

# 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 "Chuck" Kisby



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

May 15, 2013

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on May 15, 2013 at the Oceanville Vol. Fire Company 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.

## Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Oceanville Vol. Fire Co. President Robert Broskey. President Broskey apologized on behalf of Oceanville's Chief and Asst. Chief whom were unable to attend. President Broskey welcomed all to Oceanville and introduced Galloway Township Fire Dept. Chief Timothy L. McKenna. Chief McKenna welcomed all to Galloway 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 Apr. 17, 2013 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 \$125,643.43, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America	/	Bank of America	/	ING Direct	/	Parke Bank	/	Parke Bank
Checking: \$53,488.07	/	Savings: \$5,002.83	/	Savings: \$20,248.73	/	12 Month CD: \$23,333.17	/	13 Month CD: \$23,570.63
					/	1.10% - Due 10/30/2013	/	1.01% - Due 5/6/2013

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Executive Committee held at Whitey Swartz's Fire Museum on May 3, 2013. Howard reported that all on the Executive Committee enjoyed Whitey's hospitality and all should take the opportunity to visit the museum. The valor awards in April went well. Ongoing maintenance is continuing at the training center. Whitey Swartz will be working with Mike Corbo to formulate a plan for a twentieth anniversary of the training center celebration to be held in the Autumn of 2013. The tuition for the flashover simulator will need to be increased due to rising lumber costs. Four sets of turnout gear has been ordered for the instructors. Two sets will be paid for by the association and two sets paid for by the county. The treasurer has reported that all is in order for the annual internal audit and President Portale will schedule the audit within the next couple weeks. The NJ DOL audit was completed with the accountant and all checked out OK. A new accountant may be sought out to assist with

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the 501(c)3 application. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on July 5, 2013 at the Landisville Vol. Fire Company.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Oscar Dutch reported that the board met on May 13, 2013 at the training center. Oscar summarized the discussion held during that meeting. Ongoing maintenance is continuing at the training center. An estimate of \$50,000 to \$60,000 is being looked at in order to repair the burn building. The repairs consists mostly of doors within the burn building. The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for July 8, 2013.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported on recent incidents requiring fire coordinator response. The Large Diameter Hose (LDH) Strike Team held a drill on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the training center and Tender Task Force – Bravo (TTF-B) participate in a multi-county drill on April 29<sup>th</sup> in Vineland. Ed thanked all of the Fire Departments/Companies that participated in the airport's triennial emergency preparedness drill on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Ed read a letter sent out by the SJTA FD Chief to the regional NJ DFS coordinator reporting that the Atlantic County Fire Coordinator and local fire departments were not fully cooperating with the airport's triennial emergency preparedness drill planning process and/or committing to be a participant in the drill. Ed detailed the meetings and information disseminated during the earlier planning of the airport drill. Ed reported that he had not been invited/informed of the earliest planning meetings and that the need and scope of the local fire service involvement with the drill was not fully divulged until Ed started seeking more detail about the drill. Ed disputed all of the details in the SJTA FD Chief's letter and reported that he has made several attempts to contact Chief Conrow in order to discuss the letter. Ed reported that he still has not heard from Chief Conrow. Ed reported on which Fire Departments/Companies that were at the airport drill as well as the deputy fire coordinators, Bill Collins and Chip Stockton, that made the drill. Ed reported that some out of county units were at the drill but they had not been coordinated through the Atlantic County Fire Coordinator office. A Tender Task Force – Alpha (TTF-A) drill planning meeting is scheduled for Friday May 31 - 7:00pm at the Port Republic Vol. Fire Company. Ed reported that he has been in contact with the NJ Turnpike Authority and has been requested to update them with information about which departments/companies are primary response onto the Garden State Parkway and what mile markers they cover. Ed compiled that information and reported back to the turnpike authority. Ed reported that pricing for VHF radios for fire coordinators has been submitted to the county for consideration. Ed reported that the office of the fire coordinator has no budget and all equipment has come from surplus in other areas. Turnout gear jacket shells have been issued to the fire coordinators but they do not have liners or boots. Both of which are still on the request list. Ed reported on the current status of the Homeland Security Grants. Ed summarized some of the recent security alerts sent out form the NJ Emergency Management office.

**Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association** – Chick Kisby reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association will be on May 30, 2013 at the Northfield Fire Department, Station 2 on Burton Avenue.

**Atlantic County Fire Radio Policy Committee / Central Dispatch** – Oscar Dutch reported on the status of the informational request letters sent out to all municipalities. All twenty-one requests have been returned. Three municipalities are not in favor of central dispatch and one was incomplete. All others were in favor of central dispatch. One of the negatives may be reversed to a positive due to the local council having a different opinion than the leaders who answered the request. Oscar reported on the ongoing review of adding on to the training center or purchasing an existing structure. The current consensus is to purchase an available EHT property and not build at the training center. Oscar reported that the next step is for the county to determine what would be needed to create a central dispatch at whatever location may be chosen. There may be action at the next Freeholder's meeting in order to keep the process moving forward.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that the home is on a short list of homes participating in a grant that is looking at ways to improve care. Oscar reported that a remodel of wing C will start at the end of May and is the final wing to be

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remodeled. Oscar reported on many NJ State Firemen's Association financial issues that have been identified within some of the local associations.

**Audit Committee** – President Portale reported that he has scheduled the audit committee to meet with the treasurer at 7:00pm on Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Pomona firehouse.

## **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

## **Deferred Business**

There was no deferred business to act on.

## **New Business**

President Portale reported that he has appointed William Donath, Estell Manor Vol. Fire Co., to fill the Sergeant-at-Arms position previously held by Wm. Thomas Hand.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association secretary draft a letter to the SJTA FD Chief requesting that any pertinent meetings, drills, or events requiring local FD participation be placed on the ACFFA date clearing schedule, by notifying the association secretary, as soon as those dates are set.

## **Bills**

The bills, totaling \$5,505.55, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Mike Corbo - \$3,506.59 (FDIC expenses) / Suburban Propane - \$1,695.34 (propane) / Lowes - \$285.80 (flashover lumber) / Home Depot - \$17.82 (training equipment)

## **Applications for Membership**

There were no applications for membership.

## **Good of the Order**

Egg Harbor Twp. FD Chief Danz reported that the EHT FD has been requesting direct training with the airport FD several times over the last twenty or so years. The only training has always been the triennial drill required by the FAA. Chief Danz reported that during the triennial drills the local FDs are generally assigned to patient litter carrying and triage. No EHT FD has had the opportunity to train in aircraft firefighting or rescue. Chief Danz requested that a letter be drafted voicing the displeasure of the local FDs when it comes to aircraft rescue and firefighting training. President Portale noted that such a letter should come from the Atlantic County Chief's Association.

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Ed Vincent thanked all of the fire departments/companies that attended the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Absecon Fire Department. The skies cleared that morning just in time for the public participation and parade. Unfortunately the morning judging was all in the rain. The celebration was well attended.

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

## Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:05. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on June 19, 2013 at the Richland Vol. Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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

## **Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Tues. Jul. 16, 2013	22:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	50/50 Raffle @ 138 <sup>th</sup> 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
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## ACFFA Meetings

### Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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
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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

### Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

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. 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. 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.