

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

September 17, 2014

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on September 17, 2014 at the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2 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.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Assistant Chief John Warren Jr. of the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department. Assistant Chief Warren welcomed all to Hammonton.

In Attendance

Roll call was taken by Secretary Robert A. Mellon who reported a quorum was present.

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance - 43 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 20

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2014 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 \$132,525.99, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$51,359.63 / Savings: \$5,005.37 / Savings: \$52,436.65 / 12 Month CD: \$23,724.34
/ 0.60% - Due 5/6/2015

Special Presentation

Kristee Anne Lauro, Disaster Program Specialist, and James Shew, Program Manager, from the American Red Cross Disaster Cycle Services were in attendance to provide information about the services available to victims of disaster. Flyers with services and local contact numbers were distributed. A review process within the Red Cross has identified a low response rate to structure fires within Atlantic County and surrounding areas. Based on the NJ DFS data, the Red Cross has only responded to 15% of the structure fires. The goal is for the Red Cross to respond to at least 50% of the fires. Kristee and James reviewed all of the services available from sheltering to simply providing clean up kits. They requested that the Red Cross be contacted on as many fires as possible so that that may speak with the victims and leave them information that may help them if they decide that they do need some assistance in the days that follow an event. The Red Cross is reaching out to the emergency service agencies in all of the five southern New Jersey counties. Many questions were asked and answered by Kristee and James.

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Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold reviewed the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on September 5, 2014 at the Absecon Fire Department. Howard noted that the tuition outstanding report is reviewed with Director Corbo at every executive committee meeting to keep up to date with any habitual late paying departments/companies. Howard reported that Director Corbo does an outstanding job in collecting tuition payments. Howard reported on Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz's calendar proposal and the executive committee's recommendation to green light the project and print five hundred calendars. Meeting and event dates will be added to the calendar and Whitey will provide the photographs. Howard reported that the Treasurer and Secretary were temporarily excused from the meeting while the executive committee discussed the annual stipend for those positions. The executive committee recommends raising each stipend from \$900 annually to \$1,200 annually. The committee also recommended allowing the stipend to be paid annually in December or biannually with 50% in July and 50% in December with the decision being left to the recipient officer. Howard reported that Cindy Badger made a presentation for holding the next annual dinner at the Mays Landing Country Club. Howard noted that this is in no way a lack of gratitude for all of the hard work Wayne Dilks has put into hosting the dinners at ACCC but it is nice to change things up once in a while and try some of the other great venues within Atlantic County. The executive committee appreciates all of the work Wayne has done planning the last several annual dinners. The executive committee is recommending that the next dinner be held on either March 13 or 20 at the Mays Landing Country Club.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported on the fire coordinator response to the Bay Island fire on Somers Point-Longport Boulevard. Ed reported on the Mullica Twp. Fire Department drill held in Sweetwater that he was invited to observe. The mobile training unit from the Washington Twp. Fire Dept. (Gloucester County) was utilized. The mobile unit is one of only four on the east coast. Ed reviewed some of the evolutions that the Sweetwater, Elwood, Nesco, and Weekstown fire companies ran through in the mobile training unit. Ed reported that he was impressed by the capabilities of the mobile training unit and that it even has a simulated command center for incident commander training. The Washington Twp. Fire Dept. reportedly utilized a federal grant to obtain the unit approximately five years ago. Ed reported that there has not yet been a final decision for the central dispatch architect. Ed reported on recent CAD/RMS meetings and the matrix that will be put together by the consulting firm. Meetings will be scheduled to review the matrix. Ed reported on an end user meeting held with a Harris radio representative. Ed noted that Oscar Dutch spoke with the Harris rep and that he is willing to schedule meetings with the fire service to explain P25 Phase I and II radio operation. John Garth requested that meetings with other radio vendors such as Motorola, Kenwood, or ICOM also be researched. Oscar will look into meetings with other vendors. Ed reported that mutual aid plan CDs have been distributed.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefight II has started with twenty students with eight being from Brigantine FD which received a grant to bring all firefighters to the Firefighter II level. Mike reported on the QTO, QSO, ODI classes scheduled and the need for all departments/companies utilizing the training grounds to have members recertify annually. Mike noted that the October 8th QTO, QSO, ODI class has been canceled due to instructor scheduling conflicts. Mike reviewed the remaining classes scheduled for the semester and noted that a Fire Inspector class is being held in Brigantine and the bulletin was emailed out by the secretary. Eight have since joined the class. Mike reminded all that if you have the potential to do a rescue in a water treatment facility that confined space operations training is required by PEOSHA. Mike reported that Lefty Clayton will be teaching I200 and there is no cost for in-county students. Mike reported on a new class added to the schedule, "Decision Making for Initial Company Operations" a National Fire Academy course.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Charles "Chick" Kisby reported that the next meeting of the chiefs' association is scheduled for October 8, 2014 and will be hosted by East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company.

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NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported on the HBO documentary screening held at the home on September 5th. HBO has reimbursed the home for their rental and food costs and Unidine, food and dining management, returned their payment with instructions to put it towards the home's resident events. Oscar reported that many projects are in the planning phase and he will report on them when finalized. Oscar reported that he has now served as Chairman of the Board of Managers for eight years. The rules require that he now step down and a new Chairman be chosen.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein reported that there were no contested offices at the convention election. Henry reminded all local officers that convention expense reports need to be filed by November 11th and that they should keep all of their own receipts if they receive both officer stipend and convention expenses that result in the filing of IRS 1099

Communications

Secretary Mellon reported that Congressman Lobiondo is hosting a training session about the current Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program on September 22nd at the Cumberland County College Conference Center in Vineland.

Tom Sweeny reported that the Greater Egg Harbor City Chamber of Commerce will once again host a Thanksgiving breakfast at Renault Winery on Tuesday November 25th at 7:00 AM for \$15.00 per person.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association move forward with the calendar project and provide the funds for the printing of five hundred 2015 calendars.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association raise the treasurer and secretary stipends from \$900 annually to \$1,200 annually and allow for the option to be paid annually (\$1,200 once, in December) or biannually (\$600 twice, in July and December).

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association hold the next association dinner at the Mays Landing Country Club on either March 13th or 20th.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$1,849.17, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Whitey Swartz - \$160.40 (4H Fair supplies) / South Jersey Welding - \$26.92 (equipment rental) / Staples - \$211.32 (training & public relations office supplies) / Desert Diamond Industries, LLC - \$278.00 (safety blade) / Public Safety Center - \$899.88 (12 pair gore gloves) / Howard Berchtold - \$272.65 (NFA 4H Fair supplies)

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

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Good of the Order

Thank you to the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2 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 October 15, 2014 at the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Oct. 4, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest
Sat. Oct. 4, 2014	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sun. Oct. 5, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest
Sat. Oct. 11, 2014	08:00	Elwood VFC @ Mays Landing Country Club	13 th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sat. Oct. 18, 2014	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner
Sat. Oct. 25, 2014	09:00	South Egg Harbor VFC	Fall/Christmas Craft, Art, & Home Show
Sat. Nov. 8, 2014	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. Nov. 22, 2014	11:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale
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ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Oct. 15, 2014	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 19, 2014	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 17, 2014	20:00	Cardiff VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 21, 2015	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 18, 2015	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. Oct. 31, 2014	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 2, 2015	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Mon. Nov. 3, 2014	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 5, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Oct. 8, 2014	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Nov. 12, 2014	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 10, 2014	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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Wed. Jan. 14, 2015	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Feb. 11, 2015	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

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Thurs. Jan. 22, 2015	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association