

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

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



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

January 18, 2012

Call to Order

The annual reorganizational meeting and memorial service of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on January 18, 2012 at the Egg Harbor City Vol. Fire Dept. by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with the 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

Chief Walter "Butch" Kienzle III, of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department, welcomed the membership and guests to Egg Harbor City and conveyed the pride felt by this department as it annually hosts the first meeting of the year for the association. Chief Kienzle then introduced the line officers of the fire department. Chief Kienzle then introduced Mayor Joseph A. Kuehner Jr. who then introduced Council Members Hazel Mueller, Elizabeth "Betty" Schoenstein, Joseph Speyerer, and Dennis Munoz. Mayor Kuehner welcomed all to Egg Harbor City and reported that the city is proud to host the county firefighters every year since the association was founded.

In Attendance

President Portale welcomed and introduced guests; Robert Geist on behalf of Congressman Frank LoBiondo, Atlantic County Freeholders: Chairman Frank Formica, Vice Chairman Frank Giordano, James Bertino, Alexander Marino, John Risley, and Frank Sutton; Atl. Co. Surrogate: James Curcio, Atl. Co. Fire Marshall: Harold "Whitey" Swartz, Atlantic County Fire Academy Director of Training: Michael Corbo, and Atlantic County Fire Coordinator: Edward Vincent.

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 December 21, 2011 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Dispensing of Regular Business

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the remainder of the regular business except for the paying of the bills.

Paying of Bills

The bills, totaling \$5,808.96, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Trox Fire Company - \$4,000.00 (forcible entry training device) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$80.00 (training food) / Mike Corbo - \$39.44 (reimburse for propane & gasoline) / Tom Sweeny - \$50.00 (two appreciation plaques) / Skip Portale - \$18.18 (reimburse for tickets) / Continental Fire Safety - \$116.00 (light bracket) / Careme's Restaurant (ACCC) - \$100.00 (ACFFA annual dinner deposit) / Lowes - \$152.72 (materials for workbench) / Modern Gas - \$1,180.12 (propane) / Staples - \$72.50 (office supplies- public relations)

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Annual Memorial Service

President Amor "Skip" Portale welcomed all to the annual Memorial Service. The annual memorial services were conducted by the Memorial Committee with Chaplain Reverend Thomas Sweeny giving the invocation and homily, everyone reciting the "A Fireman's Prayer" in unison, the memorial candles being lit by First Vice President Ellsworth Ott and Second Vice President Charles "Chick" Kisby, and the bell being tolled by Charles J. Guenther as Secretary Robert A. Mellon read the roll of the Firefighters of Atlantic County who answered their last alarm during the past year.

Firefighters of the Final Roll were:

ABSECON

James Fogle
Arthur W. Madge

ATLANTIC CITY

Orville A. Braithwaite
James W. Brennan
William J. Channell
Robert J. Davis
Gary L. Evans
Robert Irving King
Donald Mankow
Gerald E. Roche
Thomas C. Thatch

BARGAIN TOWN

Joseph Franz Bohle
Justin Edward Ernst

BAYVIEW

William E. Bigelow, Jr.

BRIGANTINE

John B. Byrnes

COLLINGS LAKES

Norman W. Devries, II

DOROTHY

Ellwood E. Seelman

EAST VINELAND

Herbert L. Bylone
Joseph A. Santini

EGG HARBOR CITY

Frank J. DeClementi, Sr.
Barry Kienzle

ELWOOD

William H. Kennedy

FARMINGTON

Ruth Marietta Myers

FOLSOM

Edward Gandolfi

HAMMONTON

Sam J. Cappuccio
Peter P. DeMarco
Charles A. Gazzara

LAURELDALE

Michael Pencak

LINWOOD

Bill S. Bartlett

Paul R. String

MAYS LANDING

Mack C. Harris

Kevin M. Thelen

MINOTOLA

Olin D. Ralph, Jr.

NORTHFIELD

James A. Nyilas, Sr.

OCEANVILLE

Nelson "Dale" Blackman

PLEASANTVILLE

Paul J. Baumgartel
Walter W. Jenkins

Wilmer H. Childs

PORT REPUBLIC

Carl Wilson, Sr.

RICHLAND

Edward J. Tetz, Sr.

SOMERS POINT

Joseph A. Mackin

SWEETWATER

Frederic C. Lott
Michael S. Morse, Sr.

VENTNOR

James R. Culbertson

WEST ATLANTIC CITY

William K. Smith

"The Lord's Prayer" was sung by Howard Berchtold Jr., "Taps" was played by Bugler Heather Berchtold, followed by the playing of "Amazing Grace" by the Sandpipers. The memorial service closing prayer was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

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Installation of Officers for 2012

All of the invited guests addressed the membership and expressed their appreciation for all that the firefighters do for their local communities and for Atlantic County. Robert Geist expressed the regards sent by Congressman Frank LoBiondo, who was unable to attend. Atlantic County Freeholder Chairman Frank Formica conveyed thanks on behalf of himself and Atlantic County government including County Executive Dennis Levinson, who was unable to attend. Atlantic County Freeholder Vice Chairman Frank Giordano commented on the dedication of the firefighters of this organization including a conversation he just had with Ted Reinhard where he learned that Ted made the memorial service display holding the candles. President Portale noted that Freeholder Frank Sutton serves on the Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board and is the liaison between the county fire service and county government. For that, President Portale thanked Freeholder Sutton. Atlantic County Fire Academy Director of Training Michael Corbo conveyed thanks and reported that the Firefighter I class starts on Thursday February 9th and the 2011 Summer and Fall FFI and FFII graduation ceremony is scheduled for Sunday January 29th at 9:00 AM. Atlantic County Fire Coordinator Edward Vincent offered condolences to the families of the forty-five firefighters that passed in 2011. Fire Coordinator Vincent conveyed thanks, on behalf of himself and the Deputy Fire Coordinators, and acknowledged all of the assistance received from the county fire chiefs in 2011 and that he and the Deputy Coordinators look forward to working with them in 2012.

Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. welcomed all those in attendance to the annual meeting and memorial service on behalf of the Executive Committee. Howard thanked all of the association officers and committee chairmen for the hard work that they do. Howard thanked all of the county government, including the Freeholders and the Dept. Heads, which have provided much assistance with keeping the association going strong. Howard offered thanks to all Atlantic County firefighters for their continued dedication and those that are regularly attending the meetings of this association as either members or delegates allowing the business of the association to be accomplished. Howard noted that he is proud to have again been elected to his 17th year as Chairman of the Executive Committee and that Oscar Dutch Jr. has been elected Vice Chairman. Howard reported that Charles Guenther has been serving many decades on the Executive Committee and that two new members have joined the committee this year, David G. Buzby from Linwood FD and Levon "Lefty" Clayton from Longport VFC.

Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that two members left the Executive Committee at the end of 2011. Chairman Berchtold and President Portale presented Ronald Bird, Jr. a plaque from the officers and members of this association honoring fifteen years of service on the Executive Committee. Ron served on the committee from 1997 through 2011. Chairman Berchtold and President Portale presented a plaque from the officers and members of this association to Ted Reinhard honoring twenty-one years of service on the Executive Committee. Ted served on the committee from 1976 to 1981 and from 1997 through 2011. President Portale also congratulated Ted for the many years he served as the unofficial procurement officer and noted the many donations of equipment Ted was able to obtain.

President Amor "Skip" Portale read the following statement.

"Good evening and welcome to the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association Annual Memorial Service and 88th annual reorganization meeting, all of which have been hosted by the Egg Harbor City Fire Department. As we begin 2012 let us look back at 2011 and some of the accomplishments that were achieved keeping in mind that none of this would have been possible without the assistance of Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson and his staff, as well as the Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with the Director of Fire Training: Mike Corbo, the dedicated staff of instructors, and the Fire Academy Director: Whitey Swartz; and for that we thank them.

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As you are aware, the primary duty of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association is to provide training to all the firefighters from Atlantic County. In 2011 one hundred twelve new firefighters were trained. This year's class included firefighters from Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem, Ocean, Camden, and Gloucester counties.

In 2011 the Firefighters' Association held over 67 different classes with an enrollment of 2,002 students. Of that, 429 students were from out of county. The total number of instructor hours for 2011 was 3,295.

Once again, we were able to operate within our budget. We hosted the 10th anniversary of 9/11. We conducted the annual memorial service to honor our fallen firefighters as well as honoring firefighters from Atlantic County with fifty or more years of service. We once again sponsored the annual valor awards ceremony as well as the annual firefighter competition at the Atlantic County 4H fair. Through an anonymous benefactor, we acquired another engine to meet our ever-increasing training needs. And last, but not least, we became nationally accredited with Pro-Board Certification as a member of the South Jersey Training Academies allowing us to graduate Pro-Board certified Firefighters I and II.

As we begin 2012, I look forward to working with county government and the members of the executive committee along with the Director of Training, Mike Corbo, to help keep the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association one of the best in the state."

Atlantic County Freeholder Frank Sutton installed the following into office for the year 2012:

President	Amor "Skip" Portale
1 st Vice President	Ellsworth Ott
2 nd Vice President	Charles "Chick" Kisby
Secretary	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer	Jaime C. Mellon
Chaplain	Rev. Thomas Sweeny
Sergeants-at-Arms	William Thomas Hand, Charles Harlan, Wayne Dilks
Executive Committee:	Howard Berchtold Jr., David G. Buzby, Levon "Lefty" Clayton, Oscar Dutch Jr., James Garth Sr., Charles J. Guenther, R. Thomas Hunter, Charles R. Winkler III

Those not present were:
Executive Committee

Rick Coraluzzo Sr.

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Good of the Order

The annual Atlantic County Firefighter's Association Dinner is scheduled for Friday, March 23, 2012 at Careme's, Atlantic Cape Community College. Cost will be \$40.00 and all interested should contact Wayne Dilks at (609)927-8362.

Thank you to the Egg Harbor City Fire Dept. for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:05. The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on February 15, 2012 in Longport.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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Date Clearing

Thurs. Jan. 26, 2012	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.
Sun. Jan. 29, 2012	09:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Summer/Fall 2011 Firefighter I & II Graduation Ceremony
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
Wed. Mar. 21, 2012	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Fri. Mar. 23, 2012	18:00	Careme's @ Atlantic Cape Community College	Annual ACFFA Dinner
Thurs. Mar. 29, 2012	20:00	Landisville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Sat. Apr. 14, 2012	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Wed. Apr. 18, 2012	20:00	Fire Training Center (Hosted by Margate FD)	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Sat. & Sun. Apr. 28 & 29, 2012	08:00	National Fire Academy	New Jersey Weekend - National Fire Academy
Sat. May 5, 2012	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Tues. May 8, 2012	08:00	Neschanic Valley Golf Club	New Jersey Firemen's Home 2012 Golf Outing
Wed. May 16, 2012	20:00	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Thurs. May 31, 2012	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Wed. Jun. 20, 2012	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 18, 2012	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Thurs. Jul. 26, 2012	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.
Tues. Jul. 31, 2012	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Wed. Aug. 15, 2012	20:00	Cologne VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 19, 2012	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Thurs. Sep. 27, 2012	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Wed. Oct. 17, 2012	20:00	Port Republic VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Sat. Nov. 10, 2012	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Wed. Nov. 21, 2012	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Tues. Nov. 27, 2012	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Wed. Dec. 19, 2012	20:00	Farmington VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jan. 16, 2013	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Thurs. Jan. 24, 2013	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.
Tues. Jan 29, 2013	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Wed. Feb. 20, 2013	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

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