

# 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

January 20, 2016

## Annual Memorial Service

The annual memorial service of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association commenced at 20:00 on January 20, 2016 at the Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department and was conducted by President Amor "Skip" Portale with Chaplain Reverend Thomas Sweeny giving the invocation and homily, the memorial candles being lit by First Vice President Ellsworth Ott and Second Vice President Charles "Chick" Kisby, and the bell being tolled by Oscar Dutch Jr. as Secretary Robert A. Mellon read the roll of the Firefighters of Atlantic County who answered their last alarm during the past year.

Firefighters of the Final Roll were:

### ABSECON VOL. FIRE DEPT

William Theodore Soper  
Charles Vicari

### ATLANTIC CITY FIRE DEPT.

Steven Hicks  
Edward Stearns

### BAYVIEW VOL. FIRE CO.

Howard E. Conover

### ELWOOD VOL. FIRE CO.

James DeFransisco  
John Nevius

### FARMINGTON VOL. FIRE CO.

Fred J. Slunt, Jr.

### GERMANIA VOL. FIRE CO.

Walter C. Roesch  
George Taylor

### HAMMONTON VOL. FIRE CO.

Robert Landolfi  
Charles Patton

### LAURELDALE VOL. FIRE CO.

Michael Puglise

### LINWOOD VOL. FIRE CO.

James Osler, Sr.

### LONGPORT VOL. FIRE CO.

Scott Conesky

### MARGATE FIRE DEPT.

Kenneth Cigala

### MAYS LANDING VOL. FIRE CO.

Eugene Super

### PLEASANTVILLE FIRE DEPT.

Victor Bakunoff

### POMONA VOL. FIRE CO.

Charles Guenther  
Robert Guenther, Jr.

### SOUTH EGG HARBER VOL. FIRE CO.

George Hyland  
James Sanford

The "Striking of the Four Fives" was tolled on the bell by Chris Kislow, "The Lord's Prayer" was sung by the Berchtold family, "Taps" was played by Buglers Heather Berchtold and Joe Ward, followed by the playing of "Amazing Grace" by the Sand Pipers. The memorial service closing prayer was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

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## **Call to Order**

The annual reorganizational meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:25 on January 20, 2016 at the Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with the flag salute. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Opening Remarks**

President Amor "Skip" Portale welcomed all to the annual reorganizational meeting and introduced Chief Walter "Butch" Kienzle III of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department. Chief Kienzle welcomed the membership and guests to Egg Harbor City and conveyed the pride felt by this department as it hosts the association for the 93<sup>rd</sup> consecutive meeting and also the 92<sup>nd</sup> reorganizational meeting. Chief Kienzle then introduced the line officers of the fire department and wished all a Happy and Safe New Year.

## **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 - 25

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2015 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

## **Dispensing of Regular Business**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the regular business except for the paying of the bills.

## **Paying of Bills**

The bills, totaling \$4,331.53, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Robert Mellon - \$8.56 (reimburse postage 501(c)(3) application) / South Jersey Welding - \$14.26 (rental fees) / AtlantiCare - \$130.00 (CPR cards) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$152.00 (training lunch) / Mike Corbo - \$3,155.00 (reimburse fire officer books and CMC equipment) / Robert Mellon - \$641.94 (reimburse new treasurer laptop - 2016 admin capital) / Staples - \$126.00 (office supplies - training) / Dave Buzby - \$103.77 (reimburse public relations office supplies)

## **Introduction of Invited Guests**

President Portale welcomed and introduced guests; Michael Francis on behalf of Congressman Frank LoBiondo; Atlantic County Freeholders: John Risley, and John Carman; Egg Harbor City Mayor: Lisa Jampetti; Atl. Co. Fire Marshal: David Buzby; and Atl. Co. Director of Fire Training: Michael Corbo.

Michael Francis reported that Congressman Lobiondo was unable to attend due to the congressional schedule. Mr. Francis reported that Congressman Lobiondo is fully supportive of the fire service and he will continue to fight for the grants that

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have assisted so many of the districts fire departments. Mr. Francis reported that he is available to speak with any fire department about any questions or issues and can be reached via the Congressman's Mays Landing office.

Freeholder John Risley reported that he is honored to have been invited to attend the memorial service. Freeholder Risley also reported that the majority of Freeholders are in favor of a central dispatch and they are looking into a new resolution to allow the two new Freeholders, since the unanimous resolution two years ago, to be part of a current resolution of support.

Freeholder John Carman conveyed his appreciation to be invited and noted that it is a true honor to acknowledge and remember those that have passed.

Egg Harbor City Mayor Lisa Jampetti thanked all for the invitation sent to the mayor and council. Mayor Jampetti noted that it is a privilege to attend the annual memorial service. Mayor Jampetti thanked both the firefighters' association and fire chiefs' association for their resolutions supporting central dispatch and reported that Egg Harbor City fully supports the effort and recently passed a resolution supporting central dispatch. Mayor Jampetti introduced Council President Ed Dennis, Councilman Pat Moran, and Councilwoman Hazel Mueller. All reported that they were proud to be in attendance to honor those that passed and that they are thankful for all that the fire service members do for their respective communities.

Fire Marshal David Buzby thanked everyone, on behalf of himself and Director of Emergency Preparedness Vince Jones and his staff, for the dedicated service everyone provides to Atlantic County.

## **Special Presentation and Installation of Officers for 2016**

President Amor "Skip" Portale read the following statement.

"Good evening and welcome to the 92nd annual re-organization meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association, hosted once again by the Egg Harbor City Fire Department for the 92nd consecutive year. For the past 93 years the primary duties of the Atlantic County Firefighters Association have been to provide training to all Firefighters from Atlantic County. As well as offering training to all Firefighters throughout the state. This would not be possible without the assistance of Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson, The Board of Chosen Freeholders, Atlantic County Fire Marshal Dave Buzby, Director of Emergency Preparedness Vince Jones, and the Director of Training Mike Corbo, along with his dedicated staff of 34 Instructors. 2015 was another very productive year for the Association. Some of the accomplishments that were archived in 2015 are; We continue to partner with West Virginia University in the delivery of a First Responder-Training Program on Alternative Fuel Vehicles. Our academy continues to deliver ProBoard & IFSAC accredited courses that are supported by the NJ Division of Fire Safety. We're continuing our joint venture with the Gloucester County Fire Academy to instruct the Heavy Vehicle Rescue course to be held in the spring at our academy and in the fall at theirs. We submitted our application to the IRS for 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. In 2016 we will offer the ProBoard certification challenge exams. In 2015 we trained 85 new firefighters from Atlantic County. This year's classes included firefighters from the counties of Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem, Ocean, Camden, and Gloucester. In 2015 the Firefighters' Association offered 81 courses and held 48 different classes with 742 firefighters being trained through academy offered courses and 1,412 students trained at the center. In 2015 we trained 255 students from out of county. The total number of hours incurred by our 34 instructors for 2015 was 3,179. As in years past we were able to operate within our budget. We added 2 new members to our dedicated team of instructors to meet the ever-changing needs of the fire service. We continue to conduct the annual Memorial Service to honor our Fallen Firefighters. We once again recognized firefighters from Atlantic County with 50 or more years of service as well as sponsoring the annual Valor Awards Ceremony. We again sponsored the Annual Atlantic County Firefighters Competition held in conjunction with the Atlantic County 4H Fair in August this year. The competition was won by the Germania Volunteer Fire Company of Galloway Township. With no cost to the taxpayers of

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Atlantic County the Firefighters' Association purchased a used pumper from the City of Northfield to replace the engine from Estell Manor. Giving us two working engines to be used for live fire training. We acquired 4 new sets of Turn-Out Gear and additional equipment to meet our ever increasing training demands. As we begin 2016 I look forward to working with Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson, the Board of Chosen Freeholders, and our Fire Marshal Dave Buzby as well as the members of the Executive Committee, and the Director of Fire Training Mike Corbo to keep the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association one of the best in the State."

Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. welcomed all those in attendance to the annual meeting and memorial service on behalf of the Executive Committee and reflected on how much this service means to him. Howard thanked all of the elected officials for their assistance with all matters and especially with the issues and challenges surrounding central dispatch. Howard reported that the Executive Committee had a reorganizational meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> and thanked the committee in believing in him, and Oscar Dutch Jr., enough to keep them on as Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the next year. Howard welcomed two new members to the Executive Committee, Eugene M. Sharpe and Walter R. "Butch" Kienzle III and thanked all of the remaining members for the continuing service. Howard reported that the Executive Committee has been working very closely with the association officers to move the association forward. Howard thanked Director of Fire Training Mike Corbo, Fire Marshal Dave Buzby, Director of Emergency Preparedness Vince Jones, and Whitey Swartz for all of the support they have provided the association. Howard thanked all members of the Fire Training Advisory Board for all they do to maintain the training center. Howard also thanked the Freeholder representative to the board, John Carman, for his assistance and availability by attending many association meetings. Howard thanked the County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the County Administration for the effort to create a central dispatch and the installation of new doors on the burn building.

Howard reminded all that Executive Committeeman Charles Guenther is one of those that passed in 2015 and that the Executive Committee meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> was opened with a moment of silence to remember Charles. Charlie Guenther served forty years on the Executive Committee, was the Galloway Township Fire Chief for twenty-three years, and a Pomona Volunteer Fire Company member for sixty-four years. Charles Guenther III and Bonnie Guenther were in attendance to receive a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition honoring their father and presented by Michael Francis on behalf of Congressman Frank Lobiondo.

Atlantic County Freeholder John Carman installed the following into office for the year 2016:

President	Amor "Skip" Portale
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Ellsworth Ott
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Charles "Chick" Kisby, III
Secretary	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer	Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Secretary-Treasurer	Cindy L. Badger
Chaplain	Rev. Thomas Sweeny
Sergeants-at-Arms	Charles Harlan, Wayne Dilks
Executive Committee:	Howard Berchtold Jr., Levon "Lefty" Clayton, Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Oscar Dutch Jr., James A. Garth Sr., R. Thomas Hunter, Walter R. "Butch" Kienzle III

Those not present were:

Sergeants-at-Arms	William Donath
Executive Committee:	Eugene M. Sharpe, Charles R. Winkler III

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## **Good of the Order**

Butch Kienzle reported that he is seeking signatures from all county fire chiefs to add to the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association resolution supporting central dispatch.

Butch Kienzle reported on a fundraiser scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup> to help an Estell Manor firefighter. Ken Badger has tickets available for purchase.

The annual Atlantic County Firefighter's Association Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, April 2, 2016 at the Mays Landing Country Club. Cost will be \$50.00 and all interested should contact Cindy Badger at (609)350-8701.

The next Firefighter I class starts on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

Thank you to the Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Department 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 21:00. The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on February 17, 2016 in Longport.

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**

Sun. Jan. 31, 2016	13:00	L's Restaurant and JBones Tavern, Corbin	Bleyhl Cancer Benefit (Estell Manor Firefighter)
Fri. Feb. 19, 2016	18:00	Fred & Ethel's Lantern Light Tavern, Smithville	Beef & Beer to Benefit Oceanville VFC
Sun. Mar. 13, 2016	10:30	St. Nicholas Church (10:30) & Tropicana Casino (12:00)	200 Club of Atlantic & Cape May Counties - Memorial Service (10:30) & Brunch (12:00)
Fri. Mar. 18, 2016	17:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	5th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner
Sat. Mar. 19, 2016	18:00	5 Points Inn, East Vineland	Beef & Beer to Benefit East Vineland VFC
Sat. Apr. 2, 2016	18:30	Mays Landing Country Club	Annual ACFFA Dinner (RSVP by March 25th)
Sat. Apr. 9, 2016	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Su. Apr. 24, 2016	11:00	Richland VFC	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Chicken BBQ (11:00 - 17:00)
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	15th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sat. Nov. 12, 2016	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

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## ACFFA Meetings

### Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Feb. 17, 2016	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Mar. 16, 2016	20:00	Elwood VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Apr. 20, 2016	20:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center (Host -Margate FD)	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation
Wed. May 18, 2016	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 15, 2016	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 20, 2016	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 17, 2016	20:00	Weymouth VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 21, 2016	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 19, 2016	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 16, 2016	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 21, 2016	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 18, 2017	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 15, 2017	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

### Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. Mar. 4, 2016	19:30	Cardiff VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. May 6, 2016	19:30	Firefighters Museum of Southern New Jersey	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 1, 2016	19:30	Landisville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 2, 2016	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Nov. 4, 2016	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 6, 2017	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. 7, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. May 2, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 11, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Sep. 12, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Nov. 14, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 9, 2017	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

### Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Feb. 10, 2016	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Mar. 9, 2016	20:00	Landisville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Apr. 13, 2016	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. May 11, 2016	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jun. 8, 2016	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jul. 13, 2016	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Aug. 10, 2016	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Sep. 14, 2016	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Oct. 12, 2016	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Nov. 9, 2016	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 14, 2016	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
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Jan. 11, 2017	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Feb. 8, 2017	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association

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

Thurs. Jul. 28, 2016	19:30	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 26, 2017	19:30	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 27, 2017	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association