

# **BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

**Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

**Buchanan Twp. Fire Department**

Meeting called to order at 19:12 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

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

Roll call of departments show 15 departments represented with 33 members present  
Donations collected during the meal totaled \$144.

Minutes for NOVEMBER were presented . A motion made by Matt Johnson with support from Tom Wicker to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The NOVEMBER treasurer's report was presented. The checking balance is \$1,313.71, the money market balance is \$35,900.84, and the car show balance is \$1,062.42, totaling \$38,276.97. A motion was made by Corey Burks with support from Matt Johnson to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Chief's Association:**

- Next Meeting December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Training Committee:**

- A CTE student from Edwardsburg was introduced. The CTE class will host a Meet and Greet the Fire Chiefs on December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Make sure you check SMOKE and watch E-Mails for any updates and trainings including Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. (Hoarding Fires Dec.6<sup>th</sup> and Chimney fires Dec.14th) Benton Harbor has a host of listed classes.
- F-I F-II Adult class Orientation on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> with classes starting Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. 19 have preregistered.
- Instructor I class is being planned watch for dates.

### **MITRT5:**

- Not very many active members on the team. Applicants needed to help maintain a team in our area. Call early when needed. Teams may need to travel long distances from the Kalamazoo area when a request is made.

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

- Corey and Dennis have been in contact with Mario and the project is moving forward on equipping and putting the truck in service after trainings have been completed.
- The truck has been delivered to the Benton Harbor Salvation Army location and the storage location for the truck will be at the Safety Building at the fairgrounds.
- Applications are available for helping with assistance getting the Rehab truck to the call when requested. They do provide training to those who qualify. Anyone interested can contact Corey or Dennis for more information.

**Hazmat:**

- Eau Clair and Weesaw received training.
- Work group put together to transfer command structure and equipment to the fire service.
- Those interested in joining the team sign up early and get those trainings done.
- Fire Chief Association will oversee the operation of Hazmat. More information to follow.

**Resource Directory/Website:**

- Still short on department directory updates. View your listings for changes. In a time of need knowing if a department has a certain item on hand locally.
- Check the web site for the updated list of trainings and events.

**New/Old Business:**

- 2026 meeting calendar in preparation, host requests have been sent out and waiting for official confirmation.
- Evaluate how to boost up attendance to monthly meetings, this is for fire fighters to have an open opportunity to get familiarized with local departments, what they have and what you can offer when needed.

Thank you to Chief Jesswein and crew for hosting the meeting at Buchanan Twp.

Annual Christmas auction that followed the meeting raised \$1,569.

Corey Burks with support from Matt Johnson made a motion to close the meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 19.40

Respectfully submitted,  
*Dennis Graham*  
*Sec / Treas*

**The next meeting is January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**D.C. Cook Training Center**

**18:30 meal  
19:00 meeting**