

# 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

August 21, 2013

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on August 21, 2013 at the Mays Landing Volunteer 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 Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company Chief, John Sauerwald. Chief Sauerwald welcomed all to Mays Landing and introduced his fire company officers.

## 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 July 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 \$118,900.35, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America	/	Bank of America	/	ING Direct	/	Parke Bank	/	Parke Bank
Checking: \$46,643.82	/	Savings: \$5,003.34	/	Savings: \$20,269.12	/	12 Month CD: \$23,374.37	/	13 Month CD: \$23,609.70
					/	1.10% - Due 10/30/2013	/	0.65% - Due 5/6/2014

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on September 6, 2013 at the Absecon Fire Department.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for September 9, 2013.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported on the recent calls that had fire coordinator response including the August 5<sup>th</sup> structure fire in Port Republic. Ed thanked the deputy fire coordinators that assisted with set up of the ACFFA booth at the Atlantic County 4H Fair. Ed reported that the VHF radios have been programmed and distributed to the deputy fire coordinators. Ed reiterated the need to update the mutual aid plan when changes are made at the local level and that all updates are reported to the NJ Division of Fire Safety. The deputy fire coordinators are available to assist any company with

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getting the updates completed. Ed again reminded all the every municipal government is responsible to sign the mutual aid agreement or risk being billed for resources used during a mutual aid event. As of now, only five, of the twenty-three, Atlantic County municipalities have signed the agreement. Ed has a copy of the agreement that he will email to those requesting it. Ed reported that Atlantic County Director of Public Safety Vince Jones has scheduled a meeting with all county municipality mayors and the mutual aid agreement is part the agenda. It has also been requested that the fire service discuss the need to sign the mutual aid agreement when they are involved with their local public safety meetings with municipal leadership. Ed wished all going to Wildwood to stay safe and have a good time. Any department/company taking apparatus out of service for an extended period of time, such as staying overnight in Wildwood, should notify the Fire Coordinator with the apparatus status. Ed reported that he still has only received two comments about the Atlantic County Radio Policy after emailing it to forty-four fire chiefs. Ed reminded all to regularly check email and respond when needed. Ed has also emailed all chiefs the list of deputy fire coordinators, the current list of Atlantic County dispatch centers with contact information, and an overview of the NJ Emergency Resource Deployment Act. Ed reported on the current status of the homeland security grants. The 2012 grant items are still being researched for costs. The 2010 grants have all been completed and closed out. There may be some remaining funds from the 2011 grants. The 2013 grants are still in the early stages of government creation/approval and are not yet confirmed as to what, or if, they will be. Ed reported that a meeting with the District 25 dispatch center has not yet taken place due to scheduling conflicts, but it will happen once everyone is available. Much discussion took place about the mutual aid agreement, and the need to sign one, after Ed's report.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the Summer FFI will finish on August 27<sup>th</sup>, the Fall FFI already started on August 20<sup>th</sup>, and the Fall FFII will start on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Mike had a list of course offerings and the full schedule book of Fall classes is posted online and has been sent to all fire departments. Mike reported that all QTO, QSO, ODI personnel will also need to have drill ground instructor certification. Mike reported on the Firefighter Competition held at the Atlantic County 4H Fair. Four teams had been registered, but only two could make the rain date on Saturday. Germania took the overall title and Laureldale took the water rocket win. Mike reported that Camden County College has classes scheduled all over southern New Jersey. Atlantic County Fire Academy will be host to the Camden Co. College hydraulics class. Mike reported that many previously certified classes can be applied towards the Camden County College Fire Science degree program.

**Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association** – Chick Kisby reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association will be on September 26, 2013 at the Nesco Vol. Fire Company.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that the Board of Managers do not directly run the home. They set policy and have a superintendent that implements the policy and runs the day to day operations of the home. Oscar was proud to report that for several years running, the home has had zero deficiencies found during annual state inspections. Oscar reported that a firefighter from Atlantic County will be moving to the home in the near future.

**Atlantic County Fire Radio Policy Committee / Central Dispatch** – Oscar Dutch reported on a letter sent from County Executive Dennis Levinson to the County Freeholders concerning county central dispatch. Oscar reported that he may be sending out a request for assistance with showing fire service representation at a future freeholder meeting.

**4H Fair** – Howard Berchtold reported that the association booth at the fair was set up with the NFPA 2013 Fire Prevention Theme, "Prevent Kitchen Fires". Howard reported that it was amazing at how many needed basic questions answered concerning kitchen fire safety. The booth had a setup of a stove with pots. The committee for the fair included Howard, Ellsworth Ott, and Dennis Sharpe. Howard thanked the committee and those that assisted with staffing the booth and setting up including Ed Vincent, Joe Ward, Ron Bird, Dave Buzby, and Estell Manor Fire Chief John Wagner who sent the Estell

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Manor Fire Explorers to assist. Howard also thanked the fire departments that displayed apparatus during the fair including Estell Manor, Newtonville, South Egg harbor, Laureldale, Bayview, Northfield, Mays Landing, and West Atlantic City.

## **Communications**

The association was copied on a letter sent from County Executive Dennis Levinson to the County Freeholders concerning county central dispatch.

Thank you card received from Jim & Dawn Garth and family thanking the association for the thoughts and prayers received after the loss of their grandson.

## **Deferred Business**

There was no deferred business to act on.

## **New Business**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to purchase the two trophies to be presented at the Wildwood parade in September, one for Best Appearing Apparatus from Atlantic County and one for Best Overall Company from Atlantic County. President Portale will contact Tom Sweeny for the trophies and deliver them to Jim Garth and Dennis Sharpe, who will deliver them to the judges in Wildwood.

## **Bills**

The bills, totaling \$15,155.36, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Walt's Primo Pizza - \$720.75 (training lunches and firefighter graduation) / Butterhof's Farm - \$325.00 (straw) / NFPA - \$240.25 (public relations for 4H fair) / NEPM - \$536.00 (public relations for 4H fair) / Staples - \$60.64 (training office supplies) / Absecon Lock Service - \$30.00 (4 keys cut) / Whitey Swartz - \$13.47 (reimburse for water for 4H fair) / MES - \$5,548.00 (2 sets instructor turn out gear) / American Safety - \$352.00 (smoke machine fluid) / Mike Corbo - \$120.82 (reimburse for scantron test paper) / Eastern Fire Equipment - \$539.99 (chain saw parts) / Brown & Brown - \$847.58 (commercial automobile) / Brown & Brown - \$1,558.91 (professional and general liability) / IRS - \$4,261.95 (1<sup>st</sup> half 2013 payroll taxes)

## **Applications for Membership**

William Lent of the Minotola Vol. Fire Company was accepted into membership.

## **Good of the Order**

President Portale reported that he will get the association banner to the Northfield Fire Department prior to the parade in Wildwood and reminded all to make sure that they register online for the parade and have an enjoyable time in Wildwood.

Thank you to the Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

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## Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:55. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on September 21, 2013 at the Hammonton Fire Department Station 1.

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**

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. Sep. 28, 2013	08:00	Weymouth VFC	Annual Yard Sale
Sat. Sep. 28, 2013	11:00	Cardiff Shopping Center	TOUCH-A-TRUCK Fundraiser for Family Service Association
Fri. Oct. 4, 2013	18:30	Bayview VFC	Booze Cruise @ AC Cruises in Gardner's Basin in Atlantic City, NJ
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. 12, 2013	08:00	Mays Landing Country Club	12 <sup>th</sup> Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tourn. Benefiting Elwood VFC and Wescoat Family
Fri. Oct. 18, 2013	19:00	Oceanville VFC	Beef & Beer @ Fred & Ethel's Lantern Light Tavern in Smithville, NJ
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. 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

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## Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

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. 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. 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 Association

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