

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

President
Amor "Skip" Portale
Vice President
Ellsworth Ott
2nd Vice President
Charles "Chuck" Kisby



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

March 19, 2014

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on March 19, 2014 at the Weekstown 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 Chief Robert Cirillo of the Weekstown Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Cirillo welcomed all to Weekstown.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance - 49 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 22

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the February 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 \$140,177.76, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$59,232.35 / Savings: \$5,004.49 / Savings: \$52,331.22 / 13 Month CD: \$23,609.70
/ 0.65% - Due 5/6/2014

Special Presentation

NJ Forest Fire Service – Division Fire Warden Bill Donnelly introduced the Atlantic County Section Fire Wardens in attendance. Bill reported that they are available for presentations and training when requested. Bill gave an update on the 2014 fire season plans and staffing assignments including aircraft scheduling. The aircraft will be stationed in Downtown and training may be available at Strawberry Fields or Hammonton airport. Bill reported that there has been sixty forest fire incidents thus far for 2014 with forty-seven of them having occurred since the start of March. Bill reported that controlled burns are in progress and approximately 2,900 acres have been control burned so far.

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

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the March 7th meeting of the executive committee. Howard reported that the 501(c)(3) work is ongoing and moving forward after much more paperwork work has been completed by Secretary Mellon. Howard reported that the officers and executive committee members have completed their annual conflict of interest statements as required by the bylaws. Howard reported, that due to a scheduling conflict, the executive committee meeting originally scheduled for May 2nd has been moved to May 9th. Howard reviewed the recommendations of the executive committee to allow the treasurer to reinvest a CD due in May, make a payment of \$250.00 to Attorney Lynn Catterson, and to approve the resolution of support for allowing increased municipal aid to volunteer fire companies.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the March 10th meeting of the advisory board. The advisory board is monitoring the status and plans for central dispatch and the possibility that those plans may free up space at the training center. Howard reported that Mike Corbo is working on the repairs of the burn building doors and propane pad and that Whitey Swartz is working on plans for a fire safety program celebrating the training center's twenty first year.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported that he is now back from an extended trip. Ed congratulated the new fire chiefs and thanked all fire chiefs for working with him over the last year. Ed thanked the firefighters' association for helping with email and information distribution. Ed reported on the 2014 Homeland Security Grant program. No new projects will be approved, funding will only be providing for previously approved projects. Ed reported that the Atlantic County fire service was selected for a federal audit concerning the 2009 Homeland Security Grants. Ed thanked the fire chiefs that had to set up equipment access on short notice. Ed met with the auditors to discuss the equipment purchases and then traveled to East Vineland (folding tanks), Laureldale (foam trailer and equipment), South Egg Harbor (folding tanks), Absecon (fire police trailer), and Bayview (LDH trailer) for inspection and photographing of the equipment received via grant monies. Ed reported on the recent small airplane crash at the airport and the issues encountered with the tactical box response. Ed reported that he, Oscar Dutch, Chip Stockton, and Mike Corbo, will receive airport security clearance so that they will be able to access a gate and let emergency apparatus onto the airport grounds when needed. Ed reported that the NJ fire resource deployment act requires updating every two years and that all deputy fire coordinators have been assigned five fire companies and that they will work with the fire chiefs of those companies to update all mutual aid data as well as collecting CAD/RMS data for central dispatch. Ed reported that the NJ Forest Fire Interface Plan needs to be updated since the last update was in 2004. Ed reported that Deputy Fire Coordinator Howard Berchtold is taking the lead on the interface plan update. Ed reported that when the interface plan is close to fully updated, a drill will be scheduled so that all become familiar with the plan. Ed reported that all deputy fire coordinators have received new 800 MHz radios. Ed reported that Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) will hold a drill on April 27th hosted by Farmington Volunteer Fire Company and that Tender Task Force Bravo (TTF-B) and the Large Diameter Hose (LDH) Strike Team are in the process of planning their spring drills. Ed reported that the current paging system for the coordinators has had issues and that they will be switching to Active 911 through the Galloway Township dispatch center and that all deputy fire coordinators will need to be issued new county identification. Ed reported on the CAD/RMS progress for central dispatch and requested that all fire chiefs inform him of any needs or wants from central dispatch. Ed reported that he has routinely been notified about out of service apparatus and thanked the fire chiefs for keeping him up to date.

Fire Marshal / Public Relations – Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz reported that county fire reports will now be filed annually instead of monthly. Whitey reported on two possible valor award nominations. Whitey reported on issues with the recent

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

Cape Atlantic 200 Club memorial service and that attendance had decreased. Whitey reminded all to make sure any submissions for the state fire prevention poster contest are turned in.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I is running with forty-three students and Firefighter II is running with nine students. Mike reported that applications for the open staff fire instructor positions are available through Marianne at the training center. Applications are due back by Wednesday April 16th. Mike reported that the Incident Safety Officer class scheduled for March 21st has only three students registered and will be canceled unless more register. Mike reported on the QTO, QSO, ODI classes and reviewed other classes scheduled this semester including the I300 class that has been rescheduled for May. Mike reported that a new solid bore nozzle and a gated wye have been placed in the equipment shed, that the wheelbarrows now have solid tires, and that all brooms and shovels will be repaired or replaced. Mike reported on the NJ ProBoard accreditation and the issues that have come up. Mike is working with the NJ DFS to hopefully resolve some of the issues. Mike reported that he is waiting for the county engineer to approve the specs for replacing the burn building doors so that the project can be put out for bid. Mike reported that the forcible entry mockup is available for department/company drills at the training center. The only cost involved is to replace any lumber used during training. File a training request form to secure a date for training.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Charles "Chick" Kisby reported that the next meeting of the chiefs' association is scheduled for April 9, 2014 and will be hosted by Cardiff Vol. Fire Company at station 1 on the Black Horse Pike.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that this was a cold year at the home and that the dual fuel heating system worked great. Oscar reported that there was some damage from the snowstorms and it should all be covered by insurance. Oscar reported that some of the residents had an opportunity to attend a hockey game in the Governor's box and that they had a great time.

Atlantic County Fire Radio Policy Committee / Central Dispatch – Oscar Dutch reported that the final approvals and reviews are being done for a deal with Stockton College.

NJ State Firemen's Association – Henry Schoenstein thanked all local relief officers for getting their reports turned in. Henry reported that an increase in convention expenses has been approved. The Governor has approved the Firemen's Home budget and the NJ State Firemen's Association has approved cutting the check to transfer those funds to the home. Henry reported on plans for Earl's Girls Inc. (theatrical equipment company) to facilitate two way streaming of the convention to the Firemen's Home this year.

Audit Committee – President Portale reported that the treasurer has not yet received all of the documentation required to conduct the audit. The audit committee will be scheduled to meet as soon as the treasurer is ready.

ACFFA Dinner – Wayne Dilks reported that the dinner is scheduled for 6:30 PM April 11, 2014 at Careme's, Atlantic Cape Community College. Wayne reported that he has heard of the complainants concerning the date of the dinner and the cost. Unfortunately it is too late to adjust the date now. Wayne reported that dinners in the past have cost as much as \$45.00 per person and that the dinner is currently \$40.00 per person. Wayne is unsure if he can get the cost any lower. There are only a few seats remaining available for the dinner.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

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

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 he has received support from the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders when they passed a resolution of support at their March 4th meeting. Chief Danz read the Freeholder's resolution. Chief Danz reported on the current bills that have been proposed in the NJ Legislature. Senate bill No. 1480 was introduced by Senator Jeff Van Drew on February 27th and Assembly bill No. 2779 was introduced by Assemblyman Andrzejczak on March 10th. Chief Danz has requested that all fire departments/companies send letters of support, and request support from, their local, county, and state government representatives. President Portale noted that now is the time to get letters or resolutions of support sent out and that 1st, 2nd, 8th, and 9th legislative districts cover Atlantic County.

New Business

Whitey Swartz reported on ongoing problems with the cleaning of the training center and the two different labor options that the county employs for the cleaning resulting in subpar work. Whitey suggested that letters of concern be sent from both the firefighters' and chiefs' associations.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to have the secretary send letters of concern to the appropriate county officials.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to allow the treasurer to reinvest the CD due in May, at Parke Bank, at the best possible rate at the time it is due as recommended by the executive committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to make a good faith payment, in the amount of \$250.00, to Attorney Lynn Caterson as recommended by the executive committee.

Howard Berchtold reported that the executive committee has reviewed and recommended a resolution of support for changes to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-34 allowing increased municipal appropriations to volunteer fire companies. Secretary Mellon read the draft resolution support.

RESOLUTION

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Support increase in municipal appropriations to volunteer fire companies by amending N.J.S.A. 40A:14-34.

WHEREAS, the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association, with a membership of forty-four fire companies in Atlantic County, New Jersey, is an organization dedicated to public safety; and

WHEREAS, there are seven hundred thirty-seven (737) total fire companies in New Jersey with five hundred eighty-two (582) being volunteer, one hundred nine (109) being combination, and fifty (50) being career; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:14-34 Municipal appropriations to fire companies has not been updated in twenty-five (25) years; and,

WHEREAS, the southern New Jersey counties have had extreme population growth and increased financial burdens during the last twenty-five (25) years, such as additional fire stations, due to the Pinelands Act; and,

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

WHEREAS, volunteer fire companies have to spend excessive amounts of time conducting fundraising in order to offset the financial burdens and would be better served if time spent fundraising were dedicated to the training and drilling required to maintain effective readiness; and,

WHEREAS, the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of Atlantic County, New Jersey desires to have a positive and consequential impact on reducing the financial burden impacting volunteer fire companies; and,

WHEREAS, the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of Atlantic County, New Jersey recognizes that increased municipal aid would reduce the financial burden and fundraising needs of volunteer fire companies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of Atlantic County, New Jersey supports legislation and approval of amendments to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-34 Municipal appropriations to fire companies that would allow for increased municipal aid to volunteer fire companies.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the resolution of support for an increase in municipal appropriations to volunteer fire companies by amending N.J.S.A. 40A:14-34 as recommended by the executive committee.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$7,019.09, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- New Jersey Firemen's Home - \$200.00 (sponsor golf tournament) / Robert Mellon - \$480.49 (reimburse document scanner) / Liberty Mutual - \$1,650.00 (workers comp insurance) / Public Safety Center - \$1,121.68 (PPE gloves) / Mike Corbo - \$110.11 (reimburse tools) / ICC - \$1,106.56 (fire inspector text books) / This & That Uniform - \$1,156.75 (FFI shirts) / National Medal of Honor - \$243.70 (5 valor award medals) / Intuit QB Training - \$699.80 (QuickBooks training) / Evelyn Caterson - \$250.00 (legal fees - 501(c)(3) work)

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

Good of the Order

Thank you to the Weekstown Volunteer Fire Company 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 April 16, 2014 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center and hosted by the Margate City Fire Department. This meeting will include the annual valor awards and recognition of those achieving fifty plus years of active service.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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

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

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Mar. 29, 2014	09:00	Cedar Creek High School (Laureldale VFC)	"Step Up and Lead" Fire Service Leadership Seminar
Fri. Apr. 11, 2014	17:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	3 rd Annual Fire House Fish Fry Dinner
Fri. Apr. 11, 2014	18:30	Careme's @ Atlantic Cape Community	Annual ACFFA Dinner
Sat. Apr. 12, 2014	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. May 3, 2014	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sat. May 3, 2014	20:00	Mainland Regional High School (Linwood VFD)	Beatlemania
Sun. May 4, 2014	07:00	Minotola VFC	Breakfast (07:00 – 12:00)
Tues. May 6, 2014	08:30	Neschanic Valley Golf Club	New Jersey Firemen's Home 2014 Golf Outing
Sat. May 17, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ MayFest
Sun. May 18, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ MayFest
Sun. Jun. 1, 2014	12:00	Dorothy VFC	57th Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 20:00)
Tues. Aug. 12, 2014	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 12, 2014	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 13, 2014	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. May 4, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ OktoberFest
Sun. May 5, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ OktoberFest
Sat. Nov. 8, 2014	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Apr. 16, 2014	20:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation (Hosted by Margate FD)
Wed. May 21, 2014	20:00	Germania VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 18, 2014	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 16, 2014	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 20, 2014	20:00	Mizpah VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 17, 2014	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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
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. May 9, 2014	19:30	Fire Museum of Southern New Jersey	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 11, 2014	19:30	Landisville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 5, 2014	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Oct. 31, 2014	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jan. 2, 2015	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

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

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Mon. May 5, 2014	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 14, 2014	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Sep. 8, 2014	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of 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
-----	-----	-----	-----
Mon. Jan. 5, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association

Wed. Apr. 9, 2014	20:00	Cardiff VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. May 14, 2014	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jun. 11, 2014	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jul. 9, 2014	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Aug. 13, 2014	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Sep. 10, 2014	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's 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
-----	-----	-----	-----
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.

Thurs. Jul. 24, 2014	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
-----	-----	-----	-----
Thurs. Jan. 22, 2015	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association