Committee
Health Care Committee Report:

HEALTH CARE

NEW CLAIMS Y/T/D - 8
SPOUSE Y/T/D (new applicants frozen 6/1/24)
PAID YTD \$2,528,435.17
ACTIVE CLAIMS TOTAL – 301

HEALTH CARE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>	<u>TOTAL PAYOUT</u>
2019	53	\$ 329,791.83
2020	94	\$ 1,573,001.17
2021	165	\$ 4,052,639.95
2022	271	\$ 8,296,092.42
2023	276	\$13,770,372.93
2024	393	\$17,074,066.77
2025	302	\$16,479,611.45

Sincerely,

James Reeves

James Reeves
Health Care Committee

**New Jersey State Firefighters' Association
1711 Route 34 South
Wall Township, NJ 07727**

February 21, 2026

Report of the Investment Committee

On Wednesday, January 28, at 7:00 pm, the Investment Committee conducted a Zoom Meeting. In attendance were Committee Chairman Larry Handlin, Committee Members Jay Lenarski, George Joo, our Broker Jim Rice, our Portfolio Manager Hunter Willis, President Rob Ordway, Vice President Joe Hankins, Treasurer Ed Mullen, and Secretary Brian Martone. Brian also acted as our Zoom host.

The purpose of the meeting was to assess the status of our investments and to hear recommendations from both Jim Rice and Hunter Willis to better position funds held in four separate money market accounts for greater yields.

As to our current investments;

The initial U.S. Treasury Bond purchases of \$14 million, made in September 2024, carry yields ranging from 4.125% to 6.50%. The overall net yield on these bonds exceeds 6%.

Our legacy bonds (mainly GNMA bonds) totaling \$12 million, continue to generate interest and dividends as they gradually mature and are redeemed.

Jim Rice recommends that we stay the course with these investments as they are achieving our stated goals of generating income in a secure environment.

As to our money market accounts;

The balance of our investments of \$9 million, is cash held in four money market accounts. These accounts generate interest and also hold the interest, dividends and proceeds from sales or redemptions of the investments noted above. These accounts were the focus of discussions with our investment advisors.

Both Jim Rice and Hunter Willis recommended moving a significant portion of the money market funds into secure investments with the potential for much greater yields. Much discussion followed with the Committee and the advisors, resulting in a recommendation to invest in more Treasury bonds. As we have in the past, it was also recommended to 'ladder' the maturities in a range of 2 to 7 years.

Treasurer Ed Mullen was assigned the task of working with Jim Rice to implement this investment strategy.

Respectfully submitted,

The Investment Committee
Lawrence J. Handlin, Chairman
George Joo
Joseph Lenarski
John R. Phillips
Daniel F. Spiegel

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Richard K. Dreby, 1st Asst. Secretary
Stephen C. Fazekas, 2nd Asst. Secretary
Jennie M. Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

Executive Committee Meeting Legislative Committee Report February 19, 2026

To: Officers & All Members of the Executive Committee,

We are in the 2026-2027 Legislative Session, there has been a total of 8,516 bills introduced as of this report. The total of our tracked bills is 220, with 131 bills in Fire & Emergency Services, 43 bills in Pensions, and 46 bills in Firemen's Home. There are currently no bills sitting on the Governor's Desk. Bill S788 which exempts volunteer first responder stipends from certain payroll and income taxes has been released to the Senate.

Respectively submitted,

Richard K. Dreby

Richard K. Dreby
Legislative Committee Chairman
1st Assistant Secretary

NJ State Firemen's Association
TZG Legislative Report
February 21, 2026

State House Overview

January 2026 brought with it two significant changes to NJ's political and policy making landscape: a new governor and a new two-year legislative session.

Governor Mikie Sherrill becomes the first woman Democratic governor in our state's history and only the second woman governor behind then-Republican Christine Todd Whitman, and becomes the first to secure a third consecutive term for her party in 65 years, or 1961. Her agenda is squarely focused on affordability.

The 222nd New Jersey Legislature (2026–2027) is historically significant for establishing a Democratic supermajority in the Assembly (57-23)—the largest since the post-Watergate era. Following the 2025 elections, Democrats flipped five seats, cementing a dominant 57-23 control in the Assembly, giving them substantial veto-proof authority.

Legislative Tracking & Media Reports

TZG continues to work closely with NJSFA leadership and the Legislative chair, to follow closely and review for relevancy state and local news and activities involving gubernatorial and legislative actions to identify and inform the NJ State Firemen's Association on potential issues of interest. This includes a daily review of media stories and legislative news includes issues which may affect the interests of the Association. All items identified of potential interest is emailed to the NJSFA for its information.

Through the use of our bill tracking service customized for the NJSFA, we have identified and are tracking in this new session 198 bills as introduced and alert the NJSFA of any potential action. We have also gathered and shared policy or political intelligence on specific bills and entered slips of support for specific bills which may benefit the NJSFA membership. Inclusive in the tracking are bills related to health care and long term care to the extent they may affect the Firemen's Home. The tracking list has been emailed and can be attached to this document.

In the current session, which began on January 13:
8651 bills have been introduced to date - 4761 in the Assembly, and 3890 in the Senate
NJSFA Tracking list includes 198 bills to date.

Last session activity:

12,074	bills introduced
900	bills passed in 1st House
573	bills passed in 2 nd House
568	bills sent to governor
542	bills signed into law

Only 4.5 % of all bills introduced in the last legislative session became law. This is fairly consistent over multiple sessions which is usually around 5% of all bills being signed into law.

Coordinated Meeting with Senator Bucco

On behalf of the NJSFA, coordinated a lunch meeting with Senator Anthony Bucco to brief him on the various NJSFA programs, discuss the volunteer cancer screenings legislation and update him on various Firemen's Home matters. It was a successful meeting and educated him on some issues with which he was not familiar. He is fully supportive of gaining volunteer cancer screenings, is better informed on the relief programs status, particularly the Health Care Reimbursement Program, and offered a suggestion on a third party review of the Home's capacity and demand to be done in cooperation with both the Home Managers and the NJSFA.

Volunteer Cancer Screening Legislation

There are two bills introduced in the current session we are strongly promoting:
S-1583 (Amato, Bucco) and A-557 (Auth (R), Sampson (D), Sauickie (R))

This bill provides access to periodic cancer screening examinations for volunteer firefighters, by extending the reimbursement provisions available to paid firefighters under current law to unpaid firefighters.

Under the bill, physicians who participate in the State Health Benefits Program network will be required to offer these periodic examinations to volunteer firefighters and then a physician or other provider may request payment from the State for the provision of services not to exceed \$1,250 in the aggregate per three-year period for each firefighter. The bill requires that a fire district of this State, or a fire department, unit or company of or in this State or a political subdivision of this State, which relies on services from volunteer firefighters must maintain adequate records to facilitate the payment.

Both bills have been introduced.

I have been having initial conversations with various members of the Senate and Assembly, bringing to their attention the need for this legislation and seeking their support in the form of a co-sponsorship. Legislators have expressed conceptual support. We seeking to have a bi-partisan, significant number of co-sponsorships.

We are scheduling meetings for the NJSFA to meet with legislators to provide both: 1) a briefing update on the Association and its relief programs for both career and volunteer member firefighters and, 2) to discuss S-1583, a bi-partisan bill to amend existing law to extend access to periodic cancer screenings to volunteer firefighters by physicians participating in the SHBP.

Initial member meeting requests have been submitted to

Senate Sen Beach Sen Turner Sen Polistina Sen McKeon Sen Cruz-Perez Sen Sarlo Sen Testa Sen Tiver Sen Moriarty Sen O'Scanlon Sen Zwicker Sen Steinhardt Sen Gopal	Assembly Asm Stanley Asm Freiman Asm Verrelli Asm Hutchison Asm Miller Asw Murphy Asm Singh Asm Freiman Asm Venezia Asm Bailey Asm Clifton Asw Flynn Asw Scharfenberger Asw Simmons Asw Donlon Asw Peter-Paul
---	--

S-2595 (Gopal) - Mandates access to periodic cancer screening examinations for volunteer firefighters.

Met recently meeting Senator Vin Gopal and his policy chief. Gopal sponsored one of the volunteer cancer screenings bills last session, S-2037. Senator Gopal is a strong advocate for the first responder community. The bill stalled based on a concern over the unspecified potential cost. After multiple conversations, he seems willing to support my recommendation to amend the current bill by adding language to appropriate a specific amount of funding, \$1 million for example, to initiate the program and enable both the NJSFA and the State to collect critical data on the program from participation rate to screening outcomes to better inform further legislation or program appropriations. The bill was pre-filed for this session, and is S-2595.

Scheduling Meeting with PFA-NJ Leadership

Have had initial conversations with PFA-NJ President Matt Caliente and VP and legislative chair Pete Nowak on the participation rate and overall activity of the career firefighter cancer screenings. They shared that there have been more than 800 screenings and around 15 potential indicators identified. We are coordinating a meeting with the NJSFA to further discuss their advocacy for volunteer screenings legislation and gain further insights in the career program outcomes. The PFA has pledged their support for volunteer screenings.

Information Request of NJ Treasury on Career Cancer Screenings Program

Spoke with the Deputy State Treasurer to gather information on the status of the cancer screening reimbursement program for those career firefighters in municipalities not enrolled in the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP), for perspective on the program's activity level, as we advance current legislation to extend the cancer screenings to volunteer firefighters.

The program is administered by Treasury through its Division of Administration. The division directed shared the following information with me:

The director said that considering the number of anecdotal reports that the screening found masses in seemingly healthy firefighters, she considers the program itself to be successful. IN her words:, "After all, one life saved is worth celebrating."

Of the 250+ eligible municipalities not enrolled in SHBP, 50 have registered. To date - \$657,582 has been paid to municipalities, either through reimbursement or a claim, with \$310,705 pending payments. Treasury does not have information on participation rates of the firefighters within each municipality.

For background and reference, a municipality that is *not* enrolled in SHBP registers to participate in the "system," which is an application housed in the NJ.gov portal (where you'd find MBOS), and then submits claims through that system after the firefighter has gone through the screening.

Senate Labor Committee Testimony – S-2759

Drafted testimony for the NJSFA in support of S-2759 and accompanied Chief Dreby before the Senate Labor Committee to publicly testify in support of S-2759, sponsored by Senator Gordon Johnson. The bill was favorably released by the committee.

Senator Johnson, who also serves as chairman of the labor committee, asked for the NJSFA's support for this bill. He was very pleased by the testimony. Last session, the Senate bill was approved by the Senate during lame duck, but failed to get posted in the Assembly before the end of the session.

S-2754 (Johnson) - Exempts volunteer first responder stipends from certain payroll and income taxes.

Bill Status

1/13/2026	Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Labor Committee
2/5/2026	Reported from Senate Committee, 2nd Reading
2/5/2026	Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

The Assembly version, A-2038 (Haider), has been introduced and referred to the Assembly Labor Committee.

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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Stephen C. Fazekas, 2nd Asst. Secretary
Jennie M. Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

Long Range Planning/Special Review Committee Meeting **January 15, 2026**

This meeting was called to order by Chairman John Lane at 9:00 am. There were 11 Members/Officers present, Chairman John Lane, Executive Committeeman Richard Otterbein, Executive Committeeman Allen Kurdyla, Executive Committeeman Glenn Roemmich, Executive Committeeman Larry Handlin, Executive Committeeman Daniel Speigel, President Ordway, Vice President Hankins, Treasurer Mullen, Secretary Martone, and Field Examiner Hollingsworth.

Chairman Lane started the meeting by thanking Treasurer Mullen for preparing and distributing the profit loss analysis report. He asked Treasurer Mullen to explain the report.

Treasurer Mullen reported that the numbers that are provided have not been audited yet and some of the numbers are not completely updated yet. He explained that he is still working on getting the updated numbers and having the company complete the fiscal year audit. A discussion followed concerning the numbers for both income and expenses. President Ordway explained that most of the Insurance Company monies coming in is usually received by our office from now till the end of February. President Ordway asked Treasurer Mullen how we did with last year's budget concerning the numbers. Treasurer Mullen stated that he was still in the process of inputting the final numbers and updating everything.

The Committee then discussed each program with the possibility of increases for them, Burial Benefit, Relief Levels, and Health Care. Field Examiner Hollingsworth provided a spread sheet of numbers for the Health Care Program, In Home Care portion and asked for an increase to the current \$6,000.00 for firefighters. It was noted that the last increase to these levels was January 2022, and the assisted living and spouses was frozen in June of 2024. The Committee also discussed the percentage split as well as the Firemen's Home disbursement of an increase to over 13 million for this upcoming year. Discussion followed for each of these topics.

Vice President Hankins explained that the PSOB Line of Duty Death Benefit is going to have some changes. He stated that the President of the United States recently signed a bill approving cancer related deaths for firefighters to be covered by the PSOB benefit. He explained some of the criteria for this and a short discussion followed.

Executive Committeeman Otterbein asked if this committee needs to discuss or answer any of the resolutions from the convention or any of the microphone questions from the convention. A short discussion

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followed, and President Ordway stated that the committee can review them and some of them have been answered by other committees or other committees are working on them at this time.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 9:00 am and an additional meeting was scheduled if needed for Thursday, April 30, 2026. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am by Chairman Lane.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian E. Martone

Brian E. Martone

Secretary

New Jersey State Firemen's Association