

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

President
Amor "Skip" Portale
Vice President
Ellsworth Ott
2nd Vice President
Charles "Chuck" Kisby



Secretary
Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer
Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sect./Treasurer
Cindy L. Badger

December 15, 2010

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on December 15, 2010 at the Cardiff Firehouse, hosted by the Bargaintown Vol. Fire Co., by President Amor "Skip" Portale. President Portale pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation and Homily by the Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced President Otaegui of the Bargaintown Vol. Fire Company. President Otaegui welcomed all to Egg Harbor Township and explained that the meeting is being held at the Cardiff firehouse since Bargaintown has just started construction of a new firehouse. Chief Winkler, Cardiff Vol. Fire Co., welcomed all to Cardiff explained that Cardiff VFC was glad to provide the room so that Bargaintown VFC may host the meeting but also had to apologize for the heat being provided by floor units as the main heater failed earlier in the day. Chief Danz, Egg Harbor Twp. Fire Dept., welcomed all to Egg Harbor Township and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Attendance

Roll call was taken by Secretary Robert A. Mellon who reported a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2010 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer, totaling \$134,213.09, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / ING Direct / Bank of America / Hudson City Savings / ING Direct
Checking: \$42,543.88 / Savings: \$503.56 / Savings: \$22,777.83 / 18 Month CD-8286: \$52,444.81 / 12 Month CD: \$10,297.77 / 12 Month CD: \$5,645.24
1.60% - Due 3/1/2011 1.42% - Due 3/8/2011 1.25% - Due 10/12/2011

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for January 7, 2011 in Pomona. Howard offered his, and the Executive Committee's, thanks to the entire association, the committees, and the officers for much hard work and commitment during the year and wished all a Merry Christmas.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for January 10, 2011 at the Fire Training Center.

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Training – Director of Training Michael Corbo reported that the current FFI class will wrap up on December 21 when they take the written test. The FFI class still has two night burns to make up and they will be scheduled when weather allows. Mike reported that an elevator rescue class is scheduled for Sunday December 19th and there is room for more students. A Fire Officer I class is scheduled to start on January 8, 2011 and the next FFI class will start on February 8, 2011. Mike apologized for not yet having the 2011 spring semester class book completed and reported that it will be mailed, emailed, and posted on the website as soon as possible. Mike reported on a rumor that the FFII challenge exam opportunity period may be extended by six months. Mike will notify all if that is confirmed by the NJ DFS. Mike thanked the association, the officers, the executive committee, and the instructors for a good year and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Ed reported that the foam trailer is in service with fluoride protein foam and is housed at the Laureldale Vol. Fire Company. Ed reported that grant opportunities may provide for a supply of AFFF foam. Ed reported that the SOGs for the dispatch of the foam tender task forces (Div. A and Div. B) have been completed and the sheriff's department will dispatch the task forces. Laureldale's tender will respond with the foam trailer to either task force. Ed reported that the overall mutual aid plan for the county, including updated foam tender task forces, has been approved by NJ DFS and will be distributed by the county fire marshal after approved by the county. Ed reported on the cancellation of the December 13 foam drill, that was to have been held in Germania, due to weather. The drill will be rescheduled when weather allows. Ed reported on attending a foam operations course and that he will work on obtaining a grant, through the 2011 Homeland Security Grants, to provide the same training to county firefighters. Ed provided updates on the current and future Homeland Security Grant as well as the Mutual Aid Agreements and the need for all municipalities to sign off on them. Ed reported on the discussions from the last Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assoc. meeting concerning the dispatch of ambulance services on the county fire frequencies in the western half of the county. The chiefs had requested that Ed send a letter to the organizations involved. Ed reported on attending a table top exercise in Atlantic City and the recent visit of the "Patriot Flag" to Atlantic City. Ed reported that a list of all current task force leaders and deputy leaders has been given to the sheriff's department and texting capabilities will be tested. Ed thanked all of the deputy fire coordinators for the hard work and commitment during the year and thanked the association secretary for getting all notices, memos, requests, etc. out via email and posted on the website.

Library – Ron Bird reported that the library is closed until after the holidays and wished all Happy Holidays.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Jim Garth reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 25, 2011 in Absecon. Senator Robert Menendez will send a representative to the meeting.

Legislative – John Wagner reported that he will be meeting with New Jersey Assemblymen next month to discuss the issue of certain solicitation phone calls that prevent disconnection and may hinder an emergency call. John reported that he spoke with President Portale about submitting the names of association members, that have put in many years of service or worked on certain projects, to Congressman LoBiondo's office as they would like to recognize those individuals. John thanked Lefty Clayton and Oscar Dutch with assisting with the auto insurance issues and having attended a JIF meeting. Lefty reported on attending the Atlantic/Cape JIF meeting in November. Lefty was informed by JIF representatives that they do not report certain incidents to other insurance companies. The JIF representatives theorized that a firefighter's personal insurance company may find information about incidents from police reports when they request driver abstracts. In certain situations, the police may check a box on a report that the accident is not reportable and that should prevent it being held against the firefighter's driving abstract. If a surcharge is applied, the best course of action is to submit the police report and an affidavit that the vehicle involved was a municipal fire apparatus.

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NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported on the continuing repairs and maintenance at the home. Oscar wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ACFFA Annual Dinner – Wayne Dilks reported that greater attendance is required if the dinner is to continue to be held at Caremes on the ACCC campus. Wayne will contact them for an April date and menu options.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

The final reading of the proposed Constitution and By-laws revisions and additions were accepted into the record.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association amend the constitution and the bylaws of the association as proposed and read into the record.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$24,046.85, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Atlanticare - \$75.00 / Butterhof's Farm - \$712.50 / Modern Gas - \$338.03 / Lowes - \$182.96 / Payroll - \$17,937.75 / Payroll Taxes - \$3,000.61
Robert A. Mellon, Secretary - \$900.00 / Jaime C. Mellon, Treasurer - \$900.00

Nomination of Officers

The election of officers was held. The positions for the Executive Committee were voted on by ballot. The remaining positions were unopposed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the secretary cast the ballot for all unopposed positions. Those elected to office for the year 2011 are as follows.

President (1)	Amor "Skip" Portale
1 st Vice President (1)	Ellsworth Ott
2 nd Vice President (1)	Charles "Chick" Kisby
Secretary (1)	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer (1)	Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	Cindy L. Badger

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Chaplain (1) Rev. Thomas Sweeny

Sgt.-at-Arms (3) Charles Harlan, William Thomas Hand, Wayne Dilks

Executive Comm. (9) Howard Berchtold Jr., Oscar Dutch Jr., C. Robert Winkler III
Ronald Bird Jr., James Garth Sr., Ted Reinhard, R. Thomas Hunter Jr.
Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Charles J. Guenther

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership to act upon.

Good of the Order

Thank you to the Bargaintown Vol. Fire Co. for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments and to the Cardiff Vol. Fire Co. for providing the room.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year to all.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:30. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on January 19, 2011 in Egg Harbor City. This meeting includes the annual memorial service of the association. Please submit the names of those that have passed during 2010 to Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz so that they may be included in the memorial service program. Please plan on attending the meeting and service in full class A dress uniform.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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Date Clearing

Tues. Jan. 25, 2011	20:00	Absecon VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Thurs. Jan. 27, 2011	20:00	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund
Sat. Apr. 9, 2011	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. Nov. 12, 2011	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner

(Please email your event info to robert.mellon@atlanticcountyfireassoc.org)

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Proposal for Addition

"Constitution, Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of the State of New Jersey".

NEW

ARTICLE X

Proposed:

SECTION 3: DISSOLUTION Upon dissolution of the association, the association's assets shall be disposed of exclusively for the purposes of the association or distributed to such organizations, or departments of local government, organized and operated exclusively for fire and emergency services within Atlantic County, New Jersey. Dissolution must be approved by a majority vote of the member fire companies' delegates at two consecutive monthly meetings.

Respectfully submitted;

By-laws Committee
Friday, September 10, 2010

First Reading
Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Second Reading
Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Voted and Adopted
Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Effective
Saturday, January 1, 2011

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Proposal for Revision and Addition

"By-Laws, Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of the State of New Jersey".

REVISION

ARTICLE V ELIGIBILITY OF OFFICERS

Section 4

Current: To be re-elected to any position, a member must have attended at least 2/3 of the regular meetings during the previous year. Executive Committee members and Administrative Officers must also attend at least 2/3 of the Executive Committee meetings.

Proposed: *To be re-elected to any position, a member must have attended at least fifty percent (50%) of the regular meetings during the previous year. Executive Committee members and Administrative Officers must also attend at least fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Committee meetings. The attendance requirement for re-election may be waived by recommendation of the Executive Committee and a majority vote of the association at a regular meeting. The Executive Committee shall only make such a recommendation after reviewing acceptable extenuating circumstances that have prevented an officer or committee member from fulfilling their obligations during the prior year. The Executive Committee may make such recommendation to the association without specific explanation if needed to provide appropriate privacy to the officer or committee member requesting that attendance requirements be waived.*

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