

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

August 17, 2011

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on August 17, 2011 at the Weymouth Vol. Fire Company 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

Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. asked all to remember those that have recently passed, including Absecon Firefighter Arthur Madge and Egg Harbor City Firefighter Frank DeClementi Sr., and to remember the 343 Firefighters, 60 Police Officers, and nearly 4,000 people that died during the terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001 as the tenth anniversary of those events is approaching. Howard also noted that Elwood Firefighter William "Bill" Kennedy is not doing well. Howard asked that everyone keep these firefighters and their families in their hearts and prayers. The Lord's Prayer was recited by all in unison.

President Portale introduced Chief John Carrigan of the Weymouth Vol. Fire Company. Chief Carrigan welcomed all to the Weymouth Vol. Fire Company and Hamilton 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 July 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 \$116,975.12, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America	/	Bank of America	/	ING Direct	/	ING Direct	/	Parke Bank
Checking: \$59,616.96	/	Savings: \$7,598.75	/	Savings: \$20,989.48	/	12 Month CD: \$5,692.12	/	13 Month CD: \$23,077.81
					/	1.25% - Due 10/12/2011	/	1.35% - Due 5/6/2012

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is on September 2, 2011 and will be hosted by the Absecon Vol. Fire Department.

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Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the board is scheduled to be held on September 12, 2011. The continuing discussion of how to expand the training center will be on the agenda.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported that the Atlantic City Airshow held today went well. The news reported approximately 800,000 in attendance. Ed reported that the ACFD handled five calls not related to the airshow and that EMS had approximately twelve calls during the event. Ed reported on all of the southern New Jersey fire departments that sent equipment and boats to the airshow for standby. Ed reported that Tanker Task Force Alpha held a drill, hosted by Port Republic Vol. Fire Co., to demo the Turbo-Draft. Ed reported that the equipment works well and appears to be a worthwhile investment. Ed reported on the foam classes scheduled for Aug. 20 and 21. There are two classes allowing for fifty students each day. Currently enrollment is low. Foam Technician Level 1 certification will be issued for those attending. The class is covered by a NJ DOT grant. Thanks to Nicole Benowitz for applying for the grant and completing all of the required paperwork. Laureldale Vol. Fire Co. will have the foam trailer at both classes. Ed reported on the current status of the 2010 Homeland Security Grant and the ongoing cuts to the 2011 grant. Ed reported that planning has started for the 2012 grant even though the political status of it happening is in question. Ed reported that the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) application window is now open. Ed thanked all of the fire coordinators that were able to assist at the Atlantic County 4H Fair. Ed reminded all that departments sending equipment to Wildwood need to arrange for appropriate home area coverage and to be safe and have a good time in Wildwood.

Training – Director of Training, Mike Corbo reported on the Firefighter Competition held at the 4H Fair. Dennis Sharpe had a slideshow of photos from the competition playing. Mike reported that a preliminary competition was held the Wednesday before the fair and the final four teams competed at the fair. The final trophy winners were; Overall – Germania, Hose Relay – Germania, Obstacle Course – Germania, and Water Rocket – Cologne. Mike hopes that more teams compete next year and that the preliminary competition becomes a must see event in itself. Each participating team received a commemorative bobble head. Mike thanked all of the instructors that assisted with the competition and helped make it run smoothly. Mike reported that more firefighters should sign up for the foam classes on Aug. 20 and 21 and that the classes are rain or shine. Mike reported that the summer FFI class is taking their test this week and the fall FFI class starts on Tues. Aug. 23 with fifteen signed up so far. FFII will start on Sep. 12th. The course books have been printed and will be mailed. The book has been emailed and is online. Mike reported on classes scheduled for the fall semester including a Fire Investigation class. Mike reported on attending a ProBoard Certification meeting in Camden County. There will not be an additional \$15.00 fee for FFI students as previously reported. There will be an undetermined fee for current firefighters wishing to take the written and skills test for ProBoard Certification. The southern New Jersey ProBoard Certifications will be for FFI and FFII at this time and more certifications may be added in the future.

Library – Ron Bird reported that he has been working in the US Virgin Islands and will get the library up and running again soon.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Chick Kisby reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association will be on September 29, 2011 in Nesco.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein thanked everyone for attending the Atlantic County Caucus on August 16 at the Egg Harbor City firehouse and for supporting him for another term as the Atlantic County Executive Committeeman. Henry reminded all that the convention is scheduled for 1:00 PM September 16 and 10:00 AM September 17 in Wildwood.

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Atlantic County 4H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that the fair was packed and the weather was greater than anticipated. The ACFFA booth had the 2011 NFPA fire prevention theme (Protect Your Family From Fire) and a pictorial tribute to the firefighters who perished on 9/11/2011. The poster contest, also using the 2011 NFPA theme, went very well with posters on display and winners were presented with trophies. The committee included Whitey Swartz, Ellsworth Ott, Dennis Sharpe, Sparky (aka Dave Buzby), and Howard Berchtold. Ed Vincent, Oscar Dutch, and Ron Bird provided great assistance at the ACFFA booth. A large amount of fire prevention material was distributed including several cases of the red plastic fire helmets that are always popular. Departments/Companies that displayed apparatus during the fair included: Northfield, Mizpah, Mays Landing, Somers Point #2, Laureldale, Oceanville, and South Egg Harbor. Laureldale also did an extrication demo. The firefighter competition was held Friday night and run by the instructors under direction of Mike Corbo. Laureldale provided a sound system and Bargaintown provided apparatus support. Howard reported that at least three hundred spectators watched the firefighter competition. A preliminary runoff was held prior to the fair with six teams competing for the four team finals to be held at the fair. Participating were teams from Linwood, Cardiff, Germana, Cologne, Laureldale, and Mays Landing. The four top scoring teams competing at the fair were Germana, Cologne, Laureldale, and Mays Landing. The overall winner (also first place in the Hose Relay and Obstacle Course events) at the fair was Germana. Cologne placed first in the Water Rocket event. Howard again repeated much thanks for all on the committee, those who assisted at the fair, all fire departments/companies providing apparatus and support at the fair, the instructors for running the competition, and all teams participating in the competition.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

President Portale reported that Buena Vista Twp. Fire Dept. will carry the ACFFA banner at the Wildwood parade and that the requested lineup is as follows.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. Buena Vista Twp. | 6. Dorothy, Weymouth Twp. | 11. Longport | 16. Hamilton Twp. |
| 2. Port Republic | 7. Linwood | 12. Mullica Twp. | 17. Swartz Fire Museum |
| 3. Buena Boro | 8. Somers Point | 13. Egg Harbor Twp. | 18. Remaining Atl. Co. Units |
| 4. Absecon | 9. Estell Manor | 14. Northfield | as submitted directly to Parade Committee |
| 5. Galloway Twp. | 10. Hammonton | 15. Egg Harbor City | |

Online registration still required at <http://www.njfireexpo.com/parademain.htm>

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association sponsor two trophies for the Memorial Parade in Wildwood.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$3,325.14, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Brown & Brown - \$789.04 (auto insurance) / Brown & Brown - \$1,400.49 (general liability insurance) / Thomas Sweeny - \$256.00 (4H Fair poster and firefighter competition trophies) / Mike Corbo - \$71.35 (welding equip. and kerosene) / ISFSI - \$125.00 (Director Corbo membership renewal) / Staples - \$69.51 (office supplies) / Payroll Correction - \$571.85 (1/2 year payroll) / Payroll Taxes Correction - \$41.90 (1/2 year payroll taxes)

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Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership to act on.

Good of the Order

Oscar Dutch reported that a drill is being planned at Viking Yacht, in New Gretna, on October 8, 2011. There will be a planning meeting on August 22, 2011 in New Gretna. There will be release forms required by Viking Yacht at the meeting.

Billy Merola reported that Robert Mellon is once again raising funds and participating in the annual MS150 City to Shore Bike Ride on September 24 and 25. Billy requested that everyone who can should support this fundraising effort. President Portale reminded all that even though the association cannot directly support outside efforts of its members, the association does encourage all members to participate, or support those that do, in all recognized charitable and community efforts.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on September 21, 2011 at the Hammonton Vol. Fire Dept. Sta. 1 on Front Street.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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Date Clearing

Sat. Sep. 10, 2011	09:00	Nesco VFC	Flea Market/Craft and Vender Show
Sat. Sep. 10, 2011	15:30	Weekstown VFC	Annual Pig Roast 15:30 – 19:00
Sun. Sep. 11, 2011	11:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	9/11 Atlantic County 10 th Anniversary Ceremony
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.
October Fri. Sat., & Sun.	18:00	Scullville VFC	Haunted Hayride at Flemings Junkyard (Firefighter ID gets \$1 off Sep. 30 Opening Night)
October Fri., and Sat.	19:00	Nesco VFC	Haunted House and Haunted Hayride 19:00-23:00 Oct. 7,8,14,15,21,22,28,29
Sat. Oct. 1, 2011	10:00	Smithville	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest (Foot-Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries) (10:00 - 17:00)
Sat. Oct. 1, 2011	12:00	Nesco	1 st Annual Operation Vets Chili Challenge
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)
Sun. Oct. 2, 2011	14:00	Bargaintown VFC	4 th Annual Phoenix Fund Golf Outing – Mays Landing Golf & Country Club
Sat. Oct 8, 2011	08:30	Elwood VFC	10 th Annual Golf Tournament – Green Tree Golf Course, Mays Landing
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.
Sat. Dec. 10, 2011	19:00	Hammonton VFD	Annual Christmas Parade & Block Party – Reg. @ 17:30, Parade @ 19:00
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)