

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

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

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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

July 18, 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 Daniel Scheuer Sussex County with an excused absence. Guests in the audience were Past Executive Committeeman, Middlesex County Andy Mazzarella.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Abridged Minutes and Verbatim Minutes of the May 2, 2026, 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 the Family of John N. Hoitsma from the Fairlawn Fire Department, read a letter from the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association to the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers in opposition of the plans to expand the Home, and read a letter from the Cape May County Firemen's Association to the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers in its strong opposition to the proposed transfer of fourteen million dollars into the upcoming budget of the Home for the period of the next three years. A motion to accept Communications both read and distributed to the Executive Committee by Executive Committeeman Speigel, seconded by Executive Committeeman Florio. **MOTION CARRIED.**

LIFE MEMBER REPORT:

No report at this time.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

Vice President Hankins:

Vice President Hankins mentioned that there is a parking pass, list of caucus workers, and certificate of insurance for the caucus meetings in everyone's folder for the convention. He mentioned he is working on the bonding for all the Local Association Officers which is due by the end of July. President Ordway stated if you anyone would like a workshop for the fall to contact Vice President Hankins or Secretary Martone.

Secretary Martone:

Secretary Martone mentioned that a written report was submitted and stated that he has some verbal items. He stated that he has been working on the caucus packets compiling all the reports/flyers that go into them. He asked the county executives to please send anything that they would like to include into these packets at least two weeks prior to their caucus meetings, such as agendas, their reports, and/or last year's meeting minutes. He mentioned that the Convention information along with the delegate/life member cards were emailed/mailed out to all the Local Associations. He stated that we are working on the convention program with the revisions that are needed and will share them with everyone once it is finalized.

First Assistant Secretary Dreby:

First Assistant Secretary Dreby mentioned that his report was distributed and will further discuss during the Legislative Committee Report. President Ordway mentioned that included with the Legislative Committee Report is a report from our lobbyist, Matt McDermott.

Second Assistant Secretary Fazekas:

Second Assistant Secretary Fazekas reported that the 2026 Memorial Services Agenda is finalized, he thanked the Memorial Committee for their help. He mentioned that the convention workers instructions were emailed out and he is waiting for replies from approximately 20% of them and asked if the executives see or hear from them to please let them know he is waiting for their replies.

Treasurer Mullen:

Treasurer Mullen stated that his written report is in the packet. He stated the 990's for the local associations have been completed. He mentioned some of the associations that had some issues and explained he is still working on fixing those issues. He stated that he is working on an appeal with the IRS to rectify one of the associations that received an audit notice concerning classifications of employees. President Ordway explained that the State is not trying to take over the locals at all by completing the 990's. Executive Committeeman Spiegel asked if he needed to follow up with any of the local associations from Cape May County. Treasurer Mullen stated that none of the associations from Cape May County are on the list that need to be contacted.

Field Examiner Hollingsworth:

Field Examiner Hollingsworth stated that her report is included in the packets. She mentioned that local relief application collection opened as of July 1, 2026, and she already started to receive some from the locals. She stated that the locals are required to bring them to their county caucus meeting with a deadline received into the office by September 30, 2026. Field Examiner Hollingsworth mentioned that the field exam is scheduled for Cape May County in September on Wednesday during the week in Wildwood. She reported that in her

report it shows the numbers for the last three months for the Health Care Program and there are currently 247 active health care recipients.

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 stated that last year we had some issues with the candidates following the election laws and asked if there was anything that we can share with the candidates running this year. Assistant Counsel Morris stated that he will have something sent out to everyone.

President Ordway:

1. Office Closures:

The office will be closed for the following various Holidays.

- Monday, September 7th
- Closing Early Wednesday, September 16th
- Thursday, September 17th & Friday, September 18th

2. Caucus:

- Caucuses begin on Monday, July 27, 2026. Registration for all Caucuses will begin no later than 6:00 pm and will be open until 7:15 pm. We will have information packets to hand out and ballots will be prepared.
- If an election is needed, we will not collect the ballots until after nominations have closed and all the candidates have a chance to speak. If there ends up being an election, we will need a side room so that we can count ballots.

3. Reminder:

- Applications for Special & Supplemental Relief need to be received in the NJSFA State Office by Tuesday, December 1, 2026, in order to be processed for this calendar year.

4. Reports Due:

- The Second Quarter Relief Paid Report is due by July 30, 2026. There are 105 still out.
- All Convention Delegate Selection reports were received on time. Local Associations can still submit changes if necessary. Changes must be received in writing (fax or email are good) prior to one week before their County Caucus and/or by August 30, 2026, for the Convention.
- Please remember, any of the three at large alternates and only the three at large alternates can replace any of the three at large delegates. Only the Chief Alternate can replace the Chief Delegate, and the listed Chief cannot attend as a life member. Only the Exempt Alternate can replace the Exempt Delegate. Do not pay anyone for attending the caucus only. No one is paid to attend the caucus. Delegates are penalized \$100.00 if they or an Alternate for them does not attend the caucus. **Do not give your card to anyone or ask anyone to register with your name. That is fraud and if we are made aware of it, we will investigate and possibly impose punitive action.**
- Delegate & Life Member payment vouchers must be received in the office by November 1, 2026. Do not send in the affidavit forms. Those are part of the Local Secretary or Treasurer's records and will be reviewed during the Field Exams. The Convention Vouchers, forms 106 & 107, must be done online. They no longer require each delegate and life member to sign the

form, since they must fill out and sign an affidavit. It would still require printing them out and having the three officers' signatures and then sending them in by the due date. They can scan & email, fax, mail, or hand deliver them.

- Removal of non-qualified members for lack of service has been completed for this year. Letters or emails will be going out shortly notifying the local associations of potential removals for next year.
 - We again have some IRS issues that need to be dealt with for some of the local associations and that will be worked on by Treasurer Mullen.
 - With any online reports, always start early in case you have an issue. It is imperative that if anyone has any problems whatsoever, no matter how minor it might seem, they call us to assist them or get the problem corrected. We have been making minor changes to some of the forms and no matter how much beta testing we do, some issues may slip by us.
 - As of today, one association is not seated for failure to submit a report on time.
5. Caucuses, Field Exams, & County Workshops must be ADA compliant. There is no wiggle room on this. Please keep that in mind moving forward and selecting your sites.
 6. All 2025 Local Relief Applications will be collected at the individual caucuses as Field Examiner Hollingsworth mentioned. We only need to collect the ones that have not previously been sent in for special or supplemental relief. Once reviewed, we will get them back to you, the Executives, to return to the field. Please make sure you return them only to one of the officers of those associations and keep a record of who it is that you returned them to.
 7. The 2026 Convention will again be a 2-day Convention on September 18, 2026 & September 19, 2026.
 8. The income limit requiring the issuing of a 1099 is \$2,000.00 this year. 1099's are still done by the local associations.
 9. Some local associations have their final meeting of the year prior to December. Some reminders:
 - Administrative expense checks must be dated after December 1st.
 - Elections for officers for the following year must be held at this last meeting with newly elected officers taking office January 1st.
 - Once we receive the Officers Listing Report, and an officer is changing, the previous officer will no longer have password access to their officer tab on the website. Only the new or continuing officers will have access. If necessary, the old & new officers will need to work together during the transition period.
 10. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2026, in Wildwood at 9:00 am.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory Committee:

Chairman Walker mentioned that his report is in the packet, and he stated that applications for special relief which were approved year to date were 81 for a total of \$257,515.00, special relief paid out by locals is \$89,123.00. 45 applications for supplemental relief were approved year to date, for a total of \$562,156.00.

Compendium Committee:

Chairman Roemmich read his report, the Compendium Committee has worked diligently during the past year on updating the Compendium. We reviewed the entire document which included the State Statutes, Local By-Laws and the Compendium for necessary changes, and updating. Secretary Martone has distributed the updated document to all Executive Committee members for your review, discussion and possible approval

during today's meeting, with final approval during the September Executive Committee Meeting in Wildwood on Thursday September 17th.

The biggest change that we are making is the renaming of sections of the documents. Under the current copy of the Compendium, the Constitution & By-Laws, General Relief Rules and Local By-Laws are all listed as Articles, which can be very confusing, when referring to different sections of the document.

The committee suggests that we use the following wording to differentiate the different sections of the document:

Constitution & By-Laws, those sections are referred to as Articles.

General Relief Rules, those sections will be referred to as Chapters.

Local By-Laws sections will be referred to as Procedures.

I want to thank all the committee members for your many hours of work on this project. And for all the Executives for your important input on the project. I feel as the members of the committee do that, we have provided a document that will continue to guide our association and has made it easier for all who use this document now and in the future.

President Ordway asked if there were any questions for the committee and stated that the Compendium will be brought up under new business for a first reading, then voted on for approval in the September Meeting.

Delegate–Life Member Committee:

Chairman Florio reported that he had no report at this time.

Finance Committee:

Treasure Mullen stated that the Finance Committee report is in the packet.

Firemen's Home Committee:

Chairman Otterbein mentioned that his report is in the packet and stated that he wanted to read a statement into the record. Chairman Otterbein read the following: Comments on status of the NJSFA/NJFH Joint Efficiency Study.

As you will recall, the NJSFA and the NJFH agreed to have an efficiency study prepared to determine if the 2% Insurance Tax Funds are serving the best interest of both organizations and all New Jersey Firefighters.

Four (4) firms were contacted for potential assistance with the study. Two firms responded that they are unable to perform the evaluation. One firm did not respond to the inquiry. One firm responded and agreed to meet with the Committee Co-Chairs.

On June 17, 2026, the Committee Co-Chairs Rich Otterbein and Roger Hull met with William McDevitt, CPA of the accounting firm of WilkinGuttenplan, CPAs and Advisors. The meeting took place in West Caldwell.

A package of background data and information prepared by both parties was exchanged and a discussion of the current need for the efficiency study followed. Mr. McDevitt was informed of the NJSFA and Home history and the current NJSFA funded programs and Home proposal for a five story, \$42 million dollar building expansion at the Boonton home. Mr. McDevitt noted that he is familiar with State Senator Anothony Bucco, who he had recently met at a charity event. He informed the Senator that the Joint Committee had reached out to him for potential engagement.

During the meeting, Mr. McDevitt asked several questions, including whether any thought was given to the potential of a Capital Campaign being conducted to fund any building expansion. Also, he questioned if a needs assessment has been conducted and if any thought had been given about relocating the Home to a

more central location in the State. He noted that the significant estimated cost of the expansion proposal requires questions like these to be fully vetted.

A proposal to conduct the efficiency study prepared by WilkinGuttenplan was received on June 24, 2026. The proposal was sent to the State Office c/o President Ordway, with the request to review it and forward it to NJSFA Counsel Cavallo and State Treasurer Mullen. Comment from both President Ordway, Counsel Cavallo and Treasurer Mullen were provided. The proposal requires only minor modification. I am recommending that the WilkinGuttenplan firm be engaged to conduct the study.

The proposal requires a retainer of \$15,000 at time of retention and a project estimated fee of \$30,000 to \$35,000, the fee to be split with the Home.

I am hereby requesting that the Executive Committee consider authorizing President Ordway (in conjunction with Counsel, Vice President Hankins, and Rich Otterbein) to allocate up to \$20,000 for the study.

A motion to retain WilkinGuttenplan for the purpose of conducting the study is to be made later in this meeting.

Executive Committeeman Walker asked if the Home was on the same page with this. Chairman Otterbein responded that he believes so and was told that they agree by their Chairman Tim Apgar. President Ordway stated that we would not be putting in the any money towards the 50% deposit or the balance due until they approve this also for both organizations.

Health Care Committee:

Chairman Reeves mentioned year to date, we paid out \$8,595,156.83 from a total of 247 current active claims.

Investment Committee:

Executive Committeeman Handlin stated that the committee is stable and is looking to review everything after the convention in October/early November.

Legislative Committee:

Chairman Dreby stated that the Legislative Committee's report is in the packets. He stated that we have been working with our lobbyist Matt McDermott to meet with legislators in moving the Volunteer Cancer Screening Bills. He stated that we have attended some committee meetings and asked if everyone can talk to their home district legislators to have them help support these bills.

Long Range Planning/Review Committee:

Chairman Lane stated that the committee has no report at this time. President Ordway stated that he did request the committee to investigate the possibility of cancer screening for future discussion as a back up to the cancer screening bills.

Pension Committee:

Chairman Mullen reported that the committee met prior to this morning's Executive Committee meeting. He stated that they discussed some upcoming retirements for two members and possibly a few others.

Resolution Committee:

Assistant Counsel Morris stated that the committee met on May 8, 2026. He mentioned that there are four resolutions on this year's ballot. He stated that there was supposed to be a fifth, however, it was withdrawn by the local association. President Ordway stated that on our website is the list of candidates that are running

for this year's election for both the state and county as well as the copy of the resolutions and Mr. Morris' memo concerning these resolutions. President Ordway also stated that the resolutions are included in the caucus packet for distribution. Secretary Martone mentioned that they were also emailed out to all the local association officers.

Salary Committee:

Chairman Jubert stated that the committee has a salary proposal that will be distributed and discussed during a closed executive session.

Fire Commission:

Commissioner Naylis reported that the Safety Commission met on July 16, 2026, in Surf City. He stated that the most important thing from the meeting is there will be a Physical Agility Test guidelines public comment portion discussion in Bergen County on August 5, 2026, and in Burlington County on August 12, 2026. He stated that this has been proposed and will be voted on at the September meeting in Wildwood for adoption at their next meeting. He stated that he encourages everyone to get involved in these public comment meetings to share their thoughts. He mentioned that there were a few items that were moving forward concerning some of the updates to the fire codes.

APPLICATIONS:

Secretary Martone mentioned there are none at this time. President Ordway commented that he saw on social media about a firehouse closing and asked if anyone sees or hears of these to please let us know so we can be organized with them.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Secretary Martone mentioned there is a resolution to award the bid for the Live Streaming/Recording of the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that there were two vendors who submitted bids, and the resolution is to award the bid to CSAV Systems for \$74,749.44, the second vendor was Tullis Technologies for \$96,942.97. President Ordway asked how many companies requested a copy of the bid. Secretary Martone answered that there was approximately a dozen different companies that emailed asking for the bid package which was sent to them via email. He mentioned that the public notice was posted on the website and in the Asbury Park Press Public Notice Section. A motion to award the bid for Live Streaming/Recording of the Executive Committee Meeting to CSAV Systems was made by Executive Committeeman Spiegel, seconded by Executive Committeeman Handlin. There was a short discussion after the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: PASSED 20-0.** President Ordway stated that there is one meeting for the Exempts next week and then we will work with the company to start this process and hopefully construction on whatever is needed.
2. Executive Committeewoman Badger asked about the status of the Convention Affidavit Forms for Delegates and Life Members as this was left pending from last meeting. Field Examiner Hollingsworth stated that question was whether we are requesting the affidavit only or affidavit with receipts. She mentioned that this was presented to the Compendium Committee, and it was determined that the receipts are not required. President Ordway stated that the only time the documentation or receipts need to be included would be if the amount is over \$2,000.00 due to the increase for the reimbursement amount for the 1099's.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

President Ordway stated an Executive Session is required for Personnel Matters for approximately a half hour, Salary Committee Chairman Jubert confirmed the time needed. A motion to go into Executive Session by Executive Committeeman Kurdyla, seconded by Executive Committeeman Naylis at 9:43 am.

MOTION CARRIED.

President Ordway stated that at 10:13 am there was a motion by Executive Committeeman Speigel, seconded by Executive Committeeman Kurdyla to go back into Open Session. He stated that at 10:13 am there was a motion to go back into Executive Session for an additional 15 minutes by Executive Committeeman Kelly, seconded by Executive Committeeman Smith as more time was needed.

President Ordway asked for a motion to go back into Open Session at 10:25 am a motion was made to go back in Open Session by Executive Committeeman Speigel, seconded by Executive Committeeman Naylis.

MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Removal of a Member:

Secretary Martone requested the removal of a member (Line # 492-01-0058) due to moral turpitude from Greenwich Township #492. He stated that there was a hearing at the Advisory Committee on May 7, 2026, and the committee is recommending that the member be removed. A motion to remove a member for moral turpitude by Executive Committeeman Lane, seconded by Executive Committeeman Mecsey. **ROLL CALL VOTE: PASSED 20-0.**

2. Compendium Updates First Reading:

A motion for the approval of the first reading/introduction of the compendium updates by Executive Committeeman Roemmich, seconded by Executive Committeeman Florio. **ROLL CALL VOTE: PASSED 20-0.**

3. Approval of Joint Efficiency Study with the Home:

A motion to authorize President Ordway to execute an agreement with the financial auditing firm for the joint NJSFA and NJ Firemen's Home efficiency study following a review and approval of the written proposal by counsel, Vice President Hankins and Committeeman Otterbein authorizing up to \$20,000 for the study by Executive Committeeman Otterbein, seconded by Executive Committeeman Handlin. **ROLL CALL VOTE: PASSED 20-0.**

4. Approval of Retroactive Raises:

A motion to approve the recommendation of a 4% raise retroactive to February 1, 2026, for the Treasurer and Field Examiner only for the extra workload that they are doing by Executive Committeeman Speigel, seconded by Executive Committeeman Roemmich. **ROLL CALL VOTE: PASSED 19-1.** President Ordway asked if at the September Meeting there will be another discussion concerning salaries. Executive Committeeman Speigel responded, correct there will be.

PUBLIC COMMENT: First Assistant Secretary Dreby read the Public Comment Instructions. President Ordway mentioned that he received several complaints about previous meetings having comments extending over the three-minute time limit and stated that we will try to politely adhere to the three-minute time limit.

Michael Cleary, Jersey City, stated that he has been reading the red book and asked what the investment rate of return was for the \$38 million in investments. Treasurer Mullen stated that it is approximately greater than 4%. Michael Cleary stated that it is good for the investments and then asked about the pension fund. Treasurer Mullen stated that the fund is fully funded. Michael Cleary asked why there was so much cash in

the pension fund. Treasurer Mullen and President Ordway explained that the money is in Valley Bank in a money market type account making very good interest. Michael Cleary asked about wording in the pension fund concerning the members taking a pension at 70 ½ years old and asked if there was anyone taking this and still working. Treasurer Mullen explained that there is no member currently working and collecting a pension and that he will double check the wording on why it states that.

William Nagy, Jersey City, asked the Compendium and Salary Committee how long they are going to delay the decision on raising the local officers' salaries. He stated that the local officers deserve a raise as do all the state and county officers. He stated that these salaries for the local officers have not been raised in over 12 years.

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:

Secretary Martone mentioned that he will be out of work for approximately two weeks as he is having a procedure/surgery done on August 19, 2026. He stated that he is expected to return at the beginning of September as we start to prepare for the Convention.

Vice President Hankins mentioned that Past Counsel Barry Parker is currently in the masonic home and asked if you can keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Field Examiner Hollingsworth stated that in the folders is the list of the bank statements that we are receiving from the locals which have been improving over the past few months.

Executive Committeeman Lane stated that it is nice to have Maryann back with us and appreciates how great she does.

President Ordway stated that the next meeting will be held Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 9:00 am at the convention center in Wildwood, NJ.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Executive Committeeman Figueroa, seconded by Executive Committeeman Otterbein. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 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: July 18, 2026

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PRES ABS

ROBERT F. ORDWAY	PRESIDENT	X		AWARDING OF CONTRACT FOR VIDEO CONFERRING MEETINGS		REMOVAL OF MEMBER FOR MORAL TURPITUDE		1ST READING OF COMPENDIUM AND BYLAW REVISIONS	
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							
				YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
CINDY L. BADGER	ATLANTIC	X		X		X		X	
GERARD J. NAYLIS	BERGEN	X		X		X		X	
GEORGE T. JOO	BURLINGTON	X		X		X		X	
NORMAN F. FIGUEROA, JR.	CAMDEN	X		X		X		X	
DANIEL F. SPEIGEL	CAPE MAY	X		X		X		X	
JAMES F. REEVES	CUMBERLAND	X		X		X		X	
RICHARD C. OTTERBEIN	ESSEX	X		X		X		X	
GLENN D. ROEMMICH	GLOUCESTER	X		X		X		X	
LAWERENCE J. HANDLIN	HUDSON	PH		X		X		X	
JOHN R. PHILLIPS	HUNTERDON	X		X		X		X	
JOSEPH M. LENARSKI	MERCER	X		X		X		X	
WILLIAM J. SMITH	MIDDLESEX	X		X		X		X	
ROBERT J. KELLY	MONMOUTH	X		X		X		X	
EUGENE T. MINELL	MORRIS	X		X		X		X	
JOSEPH JUBERT	OCEAN	X		X		X		X	
JOHN V. LANE	PASSAIC	X		X		X		X	
FRANCIS X. WALKER, JR.	SALEM	X		X		X		X	
ALLEN F. KURDYLA	SOMERSET	X		X		X		X	
DANIEL L. SCHEUER	SUSSEX	EX		EX		EX		EX	
NICHOLAS J. FLORIO	UNION	X		X		X		X	
JOSPEH MECSEY 3RD	WARREN	X		X		X		X	
TOTALS		29	1	20	0	20	0	20	0

GUESTS: Former Excutive Committee Man Andy Mazzarella

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

1711 Route 34 South, Wall Township, NJ 07727

DATE OF MEETING: July 18, 2026

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PRES ABS

ROBERT F. ORDWAY	PRESIDENT			JOINT STUDY OF HOME NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000	4% RAISES RETROACTIVE TO FEBRUARY 1 FOR THE TREASURER AND FIELD EXAMINER				
JOSEPH T. HANKINS	VICE PRESIDENT								
BRIAN E. MARTONE	SECRETARY								
RICHARD K. DREBY	1ST ASST. SECY								
STEPHEN C. FAZEKAS	2ND ASST. SECY								
EDWARD R. MULLEN	TREASURER								
JENNIE HOLLINGSWORTH	FIELD EXAMINER								
FRANK P. CAVALLO, JR.	COUNSEL								
GEORGE M. MORRIS	ASS'T COUNSEL								
				YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
CINDY L. BADGER	ATLANTIC			X		X			
GERARD J. NAYLIS	BERGEN			X		X			
GEORGE T. JOO	BURLINGTON			X		X			
NORMAN F. FIGUEROA, JR.	CAMDEN			X		X			
DANIEL F. SPEIGEL	CAPE MAY			X		X			
JAMES F. REEVES	CUMBERLAND			X		X			
RICHARD C. OTTERBEIN	ESSEX			X		X			
GLENN D. ROEMMICH	GLOUCESTER			X		X			
LAWERENCE J. HANDLIN	HUDSON	PH		X		X			
JOHN R. PHILLIPS	HUNTERDON			X			X		
JOSEPH M. LENARSKI	MERCER			X		X			
WILLIAM J. SMITH	MIDDLESEX			X		X			
ROBERT J. KELLY	MONMOUTH			X		X			
EUGENE T. MINELL	MORRIS			X		X			
JOSEPH JUBERT	OCEAN			X		X			
JOHN V. LANE	PASSAIC			X		X			
FRANCIS X. WALKER, JR.	SALEM			X		X			
ALLEN F. KURDYLA	SOMERSET			X		X			
DANIEL L. SCHEUER	SUSSEX	EX		EX		EX			
NICHOLAS J. FLORIO	UNION			X		X			
JOSPEH MECSEY 3RD	WARREN			X		X			
TOTALS				20	0	19	1		

GUESTS:

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

Secretary Report Executive Committee Meeting July 18, 2026

To: Officers & All Members of the Executive Committee,

I would like to just give an update on some of the things that I have been working on since the May Meeting. The May Executive Committee Meeting minutes, both Abridged and Verbatim, were disturbed and posted on the website.

The Convention Delegate/Life Member Cards were sent out via the mail. The Convention information and forms were emailed out along with the copy of the resolutions for the ballot. The Red Books were mailed out to every association and posted on the website. I hope next year's book will be ready for distribution sooner.

The caucus packets are being assembled, please send me any agenda, remarks, or last year's minutes if you would like them included in your county packet at least two weeks prior to your caucus, otherwise we will utilize a generic packet of information.

I worked with several associations on some pending mergers and closing of fire companies. Still waiting for paperwork so they can be voted on and finalized. I presented the information for the removal of a member at the Advisory Committee Meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2026, where a hearing was heard for the removal of the member due to moral turpitude. This will be discussed under new business.

The bid for the Live Streaming Equipment was advertised as a public notice in both the Asbury Park Press as well as on our state website. We received several requests for the bid package and only received two bids submitted. Assistant Counsel George Morris prepared a resolution to award the bid which will be discussed under old business.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian E. Martone

Brian E. Martone
Secretary
New Jersey State Firemen's Association

Visit us on the web at www.njsfa.com

NJSFA Treasurer's Report
July 18, 2026

1. The Quarterly Reviews, by PKF O'Connor Davies, of our General Fund for our fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, are underway. Delays were caused by my computer issues which are now resolved.
2. We completed the preparation of IRS Forms 990-N, 990-EZ and 990 for our Locals in-house last month. See the attached summary.
3. The Old Bridge Township FRA was audited by the IRS. Their Treasurer asked me to intervene on behalf of the State Office. Attached you will find my letter to the IRS Agent concerning Officer Compensation. We did prevail and their response is also attached.
4. Still working with, and making progress on, our Retirees to convert pension checks to 'Direct Deposit.' More than half have already chosen this much more secure option.

Other Notes:

Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee's Report of their most recent review is in your packet. They found the Association's accounts to be in satisfactory condition and no recommendations were made.

Pension Committee:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Edward R. Mullen, CPA
Treasurer

134 Associations did their own 990 and filed with the IRS.

45 Associations who filed themselves did not inform the NJSFA before we also filed for them. (We filed first)

15 Associations that did a 990N that should have done a 990EZ.

3 Associations that did a 990N should have done 990 (Long Form).

2 Associations that did a 990 EZ only needed a 990N.

1 Association did a 990EZ should have been 990 (Long Form).

31 of the forms we filed were rejected by the IRS.

14 were not tax exempt

2 had an end date that didn't match

15 were previously filed. (They filed first)

We found that one association was completing their 990 under the wrong EIN number for years. They were using the financials of the relief association and filing under the fire department EIN.

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

Xian Chen
Internal Revenue Agent
IRS TEGE EO Exam: Group 7907
955 S. Springfield Avenue, 2nd Floor
Springfield, NJ 07081

Dear Xian,

Regarding the workers classification issue for the President, Treasurer and Secretary of the New Jersey State Firemens' Association - Old Bridge Township, we respectfully seek relief under Section 530.

Each of the Treasurers of the 535 Local Relief Associations follow the same set of instructions as promulgated by the NJSFA State Office in Wall Township. In their Treasurer's Manual, under the heading of 'INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS,' it states that any compensation to Officers, Representatives or Trustees, receiving \$600 or more in Salary and/or Expense Allowance, must be reported to the IRS on Form 1099 and the companion Form 1096. This is, and has been, the long-standing rule which has evolved since the creation of the NJSFA in 1885. All salary and administrative expenses paid to an Officer of a Local Relief Association is provided via a check, once each year, only in the month of December. Copies of their Form 1099-NEC and Form 1096 are required to be submitted to the State Office so we can confirm compliance.

The recipient of such funds includes the amount in their personal Income Tax Return, where they file Schedule C, and pay the appropriate amount of Self-Employment tax.

If Section 530 relief is not granted, understand the cost to our Association. If each local is forced to obtain software to run a payroll system for one month each year, even a relatively inexpensive one like QuickBooks at \$595, the total for the 535 Local Relief Associations will exceed \$300,000. Or, if they decide to hire an outside accountant to perform this function, the cost could easily double.

Also, many of our Local Relief Associations are relatively small and pay only a nominal salary to their Officers. However, if classified as 'employees,' they too will have to implement a costly payroll system.

Since these funds could be better utilized to support the primary function of the Association, namely to aid firefighters in financial need, it could lead to reducing or depriving firefighters with financial assistance.

We ask, respectfully, that you consider the ramifications of changing our local Officers' classification to 'employee.'

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward R. Mullen", followed by a horizontal line.

Edward R. Mullen, State Treasurer

Subject: Case Status [#16839190]

From: Secure Message Center

Received: 07/09/2026 08:23 AM

Attachments:

Good morning

This is to inform you that all documents submitted have been reviewed and I am able to make a determination based on information on file:

- There was no unrelated business activity identified. Your organization should answer appropriately the UBI question on Form 990 – Part V, line 3a-b

Regarding potential worker classification issues for the type of workers – corporate officers who were compensated the capped amount \$10,000 annually, Section 530 relief was considered, your organization met consistency tests and reasonable basis test by demonstrating long-term industry standard practice; therefore, it is eligible for section 530 relief. We stopped the worker classification determination for:

- the type of workers – corporate officers. Your organization may continue to treat officer compensation capped at \$10,000 annually per officer as non-employee compensation and file Form 1099. No adjustments made to your organization's employment taxes. The worker class is not converted to employee status. I will propose that your organization continues to qualify for tax exemption under 501(c)(4). Final steps and closure of the case:

I will finalize the case and close it to manager for review and approval. If manager agrees with my determination, a no change closing letter will be issued. Manager may return the case to examiner if additional issues should be developed.

TDC SM portal will also be closed when the case is closed out of examination.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your cooperation throughout the examination.

Xian Chen

Internal Revenue Agent

Employee ID: 1003653917

Phone Number: 973-921-4186

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

FIELD EXAMINER'S REPORT

Date: July 18, 2026

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

Applications	Approved	Active Claims	Amount Paid YTD
Special Relief	81	—	\$257,515.00
Supplementary Relief	45	—	\$562,156.00
Health Care Program	42	247	\$8,595,156.83

Notes:

- Relief application collection for 2025 opened on July 1 and will be collected at caucuses.
- Cape May County Field Exam is set for September 16th, 2026.

Monthly Breakdown:

- **April 2026:**
 - Reviewed and processed 232 health care reimbursement claims.
 - Processed 7 new health care claims and multiple renewal claims.
 - Reviewed and processed 46 Special and Supplementary Relief claims.
- **May 2026:**
 - Reviewed and processed 216 health care reimbursement claims.
 - Processed 8 new health care claims and multiple renewal claims.
 - Reviewed and processed 51 Special and Supplementary Relief claims.
- **June 2026:**
 - Reviewed and processed 216 health care reimbursement claims.
 - Processed 3 new health care claims and multiple renewal claims.
 - Reviewed and processed 17 Special and Supplementary Relief claims.

Sincerely,
Jennie Hollingsworth
Field Examiner

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
QUARTER ENDING: JUNE, 30 2026

PAGE NUMBER: 1

CHECKS ISSUED IN VARIOUS AMOUNTS

1 @	\$177.00	\$177.00
1 @	\$209.43	\$209.43
1 @	\$1,244.10	\$1,244.10
1 @	\$1,550.00	\$1,550.00
1 @	\$2,145.00	\$2,145.00
2 @	\$2,287.50	\$4,575.00
1 @	\$2,431.70	\$2,431.70
1 @	\$2,655.00	\$2,655.00
1 @	\$2,746.00	\$2,746.00
1 @	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00
1 @	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
1 @	\$3,475.00	\$3,475.00
1 @	\$4,133.33	\$4,133.33
1 @	\$4,438.00	\$4,438.00
1 @	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
1 @	\$5,002.00	\$5,002.00
1 @	\$5,130.98	\$5,130.98
1 @	\$5,481.00	\$5,481.00
1 @	\$5,590.00	\$5,590.00
1 @	\$6,154.00	\$6,154.00
1 @	\$6,246.00	\$6,246.00
1 @	\$6,655.00	\$6,655.00
1 @	\$7,210.00	\$7,210.00
1 @	\$7,269.02	\$7,269.02
1 @	\$7,319.00	\$7,319.00
1 @	\$7,398.00	\$7,398.00
1 @	\$7,750.00	\$7,750.00
1 @	\$7,825.00	\$7,825.00
1 @	\$7,962.00	\$7,962.00
1 @	\$8,266.67	\$8,266.67
1 @	\$9,325.00	\$9,325.00
1 @	\$9,400.00	\$9,400.00
1 @	\$9,654.00	\$9,654.00
1 @	\$9,745.00	\$9,745.00
1 @	\$9,920.00	\$9,920.00
2 @	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00
1 @	\$10,020.00	\$10,020.00
1 @	\$10,255.00	\$10,255.00
1 @	\$11,155.90	\$11,155.90
1 @	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00
7 @	\$12,000.00	\$84,000.00
1 @	\$12,223.00	\$12,223.00
166 @	\$12,400.00	\$2,058,400.00
1 @	\$12,590.57	\$12,590.57
40 @	\$12,800.00	\$512,000.00
1 @	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00
		\$2,956,026.70

REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
QUARTER ENDING: JUNE, 30 2026

PAGE NUMBER: 2

CLAIMS FILED BETWEEN APRIL 01, 2025 AND JUNE 30, 2025	240	
CLAIMS FILED BETWEEN APRIL 01, 2026 AND JUNE 30, 2026	259	
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD APRIL 01, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2025	210	
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD APRIL 01, 2026 TO JUNE 30, 2026	240	
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD APRIL 01, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2025	210	\$2,492,312.00
CLAIMS PAID FOR PERIOD APRIL 01, 2026 TO JUNE 30, 2026	240	\$2,956,026.70
1 - WIDOW	127	\$1,544,097.10
2 - DAUGHTER	50	\$579,657.50
3 - SON	25	\$249,810.91
4 - MOTHER	1	\$1,550.00
6 - UNDERTAKER	38	\$393,911.19
7 - STEP-DGT	1	\$12,400.00
8 - STEP-SON	1	\$12,400.00
9 - SISTER	7	\$75,000.00
N - CAREGIVER	4	\$50,000.00
O - EX-WIFE	1	\$12,400.00
Q - BROTHER	2	\$24,800.00
	240	\$2,956,026.70

EXPLANATION - NO CLAIMS

20 NO CLAIMS WERE FILED

20 FILED NO CLAIM DUE TO SUFFICIENT ESTATE - REC BY ADV. COM.

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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Robert F. Ordway, President
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Stephen Fazekas, 2nd Asst. Secretary
Jennie Hollingsworth, Field Examiner
Frank P. Cavallo, Esq., Counsel

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: July 18, 2026

To: Executive Committee

From: Special Relief Committee

The Special Relief Committee Report

- Applications for special relief Approved YTD: 81
 - For a total of \$257,515.00
- Special paid out by locals \$89,123.00.
- Applications for supplemental relief Approved YTD: 45
 - For a total of \$562,156.00

<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

Compendium Committee Report

July 18, 2026

The Compendium Committee has worked diligently during the past year on updating the Compendium. We reviewed the entire document which included the State Statues, Local By-Laws and the Compendium for necessary changes, and updating. Secretary Martone has distributed the updated document to all Executive Committee members for your review, discussion and possible approval during today's meeting, with final approval during the September Executive Committee Meeting in Wildwood on Thursday September 17th.

The biggest change that we are making is the renaming of sections of the documents. Under the current copy of the Compendium, the Constitution & By-Laws, General Relief Rules and Local By-Laws are all listed as Articles, which can be very confusing, when referring to different sections of the document.

The committee suggests that we use the following wording to differentiate the different sections of the document:

Constitution & By-Laws, those sections are referred to as Articles.

General Relief Rules, those sections will be referred to as Chapters.

Local By-Laws sections will be referred to as Procedures.

I want to thank all the Committee members for your many hours of work on this project. And for all the Executives for your important input on the project. I feel as the members of the Committee do that, we have provided a document that will continue to guide our Association and has made it easier for all who will use this document now and in the future.

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

(DBA: 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

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

June 1, 2026

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 June 1, 2026, at the office of the Association. At that time, the accounts of the Association were audited for the Third Quarter ending March 31, 2026. 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.

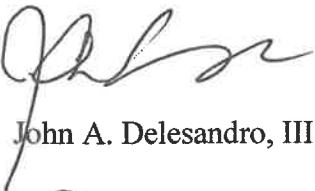
The reviews covered the reconciliation of all checks, vouchers, ledger entries and bank statements for the General Fund, Burial Fund, Pension, General Checking, Assessment and Special Relief accounts. The Association income documents, bank statements, and credit and debit documents were found to be accurate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

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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: July 12, 2026

To: Officers and Executive Committeepersons

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

Subject: NJ Firemen's Home Report

Meetings: 5/9/26, 6/13/26 and 7/11/26 Full Board.

3/14/26 Full Board Meeting

- **Treasurer:** Line items being reviewed in preparation for the next budget cycle.
- **Superintendent:** Recent Legionella water tests were negative.
- **Legal:** Presented resolution regarding chiller project bid award; continued work on By-Laws updates.
- **Finance:** Bills: \$570,690.75 for the period 4/1/26 – 4/30/26. Motion to approve passed.
- **Census (as of 4/30/26):** 55 Long Term; 6 in Memory Care; 6 Residential = 67. (See the attachment). There is no waiting list.
- **Employees:** Job descriptions and organizational structure being reviewed.
- **By-Laws:** Revisions being reviewed with Counsel; 4 policies/procedures expected for committee review shortly.
- **Long-Term Planning:** Committee recommending the advancement of Option 2A (remove one dorm; construct a five-story addition).
- **No formal vote has been taken on the expansion proposal. Joint committee exploring efficiency study with potential consulting firms.**
- An NJ legislator (Carter) toured the Home; discussion included possible future State funding support.
- Next meeting: Full Board – Saturday, June 13, 9:00 AM, at the Home.

6/13/26 Full Board Meeting

- **Chairman Apgar's statement to the NJSFA regarding long term planning committee proposal read into the record.**
- **Renewed Residential and Long-Term Care licenses.**

- Water quality testing continues.
- Various building repairs have been completed.
- By-Law revisions/updating continuing.
- Water testing continues.
- Frozen sprinkler pipe problem remains unresolved.
- Finance: Bills: \$508,652.56 for the period 5/1/26 through 5/31/26. Motion to approve passed.
- Census (as of 3/31/26): 64 Long Term; 6 in Memory Care = 70 (See the attachment). There is no waiting list.
- Superintendent was notified that his employment contract expires July 10, 2028. Employees salaries, performance evaluations and potential salary adjustment are being reviewed by the Employees Committee.
- First group of revised policies and procedures distributed for review.
- Joint liaison committee seeking qualified firms to conduct the financial study. Two previously identified firms declined the project.
- Long Term Planning has reviewed responses to Request for Proposals for the building addition project. Only one firm remains interested. Plan to move forward; an RFP proposal forthcoming.
- Agreed to an employee salary guideline of 0% to 4%.
- Next Meeting: Full Board – Saturday, July 11, 9:00 AM, at the Home.

7/11/26 Full Board Meeting

- CNA school is moving forward.
- All insurance policies have been renewed.
- Golf Outing a success.
- Water monitoring continues.
- Finance: Bills: \$389,401.95 for the period 6/1/26 – 7/1/26. Motion to approve passed.
- Census (as of 6/30/26): 58 Long Term; 5 in Memory Care; 6 Residential = 69. (See the attachment). There is no waiting list.
- 2026/2027 Budget now in effect.
- 2027/2028 Budget discussion to begin.
- Joint Liaison Committee: Roger Hull reported that 4 firms were contacted for potential assistance in preparing the NJFH/NJSFA joint financial study. Two firms did not have capability, one did not respond after being contacted, and one firm responded. On June 17, Roger Hull and Rich Otterbein met with Bill McDevitt of WilkinGuttenplan, CPAs., at which time, a scope of work was discussed. There were various potential suggestions offered during the discussion including the potential for the Home to consider conducting a capital campaign for renovation funds and the possibility of relocating the Home to a more central New Jersey location. Upon request, on June 24, WilkinGuttenplan provided a proposal to conduct the financial study. The proposal is currently under joint review.
- Chiller replacement is scheduled to commence in October.
- Four By-Law proposals were approved.

- **Long Term Planning:** Committee currently working with an engineering firm to address the proposed building addition/expansion.
- **Chairman Apgar and Vice Chairman Miller have been asked to attend a meeting with FMBA President Edward Donnelly. Meeting is to take place in the immediate future.**

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

05/09/2026

The Applications Committee held their meeting, on Tuesday, May 5, 2022, at 9:00am..

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

Medical Staff: Ms. Baumgartner and Ms. Bundrick
Superintendent Veras was also in attendance.

The committee signed two new applications.

Since the last meeting there were three admissions through April 30, 2026.

The monthly census as of 04/30/2026:

Census: Long Term Care: 61 (includes six in Lathrop Station)

Residential:	6
Total:	67

Two guest answered Their final alarm.

There has been one admission so far this month and three awaiting meet and greet. One applicant passed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Albert E. Freeman II
Applications Chairman

The New Jersey Firemen's Home
Application Committee Report
June 9, 2026

The Applications Committee held their meeting on Tuesday June 9, 2026 at 0900 hours

Attending was: Managers Cunningham, Apgar, Miller, Keyser.
Medical Staff: Ms. Baumgartner, Ms. Bundrick, Nurse Jeniffer and Nurse Mary Kate.

The Committee signed two new applications.

During the month of May we welcomed three new admissions.

As of May 31, 2026 the census is, in long term care 64 guests.
The Lathrop Station Memory Care Unit 6 guests for a total of 70 guests.

We have nine (9) Applications listed and are being processed.

Our next schedule meeting will be on Tuesday July 7, 2026 at 0900 hours.

Respectfully submitted

Bernie Cunningham (Essex County Manager) 
Application Co-Chairmen.

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

07/07/2026

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

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

Medical Staff attending were U. Bumgartener and A. Bundrick.

Superintendent Veras and Manager Washer were also in attendance.

The committee signed three applications.

Since the last meeting there was one admission through June 30, 2026

The monthly census as of 06/30/2026 :

Long Term Care:	63 (includes 5 in Lathrop Station).
Residential:	06
Total:	69

2 resident's answered there final alarm.

There were three applicant's with a pre-admission meetings scheduled and two scheduled to be admitted

The next meeting will be at the Home, on Tuesday August 4, 2026, at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert E. Freeman II
Applications Chairperson

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

Date: July 18, 2026
To: Executive Committee
Health Care Committee Report:

HEALTH CARE

NEW CLAIMS YTD - 42

SPOUSE YTD (new applicants frozen 6/1/24)

PAID YTD \$8,595,156.83

ACTIVE CLAIMS TOTAL - 247 of that Firefighters-173 and Spouse-74

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

Visit us on the web at www.njsfa.com

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

Legislative Committee Report July 18, 2026

The Officers have continued to discuss with the legislators' related bills that have been submitted to the appropriate committees.

Attached to this report is the activity that we receive from Matt McDermott, Matt is our advocate and I thought it would be good if each of you see the work that he is doing in Trenton on our behalf.

Current Bills that we are tracking are 159 Fire and Emergency Services, 59 Firemen's Home and 50 Pensions for a total of 268 which has not changed since our April meeting. There is a meeting set up on July 30 to discuss the Bills and Cancer Bill language as we continue to discuss covering all Volunteer firefighters.

We continue to talk with as many legislators as possible and if anyone can speak with any legislators in their county, please feel free to do so. If you have any questions, about any activity in the Senate or Assembly feel free to contact me.

Respectively
submitted,

Richard Dreby

Richard K. Dreby
Chairman Legislative Committee
1st Assistant Secretary

NJ State Firemen's Association
TZG Legislative Report
July 18, 2026

State House Overview

The New Jersey Fiscal Year 2027 state budget was signed into law by Governor Sherrill on June 30, the last possible day under the required state constitution deadline. The previous legislative report noted the new Governor delivered her FY 2027 budget message to the legislature in March, when she proposed a \$60.7 billion budget, focused on fiscal responsibility, affordability, education, and middle-class property tax relief. The proposal sought to slow state spending, deliver a substantial \$5.4 billion surplus while not increasing individual taxes, but affecting certain corporate tax structures.

While it starts as a proposal, the final budget requires negotiations with the legislature to meet the constitutional deadline of passing a balanced budget into law by June 30.

The current \$60.7 billion budget, effective July 1, represents a collaborative, if sometimes intensely debated, effort between the new Governor and the Democratic-led state legislature to prove they could rein in spending without raising taxes on ordinary residents.

A primary point of negotiation was how to structure the Stay NJ property tax program. The Governor wanted to lower the program's cost and reduce the income eligibility. Lawmakers, specifically Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, wanted to ensure middle- and lower-income seniors were prioritized. The compromise reached ultimately lowered the income eligibility cap from \$500,000 to \$250,000 to curb costs, but established a more generous tiered system:

- Seniors earning \$100,000 or less receive a maximum benefit of \$6,500.
- Seniors earning between \$100,000 and \$150,000 receive \$5,000.
- Seniors earning between \$150,000 and \$200,000 receive \$4,000.

To address the structural deficit, the Governor and legislative leaders agreed to narrow corporate tax deductions. Under the final terms, the state capped Net Operating Loss (NOL) deductions under the Corporation Business Tax at \$1 million annually.

They also targeted rising healthcare costs, including introducing provisions aimed at achieving \$75 million in savings through state health benefit design adjustments.

On June 30, 2026, just hours before the midnight constitutional deadline, the state legislature passed the budget. The Senate approved the bill in a 26-14 vote, while the Assembly passed it 58-20. That night, Governor Sherrill signed the \$60.74 billion Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations Act into law.

Legislative Tracking & Media Reports

The legislature returned to full legislative work after its annual April budget review. During this period, the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees meet to review the Governor's proposed budget and conduct only public departmental budget hearings.

TZG continued to work closely the past quarter with NJSFA leadership and the Legislative chair to track potential relevant legislation.

From May through June 30, TZG tracked the activity of 28 bills, shared relevant information with the appropriate NJSFA leadership for awareness and consulted on any potential action the association may take. Of the 28 bills, 11 bills were considered in committee, of those NJSFA publicly supported 3 bills, and the other 17 bills were introductions, without any direct committee action. Of specific interest are:

A-4687/S-757 (Baily/Burzichelli) - Concerns local government financing and acquisition of fire fighting apparatus and equipment. The NJSFA supported the bill at all committee hearings. The bills were unanimously passed in both houses on June 30, and is now on the governor's desk.

A-3548 (Greenwald) – Provides certain volunteer and other workers with maximum compensation benefit for workers' compensation claim regardless of outside employment. The NJSFA supported the bill when it was heard by the Assembly Labor Committee in May. The bill now is in the Assembly State and Local Government Committee for consideration.

S-1343 (Pennacchio/Bucco) - permits students to be eligible for high school graduation credits in health, safety, and physical education for completing county fire academy course under certain circumstances. NJSFA testified in support when it was considered in the Senate Education Committee. The bill was passed out of the full Senate by a 40-0 vote on June 18, and is now in the Assembly Education Committee.

The one bill introduced of significant interest is:

A-4867 (Barlas/Venezia) - Mandates access to periodic cancer screening examinations for volunteer firefighters. It is the Assembly version of S-3331 (Gopal) previously introduced this legislative session. I spoke with Assemblyman Barlas about the need to: 1) add a democratic co-sponsor to make it a bipartisan bill, we spoke with Assemblyman Michael Venezia, who was happy to join as co-sponsor, and 2) the need to amend the bill to include an annual appropriation and ensure language that covers all volunteers are eligible for the screenings across the various insurance coverage options.

Volunteer Cancer Screening Legislation

We continue to advocate and grow support for the volunteer firefighter cancer screening legislation. All meetings to date have been positive and members have offered to sign on as co-sponsors. Developed and continue to share with lawmakers and staffs a briefing document on

the critical need for volunteer cancer screenings based on the various studies and scientific data demonstrating the health threat to which volunteer firefighters are exposed, identical to career firefighters.

In this session, the following are bi-partisan bills introduced extending to volunteer firefighters periodic, no-cost cancer screenings:

A-557 (Auth, Sampson) / **S-1583** (Amato, Bucco) Requires cancer screening examinations for volunteer firefighters starting at least three years after the beginning of volunteer service and every three years thereafter while serving, from SHBP network physicians. Authorizes State payment to participating physicians/providers for screening costs upon proof satisfactory to the Department of the Treasury.

A-3331 (Stanley, Reynolds-Jackson) / **S-3866** (Gopal, Amato) Mandates access to periodic cancer screening examinations for volunteer firefighters; increases tax on fire insurance premiums.

S-2595 (Gopal, Greenstein) / **A-4976** (Barlas/Venezia) requires that volunteer firefighters in New Jersey have access to periodic physician-administered cancer screening examinations, with reimbursement when the screening would not otherwise be covered by the firefighter's health insurance.

With these multiple pieces of legislation pending, each seeking to accomplish the same goal of mandating cancer screenings without any out-of-pocket costs to volunteer firefighters, but try to achieve that objective in slightly different ways, a common resolution is needed. Therefore, we have discussed with the NJSFA, legislative sponsors and legislative leadership including Speaker Coughlin and Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee Chair Paul Sarlo, writing one committee substitute that accomplishes the goal of cancer screenings inclusive of all volunteers no matter their insurance coverage through a budget appropriation – not an foreign fire premium adjustment – and provides consistency in both houses that ideally protects and advances the NJSFA's objectives as cleanly as possible.

Over the next two months, TZG is scheduling meetings for the NJSFA to promote the legislation with additional legislators, Governor Sherrill's counsel's and policy office, and the Treasurer's Office, which administers the municipality reimbursement program for the career firefighter cancer screenings. I have already had preliminary discussions with the Governor's Deputy Chief Counsel, who is responsible for reviewing and recommendations on all legislation for the Governor's consideration. I have had discussions also with the State Deputy Treasurer, noting the role of the Treasury in administering the career reimbursement program and the department's significant role in developing and executing the annual state budget.

I am also going to continue conversations to brief three critical stakeholder groups: the League of Municipalities, the Conference of Mayors and the NJ Association of Health Plans. These three organizations have an direct interest in the potential cost and administration of a volunteer cancer screening program.

Additionally, I have spoken directly with the Assembly sponsor, Assemblyman Stanley, and shared our concerns with the language in his bill A-3331 which would increase the current rate of the foreign fire tax premium. I noted our opposition to any change in the premium tax and, instead, the need to include an annual appropriation to fund the screening, consistent with the program for the career firefighters. Subsequently, I have meet with the sponsor's legislative aide to discuss our position. She is open minded and looks forward to continuing to work with the NJSFA to develop the appropriate legislation to achieve our objectives.



Memorandum

Date: May 18, 2026 – Updated June 1, 2026
To: President Robert Ordway
From: Resolutions Committee
George M. Morris, Asst. Counsel
Subject: Review of Submitted Resolutions and Report on Findings by the Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee met via zoom on May 8, 2026, to evaluate Resolutions submitted by the Local Relief Associations pursuant to the Bylaws of the Association. In total, the Resolutions Committee considered three standard Resolutions and two (2) submitted Resolutions.

Standards Resolutions – The Association will seek approval on the following three standard Resolutions during the 2026 Convention in Wildwood, New Jersey:

1. Resolution 1 – Approving the Red Book as printed and as it appears on the State Association's website.
2. Resolution 2 – Affirming the 2026 County Caucus Elections.
3. Resolution 3 – Approval that the 2031 Convention Be Held in Wildwood, New Jersey.

The Resolutions Committee supports the adoption of Resolutions 1, 2 and 3.

Proposed Resolutions – The Resolutions Committee received two proposed resolutions.

4. Non-Binding Resolution for Life Member Convention Expenses - The State Association received a Resolution from Garfield Firemen's Relief Association of Bergen County requesting the County Executives amend the Compendium to allow Life Members attending the Convention to receive the same reimbursement as Delegates.

Analysis – The Resolutions Committee evaluated the resolution and determined that it was a valid resolution which should be placed on the ballot as a non-binding resolution for vote at the annual convention. The Resolution Committee further evaluated the merits of the Resolution and determined that the NJSFA Executive Committee reviews all funding levels for Life Members and Delegates and makes annual funding decisions based upon available funds. The Association balances the cost of providing benefits to qualified fighters versus the cost of conducting the convention and recognizes that the primary mission of the Association is to provide benefit to the members in need. Wording for the non-binding ballot question is located at the end of this report.

5. Video Recording and Posting of State Association Meetings – The Resolutions Committee evaluated a Non-Binding Resolution from the Waldwick Firemen's Relief Association

COUNSEL WHEN IT MATTERS. SM

Mount Laurel, New Jersey | Hamilton, New Jersey | Atlantic City, New Jersey | Camden, New Jersey

seeking a policy to video record and post online the regular meetings of the Executive Committee.

Analysis – This resolution has been raised in the past. The State Association has already taken measures this summer to secure and install the necessary equipment and implement the video recording of meetings and posting those meetings to the website starting with the November 2026 meeting. Therefore, this resolution is moot and will not appear on the ballot.

UPDATE – On June 1, 2026, Secretary Martone spoke with the Waldwick Firemen's Relief Association Secretary who confirmed that Waldwick is satisfied with the progress that the State Association is taking to implement life streaming technology and the Local Association seeks to withdraw its Resolution to prevent any voter confusion.

RESOLUTION NO. 1

NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Shall the 2025 Election Results, Reports and Documents distributed at the Caucus /Convention, as published in the Red Book and appears on our website be accepted and approved?

RESOLUTION NO. 2

NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Shall the Secretary of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association cast a ballot affirming the results of the election of Executive Committee Members and Managers of the New Jersey Firemen's Home which occurred at their respective County Caucuses?

RESOLUTION NO. 3

NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Should the 2031 NJSFA Annual Convention be held in the City of Wildwood, NJ?

RESOLUTION NO. 4

Non-Binding Resolution

Shall the Non-Binding Resolution of the Garfield Firemen's Relief Association, Bergen County, proposing that the New Jersey State Firemen's Association reimburse Life Members for convention expenses at the same rate as Delegates, be approved?

The Resolution specifically requests the NJSFA Executive Committee amend the Compendium to allow all members attending the State Firemen's Convention equal reimbursement.

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION AWARDING 2026 VIDEO CONFERENCING INSTALLATION

Whereas, the New Jersey State Firemen's Association (the "Association") determined that it is beneficial to the membership to create a system that will allow the meetings of the County Executives to be livestreamed from the Association's headquarters in Wall, New Jersey to allow greater transparency of Association actions; and

Whereas, the Association obtained an initial quote for services and determined that the potential value of improvements to the meeting room would exceed the limits established by the New Jersey Public Contracts Law and would require a formal bid; and

Whereas, the Association publicly bid the 2026 Video Conferencing Installation project (the "Project") with response due at 10:00 a.m. on June 30, 2026, and notice of such bid was posted on the Association's website and advertised in electronic news publications; and

Whereas, ten (10) potential bidders inquired about the Project; and

Whereas, potential bidders were permitted to schedule a visitation of the facility, and ask questions to confirm the bidders understood the project; and

Whereas, at the time and place for receiving bids, the Association received two (2) bids which were publicly opened and read aloud; and

Whereas, the following vendors submitted bids:

Name	Amount
CSAV Systems	\$74,749.44
Tullis Technologies	\$96,942.97

Whereas, following opening, the Association Counsel performed a legal review of the bid submissions; and

Whereas, based upon legal review, the Counsel determined that all bids were legally compliant; and

Whereas, pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, the Association shall award the bid to the lowest compliant bidder,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 18th day of July 2026, that the County Executives of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association due hereby award the 2026 Video Conferencing Installation Project to CSAV Systems of Colts Neck, New Jersey in the

amount of Seventy-Four Thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty-Nine Dollars and Forty-Four Cents (\$74,749.44); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President and Secretary are authorized to execute any document necessary in the fulfillment of this resolution and bid award upon review and approval of the Resolution;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Association expects that this Project will be complete and fully operation by the November 21, 2026, Executive Committee Meeting.

I certify this as a true and accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the New Jersey State Firemen's Association on July 18, 2026.



Brian Martone, Secretary

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

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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

2026 Annual Convention

Friday, September 18, 2026

Registration: 7:00 am to 11:00 am

Memorial Service Starts at 11:00 am

Annual Convention, Friday Session, immediately following.

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Registration: 7:00 am to 11:00 am

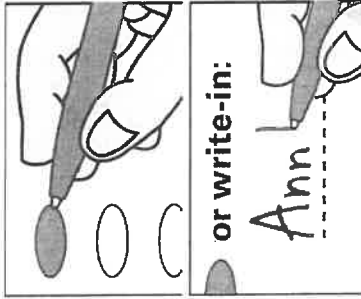
Registration and Voting only.



NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION 149th ANNUAL CONVENTION BALLOT 2026

Instructions

Making Selections



Fill in the oval to the right of the name of your choice. You must blacken the oval completely, and do not make any marks outside of the oval. You do not have to vote in every race.

Do not cross out or erase, or your vote may not count. If you make a mistake or a stray mark, return it and ask for a new ballot from the registration staff.

OFFICE TITLE	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	WRITE-IN
PRESIDENT (VOTE FOR 1)	JOSEPH T. HANKINS	☐ WRITE-IN
VICE-PRESIDENT (VOTE FOR 1)	BRIAN E. MARTONE	☐ WRITE-IN
TREASURER (VOTE FOR 1)	EDWARD R. MULLEN	☐ WRITE-IN
SECRETARY (VOTE FOR 1)	GLENN D. ROEMMICH	☐ WRITE-IN
1st ASSISTANT SECRETARY (VOTE FOR 1)	RICHARD K. DREBY	☐ WRITE-IN
2nd ASSISTANT SECRETARY (VOTE FOR 1)	STEPHEN C. FAZEKAS	☐ WRITE-IN

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO BE VOTED UPON	
QUESTION NO. 1 Shall the 2025 Election Results, Reports and Documents that were distributed at the Caucus/Convention, as published in the Red Book, and appears on our website be accepted and approved?	YES ☐ NO ☐
QUESTION NO. 2 Shall the Secretary of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association cast a ballot affirming the results of the election of Executive Committee Members and Managers of the New Jersey Firemen's Home which occurred at their respective County Caucus?	YES ☐ NO ☐
QUESTION NO. 3 Should the 2031 NJSFA Annual Convention be held in the City of Wildwood, NJ?	YES ☐ NO ☐
QUESTION NO. 4 NON-BINDING RESOLUTION Shall the Non-Binding Resolution of the Garfield Firemen's Relief Association, Bergen County, proposing that the New Jersey State Firemen's Association reimburse Life Members for convention expenses at the same rate as Delegates, be approved?	
The Resolution specifically requests the NJSFA Executive Committee amend the Compendium to allow all members attending the State Firemen's Convention equal reimbursement.	YES ☐ NO ☐