

# 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 "Chick" Kisby



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

November 21, 2012

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on November 21, 2012 at the Somers Point Vol. Fire Company No. 1 by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## Opening Remarks

President Portale introduced Chief Mike Sweeney of the Somers Point Vol. Fire Company No. 1. Chief Sweeney welcomed all to Somers Point and introduced Mayor Jack Glasser and Councilman Howard Dill. Both the Mayor and Councilman expressed their appreciation for the Somers Point Fire Department, and all other county fire departments, for their dedication and professionalism, especially during the response and recovery efforts involved with Superstorm Sandy.

## 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 October 17, 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 \$107,812.22, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America	/	Bank of America	/	ING Direct	/	Parke Bank	/	Parke Bank
Checking: \$35,895.63	/	Savings: \$5,001.60	/	Savings: \$20,208.72	/	12 Month CD: \$23,251.50	/	13 Month CD: \$23,454.77
					/	1.10% - Due 10/30/2013	/	1.01% - Due 5/6/2013

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the meeting of the Executive Committee scheduled for November 2, 2012 was postponed until just prior to this regular meeting due to ongoing Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts. Howard thanked the Somers Point Vol. Fire Co. No. 1 for making the station available early tonight in order to hold the Executive Committee meeting at 18:30. Howard highlighted the discussions of the meeting since the minutes have not yet been completed. Howard reported that both the public relations and administrative budgets for 2013 have been submitted and the Executive Committee is recommending that they be adopted. Howard reported on the 2012 purchase of instructor turnout gear that will be split two sets paid by the county and two sets paid by the association. The Executive Committee recommended that the \$5,548.00, for two sets of gear, be allocated from the tuition funds. Howard reported that the Director of Training requested that additional instructors be hired. The Executive Committee agreed to a review of adding instructors

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to the current roll and the Director of Training will accept applications and resumes for instructors during the month of December. Howard reported that the Director of Training will be amending the 2012 capital expenditure plan in order to use excess funds for the purchase of a desktop computer and printer for the instructor's office. Howard also reported that the Director of Training and the Executive Committee will start a review of the current instructor pay rates.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the meeting of the board scheduled to be held on November 12, 2012 was postponed, due to ongoing Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts, and has not yet been rescheduled.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent thanked all of the fire departments/companies and firefighters for the hard work and professionalism put forth during the Superstorm Sandy response and recovery effort. Ed thank all of the Deputy Fire Coordinators for dedicating many hours at the county emergency operations center (EOC) by manning the fire desk around the clock for seven days. Ed reported on the mutual aid and EOC operations during the state of emergency. Ed reported that some fire departments/companies had station and/or equipment damage from the storm. Ed reported on some of the requirements that assembled task forces should have before a deployment such as enough food, water, and clothing requirements for all firefighters for the expected duration of a deployment. All task force firefighters should also have photo ID, preferably county issued. Ed reported on the issue of toll roads and emergency apparatus. The current state statues does not exempt emergency apparatus from the state's current toll roads. Ed reported that a blue emergency apparatus EZ-Pass can be ordered for each piece of apparatus that allows for passage on only New Jersey toll roads. Lefty Clayton pointed out that the specific toll roads must be noted on the initial EZ-Pass application. Ed reported on the Tender Task Force Bravo (TTF-B) drill held on November 5, 2012. Ed reported on the status of the Homeland Security Grants including the recent delivery of radios that are still awaiting programming.

**Fire Marshal / Public Relations** – Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz reported that he needs to complete the county fire reports and will be sending out reminders to all departments/companies as to what data he still needs. Whitey reported that he will be sending out requests for the names of all firefighters that have passed during 2012 for inclusion in the Memorial Service in January. Whitey also reported that he will be sending out requests for valor award nominations and submissions of firefighters that have achieved fifty plus years of service.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that both the Firefighter I and Firefighter II classes are behind schedule due to weather related class cancellations. Mike is attempting to reschedule all classes and complete the courses before the year is over. Mike reported that the storage sheds have been cleaned up and should be kept that way after facility usage. Mike reported that starting in 2013 a new facility inspection checklist will be need to be completed when utilizing the training grounds. Mike reported on the remaining classes of the semester and that Fire Officer Level I starts on January 8, 2012 and Fire Officer Level II starts on January 7, 2012. Mike reported that all interested candidates for fire instructor positions should request an application from Marianne at the Fire Academy starting in December. Mike reported that the new cascade system has been fully installed and is operational. Mike wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Library** – Ron Bird reported that if anyone needs library access, contact him at tower452002@yahoo.com.

**Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association** – Chick Kisby reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association will be on November 27, 2012 at the Linwood Fire Department.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that the home was very busy during Superstorm Sandy and had to run the property with two generators for five days after the storm. The home also lost several large trees on the property during the

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storm. Oscar reported that an inspection at the home, lasting several days, found zero defects. Oscar reported on the recent Board of Managers meeting and discussion about the controversy surrounding the statements of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association President at the annual convention in Wildwood.

**County Radio Communications / Central Dispatch** – Oscar Dutch reported on a recent meeting concerning central dispatch and the county police chiefs. It was reported that comments from County Executive Levinson including; there will be no central dispatch within the next five years, the Stockton College land is off the table, and all county municipalities must agree to central dispatch before it will move forward. Oscar reported that he will try to schedule a meeting with the county fire service concerning central dispatch and possibly recommending agencies join Gloucester County's central dispatch if there would be no Atlantic County central dispatch option. Oscar reported that a joint fire service/police service meeting would be in order after the fire service meeting in order to get all wants and needs on the table. President Portale recommended that all fire departments/companies should seek support from their municipal government concerning the need for improved communication and central dispatch.

**ACFFA Dinner** – Wayne Dilks reported that the dinner can be scheduled for 18:30 on Friday, March 15, 2013 at Careme's, Atlantic Cape Community College if the association would like to move forward. All agreed that a motion was in order to approve having the dinner.

## Communications

There were no communications to report.

## Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act on.

## New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to schedule the annual ACFFA dinner at Careme's, Atlantic Cape Community College for 18:30 on Friday, March 15, 2013 and make payment of the \$100.00 deposit.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to follow the recommendation of the Executive Committee and adopt the Public Safety and Administrative budgets for 2013 as submitted to the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to follow the recommendation of the Executive Committee to allocate \$5,548.00 from tuition for the purchase of two sets of instructor turnout gear.

Oscar Dutch reported that he spoke with Ed Vincent and they agree that a motion of support for central dispatch should be made from the association. Motion was made, seconded, and carried that a letter of support for central dispatch be drafted and sent to all county municipalities and freeholders.

President Portale reported that an interview committee will be formed to review all applications for the instructor position/s. Anyone interested on serving on the committee should contact President Portale.

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## **Bills**

The bills, totaling \$4,671.26, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Screenprice - \$1,195.00 (t-shirts) / Walt's Original Primo Pizza - \$559.00 (food for training) / Lowes - \$574.62 (hardware) / Med-Tech - \$970.99 (PPE) / State of NJ - \$1,246.65 (quarterly payroll taxes) / AtlanticCare - \$25.00 (CPR cards) / ACA Group Sales - \$100.00 (deposit for ACFFA dinner)

## **Nomination of Officers**

The second of two rounds of nominations was held. Only the seats on the Executive Committee are contested. Those nominated are as follows:

President (1)	Amor "Skip" Portale
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (1)	Ellsworth Ott
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (1)	Charles "Chick" Kisby
Secretary (1)	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer (1)	Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	Cindy L. Badger
Chaplain (1)	Rev. Thomas Sweeny
Sgt.-at-Arms (3)	Charles Harlan, William Thomas Hand, Wayne Dilks
Executive Comm. (9)	Howard Berchtold Jr., Ronald Bird Jr., David G. Buzby, Levon "Lefty" Clayton, Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Don DaGrossa, Oscar Dutch Jr., James Garth Sr., Charles J. Guenther, R. Thomas Hunter Jr., John V. Wagner, C. Robert Winkler III

## **Applications for Membership**

Kolby Rundio of the Egg Harbor City Vol. Fire Department was accepted into membership.

## **Good of the Order**

Oscar Dutch reported that Whitey Swartz put together a photo book of the NJ State Firemen's Home and it has some very nice shots. Whitey reported on having recently visiting the home with Oscar. Whitey reported that both the home and the grounds are beautiful and their fire museum is first class. Whitey reported that the trip is worth it and everyone should try to visit.

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Longport Fire Chief, Lefty Clayton thanked all of the fire coordinators and fire departments/companies that provided mutual aid during the Superstorm Sandy event on behalf of all of the downbeach communities. Lefty reported on some of the conditions and water levels encountered during the storm.

Thank you to the Somers Point Vol. Fire Company No. 1 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 21:15. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on December 19, 2012 at the Farmington Vol. Fire Company. Elections will be conducted and delegates are reminded to bring their delegate cards.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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## Date Clearing

[http://www.atlanticcountyfireassoc.org/ACFFA\\_Date\\_Clearing.htm](http://www.atlanticcountyfireassoc.org/ACFFA_Date_Clearing.htm)

Tues. Nov. 27, 2012	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Sat. Dec. 8, 2012	19:00	Hammonton FD	14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Hammonton FD Christmas Parade
Sat. Dec. 15, 2012	08:00	Farmington VFC	Breakfast with Santa
Wed. Dec. 19, 2012	20:00	Farmington VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 16, 2013	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Thurs. Jan. 24, 2013	20:00	Somers Point VFC 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
Fri. Mar. 15, 2013	18:30	Careme's, Atl. Cape Comm. College	Annual ACFFA Dinner
Sat. Apr. 13, 2013	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. May 4, 2013	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sat. May 11, 2013		Absecon VFD	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
Sat. Oct. 5, 2013	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sat. Nov. 9, 2013	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner