



2023 New Jersey Chapter Report

Membership

Regular 34

Plus 20

Complimentary 1

Total 55

Treasurers Report

Starting on 1-1-23 \$615.85

Ending on 12-31-23 \$724.80

The NJ fire towers started the Fire season early with no snow pack on the ground the towers were being staffed by mid February. With no full time tower operators towers were being staffed by part timers. The towers were staffed until mid November. The towers in the north were staffed about days when the fire danger was moderate or higher. The towers in the central and Southern part of the state saw more time in the towers due to the less precipitation and the type of soil in those areas are more sandy and dry out faster than the Northern part of the state. The State Forest Fire Service saw an increase in their budget so they are planning on hiring some full time tower operators state wide. That happened after had a few major fires thru out the state ranging from 1000 acres in the north part of the state and a few 2000-5000 acre fires in the central and

southern part of the state this year. This year the NJ chapter hosted the summer eastern conference in August. We had members from CA, ID, NH, MA, NY, PA, TN, NC and NJ in attendance. Saturday saw tower visits to Budd Lake, Culvers and Catfish towers in NJ after lunch. Sunday tower tours took us to PA to Grey Towers, the Gifford Pinchot home, to see the restored Mt. Pocono tower, and then it was down to Mt Pocono to see the new one and meet up with PA director Dan Bubnis. The last stop for the day was to the new Bear's Head tower in Delano PA. NJ State Forest Fire Service still maintains 21 fire towers in the state 7 in the north, 8 in the central part and 6 in the southern part of the state. Budd lake fire tower will mark its 100 anniversary this year. Plans are in the work to mark this occasion.

Submitted

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NJ Director

Ray Grimes Jr.

NJ co Director