

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 17, 2013

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on April 17, 2013 at the Atlantic County Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center 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. President Portale welcomed all to the meeting which serves as the twenty-second annual Valor Awards presentation and the fourth 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. President Portale introduced Chief Anthony Tabasso who welcomed everyone to the annual valor awards and expressed how much of an honor it has been for the Margate City Fire Department to have been hosting the meeting and awards these past few years. 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. Chief Tabasso reported that the renovations should finally be completed soon and that everyone will be invited to an open house when it is finished.

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. 20, 2013 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$1,977.42, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- This & That - \$1,722.50 (131 shirts) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$131.00 (food for training) / Staples - \$30.47 (office supplies) / Home Depot - \$63.45 (equipment maintenance) / Tom Sweeny - \$30.00 (gold life membership cards for three 50+ years service honorees)

Dispensing of Business

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

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Introduction of Awards

President Portale welcomed all to the awards presentation and "50" year service recognitions. Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold commented on the recent bombing in Boston and the valor exhibited there by the first responders and many civilians and reminded all to keep the victims and residents of Boston in thoughts and prayers. President Portale introduced the invited guests; Congressman Frank Lobiondo's Field Representative: Robert Geist. NJ State Senator: Jim Whelan. NJ State Assemblyman: Chris Brown. Atlantic County Freeholders: Frank Sutton, John W. Risley, and Alexander C. Marino. Atlantic County Sheriff: Frank Balles.

"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, an assembly commendation from NJ Assemblyman Chris Brown, 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.

"50" Year Service Award Recipients:

Michael Walsh, Absecon Volunteer Fire Department
Andy Cajka, Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company No. 1
Donald DaGrossa, Scullville Volunteer Fire Company No. 3

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

Special Presentation

A short video highlighting some of the incidents that occurred in Atlantic County was played. Howard Berchtold thanked Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz for all that he does for this association and the county fire service.

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-second 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, an assembly commendation from NJ Assemblyman Chris Brown, 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.

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Class One Valor Recipient:

Albert Coco – East Vineland Volunteer Firefighter

Chief Robert Gibney, Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company, highlighted the details from a motor vehicle accident at which East Vineland Firefighter, Albert Coco, assisted with removing the occupants to safety from an overturned car that had caught fire and prior to the arrival of fire apparatus. Firefighter Coco was able to remove the driver who was hanging upside down from a seatbelt with the aid of a knife. Chief Marc Corsiglia, East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company, was also present to honor Firefighter Coco for his valor.

Meritorious Citation Recipient:

Mr. Walter Holmes – civilian

Chief Gene Sharpe, Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company, and Chris Kislow, Atlantic County Fire Instructor and coworker of recipient, highlighted the details from motor vehicle fire. Mr. Holmes observed a traveling motor vehicle with smoke coming from under the car. Mr. Holmes changed his direction of travel and was able to get the driver to stop the car and assisted with removing all occupants to safety prior to the car becoming fully involved with fire.

Good of the Order

All invited guests offered words of gratitude for the local fire service and the honored award recipients.

Thank you to the Margate City Fire Department 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 and awards presentation was adjourned at 20:55. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on May 15, 2013 in Oceanville, Galloway Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Thurs. Apr. 18, 2013	18:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	LDH Strike Team Drill
Sat. May 4, 2013	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Tues. May 7, 2013		Neschanic Valley Golf Club	New Jersey Firemen's Home 2013 Golf Outing
Sat. May 11, 2013	07:30	Atlantic City Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill
Sat. May 11, 2013	12:00	Absecon VFD	100 th Anniversary
Sun. May 12, 2013	07:00	Nesco VFC	All You Can Eat Mother's Day Breakfast
Sat. May 18, 2013	10:00	Oceanville VFC	MayFest @ Historic Smithville & Village Greene (Selling Hot dogs, Hamburgers, and French Fries)
Sat. May 18, 2013	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner
Sun. May 19, 2013	10:00	Oceanville VFC	MayFest @ Historic Smithville & Village Greene (Selling Hot dogs, Hamburgers, and French Fries)
Sun. Jun. 2, 2013	12:00	Dorothy VFC	56 th Annual Chicken BBQ
Tues. Jul. 16, 2013	22:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	50/50 Raffle @ 138 th Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Tues. Aug. 13, 2013	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 13, 2013	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 14, 2013	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Oct. 5, 2013	10:00	Oceanville VFC	Oktoberfest @ Historic Smithville & Village Greene (Selling Hot dogs, Hamburgers, and French Fries)
Sat. Oct. 5, 2013	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sun. Oct. 6, 2013	10:00	Oceanville VFC	Oktoberfest @ Historic Smithville & Village Greene (Selling Hot dogs, Hamburgers, and French Fries)
Sat. Oct. 19, 2013	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner
Sat. Nov. 9, 2013	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. May 15, 2013	20:00	Oceanville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 19, 2013	20:00	Richland VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 17, 2013	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 21, 2013	20:00	Mays Landing VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 18, 2013	20:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 16, 2013	20:00	Estell Manor VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 20, 2013	20:00	Somers Point VFC Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 18, 2013	20:00	West Atlantic City VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jan. 15, 2014	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 19, 2014	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

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Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. May 3, 2013	19:30	Whitey Swartz Fire Museum	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 5, 2013	19:30	Landisville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 6, 2013	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Nov. 1, 2013	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 3, 2014	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Mon. May 13, 2013	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 8, 2013	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Sep. 9, 2013	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Nov. 18, 2013	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 13, 2014	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association

Thurs. Mar. 28, 2013	20:00	Minotola VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Assoc.
Thurs. May 30, 2013	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Assoc.
Tues. Jul. 30, 2013	20:00	Estell Manor VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Assoc.
Thurs. Sep. 26, 2013	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Assoc.
Tues. Nov. 26, 2013	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Assoc.
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Tues. Jan. 28, 2014	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Assoc.

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jul. 25, 2013	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.
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Thurs. Jan. 23, 2014	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.