

# 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

June 18, 2014

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on June 18, 2014 at the East Vineland 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 Marc Corsiglia of the East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Corsiglia welcomed all to East Vineland.

## In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance - 39      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 19

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the May 21, 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 \$142,731.73, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank  
Checking: \$61,618.49 / Savings: \$5,004.99 / Savings: \$52,383.91 / 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 on July 11, 2014 at the Landisville Vol. Fire Company.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for July 14, 2014.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported that most municipalities have signed the mutual aid agreement with the exception of Margate, Buena Borough, and Hammonton. Ed reported on the remaining departments/companies that still need to update their mutual aid plan in order for the county plan to be submitted to the state for review. Ed reported that a tote of AR-AFFF foam will replace an old tote of fluoride protein foam stationed in Hammonton. The fluoride protein foam

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tote will be moved to the training center and off loaded into five gallon containers for distribution to interested fire departments/companies for training usage. It is requested that departments/companies utilize their own empty five gallon containers, if they have some. Ed reported on the drill held by Tender Task Force – Bravo (TTF-B) on May 19<sup>th</sup> and the drill held by the Large Diameter Hose (LDH) Strike Team on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Ed reported on a portable radio patching unit that can patch up to five frequencies together. Ed offered a belated congratulations to Eric Winkler as the new chief of the Pomona Volunteer Fire Company and Amor "Skip" Portale as the new chief of the Galloway Township Fire Department. Ed reported on a recent meeting of the CAD/RMS planning group and that the group is sitting in the Atlantic City CAD/RMS meetings now to ensure future compatibility. Ed reported that the deputy fire coordinators are invited to attend a NJ regional fire coordinator meeting in Middlesex County. Ed reported that all deputy fire coordinators will need to be issued new county identification and they should make arrangements to get a new ID by contacting Jake Lees. Ed reported that the Atlantic City Airshow is scheduled for Wednesday August 13<sup>th</sup> with a practice day on Tuesday August 12<sup>th</sup>. Ed will contact the same departments/companies that assisted last year to provide the same assistance this year. Ed reported that Deputy Fire Coordinator Howard Berchtold has worked tirelessly to update the county wildfire urban interface plan and it has been submitted to the state for review and approval. Howard reported that changes made included updating the maps and correcting terminology to accepted standards. Ed will email a copy of the plan to all fire chiefs when final approvals are received. A two hour drill will be scheduled in the fall to exercise the updated plan. Ed thanked Howard for all of the work he put into the updated plan.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that summer Firefighter I is currently running with fifteen students including the first ever out of state student. Firefighter II is running with eight students. Mike reported that the spring Firefighter I and II graduation ceremony has been scheduled for 7:00 PM on Monday July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Academy. Mike reported that applications for the Atlantic County 4H Fair Firefighter Competition will be sent to the fire chiefs this week. Applications will be due back by August 1<sup>st</sup>. If needed, a preliminary competition will be held on Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Academy in order to narrow the field to the final four that will compete at the fair on Friday August 8<sup>th</sup>. New this year is a Junior Firefighter Competition to be held at the Fire Academy on Thursday August 7<sup>th</sup> and the winning team will be honored at the fair on Friday August 8<sup>th</sup> and will run through a demonstration of their winning performance. Mike reported that the fall course book will be completed in August. Mike reviewed the remainder of the scheduled classes on the calendar.

**Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association** – Charles "Chick" Kisby reported that the next meeting of the chiefs' association is scheduled for July 9, 2014 and will be hosted by Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Company.

**Atlantic County Fire Radio Policy Committee / Central Dispatch** – Oscar Dutch reported that Mike Bradeis has returned to the lead county position for the central dispatch project. Oscar reported that county leadership will attend the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the association in Linwood to provide a central dispatch update and address concerns for the county fire service. Oscar is recommending that all fire chiefs and officers attend this meeting. Oscar reported that a committee of county mayors has been formed to work on central dispatch in regards to the interest of the municipalities.

**Fire Marshal / Public Relations** – Oscar Dutch reported that Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz will need assistance with transporting supplies and setting up at the Atlantic County 4H Fair in August.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that the home is doing well and that repairs to the outside have been started due to winter damage. Oscar reported that a new assistant director of nursing has been hired. Oscar reported on a request that all county managers talk with their residents in the home to ascertain the interest level in traveling to Wildwood for the convention. No responses were received. Oscar reported that they will continue the two way conference streaming for the residents to see the convention from the home.

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**NJ State Firemen's Association** – Henry Schoenstein thanked all of the local officers that attended the treasurer audit recently in Egg Harbor City. Henry reported that final work is being completed on the audit, but no issues have been identified at this time. Henry reported that a letter has been sent to all locals instructing them to send any OPRA requests to the main office where they will be handled.

**Audit** – William Donath reported that the audit of the association's treasurer records has been completed and was correct down to the penny. Bill thanked Treasurer Jaime Mellon for the good work. President Portale thanked the audit committee and Treasurer Jaime Mellon for a job well done.

**Atlantic County 4H Fair** – Howard Berchtold reported that the fair is scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> with the Firefighter Competition to be held on Friday August 8<sup>th</sup>. Howard reminded all that assistance will be needed on August 7<sup>th</sup> to set up and apparatus will again be requested for display for the length of the fair. An apparatus display application will be distributed and only a few hours will be requested of each display piece. Those displaying apparatus may also run a demonstration evolution and it is requested that they note that on the display application.

**ACFFA Dinner** – Wayne Dilks reported that a profit was realized from the April dinner but that it should have covered hors d'oeuvres that the college failed to provide as promised and were not included in the final bill.

## 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 on meeting with Senator Jeff VanDrew and revising his bill to reflect up to \$150,000 of allowed municipal assistance for the first three volunteer fire companies and an additional \$50,000 of allowed municipal assistance for each additional volunteer fire company beyond three.

## New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

## Bills

The bills, totaling \$3,413.36, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Primos Pizza - \$397.00 (training lunches) / Mike Corbo - \$265.75 (training and office supplies reimbursement) / Lowes - \$75.18 (extrication shed supplies) / R&D Lettering - \$160.00 (lettering) / AtlantiCare - \$67.00 (CPR cards) / Suburban Propane - \$1,343.93 (propane) / Staples - \$32.50 (training office supplies) / Good Enoughs - \$900.00 (straw) / Puggie Class B Recycling - \$134.00 (stone for shed base) / This & That Uniforms - \$38.00 (instructor polo)

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## **Applications for Membership**

There were no applications for membership.

## **Good of the Order**

Chief Mike Ruberton, Hammonton Fire Department, provided an update on the workers compensation issue in Hammonton that was first reported in January at the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association meeting. Chief Ruberton reported attending many meetings at the county and state levels. The workers compensation claim has remained denied and the clarity of the situation is still muddy after all of the meetings. The claim is that a pre-existing condition was attributable to the firefighter's fall and therefore not covered by worker's compensation insurance through the Atlantic County JIF. Chief Ruberton thanked all those that called to express support.

Chief Ruberton also reported on the Challenge Atlantic City Triathlon scheduled for Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup> on the same day as the Red, White, and Blueberry Festival, a soccer tournament, and during the blueberry harvest. Traffic delays are to be expected throughout Hammonton all day and the Hammonton Fire Department will remain in town. Lefty Clayton reported on attending a planning meeting for the triathlon where he inquired if the affected fire departments/companies have or will be notified of the many road closures and detours throughout the county. Lefty was informed that they were not notified directly.

Thank you to the East Vineland 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 20:50. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on July 16, 2014 at the Linwood Fire Department.

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

Fri. Jun. 27, 2014	14:30	Farmington VFC	American Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by Egg Harbor Twp. Fire Dept. (14:30 – 19:30)
Mon. Jul. 7, 2014	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	2014 Spring Firefighter I & II Graduation Ceremony
Sat. Jul. 19, 2014	22:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	50/50 Raffle @ 139 <sup>th</sup> Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Aug. 7, 8, 9, 2014	varies	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair (Firefighter Competition - Fri. Aug. 8 at 19:00)
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. Oct. 4, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ OktoberFest
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 <sup>th</sup> Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sat. Oct. 11, 2014	12:30	Bargaintown VFC @ McCullough's Emerald Links	6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing
Sat. Nov. 8, 2014	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
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## ACFFA Meetings

### Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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
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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. 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
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Fri. Jan. 2, 2015	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

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## Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

### 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
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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. 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
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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.

Thurs. Jul. 24, 2014	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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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