

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

April 18, 2012

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on April 18, 2012 at the Atlantic County Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of all fallen firefighters and military personnel. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. President Portale welcomed all to the meeting which serves as the twenty-first annual Valor Awards presentation and the third annual recognition of firefighters with fifty or more years of active service.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

The meeting is being hosted by the Margate City Fire Department in cooperation with FMBA Local 41. President Portale introduced Chief Anthony Tabasso who welcomed everyone to the annual valor awards and expressed the honor that the Margate City Fire Department and FMBA Local 41 for the privilege of hosting the meeting and awards. Chief Tabasso reported on the ongoing renovations of the Margate Fire Department building and thanked Chief Clayton and the Longport Fire Department for allowing Margate to house equipment and staff at their fire station during the renovation.

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 Mar. 21, 2012 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 \$128,422.55, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America	/	Bank of America	/	ING Direct	/	Parke Bank	/	Parke Bank
Checking: \$59,872.80	/	Savings: \$2,100.56	/	Savings: \$20,151.06	/	13 Month CD: \$23,234.22	/	12 Month CD: \$23,063.91
						1.35% - Due 5/6/2012	/	1.10% - Due 10/30/2012

Bills

The bills, totaling \$2,673.26, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- ACCC Academy of Culinary Arts - \$912.69 (ACFFA Dinner - paid for by attendees) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$136.00 (food for training) / Jaime Mellon - \$45.00 (reimburse for stamps) / Liberty Mutual - \$1,226.00 (workers comp insurance) / NJ Motor Vehicle Commission - \$60.00 (truck title) / Lowes - \$168.04 (hardware and flashover wood) / Staples - \$125.53 (office supplies)

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Dispensing of Business

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

Introduction of Awards

President Portale welcomed all to the awards presentation and "50" year service recognitions. President Portale introduced the guests; Congressman Frank Lobiando's Field Representative: Robert Geist. NJ State Senator Jim Whelan's Legislative Aide: Michael Suleiman. Atlantic County Chief of Staff: Howard J. Kyle. Atlantic County Freeholders: Frank Sutton, John W. Risley, and Alexander C. Marino. Atlantic County Sheriff: Frank Balles. Atlantic County Firefighters' Association Executive Committee Chairman: Howard Berchtold Jr.. Atlantic County Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness: Vincent J. Jones III. Atlantic County Fire Marshal: Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz. Atlantic County Fire Coordinator: Edward Vincent.

Valor Awards

President Amor "Skip" Portale and Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. presented each of the Valor Award recipients with their awards from the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association. This is the twenty-first year of the Valor Awards presentation. All honorees also received a certificate of special congressional recognition from Congressman Frank LoBiondo, a senate commendation from NJ Senator James Whelan, a joint assembly commendation from NJ Assemblymen John Amodeo and Vincent Polistina, a certificate of recognition from the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, a certificate of recognition from Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson, and a certificate of recognition from Atlantic County Sheriff Frank Balles.

Class One Award Recipients:

Bernie Sawasky – Galloway Township Public Works

Dave Jones, Jr. – Galloway Township Public Works

Chief Ron Garbutt Jr., of the Galloway Township Fire Department, highlighted the details from a structure fire on September 1, 2011 in Galloway Township. On September 1, 2011 two Galloway Township public works employees, Dave Jones Jr. and Bernie Sawasky, were returning back to work after finishing lunch. They were driving down Oakbourne Avenue and noticed smoke coming from a residence. Bernie Sawasky called dispatch to notify them. Dave Jones could hear the homeowner inside yelling "fire". Dave Jones proceeded inside the residence and found that Mrs. Manne was confined to a wheelchair. Dave Jones informed her that she needed to leave her home. At first she showed some resistance, but seconds later Dave Jones was able to convince her she needed to evacuate the property and he was able to get her out to safety. What began as a small kitchen fire escalated into a full scale structure fire. The Galloway Township Fire Department arrived and the fire was quickly extinguished without any injuries. The home was destroyed. Dave and Bernie had been assigned to that side of town to assist with the clean up after Hurricane Irene. If not for the quick thinking of both men, this situation could have had a much different ending.

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"50" Year Service Awards

The presentation of the "50" Year Service Awards was made by Executive Committee Chairman, Howard Berchtold Jr. and President Amor "Skip" Portale. All honorees received a uniform bar, gold life member card, and framed certificate from the association. All honorees also received a certificate of special congressional recognition from Congressman Frank LoBiondo, a senate commendation from NJ Senator James Whelan, a joint assembly commendation from NJ Assemblymen John Amodeo and Vincent Polistina, a certificate of achievement from the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, a certificate of achievement from Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson, and a certificate of achievement from Atlantic County Sheriff Frank Balles.

"50" Year Service Award Recipients:

Wilber Nayler, Bayview Volunteer Fire Company (unable to attend)
Robert Hare, Cologne Volunteer Fire Company
Monroe Dayton, Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company
Matthew Dayton, Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company
William W. Donath, Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Department
Raymond Darcusio, Linwood Volunteer Fire Department
Joseph Lombardo, Minotola Volunteer Fire Company (unable to attend)
Federick Cottrell Sr., Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company No. 1

President Portale congratulated all 50 year service award recipients and thanked all of the families that supported them for all of those years.

Good of the Order

A short video highlighting some of the incidents that occurred in Atlantic County over the past three years was played.

An unveiling of the World Trade Center Steel Beam memorial will commence in the lobby of the training center after the meeting/awards ceremony has concluded and prior to refreshments being served.

Thank you to the Margate City Fire Department in cooperation with FMBA Local 41 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

A prayer was offered by Executive Committee Chairman, Howard Berchtold Jr. There being no further business at hand, the meeting and awards presentation was adjourned at 21:05. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on May 16, 2012 in South Egg Harbor, Galloway Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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Date Clearing

http://www.atlanticcountyfireassoc.org/ACFFA_Date_Clearing.htm

Sun. Apr. 22, 2012	10:30	St. Nicholas Church (10:30) & Borgata (12:00)	Cape Atlantic 200 Club Annual Memorial Service (10:30) & Brunch (12:00)
Sat. Apr. 28, 2012	08:00	Cologne VFC	Spring Yard Sale
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
Sun. May 6, 2012	14:00	Bargaintown VFC	80 th Anniversary, Station Dedication, Truck Housing
Tues. May 8, 2012	08:00	Neschanic Valley Golf Club	New Jersey Firemen's Home 2012 Golf Outing
Sat. May 12, 2012	08:00	Marmora VFC	Eggie All Day Fundraising Event
Wed. May 16, 2012	20:00	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Sat. May 19, 2012	10:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	"Second 2 None" Motorcycle Poker Run
Sat. May 19, 2012	10:00	Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Mayfest w/ Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries, etc.
Sat. May 19, 2012	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner
Sun. May 20, 2012	10:00	Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Mayfest w/ Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries, etc.
Thurs. May 31, 2012	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Sun. Jun. 3, 2012	12:00	Dorothy VFC	Annual BBQ - 12:00 - 18:00
Sat. Jun. 9, 2012	18:00	Watering Hole Café, Mays Landing	Weymouth VFC Annual Beef and Beer Fundraiser
Sat. Jun. 16, 2012	13:30	Mays Landing Country Club	Bargaintown VFC 5 th Annual Golf Outing
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.
Aug. 9, 10, 11, 2012	varies	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair
Fri. Aug. 10, 2012	19:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair - Hosting Firefighter Competition Finals
Tues. Aug. 14, 2012	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting NJSFA Atlantic County Caucus
Wed. Aug. 15, 2012	20:00	Cologne VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Fri. Sep. 14, 2012	13:00	Wildwood, NJ	NJSFA Convention - reg. 09:30 to 12:30 - mtg. 13:00
Sat. Sep. 15, 2012	10:00	Wildwood, NJ	NJSFA Convention - reg. 07:30 to 09:45 - mtg. 10:00
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.
Sat. Oct. 6, 2012	10:00	Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Octoberfest w/ Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries, etc.
Sat. Oct. 6, 2012	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sun. Oct. 7, 2012	10:00	Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Octoberfest w/ Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries, etc.
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