

# 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 "Chuck" Kisby



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

December 16, 2015

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on December 16, 2015 at the Bargaintown 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 Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company Lieutenant, Clarence Abbott. Lieutenant Abbott welcomed all to Bargaintown. Lieutenant Abbott introduced Egg Harbor Township Fire Department Chief, C. Robert Winkler III. Chief Winkler welcomed all to Egg Harbor Township and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company Chief, Gene Sharpe, arrived later during the meeting and was introduced by President Portale. Chief Sharpe noted that 2015 was a good year and without any serious injuries in the fire service. Chief Sharpe reported that Bargaintown is back in the Tender Task Force and happy to be able to assist when called upon.

## In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 44 of 176      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 22 of 44

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the November 18, 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 \$136,254.13, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank  
Checking: \$54,616.87 / Savings: \$5,007.25 / Savings: \$52,698.85 / 13 Month CD: \$23,931.16  
/ 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 January 8, 2016 in Pomona at 19:30 and will be the reorganizational meeting for 2016. Howard reported on a discussion about the reported damage to an Absecon Fire Department turn-out coat during a flashover simulation. Howard reported that there is no current policy to determine any responsibility and that current insurance coverage does not cover such an incident. With no way to determine any relevant fault, the President and the Executive Committee are recommending that the association offer to pay half the cost, up to \$500, for a new turn-out coat. Howard noted that the Director of Training

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will work with the Executive Committee to write a policy covering any future incidents and how they will be handled. Howard reflected on the events of the past year, both in the fire service and in general, and reminded all about how important it is to cherish and enjoy your family. 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 4, 2016 at the training center.

**Atlantic County Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent thanked all of the county fire chiefs and the deputy fire coordinators for their assistance during the last year. Ed reported that there were no calls for coordinator response since the last meeting and that Tender Task Force – Bravo (TTF-B) held a drill, hosted by East Vineland on November 15<sup>th</sup>, which went well. Ed reported that twenty-two, of twenty-three, municipalities have already returned signed copies of the new five year Mutual Aid Agreement. Ed noted that Hammonton is the remaining municipality needing to sign the new Mutual Aid Agreement and that he was informed that the agreement should be signed soon. Ed reported that he needs to keep the Mutual Aid Plan up to date and file those updates with the NJ DFS in January of 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 January 15<sup>th</sup>. Ed reported on the Shore Regional Coordinator meeting held on December 11<sup>th</sup> in Cape May and the plans announced to change some of the positions within the NJ Division of Fire Safety. Ed noted that the NJ DFS guideline, recently distributed, requires state notification within four hours for any line of duty death or serious injury of a firefighter. Ed reported that Director Vincent Jones III, Atlantic County Dept. of Public Safety Office of Emergency Preparedness, has requested that all incidents of the past year be reviewed and relevant data from task force and strike team deployments be gathered for comparison between the current dispatch operation and the proposed central dispatch. Ed relayed some of his experiences with putting out the request for full, or partial, task force and strike team requests and how some dispatch centers require that he speak with the police chief before contacting dispatch. Ed noted that he will include the NJ Fire Service Deployment Act along with other relevant data when they meet on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the Firefighter I class is still running with seventeen students and that they will take their written exam on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mike noted that Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II are scheduled for January and that both need more registrants. Mike reported that the contractor is working daily on the burn building door replacements.

**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 January 13, 2016 at the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Board Manager Oscar Dutch reported that all is quiet and quite festive at the home with many fire departments hosting holiday parties. Oscar reported on the electrical rework being done to the old mansion section and informed all that the 2016 golf tournament is scheduled for May 10, 2016.

**Atlantic County Central Dispatch** – Oscar Dutch reported that he recently spoke with Director Vincent Jones III, Atlantic County Dept. of Public Safety Office of Emergency Preparedness, and received word that the county is still moving central dispatch forward while more data is collected. Oscar reported that the League of Municipalities will provide the county mayors more detail on the safety aspects of a consolidated system in January. Butch Kienzle questioned whether the County Freeholders already approved moving central dispatch forward. Freeholder John Carmen, whom was in attendance, reported that the Board of Chosen Freeholder actions to start with central dispatch were prior to his starting on the board and that he will request all relevant minutes to research what has been formally approved at the county level. President Portale suggested that a motion for the association secretary to send a copy of this association's resolution supporting central dispatch to all

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county municipal leaders may be in order. President Portale also requested that all firefighters and officers attend their local municipal meetings and inform their leadership of the benefits of a central dispatch. Howard Berchtold provided his views and opinion about the need for a central dispatch before any large scale incidents may happen in Atlantic County.

**NJ State Firemen's Assn.** – Executive Committeeman Henry Schoenstein reported that there was nothing new to report and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Atlantic County Fire Marshal** – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reminded all to notify him, by the first week of January, of any firefighter deaths in 2015 for inclusion in the annual memorial service at the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association meeting in Egg Harbor City on January 20, 2016.

## 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 instruct the association secretary to send a copy of this association's resolution (2015-05) supporting central dispatch to all county municipal leaders.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize the association to pay half the cost, up to \$500, for a new turn-out coat for the Absecon Fire Department.

## Bills

The bills, totaling \$27,798.82, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Lowes - \$657.69 (roof mock-up materials) / Mike Corbo - \$1,435.00 (reimburse three Scott bottles) / South Jersey Welding Supply - \$28.06 (equip. rental) / Bank of America - \$37.45 (safe deposit box) / United States Treasury - \$850.00 (IRS 501(c)3 application fee) / Payroll - \$17,850.03 (instructors) / IRS - \$3,641.78 (federal payroll taxes) / Robert A. Mellon - \$366.05 (reimburse card printer supplies) / Home Depot - \$91.38 (training supplies propane torches) / Robert A. Mellon, Secretary - \$1,200.00 (annual) / Jaime C. Mellon, Treasurer - \$1,200.00 (annual) / Amazon - \$441.38 (office supplies, administration)

## 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 2016 are as follows:

President (1) Amor "Skip" Portale

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (1) Ellsworth Ott

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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., Levon "Lefty" Clayton, Rick Coraluzzo Sr.,  
Oscar Dutch Jr., James Garth Sr., R. Thomas Hunter Jr.,  
Walter "Butch" Kienzle III, Eugene M. Sharpe, C. Robert Winkler III

## **Applications for Membership**

Michael J. Cardy and Tyler Krumaker of the Linwood Fire Department were accepted into membership.

## **Good of the Order**

Additional questions about the flashover simulator turn-out coat damage, and what the policy going forward may be, were brought up and discussed. President Portale reported that discussion, and recommendations, about a formal policy will start at the Executive Committee meeting in January and, hopefully, a formal recommendation will be ready for presentation at the association meeting in February. Director Corbo provided some details about the incident and reported that only one student, of many, had an issue with their turn-out coat after the simulation. The issue was not formally reported until several days later and that there was no way to determine an obvious fault on any of the possible causes resulting in the damage to the coat.

Mike Corbo reported that the NJ Division of Fire Safety has pulled all of Giovanna Wagner's, Estell Manor, firefighter certifications due to the lack of supporting documentation showing her years of service. Mike noted that he knows she started in the fire service in 1972 and to reapply under the grandfather clause requires a chief to write a letter certifying her years of service. The problem is that the current chief in Estell Manor is relatively new to the area and cannot certify without supporting documentation. Mike reported that he checked for any documented history in the county training records and did not find anything useful. Mike reported that he has also reached out to NJSFA Executive Committeeman Schoenstein to see if any records with the NJSFA may be useful with documenting her years of service. Mike voiced his opinion about the way that NJ DFS handled this situation was not fair, or right, and noted that Giovanna may have been the first, or one of, female firefighters in Atlantic County.

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

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Thank you to the Bargaintown 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 20:55. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on January 20, 2016 in Egg Harbor City. This meeting includes the annual memorial service of the association. Please submit the names of those that have passed during 2015 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

Sat. Dec. 19, 2015	12:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Community Open House (12:00 - 15:00)
Fri. Feb. 19, 2016	18:00	Fred & Ethel's Lantern Light Tavern, Smithville	Beef & Beer to Benefit Oceanville VFC
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
Tues. May 10, 2016	08:30	Neschanic Valley Golf Club	New Jersey Firemen's Home 2016 Golf Outing
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 Club	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

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

### Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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. 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

Date	Time	Location	Event
Mon. Jan. 4, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

### Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Date	Time	Location	Event
Wed. Jan. 13, 2016	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Feb. 10, 2016	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association

### Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Date	Time	Location	Event
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