

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org

October 1st, 2025

Berrien County EOC/Dispatch Center

Meeting called to order at 19:04 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

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

Roll call of departments show 9 departments represented with 24 members present. Donations collected during the meal totaled \$116.16.

Minutes for SEPTEMBER were presented . A motion made by Austin Carlson with support from Tom Wicker to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The SEPTEMBER treasurer's report was presented. The checking balance is \$715.71, the money market balance is \$35,717.73, and the car show balance is \$1,062.40, totaling \$37,495.84. A motion was made by Corey Burks with support from Frank DeLaTorre to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Emergency Management:

- ICS 300 trainings Nov 3-5 & Nov. 8-5
- Radiological Emergency Preparedness {REP 101} course Nov. 12th .
- Basic Academy Train the Trainer course planned in Jan. 2026
- EOC Intermediate Operations course in May 2026
- Winter Weather Workshop Oct. 17th 9-2 at BC Health Department office.
- Old communication servers are being phased out making contacts harder to link with chiefs and operations.

Chief's Association:

- Next Meeting October 15th.

Training Committee:

- Make sure you check SMOKE for any updates and trainings. Check trainings verifications a second time for log in year.
- High school class joined Fire/Law/EMT classes for a four-week combination training sessions. 59 students were present. Cadets are seeking support from local departments.
- Adult class packet being sent out (Dec 1st deadline) starting Dec. 13th.

H.A.R.T. : Helping Area Response Teams

- Contacts with the Salvation Army have shown a lot of interest in placing a truck in the Benton Harbor – Niles area. This truck would serve Berrien, parts of Van Buren, and Cass counties. The need for a storage facility for the truck is the main concern for the project to move forward.
- A motion by Corey Burks to donate \$500.00 towards expenses on the supplies for the truck with the support of Austin Carlson. Motion carried.
- Suggestions on changing the name being used following The Salvation Army guidelines. Volunteer applications available.

Resource Directory/Website:

- Still short on department directory updates. View your listings for changes.
- Make sure to check web site for the extensive list of upcoming trainings and events

Sheriff:

- Area has been experiencing many serious crashes lately, some with fatalities. Use extra caution responding and the on scene.
- Offering CPL defensive firearm training to BCFA Firefighters +their families (Hands on)You do not have to apply for a CPL permit to participate in.

Communications/Announcements:

- North Berrien Quarter Auction Oct. 5th.
- Niles Twp. Pancake Breakfast Oct. 12th
- Berrien Springs Pancake Breakfast Oct. 12th (flu shots will be available)
- North Berrien/Hagar Station 75th Anniversary Oct. 18th, 2-4pm.
- Buchanan Twp. Fish Fry Oct. 25th. 3 til ??? (no more fish to fry) get there early

Program for the evening. A presentation and Tours of the EOC, Dispatch Center, and the truck equipment bay area.

Doug Wise with support from Austin Carlson made a motion to close the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 19.34

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Graham

Sec / Treas

The next meeting November 5th,2025

Buchanan City Fire Department

18:30 meal

19:00 meeting