

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

February 18, 2015

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on February 18, 2015 at the Longport Volunteer Fire Department by 1st Vice President Ellsworth Ott. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of all fallen firefighters and military personnel. 1st Vice President Ott then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

1st Vice President Ott introduced Chief Levon "Lefty" Clayton of the Longport Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Clayton welcomed all to Longport and reported that Longport Mayor, and Firefighter, Nick Russo was out of the state. Chief Clayton relayed a message from Mayor Russo welcoming all to Longport and reminding all about the Gift from Captain Buscio Firefighter Cardio-Pulmonary screening program at Deborah Hospital.

Chief Clayton then called upon retired Atlantic County Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz. Chief Clayton presented Whitey with a plaque recognizing him as an Honorary Member of the Longport Volunteer Fire Department. Whitey thanked Chief Clayton and the members of the Longport Volunteer Fire Department. Whitey also thanked everyone for the recent surprise retirement party and all the gifts he received. Whitey requested that everyone afford the same level of cooperation that he received to the new Atlantic County Fire Marshal, Dave Buzby.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 35 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 18

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2015 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 \$116,806.62, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$35,443.52 / Savings: \$5,006.00 / Savings: \$52,524.48 / 12 Month CD: \$23,832.62
/ 0.60% - Due 5/6/2015

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported on the annual reorganizational meeting of the committee held on January 2, 2015 in Pomona. Howard summarized the minutes from that meeting and reported on the recommendations

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that the association adopt the 2015 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Budget Proposal and Capital Purchase Proposal. Howard also reported that the committee recommends allowing the Treasurer to close the safe deposit box at Bank of America due to a lack of use and ongoing expense. Important documents are able to be placed in a fire proof box at the training center office. Howard reported that the committee discussed the need for "fresh faces" at association meetings. Most regularly represented departments/companies have the same delegates attending for many years and generally not representing the four representative votes each department/company has. Other departments/companies rarely, if ever, have any representation at meetings or events. It is important that all departments/companies have representation and participation to ensure the future viability of this association. It is important to get some of the younger members to become part of that representation. Howard asked everyone to seek full representation from their departments/companies and to get the younger generations actively involved. Howard reviewed the many programs that Whitey Swartz was either a major contributor towards planning and execution or was the initial creator of. Howard thanked Whitey for the many years of hard work with the public relations programs of this association. Howard reported that the Estell Manor academy engine has had plumbing issues and that a possibility of replacing it with another engine was being looked into. Howard reported that the executive committee has reviewed the issues with the Firefighter I pass/fail rate extensively and noted the need that senior fire department/company leadership needs to be actively involved with their trainees and keep on top of them as to the need to read, study, and learn during their time at the academy. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for March 6, 2015 in Somers Point at Station 1.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 2015. Howard reported that Frank Sutton did not seek reelection to the Board of Chosen Freeholders and that newly elected Freeholder, John Carman, has been assigned to the Fire Training Advisory Board. Howard reported that the need to replace the doors in the burn building is great and that they are working with the county to get that done before the building needs to be closed. Howard reported that Whitey Swartz recommended that a new washer and dryer be placed into the budget for the training center. Howard noted that the board acknowledges the need to expand the training center in some way but realize that any formal discussion should be tabled until after the central dispatch project is complete. The next meeting of the board is on March 2, 2015 at the training center.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent thanked the association officers and executive committee for their assistance with sharing information. Ed reported that Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) has scheduled their spring drill for April 19th in West Tuckerton, Ocean County. Ed reported that he has received, and relayed, all of the 2013 fire call numbers for the CAD/RMS committee and does not need any further data. Ed reported on the FY2014 Homeland Security Grant and that \$20,000 is earmarked for the EHTFD Technical Rescue Team, \$9,466 to the ACFD Confined Space Operations, and \$14,300 distributed to the county task forces and strike teams. All are working on pricing their equipment requests. Ed reported that they will soon schedule a meeting to start planning for the FY2015 Homeland Security Grant which should also be used for existing regional projects. Ed may submit for marine operations. Ed reported that the fire coordinators were notified about the fire in Richland and two 2nd alarm fires in Atlantic City. There was no need for fire coordinator response to any of the three incidents. Ed reported that he and all but one of the deputy coordinators recently attended a NJ regional coordinator meeting. Ed summarized some of the information received at that meeting. Notifications about crude oil transportation is being sought for public safety. Deborah Hospital provided an update on the Captain Buscio physical offered to all firefighters. They would like all fire chiefs to get their physical completed as a positive message to all firefighters. A statewide urban interface tender task force drill will be setup in Mercer County to demonstrate such operations for the departments that do not utilize tender task force operations and are not familiar with it. There was a presentation on the Edgewater AvalonBay apartment complex fire. A NJ Forest Fire official reported that they expect a minimally active fire season, that some counties have yet to submit an updated wildland urban interface plan, and that the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) United States Forest Service Grant Program has been delayed. There was a presentation about the NJ

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Local Assistance State Team (LAST) of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). The team can assist a fire department through the process when a Line of Duty Death (LODD) occurs. Assistance can be as little or as much as the local department and family desire. The assistance can include operational support to ensure the continuance of service to the community, any and all needed support to the family of the fallen firefighter, planning and coordination of funeral activities, assistance in obtaining behavioral health counseling for family and department members, and the preparation of local, state and federal benefit claims. While these teams may perform many important functions their primary responsibility, when requested, is to assist with the preparation and submission of the Public Safety Officers Benefit claim. The Local Assistance State Team will only assist after being requested and then will operate in a transparent manner behind the scenes to accomplish their tasks. Ed reported that all of the deputy fire coordinators gained much valuable information at that meeting. Ed reported that the NJ Emergency Preparedness Conference is scheduled for May 4th through May 8th at the Tropicana in Atlantic City. The NJ Division of Fire Safety will be at the conference. Ed reported that the CAD/RMS committee is preparing to go out to bid for the CAD/RMS computer systems and that a committee has started working on a county radio policy.

Fire Marshal / Public Relations – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that the 50+ year member recognition submissions and valor award nominations need to be submitted before March 16th

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the training course book has been mailed to all departments/companies and is also posted online. Mike reported that the Firefighter I graduation has now been canceled twice, due to weather, and that the training center has no good availability in the near future. Mike will be working with President Portale and Howard Berchtold to find an alternate location and schedule the graduation ceremony. Mike reported that the current Firefighter I class started on February 10th with fifty-seven students, ten of which are from out of county. Mike reported that the majority of those that failed the last Firefighter I exam have passed the exam on their second attempt. Mike reported that the NJ Division of Fire Safety (DFS) - Kean University Fire Safety Training courses have just posted online and registration is now open. Mike reported that the NJ weekend at the National Fire Academy is scheduled for June 26, 27, and 28. The cost is only \$30 per student and the experience and training is well worth the trip. Details are not yet posted but will be soon on the Kean University Fire Safety Training website. Mike reported that there was sixty-one (61) classes held at the Atlantic County Fire Academy in 2014 which trained nine hundred twenty-one (921) students. Mike reviewed the upcoming classes including a fire inspector class, three QTO classes, and a fire instructor class being run by Kean University Fire Safety Training.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Chick Kisby reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on March 11, 2015 at the Minotola Volunteer Fire Company.

Atlantic County Central Dispatch – Oscar Dutch reported that, in contrast to what was said at the January firefighters' association meeting, the construction of central dispatch has not yet gone out to bid. It will be ready for the bid process in the next month or two.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the recent flu has affected some of the residents. Oscar reported that the home's budget has been approved and signed by the governor. Oscar reported that he will be attending a conference in Atlantic City which will honor the home.

200 Club – Secretary Mellon reported that the 200 Club of Atlantic and Cape May Counties has scheduled the 30th Annual Atlantic/Cape Memorial Service and Brunch for March 15th in Atlantic City. Information and tickets are available at <http://200clubofatlanticandcapemaycounties.org/events.html>

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ACFFA Dinner – Cindy Badger reported that the dinner is scheduled for March 20th and that RSVP with payment is due by March 6th. Checks can be made out to the association. Cindy noted that any groups with eight, ten, or twelve attending the dinner should let her know and she will reserve a table for your group.

EHTFD Technical Rescue Team – EHTFD Chief Bill Danz reported that ice rescue training will be conducted from 08:00 until 12:00 on February 21st at Lake Lenape and that a Hurst rescue tools demonstration has been scheduled for February 23rd at the training center.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize Treasurer Mellon to close the safe deposit box account at Bank of America as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the 2015 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Budget Proposal and the 2015 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Capital Purchase Proposal as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$1,910.83, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- IRS - \$364.20 (federal payroll taxes) / NJ Dept. of Treasury - \$1,094.20 (NJ-927 payroll taxes) / South Jersey Welding - \$13.46 (equipment rental) / Lowes - \$44.73 (training mockup supplies) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$359.50 (food for Whitey's retirement party) / Home Depot - \$34.74 (training mockup supplies)

Applications for Membership

Mark Kelley, Scott Powers, Ben Morse, and Brandon Cheatham of the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company and Sean O'Leary, Thomas Lazar III, Salvatore Provenzano, Geoffrey Kulzer, John A. Stroebele, David L. Milner, Nicholas Russo, Anthony Vicchiarelli, Howard M. Axel, Joseph H. Dougherty, and Patricia L. Jordan of the Longport Volunteer Fire Department were accepted into membership.

Good of the Order

Mike Corbo reported that Fire Instructors Marylynn Graham, Eric Grace, Rob Winkler, and Gil Zonge built a bail out window in the loft of the engine bay for the safety and survival class. The window can also be used for other classes such as RIT training and ladder training. Mike noted that it is well-constructed and that the instructors should be commended for doing a great job.

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EHTFD Chief Bill Danz provided an update 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. He sent letters to the local state representatives to remind them that the bill is still in committee and sent updates to the other twenty New Jersey counties. Chief Danz reported that he was contacted by a Middlesex County Freeholder who reported that they are drafting a resolution of support for the bill. Chief Danz noted that February 27th will mark the one year anniversary since starting the endeavor to increase municipal aid to volunteer fire companies.

Howard Berchtold thanked Ed Vincent for inviting all deputy fire coordinators to attend the regional meeting and also for treating all the deputies to lunch. Howard reported that he was very impressed by the presentation on the NJ Local Assistance State Team (LAST) of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and how much assistance can be provided to an affected fire department and fallen firefighter's family.

Thank you to the Longport Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:00. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on March 18, 2015 in Sweetwater.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sun. Mar. 15, 2015	10:30	St. Nicholas Church (10:30) & Tropicana (12:00)	200 Club of Atlantic & Cape May Counties Memorial Service (10:30) & Brunch (12:00)
Fri. Mar. 20, 2015	18:30	Mays Landing Country Club	Annual ACFFA Dinner (RSVP by March 6th)
Fri. Mar. 27, 2015	17:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	4th 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
Sat. May 16, 2015	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Mayfest (Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries)
Sat. May 16, 2015	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)
Sun. May 17, 2015	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Mayfest (Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries)
Sun. Jun. 7, 2015	12:00	Dorothy VFC	58th Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 20:00)
Sat. Jun. 13, 2015	12:00	Cologne VFC	Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
Thurs. Aug. 6, 2015	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 7, 2015	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 7, 2015	19:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Firefighter Competition
Sat. Aug. 8, 2015	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Tues. Aug. 11, 2015	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 18, 2015	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 19, 2015	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Oct. 3, 2015	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest (Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries)
Sat. Oct. 3, 2015	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sun. Oct. 4, 2015	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest (Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries)
Sat. Oct. 10, 2015	08:00	Elwood VFC @ Mays Landing Country	14th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sat. Oct. 17, 2015	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)
Sat. Oct. xx, 2015	09:00	South Egg Harbor VFC	Fall/Christmas Craft, Art, & Home Show
Sat. Nov. 14, 2015	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Dec. 5, 2015	11:00	Cardiff VFC	Open House with Santa Claus (11:00 - 15:00)

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ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Mar. 18, 2015	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Apr. 15, 2015	20:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation
Wed. May 20, 2015	20:00	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 17, 2015	20:00	Milmay VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 15, 2015	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 19, 2015	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 16, 2015	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 21, 2015	20:00	Port Republic VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 18, 2015	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 16, 2015	20:00	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 20, 2016	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 17, 2016	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. Mar. 6, 2015	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. May 1, 2015	19:30	Fire Museum of Southern New Jersey	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 3, 2015	19:30	Landisville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 4, 2015	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Oct. 30, 2015	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 8, 2016	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. Mar. 2, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. May 4, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 6, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Sep. 14, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Nov. 9, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 4, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Mar. 11, 2015	20:00	Minotola VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Apr. 8, 2015	20:00	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. May 13, 2015	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jun. 10, 2015	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jul. 8, 2015	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Aug. 12, 2015	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Sep. 9, 2015	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Oct. 14, 2015	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Nov. 11, 2015	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 9, 2015	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
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Jan. 2016	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Feb. 2016	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jul. 23, 2015	19:30	Dorothy VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 28, 2016	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 28, 2016	19:30	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association