

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

President  
Amor "Skip" Portale  
Vice President  
Ellsworth Ott  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Charles "Chuck" Kisby



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

May 18, 2011

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on May 18, 2011 at the Bayview Vol. Fire Co. by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## Opening Remarks

Asst. Chief MacIntosh of the Bayview Volunteer Fire Company was introduced. Asst. Chief MacIntosh welcomed all to the Bayview in Galloway Township.

## 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 Apr. 20, 2011 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 \$133,132.24, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / ING Direct / ING Direct / Parke Bank  
Checking: \$25,995.44 / Savings: \$27,571.94 / Savings: \$50,890.53 / 12 Month CD: \$5,674.33 / 13 Month CD: \$23,000.00  
/ 1.25% - Due 10/12/2011 / 1.35% - Due 5/6/2012

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the May 6, 2011 meeting of the executive committee was held at Whitey Swartz's Fire Museum and thanked both Joy and Whitey for their hospitality. Howard summarized the minutes of the May 6, 2011 meeting of the executive committee. Howard thanked Wayne Dilks for spearheading the annual ACFFA dinner and thanked Whitey Swartz for spearheading the annual valor awards and 50+ years of service presentations. Howard reported that a framed photo of Ted Reinhard receiving special recognition at the April meeting was presented to him at the executive committee meeting. Howard reported that Ted thanked everyone for the recognition he received. Howard read the entire training report from the minutes of the executive committee meeting since Director of Training Mike Corbo was not in attendance at tonight's regular meeting due to the need to instruct a class at the academy. "Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo distributed and reviewed the Tuition Outstanding report. Mike distributed and reviewed the Spring 2011 Semester Recap report. Mike reported that straw prices have increased from \$4.50 to \$6.25 per bale. Mike reported on the ongoing approved capital purchases. Mike reported on the current Fire Academy status and ongoing instructor gear replacement plans. Mike reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> engine is at the county garage for repairs and lettering and then

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will go to Lee's Emergency Equipment for valve and primer repairs. The 2<sup>nd</sup> engine has been received at the fire academy and is being cleaned and setup. Some equipment is still needed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> engine. Mike reported that Joe's Salvage has picked up the ground ladders that failed inspection and dropped off cars for the extrication class. Joe's Salvage will replace the car on the propane pad and remove the airplane fuselage in the near future. Mike reported that new instructors will be added to the rolls later this year. Mike reported that the Atlantic City FD plans to hold a trainee class, possibly in August. Mike Corbo and Rob Winkler reported on their trip to the Fire Dept. Instructor Conference (FDIC). Holmatro will still provide a trailer of equipment for the extrication classes when scheduled. The trailer will no longer be stored in Atlantic County. Mike reported on a recent complaint received from a member of the public concerning the smoke conditions during training recently. A woman complained, via email, that smoke crossing the soccer fields triggered her son to have an asthma attack and was subsequently not allowed to play in the game. Her request, or demand, was that training not be conducted on weekends. At the request of county officials, Vince Jones and Jerry DelRosso, Mike contacted the woman by phone and explained the needs of firefighter training and the scheduling necessities of volunteer firefighters. An attempt will be made to attempt to coordinate live fire training and local youth games and notation was made that smoke does not travel in that direction the vast majority of the time. All information of the complaint and actions will be kept on file. Whitey recommended that the old roll top desk in the instructor office, belonging to this association, be sold so as to create more shelving storage. Tom Hunter questioned Mike about attendance records for some recently held state CEU courses. Mike reported that records have been corrected and might take some time to show up on state reports." Howard reported that the Atlantic County 4H Fair is scheduled for Aug. 11, 12, and 13 and ACFFA will continue with public relations/fire prevention booth, poster contest, and firefighter challenge. Howard reported that plans for the firefighter competition need to be finalized ASAP so that details can be sent to all departments by June 1. Howard reported on the need to adopt a "Conflict of Interest Policy" as required by the IRS 501(c)3 requirements. A standard policy draft has been completed and will be distributed with the minutes and posted on the website for review and comments from the membership. A vote to adopt the policy should be conducted at either the June or July meetings. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is on July 8, 2011 and is hosted by the Landisville Vol. Fire Company.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold Jr. highlighted some of the details from the May 9, 2011 meeting of the board. Howard reported that Whitey Swartz and Mike Corbo have completed cleaning up the training center and making routine repairs. Howard reported that plans are being laid out to start the process of getting training center expansion plans back on the county agenda. The next meeting of the board is on July 11, 2011.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported Buena Boro, Buena Vista Township, and Egg Harbor City have all switch to Gloucester County's central dispatch and Mullica Township will switch to Galloway Township dispatch. Ed reported that Atlantic County is still pursuing central dispatch options and those that signed five or ten year contracts with Gloucester County have an option to withdraw when Atlantic County starts central dispatch and they file a one year notification. Ed reported that the radio policy committee has completed a draft policy for review of all the county fire chiefs and it will be distributed so that comments can be prepared for the May 26 meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs Association. Ed reported on the Atlantic County workgroup for the Homeland Security Grants. The FY2009 procurements include a foam trailer, equipment, and two 7ft. x 12 ft. trailers (one for LDH equipment to be housed in Oceanville and one for Fire Police to be housed in Absecon). The FY2010 spending plan has been approved and bids are being accepted for two 7 ft. x 16 ft. trailers (one each for Tender Task Force A and Tender Task Force B). The FY2011 grant proposals include two flatbed trailers for the foam totes. Ed reported that the FY2011 grant allotments have been reduced 33% by the State of NJ and all proposals have to be reevaluated and prioritized. Ed reported that Atlantic County has received a DOT grant that will allow the training of one hundred firefighters as foam technician level I and that the training must be scheduled by September 2011. Nicole Benowitz will coordinate the training with Mike Corbo and notice will be sent out when scheduled. Ed reported that the fire coordinators responded to the April fire at Absecon Mills in Galloway Township. Ed reported that all

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of the recent task force drills had been canceled due to various reasons. Ed reported that the county has confirmed that insurance coverage is in place for fire coordinators as long as they follow proper radio sign on and activity procedures. Ed reported that the county has identified insurance issues with all county volunteers, emergency and non-emergency, and will cover all county volunteers after they fill out the proper paperwork. Ed reported that the mutual aid books have been updated and are currently being distributed directly to individuals who will sign for receiving their companies copy. The current cover letter states that Whitey or Ed should be contacted when there are changes. That will change when each deputy fire coordinator is assigned to be liaison to a group of companies. When that is done a list of the deputies and the companies they will work with will be distributed. Ed reported on the recent memo concerning temporary mutual aid shuffling for tower ladders since two in the county were out of service. Both those tower ladders are back in service and Longport has reported that their rescue boat is out of service with a blown motor. Ed reported that Atlantic City will host a Dave Matthews concert over three days on June 24, 25, and 26. Due to expected high attendance, the county EOC will be activated on each day from 10:00 until 02:00 and participation of all county EOC participants is expected.

**Fire Marshal / Public Relations** – Fire Marshal Harold “Whitey” Swartz reported that he has the updated mutual aid plans for each company along with the sign off sheet for those receiving it for their company. Whitey reported that the Atlantic County 2010 Fire Department run report has been completed and is being distributed. Only Newtownville Vol. Fire Company No. 3 of Buena Vista Township failed to file any reports. Whitey reported that the “Current” newspaper ran photos of those receiving recognition for 50+ years of service at the April meeting of the association. Whitey reported that he has received confirmation that a piece of World Trade Center steel has been awarded to the association for placement at the training center. Whitey reported that the county will provide transportation for the steel. Whitey reported that he has started working on plans for a ceremony to be held in September to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 events and hopefully a dedication of the completed memorial with the World trade center steel. Whitey reported that a date will need to be set, Atlantic County government is fully onboard and supports the preliminary plans and so is the Galloway Township Fire Department. Whitey will form a committee to start getting all of the details ironed out.

**Training** – Instructor Billy Merola reported that all classes are going well even though many have been rescheduled due to bad weather.

**Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association** – Charles “Chick” Kisby reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association will be on May 26, 2011 in Northfield.

**NJ Firemen's Assn.** – Henry Schoenstein reported that a convention expense increase has been approved. Henry reported that the food and fuel expense categories will remain the same but the lodging expense has been increased by \$25.00 and that expenses will be calculated per convention session instead of per night. The Atlantic County Caucus is on August 16 at the Egg Harbor firehouse. The convention is on September 16 and 17 in Wildwood.

**Legislative** – John Wagner reported that he will have a written report at a future meeting of the association.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch reported on the continuing upgrades and repairs at the home and the savings realized by self contracting. Oscar requested information from Henry Schoenstein about the NJ Firemen's Association. Ed Vincent reported that he recently visited and toured the home with Oscar. Ed reported that it is an excellent facility and very well run.

**Central Dispatch** – Oscar Dutch reported that the county has toured five possible locations for central dispatch and expense proposals are being prepared for each location for comparison. Oscar reported that the county central dispatch committee will be visiting the Gloucester County central dispatch.

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**NJ Firemen's Assn.** – Henry Schoenstein reported the 2% checks were electronically distributed on May 13, 2011. Henry reported that the burial benefit has been raised \$300 for a total death benefit of \$10,000 or \$30,000 for a line of duty death. Henry reported that the initial application physical form validity has been extended from 90 days to 180 days. Henry reported that the Atlantic County Caucus is scheduled for Aug. 16, 2011 at the Egg Harbor City firehouse and the convention is scheduled for Sep. 16 and 17 in Wildwood. Henry reminded all that a copy of each local's IRS form 990 needs to be filed with the NJ Firemen's Assn. office.

**ACFFA Dinner** – Wayne Dilks reported that the dinner was well attended and the food was excellent. All those in attendance enjoyed the company and the food.

## Communications

Received modified FCC license.

## Deferred Business

Secretary Robert A. Mellon reported that final approval has been received from the FCC for modification of the current Land Mobile Radio licenses to include narrowband emission.

## New Business

There was no new business to act on.

## Bills

The bills, totaling \$6,563.91, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Walt's Primo Pizza - \$1,017.63 (class lunches, March – May 2011) / Lowes - \$101.16 (tools) / Butterhof's - \$712.50 (straw) / MES - \$2,656.02 (Scott Air-Pak certification class, equipment, equipment maintenance) / International Society of Fire Service Instructors - \$67.50 (membership FDIC) / Mike Corbo - \$1,509.01 (reimburse FDIC attendance expense for Mike Corbo and Chad Warmoth) / Modern Gas – \$441.24 (propane) / Whitey Swartz - \$37.45 (frames for valor awards and fifty year service recognition) / Billy Merola - \$21.40 (four stop watches)

## Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

## Good of the Order

Dennis Sharpe reported on the recent visit by Senator Menendez to Absecon Mills that was attended by local dignitaries and representatives of the fire departments that responded to the fire there in April. Skip Portale reported that the owners of Absecon Mills have been personally thanking all fire departments that assisted with battling the fire.

Billy Merola reported on the news reports of the 9/11 Flag visit to Atlantic City recently. The first he, and many others, heard of this event was in the news after the event took place.

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Whitey Swartz reported on excessive costs for the frames used for certificates when purchased through This & That Uniforms. Whitey reported that Tom Sweeney can get the same frame at a much better price and all future frames will be purchased from him.

Ed Vincent thanked the association for the recognition he received for achieving 50+ years of active service.

Whitey Swartz reported that any chief that has a member achieving 50+ (or previously achieved and not yet recognized) years of active service should send notification to the Fire Marshal's office and not to wait until next year, so as to not forget. A file of submissions will be kept and the submitting chiefs will be contacted next year before the April meeting to confirm that the member is still with the company.

Thank you to the Bayview Vol. Fire Company for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

## Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:15. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on June 15, 2011 at the Milmay Vol. Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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## Date Clearing

Sat. May 21, 2011	09:00	Nesco VFC	Craft & Vender Show
Sat. May 21, 2011	11:00	Hammonton VFC #2	4th Annual Second-2-None Motorcycle Run
Sat. May 21, 2011	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner
Thurs. May 26, 2011	20:00	Northfield FD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Sat. Jun. 4, 2011	09:00	Elwood VFC	Biker Bash 2011
Sat. Jun. 4, 2011	13:00	Cologne VFC	51 <sup>st</sup> Annual Chicken BBQ 13:00-20:00
Sun. Jun. 5, 2011	12:00	Dorothy VFC	54th Annual Chicken BBQ 12:00 -18:00
Wed. Jun. 15, 2011	20:00	Milmay VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Sat. Jul. 9, 2011	18:00	The Watering Hole	Weymouth VFC - 2nd Annual Beef & Beer
Wed. Jul. 20, 2011	20:00	Linwood FD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Sat. Jul. 23, 2011	18:00	Farmington VFC	Bargaintown & Farmington Present Wine & Cheese
Tues. Jul. 26, 2011	20:00	Estell Manor VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Thurs. Jul 28, 2011	20:00	Somers Point VFC #1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.
Thurs. Aug. 11, 2011	16:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds	ACFFA @ Atlantic County 4H Fair
Fri. Aug. 12, 2011	16:00	Atl. Co. 4H Fairgrounds	ACFFA @ Atlantic County 4H Fair
Fri. Aug. 12, 2011	19:00	Atl. Co. 4H Fairgrounds	ACFFA Firefighter Competition @ Atlantic County 4H Fair
Sat. Aug. 13, 2011	09:00	Atl. Co. 4H Fairgrounds	ACFFA @ Atlantic County 4H Fair
Tues. Aug. 16, 2011	19:30	Egg Harbor City Firehouse	NJ State Firemen's Assn. Atlantic County Caucus
Wed. Aug. 17, 2011	20:00	Weymouth VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Fri. Sep. 16, 2011	13:00	Wildwood Conv. Ctr.	NJ State Firemen's Assn. Convention - Registration 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Sat. Sep. 17, 2011	10:00	Wildwood Conv. Ctr.	NJ State Firemen's Assn. Convention - Registration 7:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Wed. Sep. 21, 2011	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Thurs. Sep. 29, 2011	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Sat. Oct. 1, 2011	10:00	Smithville	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest (Foot-Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries) (10:00 - 17:00)
Sat. Oct. 1, 2011	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sun. Oct. 2, 2011	10:00	Smithville	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest (Foot-Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries) (10:00 - 17:00)
Wed. Oct. 19, 2011	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Sat. Nov. 12, 2011	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Wed. Nov. 16, 2011	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Tues. Nov. 29, 2011	20:00	Linwood FD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Wed. Dec. 21, 2011	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jan. 18, 2012	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Thurs. Jan. 26, 2012	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.
Tues. Jan. 31, 2012	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Wed. Feb. 15, 2012	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

(Please email your event info to [robert.mellon@atlanticcountyfireassoc.org](mailto:robert.mellon@atlanticcountyfireassoc.org))