

# 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

December 17, 2014

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on December 17, 2014 at the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company 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 Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company Chief, C. Robert Winkler III. Chief Winkler welcomed all to Egg Harbor Township and then introduced Egg Harbor Township Fire Department Chief Bill Danz. Chief Danz welcomed all to Egg Harbor Township and wished everyone a safe and happy holidays. Chief Danz introduced the fire department officers in attendance and retiring Atlantic County Freeholder, and Cardiff firefighter, Frank Sutton.

## **In Attendance**

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 45      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 20

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the November 19, 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 \$141,961.34, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank  
Checking: \$60,742.39 / Savings: \$5,005.74 / Savings: \$52,488.87 / 12 Month CD: \$23,724.34  
/ 0.60% - Due 5/6/2015

## **Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be in Pomona on January 2, 2015 and will be the annual reorganizational meeting of the committee. Howard offered his, and the Executive Committee's, thanks to the entire association, the committees, Director Corbo, the fire instructors, and the association officers for much hard work and commitment during the year. Howard reported on Whitey Swartz's retirement as the Atlantic County Fire Marshal. Freeholder Sutton reported that the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders will honor Whitey with a presentation at the December 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Freeholders. Howard reported that Freeholder Sutton did not seek reelection to the Board of Chosen freeholders and thanked him for all of his years of service as a Freeholder, as a

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member of the Fire Training Advisory Board, and for being a great friend of the county fire service. Howard wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the board is on January 5, 2015 at the training center.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported that the Tender Task Force - Bravo (TTF-B) drill held in Mizpah went well and that the equipment was inventoried from both Tender Task Force Alpha and Bravo. The current Homeland Security Grant will provide funds to add equipment to TTF-B so that it will have the same equipment that TTF-A received from prior grants. The current Homeland Security Grant will also provide additional equipment to the Large Diameter Hose (LDH) Strike Team, the Technical Rescue Team, and the Atlantic City FD Confined Space Rescue Team. Ed reported that they will begin pricing the equipment in January. Ed reported that he has sent requests for yearly call volume and while he has received twenty-seven responses, he is still waiting for fourteen responses. The information is required for the CAD/RMS planning. Ed reported on the CAD/RMS selection process. Ed reported that he has received the NJ MVC registrations for the county owned trailers and they will be distributed to the host departments/companies. Ed thanked the Absecon and Laureldale Fire Police that provided assistance at the funeral service for Cape May County Fire Coordinator Art Treon. Ed reported on the municipalities that still need to sign the mutual aid agreement and/or submit updated mutual aid plans. Ed thanked the association officers, executive committee, and all county fire chiefs for the cooperation over the past year. Ed wished all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year.

**Fire Marshal / Public Relations** – President Portale reported that Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz (ret.) was enjoying a trip to Disney World, Florida. Whitey sent his regards and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter II has wrapped up and that Firefighter I was delayed by weather, but should finish soon with some makeup classes. Mike reported that four hundred thirty-four firefighters were trained with twenty-nine classes scheduled during the fall semester. Mike reported that Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II will start in January, Firefighter I will start on Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup>, and Firefighter II will start on Monday March 9<sup>th</sup>. Mike reported that the full spring semester schedule should be completed and released before the next meeting of the association. Mike reported that a new class for the spring semester will be a Traffic Incident Management Systems (TIMS) course. Mike thanked the fire academy instructors for their hard work throughout the past year and the association Executive Committee and Officers for working with him. Mike wished all Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

**Library** – President Portale reported that Ron Bird has informed him that he will not have the time to head up the library committee due to the time commitments required for his business.

**Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association** – Chick Kisby reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association will be 8:00 PM on January 14, 2014 at the Absecon Fire Department. Adjusting the meeting schedule for 2016 to allow greater attendance and participation will be on the agenda.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch reported all is going well at the home and that the home has been hosting some regional meetings which brings visitors to the home and residents. Oscar reported that there are seventy-eight residents at the home with a waiting list for long term care rooms. Oscar reported on the plans of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association to purchase a bench, honoring all firefighters, for the home. A nice sunny spot has already been picked out for the bench. Oscar reported on the many maintenance and repair projects underway at the home. Oscar thanked everyone for the support and wished all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy New Year.

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**NJ Firemen's Assn.** – Henry Schoenstein reminded local association officers to forward any OPRA requests to the main office and that quarterly reports are due by the end of the month. Henry reported that a committee has been formed to research the possibility of a credit union. Such an endeavor would require NJ Statute changes and Henry noted that rarely is something that is pursued. Henry also reported that there has been discussion about moving the main office to a central location in the state.

## Communications

There were no communications to report.

## Deferred Business

Egg Harbor Township Fire Chief William Danz Jr. reported on his continuing effort to get N.J.S.A. 40A:14-34 municipal appropriation to fire companies changed to allow greater municipal support of volunteer fire companies. Chief Danz reported that Cumberland County has joined the effort.

## New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

## Bills

The bills, totaling \$38,952.36, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Home Depot - \$391.14 (lumber, equip. maint., shed supplies) / South Jersey Welding - \$13.02 (equipment rental) / Suburban Propane - \$1,001.35 (propane) / Goodenoughs - \$900.00 (straw) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$460.00 (food for training) / This & That Uniform - \$407.25 (student shirts) / MES - \$525.00 (salvage covers, water cans) / Jaime C. Mellon, Treasurer - \$1,200.00 (annual) / Robert A. Mellon, Secretary - \$1,200.00 (annual) / IRS - \$5,243.02 (federal payroll taxes) / Payroll - \$27,107.70 (instructors) / Public Safety Center - \$503.88 (batteries)

## Election of Officers

The election of officers was held. The positions for the Executive Committee were voted on by ballot. The remaining positions were unopposed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the secretary cast the ballot for all unopposed positions. Those elected to office for the year 2015 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
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Chaplain (1) Rev. Thomas Sweeny

Sgt.-at-Arms (3) Charles Harlan, Wayne Dilks, William Donath

Executive Comm. (9) Howard Berchtold Jr., David G. Buzby, Levon "Lefty" Clayton,  
Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Oscar Dutch Jr., James Garth Sr.,  
Charles J. Guenther, R. Thomas Hunter Jr., C. Robert Winkler III

## **Applications for Membership**

There were no applications for membership.

## **Good of the Order**

President Portale wished all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year on behalf of himself and the association officers.

Secretary Mellon reported on news that someone had been phone soliciting under the name of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association on behalf of the burn foundation. A release, Facebook post, and email have been sent out informing all that ACFFA does not solicit via telephone, or door to door canvassing, and that the public should alert local authorities of any suspicious behavior. Official Release – Atlantic County Firefighters' Assoc. – Possible Telephone Scam. Someone is fraudulently soliciting donations on behalf of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association and/or an unnamed burn foundation using the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association name. The Atlantic County Firefighters' Association does not use telemarketers to raise funds for either association use or on behalf of any other group, such as a burn foundation. The association does not solicit donations over the phone or by canvassing door-to-door. The public should report suspicious activities and fraudulent phone calls to their local police department.

West Atlantic City Chief Wally Bakely reported on attending the Chief Arthur R. Brown Jr. Memorial Scholarship Foundation's annual awards dinner where Bargaintown Firefighter Marylynn Graham was honored as 2014 Citizen of the Year. Firefighter Graham is the first female Fire Instructor at the Atlantic County Fire Academy.

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

## **Adjournment**

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny. Rev. Sweeny wished all a Blessed and Merry Christmas. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:45. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on January 21, 2015 in Egg Harbor City. This meeting includes the annual memorial service of the association. Please submit the names of those that have passed during 2014 so that they may be included in the memorial service program and plan on attending the meeting and service in full class A dress uniform.

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)

## Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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Fri. Jan. 23, 2015	18:00	Fred & Ethel's Lantern Light Tavern	Beef & Beer to benefit Oceanville VFC
Fri. Mar. 20, 2015	18:30	Mays Landing Country Club	Annual ACFFA Dinner
Fri. Mar. 27, 2015	17:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner
Sat. Apr. 11, 2015	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner (HamAndOysterDinner.com)
Sat. May 2, 2015	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner

## ACFFA Meetings

### Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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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

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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

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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

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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