

984th Board of Directors Meeting, May 29, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Jamie DiPace at 19:00

Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Christina Adajian, Bruce Appell, Chip Carpenter, Jeff Bernetich, Dave Bourgoïn, Nancy Crozier, Jamie DiPace, Steve Gwizdak, Tom Post, Jim Speich and Mark Wilson. Excused: Nancy Crozier.

April 24, 2025, board minutes were approved with a motion made by Mark Wilson and seconded by Chip Carpenter. Motion passed.

Communications from Members: None

Board Member Reports:

- Tom Post – reported that the Explorer will be drilling with other town Explorers on June 8, 2025
- Chip Carpenter reported that Mark Wilson and he have found conflicts between AOG's, By-Laws and SOG's. Jamie DiPace suggested they get together with Chief Appell and Chief Speich to go over the ones that pertain to SOG's.
- Tom Reported on the Family Picnic being held at Farmington Polo Grounds. The contract has been signed and the deposit sent out. The event will be on August 27, 2025. A Signup Genius will be sent out to find out who will be attending. Must give a final count two weeks before the event.
- Christina Adajian reported that a flyer has been sent out to Avonfire regarding the Yard Goats family outing.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Gwizdak

- Steve Gwizdak went over the financial report.

Old Business:

- AVFD change to 501c3 – Any new concerns.
 - After discussing the change to 501c3 a motion was made by Dave Bourgoïn and seconded by Tom Post to go forward with this change. Motion passed.
 - President DiPace will send out an email with the By-Law changes for the membership before the next Corporation meeting on June 16, 2025
- Building Committee Update:
 - The next meeting will be on June 24, 2025, at 7 pm at Co. 1. Will be looking at other stages of what the renovations and the new Company 3 look like.
 - The most wanted to the least wanted list was compiled from the meeting held with all the members as follows:
 1. Health & Safety
 2. Operational Safety
 3. Response and accessibility at the stations.
 4. Recruitment and Retention
 5. Training
 6. Equipment Storage
 7. Flexibility and future growth
 8. Living Space
 9. Administration space
 10. Community space

New Business:

- Neighborhood Assistance Grant – President DiPace told the board that he put in the grant for a new boiler at Company 2.
- Board Rep for Insurance – Jeff Bernetich did contact Asst. Chief Ken Sedlak and got all the information on what insurance the department has. He will finalize his report and present it to the board at the next board meeting.
- Vote to remove Gina Kline and Kristen Shaw from the bank accounts. Jeff Bernetich made a motion to remove both Gina and Kristen from the bank accounts with Dave Bourgoin second. Motion passed.
- Vote to approve adding Vice President, Jeff Bernetich and Assistant Treasurer, Christina Adajian to the bank account to be able to sign checks. Chip Carpenter made a motion for this change with Tom Post seconding.

Chief's Report: Chief Bruce Appell

- Critical Items:
 - Need to have a discussion on Safer Grant
 - Need to clarify Tax abatement for members who have 25 years of good service.
 - Finalize a duty shift program.
- Membership Applications: Adults (excluding Explorer), 83 applications 7/1/2022- YTD.
 - 29 applications current fiscal year.
 - Current applications: 3 on hold due to applicants' delays; 5 actively in progress.
 - 22 members have successfully joined: 7 Members in FY 23/24; 8 members in FY 24/25

Other Business:

- Grant Money in 9 month CD is up for renewal and so is the Corporation CD. Steve Gwizdak told the board that he recommends renewing the Corporation CD and changing it from a 9 month to an 18 month CD due to better interest rate and taking the Grant money out of the 9 month CD. Steve made the motion for these changes with Tom Post seconding. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion made by

Meeting adjourned at 21:10

Meeting Schedule:

- Board Meeting June 26, 2025, at Company 1 7:00 p.m.
- Corporation Meeting June 16, 2025, at Company 1 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Grace Bianchi
Board of Directors Clerk