

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

November 16, 2016

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on November 16, 2016 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department Sta. 1 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 Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department Chief; Michael R. Sweeney, Sr. Chief Sweeney welcomed all to Somers Point and introduced Somers Point Mayor, Jack Glasser. Mayor Glasser thanked all firefighters for their service to their respective communities.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 42 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 October 19, 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 \$140,021.82, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$57,953.63 / Savings: \$5,008.64 / Savings: \$52,892.38 / 13 Month CD: \$24,167.17

Special Presentation

President Portale introduced New Jersey State Firemen's Association President, Frank B. Gunson 3rd, and Vice President, Robert F. Ordway. President Portale thanked Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger for arranging their visit. President Gunson thanked everyone for the invitation to address this association. President Gunson reported that all local associations have filed their quarterly reports on time and that 258 burial claims have been filed to date. President Gunson reported on NJ Assembly Bill 4251 which established housing expense reimbursements up to \$15,000 for families of certain public safety officers killed in the line of duty. The bill as written "in the line of duty" means actively engaged and it has been requested that it be amended to allow within 24 hours of active engagement, such as in the "Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act". Letters have been sent seeking the change and currently five LODDs fall within the 24 hour period requested. President Gunson reported that 2nd Assistant Secretary Jerry Naylis has resigned and resumes for a replacement will be sought by

sending notice to the local association secretaries. President Gunson reviewed the upcoming filing requirements and the reports that will be distributed to the locals. President Gunson, and the building committee, met with the architect about conceptual drawings for the new state association office. President Gunson reported that no excuses will be made concerning the voting in Wildwood. Problems were encountered. The Officers along with the Judge of Election met with the voting machine manufacturer, Election Graphics, to review the problems. Several issues were identified and will be corrected. The system should have been able to handle approximately 6,500 ballots in the time allotted. Two machines will be added to the six machines allowing approximately 8,600 ballots to be counted in the time allotted. A full blown stress test will be conducted with the machines in the first quarter of 2017. There was open discussion about the voting issues encountered and the proposed solutions. Chief Butch Kienzle congratulated the NJSFA Officers on their recent election to office on behalf of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department and the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association. President Gunson reported that he is looking to unite all local associations moving forward and noted that Cindy Badger is an excellent representative as Executive Committeewoman for Atlantic County. President Gunson wished all a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and a Happy New Year. Vice President Ordway reported that he is working on getting 100% of the local associations seated at the next convention. Assistance with any issues will be provided when the state office is contacted. VP Ordway reported that updated contact information is needed for all local secretaries. It has been hard to make contact with some of them. A regularly checked email and a personal phone number are requested. The contact information will only be utilized for important association business.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the meeting of the committee held on November 4, 2016 in South Egg Harbor. Howard reported that the Executive Committee is reviewing information received about the Cyanokit program being run AtlantiCare and currently supported by the Cape May County Fire Chiefs' and Firefighters' Associations. Howard reported that the committee also reviewed a request from a comedy show fundraising vender interested in time at a future meeting. The committee will maintain current practice of not allotting time for product/service vendors but will allow material to be distributed to those that are interested in reviewing it. Howard reported that the Executive Committee is concerned about the continuing decline in training class registration while noting that it is an issue being encountered across the state at other fire academies. The association Secretary has been tasked with researching the possibility of advertising the fire academy in the statewide fire service publications. The committee received a report from the Treasurer that the 2015 IRS 990 was being filed by the accountant and that the accountant successfully completed a payroll audit with the state. The Treasurer also informed the committee that the 2008 tax issue has been resolved but the accountant is still working on getting the fines waived due to the mail going to the wrong address for several years. Howard reported that the county is still working on a repair for the training center pumps and that the Secretary had not yet heard anything concerning the grant proposal submitted to EcoMedia. Gene Sharpe had suggested that the Executive Committee make another push to encourage all county firefighters to take advantage of the "Gift from Captain Buscio" cardiopulmonary screening. Howard reported that representatives from Deborah Heart & Lung Center will be invited to a future association meeting to provide information about the program. Howard reported on a plan to have each committee member head up a program or project in 2017. Projects would include health/wellness of county firefighters, increasing association membership participation, and reviewing/updating the valor awards program. Howard noted that he is open to any suggestions towards accomplishing the programs with particular emphasis on improving health and wellness. NJSFA President Gunson reported that he will forward contact information for Tom Campbell at Deborah Heart and Lung Center and for Anthony Correia who is working on a state level program for firefighter health and fitness. Secretary Mellon provided an update, received after the Executive Committee meeting, that the grant was not selected by their client and that EcoMedia will hold onto the information in case any other opportunities come up.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that Advisory Board did not hold a meeting in November and that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for January 9, 2016 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported on a fire at the Hammonton Middle School on November 1st and reminded all that the NJ DFS must be notified about any school fire within 24 hours. Ed reminded all about the NJ DFS certification requirements for fire officers before they take office. Ed noted that IMS Level 1 certification must be applied for after completing I-200 training. The process is not automatic. Ed reported that the task force and strike team drills for 2016 have all been completed. Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) held a drill on October 23rd that went very well with the exception of setting off some commercial fire alarms after creating a low pressure in the mains while sustaining a tender shuttle providing 1,300 gpm of water flow for approximately three hours. Ed reviewed the current Homeland Security grant status. FY2015 has been spent and FY2016 purchase plan is being worked on. Ed will inform all when the FY2017 grant requests are being sought for the working group review. Ed reminded all that the FEMA AFG applications are due by the end of day on November 18th. Ed reported that he has attended the E-Team training and that the Deputy Fire Coordinators will

also attend E-Team training. Ed reported on training coming up at the Coast Guard station in Atlantic City and informed all that Ed Conover has resigned from the county for a job with the NJ DEP. Ed reported on an upcoming meeting of the Area Maritime Security Committee, being held in Philadelphia, where equipment grants for existing maritime units will be presented. Ed wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reminded all to notify him, ASAP or by the first week of January, of any firefighter deaths in 2016 for inclusion in the annual memorial service at the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association meeting in Egg Harbor City on January 18, 2017.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the Firefighter I class is down to seventeen from the original twenty-three students and that the Firefighter II class, with thirteen students, will be finished on November 21st. Mike reported that recent class enrollment has been terrible and that many classes have been canceled. Mike noted that all counties, except Bergen and Morris, have seen similar reductions with training registrations. Mike reviewed the list of classes that were canceled and the upcoming classes that will be canceled if more registrations are not received. Mike reviewed that NJ PEOSH training requirements for any confined space operations and advised all firefighters to seek additional training after Firefighter I. That additional training should include Firefighter II, currently only 10% of those completing Firefighter I are taking Firefighter II. Mike reported that the county is still working on replacing the training center pumps in the pump house. Dave Buzby reported that the pump replacement project has been put out for bids and the proposal is to replace both pumps.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Butch Kienzle reported on the November 9th meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held in Linwood. Butch reported that Captain Michael Blizzard, North Wildwood Fire Department, presented the Cyanokit information that the Cape May County Associations are working on with AtlantiCare that will keep five Cyanokits stocked on AtlantiCare ALS units. Butch noted that the Fire Chiefs’ Association is still seeking the location of the trophy that was not awarded in Wildwood. Cindy Badger reported that Ed Beck will retrieve the trophy and coordinate its return with Dave Buzby. Butch reported that Freeholder John Carman regularly attends the meetings and thanked him for his dedication to the county fire service. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be 8:00 PM on December 14, 2016 at the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch reported that all is going great at the home and that the BBQs have concluded for the year. They are now having pizza parties sponsored by northern New Jersey Fire Chief Organizations. Oscar reported that a firefighter motorcycle group makes a donation every year to the home. This year they provided a Snoezelen Multi-Sensory Environment (MSE) system. Oscar reported the system is designed to help create a calming environment and has already proven successful after having just been installed two weeks ago. Oscar reported that the remodeling of the downstairs lounge has been completed and that the NJFH 2017 Golf Outing to support the home has been scheduled for Tuesday May 9, 2017 at The Neshanic Valley Golf Club.

NJ State Firemen’s Assn. – Cindy Badger thanked NJSFA President Gunson and Vice President Ordway for taking the time to travel down to Atlantic County.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$2,028.28, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- State of New Jersey-Division of Employer Accounts - \$70.54 (NJ Employer interest 2008-2015 and 2015 assessment) / Wayne Dilks - \$21.67 (reimburse 50/50 tickets) / South Jersey Welding - \$14.26 (equipment rental) / Suburban Propane - \$1,021.85 (propane) / AtlantiCare - \$180.00 (18 BLS cards) / State of New Jersey-927 - \$719.96 (quarterly taxes)

Nomination of Officers

The second of two rounds of nominations was held. The office of 2nd Vice President and the seats on the Executive Committee are contested. Those nominated are as follows:

- President (1) Amor “Skip” Portale
- 1st Vice President (1) Ellsworth Ott
- 2nd Vice President (1) Charles “Chick” Kisby, 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

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

Good of the Order

Tom Sweeny asked that all Veterans in the room stand and be recognized due to Veterans Day having just been on the Friday before the meeting. All were thanked for their service.

Thank you to the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department Sta. 1 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny. Tom reminded all to slow down and be thankful for all that you have. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:10. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on December 21, 2016 at the Scullville Volunteer Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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, 2017	11:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale (11:00 – 14:00)
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)
-----	-----	-----	-----
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. Dec. 21, 2016	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
-----	-----	-----	-----
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. 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. Jan. 9, 2017	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Dec. 14, 2016	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
-----	-----	-----	-----
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.

-----	-----	-----	-----
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