

# 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

October 28, 2015

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:05 on October 28, 2015 at the Port Republic 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.

## Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company Chief, John Yochim. Chief Yochim welcomed all to Port Republic.

## In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 36 of 176      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 16 of 44

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the September 16, 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 \$124,300.14, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank  
Checking: \$42,762.32 / Savings: \$5,007.00 / Savings: \$52,663.70 / 13 Month CD: \$23,867.12  
/ 1.01% - Due 6/13/2016

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for October 30, 2015 in South Egg Harbor at 19:30. The committee will meet at the South Egg Harbor firehouse at 17:15 or the Never There Gun Club, Hammonton, at 17:30 for the spaghetti and crab sauce dinner at the gun club. All are welcome to join the committee for dinner.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for November 9, 2015 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center.

**Atlantic County Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported on the response to the Mays Landing-Somers Point Road fire. Ed reported that the Homeland Security Grant Working Group recently held a meeting to discuss the

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spending plan. Ed reminded all about the Central Dispatch presentation scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Atlantic County Institute of Technology. Ed reported that the county will be sending a 911 dispatch operating cost survey to the fire departments and is requesting that they seek municipal input to complete and return the surveys. Ed reported that the new five year mutual aid agreement has been sent out to all twenty-three municipalities with a request to pass a resolution authorizing the signing of the agreement. Ed stressed the importance of signing the agreement to prevent the potentially high reimbursement costs when utilizing mutual aid without an agreement in place. Ed reported that he needs to keep the Mutual Aid Plan up to date and file those updates with the NJ DFS in 2016. Ed requested that anyone with new apparatus or equipment, retiring apparatus, or have new officers should inform him of those updates as soon as possible via either phone or email before the end of the year.

**Atlantic County Fire Marshal** – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that all is well.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported Firefighter I currently has twenty students, Firefighter II has fifteen students, and many classes have been canceled due to low or lack of registrants. Mike informed all that Fall semester cancellations are not new or unique and that Gloucester and Camden Counties are experiencing the same issues. Contributing factors include training budgets being depleted prior to the end of the year. Mike reported that he just received notification from the NJ DFS requiring the NFPA first aid curriculum to be taught in the Firefighter I class. Mike noted that this will add a couple of hours to the current schedule and that if he adds a couple more hours, he could teach the AHA First Aid curriculum that provides the students with a recognized first aid certification. The first aid chapter in the Firefighter I textbook provides no certification. Mike will work on the details of updating the Firefighter I curriculum. Mike reported that the Northfield engine is now in service at the training center and that the disposal of the Estell Manor engine will be discussed at the October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee. Mike reported on the process in place to update student records when they make up a missed class. Mike was questioned about the added costs to FFI associated with AHA First Aid certification. Mike noted that the certification would add \$10 to the current cost and that he would discuss with the Executive Committee whether the additional certification should be added to the current curriculum. Mike noted that if a student already had the AHA First Aid certification, they would not need to attend on the days that it is taught. Mike was questioned about changing up the current mix of classes as they seem to always be the same year after year. Mike noted that he has not received any direct request to add a particular type of class to the schedule and that there are many worthwhile classes that will enhance a firefighter's skills and safety currently being offered. Not all firefighters in Atlantic County have opted to advance their knowledge with the current courses and they should. Mike reported that he will send a survey out to all fire chiefs seeking input on the training that they would like to see offered in the future, one suggestion from the floor was for ladder/tower operations. Mike received several inquiries from the floor concerning the total number of hours required to teach Firefighter I under the NJ DFS standards and what total hours are being taught at the other NJ fire academies. Many have heard of lower hour requirements at several other academies. Mike reported that Atlantic County Fire Academy teaches for both the NFPA and PEOSH standard requirements and that some academies are only teaching to the NFPA standards. There was an open discussion and explanation about the ProBoard standard for testing and how the Atlantic County fire Academy meets the standard with the written testing and the practical evolutions. There was an open discussion about what the NJ DFS considers the minimum required hours for Firefighter I training to be and their current state of their certification process. Mike reported that he will start collecting data from all fire academies as to what they train for Firefighter I and what hours they allot for the training. Mike thanked everyone, on behalf of himself and his family, for their thoughts, prayers, and attendance at the service for his wife. Mike noted it was a hard struggle the past three years as Patti battled breast cancer and the ongoing support was greatly appreciated.

**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 November 11, 2015 at the Linwood Fire Department.

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**Atlantic County Central Dispatch** – Oscar Dutch reported that the central dispatch presentation is 7:00 PM, Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at the Atlantic County Institute of Technology's Performing Arts Center (ACIT-PAC). Parking will be in the east parking lot (large lot off Atlantic Avenue). It is requested that every public safety organization send a representative.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Board Manager Oscar Dutch reported that the Board of Managers recently held their reorganizational meeting and that renovations are continuing at the home. Oscar noted that if anyone would like to join him for a tour of the home and property to just give him a call to make arrangements.

**NJ State Firemen's Assn.** – Henry Schoenstein reported on the convention proceedings of the NJSFA. Henry noted that the issues of the election are still not resolved and that he had no prior knowledge of what would happen and that he does not agree with what happened. Henry reported that NJ State Firemen's Assn. President George Heflich, Sr. had requested to attend a meeting of this association. That request was denied by President Portale, in consultation with the officers and Executive Committee, due to the need to focus this association on training firefighters with only informational updates from other organizations. It was determined that due to the nature, and divisiveness, of the NJ State Firemen's Association's current issues that they should look into holding a special meeting of the NJSFA delegates and life members within each county. Henry reported on some of the details of the proceedings in Wildwood with some of the new information that has come to light since then. Henry reported that he has concerns with much of what happened, that he has spent much time researching further information, and that he will be seeking answers from the NJSFA officers. There was an open discussion about the NJSFA nomination and election process. President Portale requested that all continue the conversation with their local relief associations.

**ACFFA Dinner** – The dinner is scheduled for April 2, 2016. Cindy Badger reported that she will request the menu options for review and that she has been informed that the recent change of ownership will not affect the current plans for the dinner.

## Communications

A thank you card was received from the Guenther family. They thanked the association for the flower and for participating in the funeral of their father, Charles J. Guenther.

## Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

## New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

## Bills

The bills, totaling \$4,304.31, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Jimmie's Florist - \$100.00 (flowers-funeral Charles Guenther) / Staples - \$111.23 (training office supplies) / Lowes - \$970.72 (equip. maintenance & training supplies) / South Jersey Welding Supply - \$28.06 (equip. rental) / Suburban Propane - \$319.01 (propane) / Ketchum Mfg. Co. - \$162.19 (accountability tags) / Mike Corbo - \$455.60 (reimburse training equip. construction supplies) / This & That Uniforms - \$855.50 (FFI shirts & instructor polo) / NJ Div. of Revenue - \$25.00 (corp. annual report) / MES - \$77.00 (washer & SCBA service) / Good Enough - \$1,200.00 (straw)

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## Nomination of Officers

The first of two rounds of nominations was held. Those nominated 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
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	Cindy L. Badger
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. *, Don DaGrossa*, Oscar Dutch Jr., James Garth Sr. *, R. Thomas Hunter Jr., Walter "Butch" Kienzle III, Eugene M. Sharpe*, C. Robert Winkler III

*\*have not yet formally accepted nomination and must do so before elections.*

## Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

## Good of the Order

Lefty Clayton reported that Ocean City is currently converting their hydrants to four inch Stortz connections starting at the north end and moving south.

Thank you to the Port Republic 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 November 18, 2015 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2.

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

Sat. Oct. 31, 2015	11:00	Landisville VFC	Annual Beef BBQ
Sat. Nov. 14, 2015	15:00	Scullville VFC	Fall Fundraiser Beef & Beer
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)
Sat. Dec. 12, 2015	19:00	Hammonton	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (reg. 17:30 & parade 19:00)
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Fri. Mar. 18, 2016	17:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	5th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner
Sat. Apr. 2, 2016	18:30	Mays Landing Country Club	Annual ACFFA Dinner (RSVP by March 18 <sup>th</sup> )
Sat. Apr. 9, 2016	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. May 7, 2016	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sat. May 14, 2016	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill
Sat. Oct. 8, 2016	08:00	Elwood VFC @ Mays Landing Country	15th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sat. Nov. 12, 2016	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

## Regional Drills/Training

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Sat. May 14, 2016	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill

## ACFFA Meetings

### Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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. 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. 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. Nov. 11, 2015	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 9, 2015	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
.....	.....	.....	.....
Jan. 2016	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Feb. 2016	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. 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