

# 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

October 19, 2016

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on October 19, 2016 at the Estell Manor City Hall by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was hosted by the Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Company. 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 Chief Brian Johnson of the Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Johnson welcomed all to Estell Manor.

## In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 39 of 176      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 18 of 44

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2016 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 \$117,553.72, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank  
Checking: \$35,503.54 / Savings: \$5,008.51 / Savings: \$52,874.50 / 13 Month CD: \$24,167.17

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for November 4, 2016 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 14, 2016 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center.

**Fire Coordinator** – Deputy Fire Coordinator Oscar Dutch reported that Fire coordinator Ed Vincent is attending to other business and was unable to attend. Oscar reported that Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) will hold a drill on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at

McCarthy Tire on Pleasant Avenue in Absecon and that Tender Task Force Bravo (TTF-B) held their drill on October 2<sup>nd</sup> which went very well with all goals being accomplished. Oscar reported that the NJ Division of Fire Safety will be sending out a request, on behalf of the NJ Office of Homeland Security, to all fire chiefs for information about the religious institutions within their districts.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I is down to eighteen students from the original nineteen and that Firefighter II is still at thirteen students. Mike reported that he recently attended a NJDFS Training Advisory meeting and that Firefighter I enrollment is down across the state. Mike noted that this is most likely the lowest overall enrollment for any Atlantic County Fire Academy semester in the last twenty years. Mike reviewed the upcoming class schedule with many having low or zero current enrollment that may or will result in the cancellation of those classes. Mike reported on several counties that have even lower enrollment than Atlantic County. Mike reminded all of the NJ DFS requirements for fire officers, elected or appointed, to meet certain requirements such as Firefighter I certification, three years documented experience (junior and explorer excluded), and Incident Management Level 1 certification. Mike noted that there are many other requirements from NJ PEOSH and many recommended and/or required policies and certifications to comply with NIMS and qualify for Homeland Security Grants.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association** – Butch Kienzle reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on November 9, 2016 at the Linwood Fire Department.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that the home's Board of Managers recently held a reorganizational meeting. All things at the home are running well and projects are ongoing such as the recently installed generator. Oscar reported that the residents were very pleased with the live streaming from the convention in Wildwood and that they also recently enjoyed a clam bake. Oscar reported that newly elected President Frank Gunson, of the NJ State Firemen's Association, informed him that he has no intention of being involved in the regular operations of the home but is available to discuss any issues that the home's Board of Managers would like to bring to his attention.

**NJ State Firemen's Assn.** – Oscar Dutch reported that newly elected President Frank Gunson is already working on a solution to correct the voting issues encountered at the convention in Wildwood and that the NJSFA Executive Committee has been very pleased with the professionalism and quality of work done by Cindy Badger in her capacity as Executive Committeewoman representing Atlantic County. Oscar noted that Cindy did an excellent job with assisting Estell Manor with bring their local relief association back into full compliance. Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reviewed the due dates for local association reports and the voting totals and attendance from the Wildwood convention. Both resolutions failed to pass and newly elected officers, President Frank B. Gunson 3<sup>rd</sup> and Vice President Robert F. Ordway, joined the remaining slate of reelected incumbents. Cindy reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on November 17<sup>th</sup> in Kenilworth. Anyone with a question or request should feel free to contact Cindy. Cindy will seek any updated information about the voting machine issue at this meeting. ACFFA President Portale inquired to the floor if they would like to invite NJSFA President Gunson to a meeting of this association for introduction to Atlantic County. There was discussion about inviting President Gunson and the general consensus was to invite him with a motion under new business.

### **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

### **Deferred Business**

Secretary Mellon reported that there has been no update as to the status of the submitted grant proposal.

Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Badger reported that the shirts have been delivered and are being distributed to those that have ordered them.

### **New Business**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to have the secretary send Frank B. Gunson 3<sup>rd</sup>, President of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association, an invitation to address the membership at a future meeting of this association that is mutually convenient.

**Bills**

The bills, totaling \$1,992.72, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- GSF LLC - \$899.50 (polo shirts – reimbursed by members that ordered) / Public Safety Center - \$423.67 (two wye valves) / South Jersey Welding - \$13.80 (equipment rental) / This & That Uniform - \$541.25 (FFI 23 polo & 16 tee shirts) / Walt’s Primo Pizza - \$89.00 (training lunch) / NJ Div. of Revenue - \$25.50 (corp. annual report)

**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) Dennis Sharpe
- 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 R. “Butch” Kienzle III, Charles H. “Chuck” Mackintosh, 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**

Tom Sweeny reported that Family Promise of Atlantic County is a charity that will be hosting homeless families, for one week periods, in various churches throughout the county. Currently seventeen churches are participating and all fire departments should be aware that there may be life safety risks within these churches at night. Tom will reach out for a list of the participating churches and distribute it to the county fire chiefs.

Thank you to Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. Also a thank you to the City of Estell Manor for providing the use of City Hall for the meeting.

**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 November 16, 2016 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 1.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Sat. Oct. 29, 2016	09:00	St. James Hall, Holy Trinity Parish, Ventnor	Super Hero Walk for Autism
Sat. Nov. 12, 2016	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Tues. Nov. 22, 2016	07:00	Smithville Inn	Atlantic County Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast (07:00 - 08:30)
Wed. Nov. 23, 2016	19:00	Dubliner Irish Pub, Galloway	Firemen's Night Out Benefiting Bayview VFC (and Helmet Raffle)
Sat. Dec. 10, 2016	19:00	Hammonton	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (lineup 18:00 & parade 19:00)
Sun. Dec. 11, 2016	12:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Community Open House (12:00 - 15:00)
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Sat. Apr. 8, 2017	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Nov. 11, 2017	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

**ACFFA Meetings**

**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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. 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)

**Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings**

**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. Nov. 9, 2016	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 14, 2016	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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Wed. Jan. 11, 2017	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Feb. 8, 2017	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. 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