

**ABRIDGED REPORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
WALL TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY  
FEBRUARY 22, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Ordway at 9:00am, in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. He stated that the 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). The fire exits were pointed out.

Vice President Hankins led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Second Assistant Secretary gave the opening prayer.

President Ordway asked Counsel Cavallo to administer the oath of office to Executive Committeeman Mecsey.

**ROLL CALL:**

Roll call was held with all officers and Executive Committee members present except for Executive Committeeman Spiegel who was participating via Zoom.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Secretary Pelaia said there was no current communications other than those in your packet. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Kelly to accept the correspondence submitted, seconded by Executive Committeeman Kurdyla. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Abridged Minutes and Verbatim Minutes of the November 23, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting were approved as distributed on a motion by Executive Committeeman Handlin, seconded by Executive Committeeman Scheuer. Motion carried.

**OFFICERS REPORT:**

**Vice President Hankins reported the following:**

- 1) He thanked the Executives for submitting their Caucus Dates and Locations. He will be sending out to the Executives, the work schedule withing a few weeks.

**Secretary Pelaia Reported the following:**

1) He stated that he has been assisting the staff with the Active Membership reports that have been submitted so far. He reminded everyone that the Active Membership Reports are due in the office or postmarked by February 28, which is this coming Friday. Of the Active Membership Reports already submitted, 10% had to be returned due to mistakes, mostly because the secretaries did not read the instructions. President Ordway then added that the following list of Counties that will have an election this year for Firemen's Home Manager: Atlantic, Bergen, Gloucester, Ocean and Sussex. There is still a vacancy for Salem County. Secretary Pelaia then spoke on a new, different badge for Delegates and Life Members. It is a smaller badge with a different medal along with one color ribbon for both Delegate and Life Member. Should the Executive Committee approve this badge we will then receive bids for the price of the badges.

**First Assistant Secretary Martone reported the following:** He sent out a flyer to all Executives Regarding the "Know your Line Number" which was discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting. He sent the flyer to all Associations and all the officers in those Associations.

**Second Assistant Secretary Dreby's Report:** He received the contract from the videographer for the Memorial Service this year. He approved the contract.

**Treasurer Mullen's Report:** His report is in the packet. He stated that the Finance Committee's report was not completed at this time. He will forward it to the Executive Committee

**Field Examiner Hollingsworth's Report:** The written report is in the packets. She stated that she is sending letters to those Associations, both by E-Mail and Regular. She stated that for some of the E-mails sent out, some were sent back due to wrong e-mail addresses. She contacted those Associations and corrected those E-Mails. She then mentioned that she will be asking later in the meeting to remove some of the Associations under review at the request of their Executive Committeeman.

**Counsel Cavallo's Report:** No report.

**Assistant Counsel Morris:** No report

**President Ordway's Report:** He had no written report but reported the following:

- 1) The office will be closed on April 18 for Good Friday.
- 2) There are about 8 Financial Reports that have not been received in the office yet. He stated that he checked the Postal routing numbers on these Association's mailing, and they are in the postal system, so he expects them any day.
- 3) Membership Reports are due on February 28, 2025. There are 165 still not received. He asked the Executives to follow up with their Associations Membership Reports that have not been received. He stated that once all the Membership Reports received, we will review the reports and those members who have 5 consecutive years of 0% will be removed from the rolls. We will double check to make sure that if there are certain circumstances such as Military Leave and the member has 5 years of 0%, they will not be removed.
- 4) President Ordway stressed to everyone that they should tell their Association Officers not to procrastinate when doing reports. Should they have questions regarding the report they should call our office for assistance.
- 5) First Quarter Relief Report is due by April 30, and the Convention Delegate Report is due May 1<sup>st</sup>. and must be done online.
- 6) He reminded everyone that sometimes the field has issues filling out forms online. He asked if anyone has a problem, please notify the State Office immediately, so they can complete the report prior to the due date.
- 7) The Caucuses and Field Exams are now scheduled. There is also a County Workshop that is scheduled for Gloucester County. Should any Executive want a workshop please notify President Ordway.
- 8) The 2025 Convention will be held on September 12-13. He felt that the workshop at the convention was poorly attended for what it cost. He would like to return to the county workshops, anticipating that going forward, we will do 10 workshops one year and 11 the following year. In the future, he would like to have one workshop for secretaries and another for treasurers.
- 9) Field Examination dates and locations are all set. Any association who cannot make their Field Exam must notify the Field Examiner ahead of that night.
- 10) He reminded all Executives that Caucuses, Workshops and Field Exams must be conducted at an ADA Compliant facility.
- 11) He reminded everyone that if they receive an e-mail from him to please make sure that it is from him. There are a lot of scams out there and someone has been sending e-mails in his name.
- 12) Also, we will once again be removing any member who has five consecutive 0% runs and drills reported on their Active Membership Reports. Every local officer who has a member affected will receive a letter from the office. Should the secretary have someone who was on Military Leave or another significant reason for not making the five years, they can call the office.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ADVISORY/ SPECIAL / SUPPLEMENTAL COMMITTEE:** Executive Committeeman Walker stated that there is a report in the packet. Executive Committeeman Kurdyla asked since we receive in the report it lists how many applications and there are no numbers of how many were rejected. Chairman Walker responded that he would put that number in his future reports.

**COMPENDIUM COMMITTEE:** (a)Chairman Roemmich reported that the committee met on January 14, 2025. It was discussed and approved that the Burial Benefit be increased by \$400.00 and forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval. The committee also agreed that a copy of the funeral bill must be submitted with the claim. If the funeral bill goes directly to the Surviving Spouse or the IRS Dependent Children full base payment of \$12,400.00 will be paid. It was determined that in all other cases we will no longer pay any excess to anyone other than the Spouse or IRS Dependent Children.

(b)There was some discussion regarding whether some credit towards Qualification be given (such as duty nights) in the Firehouse. It was determined that this is a Local Association issue. If it is done it must be done equally among the members of the Local Association.

**DELEGATE AND LIFE MEMBER COMMITTEE:** Executive Committeeman Florio said that the committee has prepared a report for this meeting, and it is in the packets. President Ordway stated that all the Executives should review the report and submit any comments to Chairman Florio prior to the next Executive Meeting whereby a vote will be taken.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Treasurer Mullen reported that the Finance Committee met, and that one member was absent, so he sent the findings to that member and is waiting for his recommendations, then the complete report was sent to the Local Association.

**FIREMEN'S HOME COMMITTEE:** Chairman Otterbein submitted his report is in everyone's packet and reported the following:

1) The Firemen's Home has engaged KDA Architects to provide a Conceptual Design evaluation for a proposed building expansion for a cost of \$18,000. The Home reports that they would need 39 additional rooms to go to single occupancy. 2) The home is still studying the change in the Application to the home whereby presently the requirement is now 1 year in the Fire Service and they are discussing changing that to 84 months In the Fire Service.

**HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE:** Chairman Reeves stated that he has a report in the packet.

**INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:** Chairman Handlin said there is no Report.

**LEGISLATIVE:** First Assistant Secretary Martone reported that his report is in the packets. He stated that he will be having a Zoom meeting with the Committee sometime in the Spring. He also mentioned that Ocean County Jeff Baer passed away.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING and REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Chairman Lane reported that his report is in the packets. He stated that the Committee will continue to meet.

**FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION** – Chairman Naylis reported that **(1)** The Governor signed the amended Fire Safety Act. On February 3, 2025. The changes include **(a)** Fire inspectors and Fire Officials are now licensed and are no longer certified. **(b)** The Fire Extinguishers in Residential occupancies have been repealed. **(c)** Only licensed Fire Inspectors and Fire Officials can conduct Fire code Enforcement, **(d)** There is now labeling requirement labels on Electric Panels if there is alternate electric service in a building.

**APPLICATIONS** – Secretary Pelaia – **(a)** reported that we are still awaiting paperwork from Frelinghuysen. President Ordway also mentioned we are awaiting paperwork for Stockton and Delaware on their consolidation. **(b)** Executive Committeeman Smith then made a motion to reinstate Helmetta. He said that he has been in touch with their President, and they have all new officers, Representatives and trustees, they will be reinstated and kept under review. This was seconded by Executive Committeeman Florio. On a voice vote the motion was passed 21-0 **(c)** Field Examiner Hollingsworth requests that the following Associations be removed from Review: Bass River and Bergenfield, and Asbury Park be placed back into accord. The Executives for these Associations have been monitoring and recommended that Bass River and Bergenfield be removed from Review and Asbury be placed back into accord and put under review. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Kelly, seconded by Executive Committeeman Otterbein to remove Bass River and Bergenfield from review, and Asbury Park placed back in accord, but put into review. be on a voice vote passed 21-0.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**1)** Executive Committeeman Lane thanked President Ordway, Vice President Hankins, First Assistant Secretary Martone and Field Examiner Hollingsworth for attending his attended his workshop. There were 90 people that attended, and he heard nothing but accolades from those members that attended. Executive Committeeman Naylis also thanked the Officers who attended his workshop. The attendees at his Workshop were overwhelmingly positive. Executive Committeeman Naylis then urged the other Executives to have a Workshop in their County.

**2)** President Ordway said that we have one association, Helmetta, that did not submit their Financial Standing Report. He double checked and realized that they hadn't started it yet. Executive Committeeman Reeves made a motion, seconded by Executive Committeeman Florio, to place Helmetta FRA#152 Out of Accord. **Passed.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A motion was made at 9:37am by Executive Committeeman Otterbein, seconded by Executive Committeeman Lane, that we move to Executive Session.

**Passed.**

At 9:53am, a motion by Executive Committeeman Florio, seconded by Executive Committeeman Kelly that we move back to open session. **Passed.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) President Ordway stated that the first thing under new business is changes to the Compendium Article 6, Burial Claims. He stated that he sent out a 2-page list of changes, completely changing the Burial Claims Section. Basically, the Burial Claim will be paid to either the Funeral Home or to ever paid the Bill. If there is a balance left over after the bill is paid, the only people that can receive it is the spouse, IRS – designated children, or dependent children, and no one else. There were several questions raised, and it was explained that we are going back to the original purpose of the Burial Benefit. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Naylis, seconded by Executive Committeeman Figueroa. Executive Committeeman Roemmich asked if this had to be voted on by the complete membership and President Ordway responded that it did not. Executive Committeeman Roemmich then made a motion, seconded by Executive Committeeman Lane to table this motion until the next meeting so that this change can be reviewed in the minutes and voted on at the May Executive meeting. A roll call vote was taken, and it was passed 16-5.
- 2) President Ordway then brought forward to increase the Burial Benefit from \$12,000.00 to \$12,400.00 . Executive Committeeman Roemmich made a motion seconded by Executive Committeeman Smith, to increase the Burial benefit to \$12,400, an increase of \$400.00. On a Roll Call vote , **Passed 21-0**
- 3) There was discussion about moving the date of the September Executive Committee meeting from September 11, so that Executive Committee members can attend September 11, services. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Roemmich, seconded by Executive Committeeman Scheuer , to move the September Executive Committee meeting from Thursday September 11 in Wildwood, to Saturday September 6 at the State Office. **Passed 21-0.**
- 4) The Long-Range Planning and Programs Review recommends a permanent stoppage of receiving applications for Spouses in general, and for stoppage of receiving Applications for firefighters in assisted living. A motion to freeze receiving applications for assisted living applications in the Health Care program was made by Executive Committeeman Reeves, seconded by Executive Committeeman Roemmich. On a voice vote **Passed 21-0**

- 5) A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Scheuer, seconded by Executive Committeeman Otterbein rather than having 2 badges distributed at the Convention (Delegate and Life Member) we should have only 1 generic badge, for attendees at the Convention. On a voice vote **Passed 21-0**
  
- 6) President Ordway then questioned rather than bringing back and forth Associations that are on review, whereby we are voting to put them on Review, then taking them off Review. He questioned is that something that can be done internally by the Officers. An example is if an Association is put on review and their Executive Committeeman cannot make an Executive Committee Meeting, the Association would have to wait approximately another 3 months to be removed from being taken off Review. There was some discussion regarding this, and the Executive Committeeman would make the recommendation and forward it to the State the Field Examiner whereby the Officers will review it at their Officers meeting and then notify you of their response. A motion was made by Executive Committeeman Kelly seconded by Executive Committeeman Florio to approve the President's recommendation.  
On a voice vote **Passed 21-0**
  
- 7) Executive Committeeman Naylis made a motion that the Officers be allowed to consider non-seating or penalizing Local Associations that fail to comply with filing reports. Seconded by Executive Committeeman Walker. On a voice vote **Passed 21-0**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Daniel Smith of Chatham Borough commented that the Burial Benefit increased by 3% this year. He stated that it be an annual increase so that we do not have to come back each year and ask for an increase. President Ordway responded that we are now asking for the Funeral Bill when a Burial Claim is received, and we will use that to assist us in increasing the Burial Benefit in the future.

Jack Cunic, Secretary of Denville spoke on having all forms available to be submitted on-line. He stated that doing this will expedite Applications and other forms be processed quickly.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Secretary Pelaia announced that he will not be running for reelection in September. He will continue finish his term with his last date being September 30. He stated it was not an easy decision to make. Although he had 2 surgeries on his foot, he is in good health. After 45 years being involved in this Association as a member of the Legislative Committee, Executive Committee, and an Officer, He feels that it is time to take life easier. He thanked everyone for their support.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Tom Pelaia*

# NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

1711 Route 34 South, Wall Township, NJ 07727

DATE OF MEETING: February 22, 2025

PAGE: 1 of 1

PRES    ABS

ROBERT F. ORDWAY	PRESIDENT	X		#1) Motion to Table Compedium Change Article 6 Burial Benefit.	#2) Increase Burial Benefit \$400.00 for all Levels.				
JOSEPH T. HANKINS	VICE PRESIDENT	X							
THOMAS J. PELAIA	SECRETARY	X							
BRIAN E. MARTONE	1ST ASS'T SECY	X							
RICHARD K. DREBY	2ND ASS'T 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			
GERARD J. NAYLIS	BERGEN	X			X	X			
STEPHEN C. FAZEKAS	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	X		X		X			
ROBERT J. KELLY	MONMOUTH	X		X		X			
EUGENE T. MINELL	MORRIS	X		X		X			
JOSEPH JUBERT	OCEAN	X		X		X			
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	X		X		X			
NICHOLAS J. FLORIO	UNION	X		X		X			
JOSPEH MECSEY 3RD	WARREN	X		X		X			
TOTALS		30	0	16	5	21	0		

**GUESTS:** Past Secretary, Sanford Weidnberg  
 Past Warren County Executive, Konard Mellert  
 Michael Joas, Camden County Firemen's Home Manager  
 Daniel Dunn, Cape May County Firemen's Home Manager  
 Bernard Cunningham, Essex County Firemen's Home Manager  
 Garrick Miller, Middlesex County Firemen's Home Manager  
 Gary Keyser, Morris County Firemen's Home Manager  
 Michael Clery, Jersey City Relief Assoc.

Nick Lombardi, Piscataway Relief Assoc.  
 Artie Hayduck, Piscataway Relief Assoc.  
 Kevin Kenney, Livingston Relief Assoc.  
 Jimmy Booth, Totowa Relief Assoc.  
 Michael Dowd, Orange Relief Assoc.  
 Jack Cunic, Denville Relief Assoc.  
 Daniel Smith, Chatham Boro. Relief Assoc.  
 Robert Jansen, Chatham Twp. Relief Assoc.



# ***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

Thomas J. Pelaia, Secretary  
Brian E. Martone, 1st Asst. Secretary  
Richard K. Dreby, 2nd Asst. Secretary  
Jennie Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

## **Secretary's Report February 25, 2025**

In addition to the Normal duties performed by the Secretary, I report the following:

- 1) Assisted the office staff with processing the Active Membership Reports.
- 2) Attended the Compendium Committee Meeting, Delegate and Life Member Committee Meeting and the Long Term Planning/ Program Review Committee Meeting
- 3) I attended a meeting with the Red Bank Officers, Representatives and Trustees regarding Relief issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Thomas J. Pelaia*

Thomas J. Pelaia  
Secretary

**NJSFA Treasurer's Report**  
**February 22, 2025**

1. The quarterly reviews, 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 year ended December 31, 2024, by PKF O'Connor Davies, of our Pension Fund will be starting soon.
3. I'm continuing to work on resolving many Local Associations' IRS penalties due to their mailing of Form 990 and 990-EZ, instead of electronically filing in prior years, despite our many warnings to the Locals. To date, and to the best of my knowledge, all penalties have been successfully abated.
4. The conversion to 'Direct Deposit' for our various payrolls is complete. Our next goal is to similarly transition our pension payments for our retirees.

**Other Notes:**

Finance Committee:

The report of the Finance Committee February 18, is included in your packet.

Pension Committee:

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

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Jennie M. Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

February 18, 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 February 18, 2025, at the office of the Association. At that time, the accounts of the Association were audited for the Second Quarter ending December 31, 2024. 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.

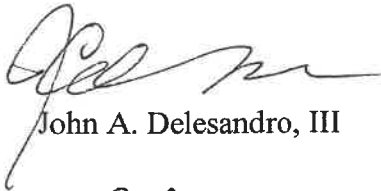
The reviews covered the reconciliation of all checks, vouchers, ledger entries and bank statements for the General fund, Burial Fund, Pension, General Checking, Assessment and Special Relief accounts. The Association income documents, bank statements, and credit and debit documents were found to be accurate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

February 22, 2025  
FIELD EXAMINERS REPORT

The following applications for Supplementary Relief, Special Relief, and Health Care were processed thus far in 2025.

<b>Applications</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Denied</b>	<b>Active Claims</b>	<b>Amount Paid YTD</b>
Special Relief	13	13			\$ 33,491.00
Supplementary Relief	07	07			\$ 107,980.00
Health Care Program	11	11		376	\$ 2,624,483.89

**Notes:**

- Since November I have ran and processed many reports for the Committees and attended the meetings.
- On December 2, 2024, I attended the Trustees Workshop in Bergen County hosted by Executive Committeeman Jerry Naylis.
- I am in the process of reviewing every financial report. So far, the main issue I see are: Officers also being Trustees, Bank Statements not turned in, and issue with stipends. I will cc you on any emails sent to your locals for problems.

The following is what was processed for the month of December.

- I reviewed and processed 297 claims for health care reimbursement.
- I processed 6 new claims for health care and many renewal claims.
- I reviewed and processed 47 claims for special and supplemental review.

The following is what was processed for the month of January.

- I reviewed and processed 268 claims for health care reimbursement.
- I processed 5 new claims for health care and many renewal claims.
- I reviewed and processed 2 claims for special and supplemental review.

Sincerely,  
*Jennie Hollingsworth*  
Field Examiner

Visit us on the web at [www.njsfa.com](http://www.njsfa.com)

# ***New Jersey State Firefighter's Association***

*(DBA: New Jersey State Firemen's Association)*

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

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

**Fax: (732) 938-2580**

## **Base Burial Fund Payment Scale**

### **Qualifying Time Earned / Base Payment Limit**

**0 Months - \$0.00**

**1 month, but less than 12 months - \$1,550**

**12 months, but less than 24 months - \$3,100**

**24 months, but less than 36 months - \$4,650**

**36 months, but less than 48 months - \$6,200**

**48 months, but less than 60 months - \$7,750**

**60 months, but less than 72 months - \$9,300**

**72 months, but less than 84 months - \$10,850**

**84 months or more, and Qualified - \$12,400**

The current maximum base payment of \$12,400 is provided on behalf of a qualified member of the Association.

Should death occur in the Line-Of-Duty to any member, the maximum base payment benefit will be tripled and payable as specified in General Relief Fund Rules - Article VI - Burial Claims.

Should any member be removed from the rolls for cause, they would no longer be eligible for this benefit regardless of the number of months of Qualifying Time earned.

Application for burial claims received five (5) or more years after the date of passing will be denied and no payment made thereon.

Funded and paid by the N.J.S.F.A. State Office.

ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION, FEBRUARY 22, 2025.

**EFFECTIVE: Commencing March 1, 2025 for any member passing away and thereafter.**

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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: February 22, 2025

To: Executive Committee

From: Special Relief Committee

### The Special Relief Committee Report

- Applications for special relief Approved YTD: 13
  - For a total of \$33,491.00
- Special paid out by locals \$19,500.00.
- Applications for supplemental relief Approved YTD: 7
  - For a total of \$107,980.00

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SUMMARY APPROVED</u>	<u>TOTAL PAYOUT</u>	<u>TOTAL PAYOUT BY LOCALS</u>
2017	180	\$396,632.00	
2018	168	\$357,819.13	
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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Francis X. Walker*

Francis X Walker, Chairman

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Jennie Hollingsworth, Field Examiner

Date: February 22, 2025

To: Executive Committee

Health Care Committee Report:

## **HEALTH CARE**

NEW CLAIMS Y/T/D 11

SPOUSE Y/T/D 48 (new applicants frozen 6/1/24)

PAID YTD \$2,624,483.89

ACTIVE CLAIMS TOTAL – 376

## **HEALTH CARE**

<b><u>YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>APPROVED</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL PAYOUT</u></b>
2017	46	\$ 99,600.06
2018	28	\$ 141,376.99
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

Sincerely,

***James Reeves***

James Reeves  
Health Care Committee

*Visit us on the web at [www.njsfa.com](http://www.njsfa.com)*

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Telephone: (800) 852 0137

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

**Thomas J. Pelaia, Secretary**  
**Brian E. Martone, 1st Asst. Secretary**  
**Richard K. Dreby, 2nd Asst. Secretary**  
**Jennie M. Hollingsworth, Field Examiner**

## **Legislative Committee Report February 22, 2025**

To: Officers & All Members of the Executive Committee,

We are in the 2024-2025 Legislative Session, there has been a total of 10,137 bills introduced as of this report. The total of our tracked bills is 302, with 171 bills in Fire & Emergency Services, 58 bills in Pensions, and 73 bills in Firemen's Home. There are currently thirteen bills sitting on the Governor's Desk. The Governor has signed one hundred thirty-six bills into law to date, we currently have five of our tracked bills signed by the Governor.

The two most recent tracked bills that have been signed by the Governor since our last meeting are, S-684, which requires telecommunications, cable television, and Internet service providers to allow for service contracts to be paused or canceled following service recipient's admission to long-term care facility, and A-3894, which amends certain fire safety statutes to update licensure and equipment requirements and liability, fee, and penalty provisions; expands membership of Fire Protection Equipment Advisory Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,



**Brian E. Martone**  
**Legislative Committee Chairman**  
**First Assistant Secretary**





# ***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](mailto:essexexecutive@njsfa.com)

Date: February 11, 2025

To: Officers and Executive Committeepersons

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

Subject: NJS Firemen's Home Report

Meetings: 12/14/24, 1/11/25 (Full Board and Hearing), 2/8/25 Full Board

### **12/14/24 Full Board Meeting**

- Legionella issue: Chlorination system installed.
- Elevator upgrade schedule to commence on 1/13/25. Three (3) new dryers were purchased.
- Finance: **Bills: \$543,702.89** for the monthly period 11/6/24 through 12/10/24. Motion to approve passed.
- By-Law Committee – New committee members appointed. By-Laws to be reviewed and updated.
- **Long term issues: Roof replacement and single room building addition.**
- Census (as of 12/14/24): 67 Long Term; 7 in Memory Care; 6 Residential = 80. Fourteen (14) applications on the wait list.
- Long Term Planning: Met with KDA Architects; \$18K proposal to provide a Conceptual Design evaluation for a proposed building expansion, no competitive bids obtained; a Manager commented on a NJ Task Force Final Report on Long-Term Care Quality and Safety, issued April 2024. Part of the report addresses 3 to 4 residents in a room; based on the Task Force Report and the Actuarial Study, the Home reports they need 39 additional rooms, and 40 rooms would need to be renovated. Long Term plan would be to expand the building and renovate existing rooms to provide a 148 rooms facility.
- Admissions Policy Change: change entrance requirements from the current 1-year policy. Manager Hull to produce a proposal for a vote at the February 2025 meeting (see attachment).
- New Home email: [NJFH.org](mailto:NJFH.org).
- Next meeting: Full Board – 1/11/25, 9:00 AM at the Home.

### **1/11/25 Full Board Meeting**

- Home received a letter from NJSFA President Ordway and an attachment: NJ Statute 54:18-8 concerning Use of monies at the NJ Firemen's Home (see attachment).
- Manager Hull produced and distributed an entrance/admission proposal to be voted on at the February Meeting (see attachment).
- Elevator work to begin on 1/13/25; all residents have had Flu Shots; water testing is ongoing.
- Finance: **Bills: \$370,618.22** for the monthly period 12/10/24 through 1/7/25. Motion to approve passed.
- 2025/2026 Budget approved by the Governor.
- Census (as of 12/31/24): 65 Long Term; 7 in Memory Care; 5 Residential = 77. Fourteen (14) applications on the wait list.
- Superintendent Veras provided a breakdown of FD Service time for residents at the Home. R. Otterbein thanked Mr. Veras for the information.
- Motion to approve KDA \$18K proposal for Home building addition Conceptual Design services approved. No bid obtained, money for proposal to be allocated from various sources including Building & Grounds, Vehicle Maintenance, etc., budget line items.
- Hearing conducted regarding a confrontation between Manager George Helflich and a guest on 10/13/24. After deliberation, the Home Managers reported their decision (see attached 1/16/25 letter to President Ordway).
- Essex County Executive R. Otterbein thanked Superintendent Veras for providing the list of years of FD service for the current guests at the Home.
- R. Otterbein requested a count of the beds available for occupancy at the Home (response received on 1/29/25 – see attachment).
- Next meeting: Full Board – 2/8/25, 9:00 AM at the Home.

### **2/8/25 Full Board Meeting**

- Application Policy discussion and vote was tabled to April's meeting due to light Manager turnout.
- President Ordway stated the Hudson County Manager position should be filled by 3/5.
- Water testing continuing; a new consultant has been hired.
- Finance: **Bills: \$482,952.70** for the monthly period 1/7/25 through 2/4/25. Motion to approve passed. Elevator project cost \$101,430.00 is under review.
- Golf Outing will take place on Monday, June 16, 2025.
- Census (as of 11/5/24): 67 Long Term; 8 in Memory Care; 5 Residential = 80. Ten (10) applications on the wait list.
- Home held a meeting with KDA, and a walk-through of the building was conducted. Budget impact of a building addition being discussed.
- President Ordway asked for Managers help in locating a Salem County Manager.
- Food vendor, Unidine, expressed interest in providing an outdoor kitchen for a two-year food contract extension. Upon motion, the project was approved.
- Next meeting: Full Board – 3/8/25, 9:00 AM at the Home.

NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S HOME  
ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY

Effective March 1, 2025:

Any New Jersey firefighter who is currently in the application process to the Home prior to March 1, 2025 will be eligible for admission to the Home if they have meet the criteria of a minimum of one (1) year of active service as a firefighter in a recognized New Jersey fire department.

Any New Jersey firefighter that wishes to make application to the Home after March 1st, 2025 must have completed seven (7) years of active service as a firefighter in a recognized New Jersey fire department in order to be eligible for admission to the Home. Verification of time in service will be one of the following:

- a qualifying certificate from the New Jersey State Firemen's Association,
- a certification/ affidavit from the local governing body that appointed the firefighter
- An exempt firefighter- document registered with appropriate County Clerk

ANY ACTIVE New Jersey Firefighter currently serving a recognized New Jersey fire department who suffers a line of duty injury or who contracts an irreversible medical condition that permanently prevents them from further firefighting activity, will be deemed *automatically qualified*\* for the Home regardless of their actual time of service.

\**Note:* They must still meet the medical and psychological entrance criteria and not have any condition(s) that are beyond the scope of care offered by the New Jersey Firemen's Home.

Credit for Military Service: Any applicant who during their time as a firefighter has a break in their fire service due to military service can receive up to 5 years of service credit upon review and verification of their military record (DD214).

**N.J. Stat. § 54:18-8**

Current through New Jersey 220th First Annual Session, L. 2022, c. 16 and J.R. 3

***LexisNexis® New Jersey Annotated Statutes > Title 54. Taxation (Subts. 1 — 9) > Subtitle 4. Particular Taxes on Corporations and Others (Pts. 1 — 6) > Part 3. Taxation of Insurance Companies Other than Life (Chs. 16 — 18) > Chapter 18. Foreign Fire Insurance Companies (§§ 54:18-1 — 54:18-8)***

**§ 54:18-8. Use of monies**

All monies received by the Treasurer of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association from the 2% tax on fire insurance premiums paid by insurance companies not organized in this State, on behalf of municipalities or fire districts which do not have a duly incorporated local firemen's relief association affiliated with the State Association under R.S. 43:17-2 et seq., shall be dedicated to the New Jersey Firemen's Home. Upon adoption of the budget, subject to the approval of the Governor, in accordance with R.S. 30:7-1 et seq., these funds shall be allocated to the Board of Managers for the operation of the New Jersey Firemen's Home. A certified copy of the budget approved by the Governor shall be filed immediately with the Treasurer of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association.

The Treasurer of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association shall return to the general fund of the State Association the balance of the monies not required for the annual operation of the New Jersey Firemen's Home.

If there are not sufficient funds in the account for the annual operating expenses of the New Jersey Firemen's Home in accordance with R.S. 30:7-1 et seq., the Board of Managers of the New Jersey Firemen's Home shall certify the amount of the deficiency to the Treasurer of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association. The certification shall be filed before the fiscal year for the New Jersey Firemen's Home commences. The certification shall set forth the specific sum necessary to fund the operational expenses of the New Jersey Firemen's Home. The operational budget shall include all necessary costs for the maintenance and operation of the home, including purchase of equipment. Upon receipt of the certification, the Treasurer of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association shall pay the certified amount to the New Jersey Firemen's Home no later than May 1 of each year.

The procedure set forth below shall be followed if the Board of Managers proposes a capital project consisting of a building addition to the New Jersey Firemen's Home or the construction of a new facility:

- a. At least 30 days before the capital project is submitted to the Governor, the Board of Managers of the New Jersey Firemen's Home shall submit to the officers and executive committee of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association, a description of the proposed project, and costs thereof, including future operational costs. Within 30 days of receipt of the notice the officers of the New Jersey Firemen's Home and New Jersey State Firemen's Association shall approve or disapprove the funding necessary therefor. After the project has been approved or disapproved, the executive committee shall meet in a special executive session to confirm the action of the officers.
- b. If the officers or the executive committee disapproves the proposed capital project, the board of managers or the officers may appeal to the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance who shall issue a final decision within 30 days, but in any event not later than November 1 of any year. The budget then shall be submitted to the Governor for approval pursuant to law.

# NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S HOME

January 16, 2025

President Robert Ordway  
New Jersey State Firemen's Association  
1711 Route 34 South  
Wall Twp, NJ 07727

President Ordway,

On Saturday, January 11, 2025 a hearing was held at the New Jersey Firemen's Home regarding complaints against Hudson County Manager George Heflich for violating N.J.A.C. 8:39-4.1 subsections 5, 12 and 35, and the Board of Managers' Code of Conduct and Ethics.

The hearing was held in public at the request of Mr. Heflich and was presided over by a Municipal Court Judge. Testimony was heard from the victim, witnesses and Mr. Heflich.

As a result of the hearing, the charges against Mr. Heflich were sustained and a guilty verdict was reached. After deliberations, the Board of Managers handed down the following penalty:

- Mr. Heflich is permanently suspended as Manager to the Home and he is to be replaced by his county (Hudson).
- Mr. Heflich is barred from the New Jersey Firemen's Home property for a period of three (3) years.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Hull', with a stylized, flowing script.

Roger Hull  
Secretary

## Room Usage As per Your Request

From: John Veras (jveras@njfh.org)

To: rotterbein@yahoo.com

Cc: rhull@njfh.org

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 11:09 AM EST

Hello Rich,

As per your request at our January meeting, I provide the following:

**Residential Care** - 5 beds occupied - 9 beds available = 14 beds total

**Long Term Care**

Memory Care - 8 beds occupied - 2 beds available = 10 beds

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - 35 beds occupied - 2 beds open (isolation) = 37 beds

1<sup>st</sup> Floor - 32 occupied - 3 beds open (isolation) = 35 beds

Residential 14 beds

LTC 82 beds

TOTAL 96 beds

Census as of today 80

Thanks,

John Veras

Superintendent

The New Jersey Firemen's Home

565 Lathrop Avenue

Boonton, NJ 07005

973-334-0024 x411

## **APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

12/14/2024

The Applications Committee held their meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 9:00 am.

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

Superintendent Veras was in attendance.  
Medical Staff attending was U. Bumgartener

The committee signed two any applications.

Since the last meeting there were no admissions through November 30, 2024.

The monthly census as of 11/30/2024 :

Long Term Care:	74 (includes seven in Lathrop Station).
Residential:	06
Total:	80

Two resident's answered their final alarm.

There were 14 admission applications on the waiting list as of 12/10/24.

Two of the 14 have been approved but want to wait until after the Holidays.

The next meeting will be at the home, on Tuesday January 7, 2025, at 9:00 am..

Respectfully submitted,

Albert E. Freeman II  
Applications Chairperson

## **APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

1/11/2025

The Applications Committee held their meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 9:00 am.

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

Superintendent Veras was in attendance.

Medical Staff attending was U. Bumgartener and A Bundrick

The committee signed one any applications.

Since the last meeting there were no admissions through December 31, 2025

The monthly census as of 12/31/2024 :

Long Term Care:	72 (includes seven in Lathrop Station).
Residential:	05
Total:	77

Two resident's answered their final alarm.

There were 14 admission applications on the waiting list as of 12/31/24.

There was one admission on 1/8/25 and another scheduled for 1/22/25.

The next meeting will be at the home, on Tuesday February 4, 2025, at 9:00 am..

Respectfully submitted,

Albert E. Freeman II  
Applications Chairperson



## APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

2/8/2025

The Applications Committee held their meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 9:00 am.

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

Superintendent Veras was in attendance.

Medical Staff attending was U. Bumgartener and A Bundrick

The committee signed one applications.

Since the last meeting there were three admissions through January 31, 2025.

The monthly census as of 1/31/2025:

Long Term Care:	75 (includes eight in Lathrop
Station).	
Residential:	05
Total:	80

One resident's answered his final alarm.

There were 10 admission applications on the waiting list as of 1/31/25.

The Committee recommended the rejection of one applicant because his conditions were beyond the scope of our treatment ability.

The next meeting will be at the Home, on Tuesday March 4, 2025, at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Albert E. Freeman II  
Applications Chairperson

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE LONG-TERM PLANNING/PROGRAM REVIEW  
COMMITTEE JANUARY 16, 2025**

1)The Meeting of the Special Committee regarding the Health Care Program was called to order by Chairman John Lane with the following members present, President Ordway, Vice President Hankins, Secretary Thomas Pelaia, Second Assistant Secretary Richard Dreby, First Assistant Secretary Martone, Treasurer Edward Mullen, Field Examiner Jennie Hollingsworth Executive Committeemen Larry Handlin, Glenn Roemmich, Daniel Spiegel, Allen Kurdyla, Richard Otterbein. Gerald Naylis, James Reeves: Chairman Lane then called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending this important meeting for our members. He thanked Treasurer Mullen and Field Examiner Hollingsworth for their assistance with the documentation provided for the meeting. Treasurer Mullen then distributed a financial report and proceeded to explain the report to the committee. Executive Committeeman Handlin then mentioned that we need to continue the freeze on Spouses and Assisted Living. He Also mentioned that we need to get Financial Information from the Applicant. Field Examiner Hollingsworth then agreed with Executive Committeeman Handlin with the need for Financial Information from the Applicant. President Ordway then brought up that it will be important to inform the applicant what documents are necessary to be submitted. There was further discussion that what is needed is a Financial Disclosure. Executive Committeeman Otterbein then stated that as he was reviewing the documentation that was distributed, it costs the Association several million dollars. President Ordway then explained the budget and how we receive the money from the Insurance Companies. . President Ordway then explained how and when we receive the money from the Insurance Companies, He stated that we receive the money from the Insurance Companies 2% monies on January 1 and 3% monies quarterly. There then was much discussion regarding the Association's finances and if we can sustain this program. There was much discussion also regarding this with many suggestions. Executive Committeeman Naylis then said that the Health Care program needs to have a means test Executive Committeeman Roemmich then said that we really need to review this and all our programs to see if we can update or if necessary, make changes. Executive Committeeman Kurdyla stated It may have to be the same as the Relief Applications, and it was determined to use the same Financial Disclosure as the Relief Applications. Field Examiner Hollingsworth then brought up a situation that some applicants put the same information year after year, and whereby some applicants could apply for Medicaid. This was discussed. President Ordway then reminded that anything approved by this Committee must then be forwarded to the Executive Committee for final approval, therefore we need to have answers to the Committee's suggestions. He suggests that we meet prior to the next Executive Committee Meeting. There was a recommendation from Executive Committeeman Speigle that we use only one application for Relief, Special, Supplemental and Health Care, The Committee agreed to try it. The Committee all agreed that we need to continue with meetings of this committee and to continue to look at the Spouses and Assisted Living part of the program, and the Complete Program in general. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas J. Pelaia*

**Secretary**

## **Field Exams 2025**

**Union – March 6 – Faitoute Engine Co 601 Laurel Ave Roselle Park, NJ 07204 (NEED 1)**

**-Joseph Mecsey, III, Gene Minell, Richard Otterbein, Glen Roemmich, Larry Handlin, John Lane, William Smith, - Thomas Pelaia, Brian Martone, Jim Kenny, Frank Gunson,**

**Monmouth (B) – March 17<sup>th</sup> – NJSFA**

**- William Smith, Joseph Mecsey, III, Frank Walker, Stephen Fazekas, Joseph Jubert, Glen Roemmich, John Lane- Thomas Pelaia, Brian Martone, Sandy Weinberg, Jim Kenny, Frank Gunson,**

**Salem – March 19 - Carneys Point fire department 258 “D” Street Carneys Point, NJ**

**-Jim Reeves, Joseph Mecsey, III, Glen Roemmich, Dan Speigel, Allen Kurdyla, Cindy Badger, Stephen Fazekas,-Rick Dreby, Neil Gallo, Jim Kenny, Sandy Weinberg, Frank Gunson,**

**Essex – March 24 – West Caldwell Fire Headquarters, 6 Fairfield Avenue, West Caldwell**

**-Larry Handlin, Daniel Scheuer, Joseph Mecsey, III, Gene Minell, Glen Roemmich, John Lane, Allen Kurdyla, - Neil Gallo, Brian Martone, Jim Kenny, Sandy Weinberg, Frank Gunson,**

**Hudson – March 25 - Washington Hook and Ladder 272 County Ave Secaucus NJ (NEED 1)**

**-Joseph Mecsey, III, Gene Minell, Richard Otterbein, Glen Roemmich, John Lane, Nick Florio, William Smith,- Neil Gallo, Thomas Pelaia, Brian Martone, Sandy Weinberg,**

**Morris (A) – March 27 Wharton Firehouse 10 Robert Street Wharton NJ 07885**

**- Richard Otterbein, Glen Roemmich, Larry Handlin, Daniel Scheuer, Joseph Mecsey, III, Nick Florio, Allen Kurdyla, John Lane,- Thomas Pelaia, Brian Martone, Sandy Weinberg, Frank Gunson,**

**Middlesex – April 3 – South River Fire HQ 69 Jackson St South River NJ 08882 (NEED 3)**

**- Glen Roemmich, Joseph Mecsey, III, Robert Kelly, John Lane, Joseph Jubert,-Frank Gunson, Thomas Pelaia, Brian Martone, Jim Kenny,**

**Burlington (A) – April 9 –ES Training Center 53 Academy Dr Westampton NJ 08060**

**-Jim Reeves, Joseph Mecsey, III, Glen Roemmich, Dan Speigel, Nick Florio, Allen Kurdyla, Cindy Badger, Jay Lenarski, Robert Kelly, John Lane,-Frank Gunson, Neil Gallo, Thomas Pelaia, Brian Martone, Jim Kenny, Sandy Weinberg,**

**Warren – April 16 – Washington Boro Firehall 100 Belvidere Ave Washington NJ 07882**

**-Larry Handlin, Daniel Scheuer, Gene Minell, Glen Roemmich, Nick Florio, Richard Otterbein, Allen Kurdyla, Jay Lenarski,-Frank Gunson, Rick Dreby, Neil Gallo, Sandy Weinberg,**

**Makeup Date -April 17 - NJSFA**

**-Joseph Mecsey, III, Glen Roemmich, Dan Speigel, Nick Florio, William Smith, Richard Otterbein, Allen Kurdyla, Jay Lenarski, Stephen Fazekas, Robert Kelly, Jim Reeves, Joseph Jubert,-Frank Gunson, Thomas Pelaia, Brian Martone, Jim Kenny, Sandy Weinberg,**

## **Associations under review**

### **Atlantic**

Associations under review in 2024 from Field Exams

-Linwood

Review for relief applications – 2023

-Pleasantville

### **Bergen**

Review for relief applications - 2022

-Bergenfield, East Rutherford, Ridgefield, Fairview

Review for relief applications – 2023

-Engelwood, Lynhurst, Paramus

Associations under review in 2024 from Field Exams

-Dumont

### **Burlington**

Review for relief applications - 2022

-Bass River

### **Camden**

Associations under review in 2024 from Field Exams

-Clementon, Brooklawn, Stratford, Lawnside, Woodlynne

### **Essex**

Review for relief applications - 2022

-Bloomfield, Maplewood, Irvington

### **Hudson**

Review for relief applications - 2022

-North Bergen, Kearny, West New York

Review for relief applications – 2023

-Hoboken

### **Hunterdon**

Associations under review in 2023 from Field Exams

-West Amwell

### **Middlesex**

Review for relief applications - 2022

-New Brunswick

Review for relief applications – 2023

-Jamesburg, Highland Park

### **Monmouth**

Review for relief applications - 2022

-Asbury Park

Associations under review in 2024 from Field Exams

-Atlantic Highlands, Allentown

### **Morris**

Associations under review in 2024 from Field Exams

-Harding Twp, Hanover Twp, Mine Hill

### **Ocean**

Review for relief applications - 2022

-Mantoloking, Twp of Ocean, Ocean Gate

Review for relief applications – 2023

-Jackson Twsp

### **Somerset**

Review for relief applications - 2022

-Bernardsville Borough

### **Union**

Review for relief applications - 2022

-Hillside

Review for relief applications - 2023

-Westfield