

# 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

March 15, 2017

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on March 15, 2017 at the Weekstown Volunteer Fire Company by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of all fallen firefighters and military personnel. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Chief Robert Cirillo of the Weekstown Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Cirillo welcomed all to Weekstown.

## 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 – 19 of 44

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2017 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 \$134,241.03, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank  
Checking: \$52,031.08 / Savings: \$5,009.14 / Savings: \$52,961.75 / 13 Month CD: \$24,239.06  
Matures 6/13/2017

## Special Presentation

**NJ Forest Fire Service** – Division Fire Warden Bill Donnelly introduced the Atlantic County Section Fire Wardens in attendance. Bill provided an update on current operations including the prescribed burns now totaling just over 3,700 acres. Bill reported that it has been dry lately and there have been more reported incidents recently than in past years. Bill reported on some recent equipment upgrades and the planned aerial operations for this season. The New Jersey Forest Fire Service is still working on finalizing contracted air support for the 2017 season and the NJFF helicopters are always available when needed. The contracted air support should be on standby by the end of March or beginning of April. Bill also reported that the VFA grant applications have been submitted and that the part time staff members are manning the fire towers.

## **Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the meeting of the committee held on March 3, 2017 in Cardiff. Howard noted that this was the day after Whitey’s passing and that much time was spent on discussing the loss of Whitey and the preliminary funeral details. There was so much that Whitey was instrumental in with the association. The one major annual event is the valor awards that Whitey pushed for twenty-five years ago and the 50 years of service recognition that he added to the program seven years ago. This year, 2017, will be the twenty-sixth annual valor awards and the eighth annual recognition of those with fifty years of service. Howard reviewed the committee’s discussion about renaming the valor awards and service recognition to honor Whitey’s many contributions to this association. “Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition” was cited as a strong possibility. Howard reported that the executive committee received the report of the audit committee finding the financial records to be in good order and also reviewed the possible usage of a corporate credit card, with proper controls in place, to handle many of the day to day purchasing especially with relation to Home Depot or Lowes where the corporate credit programs offered have been less than ideal for the association. Treasurer Jaime Mellon will research the Bank of America business credit and the parameters of the fidelity insurance covering the association from employee losses. Howard thanked Lefty Clayton for chairing the valor award committee and reminded all that a goal this year is to put a greater emphasis on firefighter health and wellness. Howard noted that it was good to see Tom Campbell, from Deborah Heart and Lung, at the February meeting to promote the “A Gift from Captain Buscio” program and that they are looking into having a local chiropractor provide a safe lifting presentation at the May meeting of the association. Howard reported that Gene Sharpe will be chairing the committee looking into other potential health and wellness programs. Howard reported that the executive committee is also seeking to increase delegate attendance at the monthly meetings and that a bylaw committee is being organized by President Skip Portale. Howard reported that the ongoing Atlanticare Cyanokit program discussion was continued and that additional details are being researched on if or how the association may be able to provide assistance and that the committee reviewed trade publication advertising costs to market the fire academy. It was determined that the cost of advertising was too high to consider at this time. Howard reported that the executive committee, with the approval of the president, approved the immediate expenditure of \$500 to assist with the cost of providing food for the expected large turnout at the funeral for Whitey Swartz. Howard reported that the next committee meeting is scheduled for the Firefighters Museum of Southern New Jersey and that Lefty Clayton has offered the Longport Volunteer Fire Department as an alternative location if it is needed. Howard also reported that the New Jersey Firemen’s Home annual golf tournament fundraiser is in May and it is the annual custom of this association to donate \$200 by sponsoring a hole at the tournament. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for May 5, 2017 at the Firefighters Museum of Southern New Jersey or in Longport.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the meeting scheduled for March 6, 2017 was canceled due to funeral planning. The next meeting of the board is on May 8, 2017 at the training center.

**Fire Coordinator** – Deputy Fire Coordinator Oscar Dutch reported that Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent is under the weather but he sent his thanks for all those that assisted with, and attended, the funeral for Whitey Swartz. Oscar reported they attended a meeting in Ocean County and that Ocean County is working on restarting their Tender Task Force with some assistance from Atlantic County. Ocean County will have north and south tender task forces. Oscar reported that the Atlantic County Tender Support trailer will be brought up to Ocean County and they will demonstrate the Atlantic County operations. Oscar reported that the Southern Ocean County TTF has a limited number of tenders at this time and that Atlantic County may provide a strike team of three tenders to support them until more are added.

**NJ Firemen’s Home** – Oscar Dutch reported on a recent survey determined that 64% of the current residents are in some way touched by dementia. They are looking into options such as converting existing structure or adding a new wing. Oscar reported on a joint meeting with the NJ State Firemen’s Association to discuss plans for a dementia wing. NJSFA President Gunson and Vice President Ordway were in attendance. They are reviewing different options including utilizing an existing wing and/or building a new wing. The costs of providing the care has been estimated less than they were expecting. Oscar reported that the home just received twenty-one inches of snow during the recent storm and that the city provided assistance with clearing the driveway. If anyone would like a tour of the home, please contact Oscar.

**Fire Marshal** – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby thanked everyone, on behalf of himself and OEM Director Vince Jones, who assisted with, and attended, the funeral for Whitey. Dave requested that any submission for the recognition of fifty years of service should be sent in by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I is running with forty students and Firefighter II is running with twenty-five students, ten of which are from out of county. Mike noted that several neighboring counties do not offer a Firefighter II class. Mike reported on the upcoming scheduled classes and the fact that the NJ Fire Code needs to be

reapproved by the state before September of 2017. Mike reminded all that Kean University will be running Fire Instructor I and II classes in Atlantic County and registration is through the Kean University website for fire training.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association** – Butch Kienzle reported on the March 8, 2017 meeting of the chiefs' association. Butch reported that much of the meeting was spent discussing the funeral plans for Whitey Swartz and that the chiefs' association also contributed \$500 towards the food expenses. This will create an eleven month meeting schedule going forward. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on April 12, 2017 at the Farmington Volunteer Fire Company.

**Valor Awards** – Lefty Clayton reported that the 50+ year member recognition submissions and valor award nominations need to be submitted by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

### **Deferred Business**

President Portale reminded all that he is seeking members for the bylaws committee. Currently on the committee are Skip Portale, Howard Berchtold, Chuck Mackintosh, Dennis Sharpe, and Carl Crossman. If anyone else is interested, they should contact President Portale.

### **New Business**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to name the annual valor awards and service recognition program to “Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition” in honor of Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz’s many contributions to this association.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to sponsor the New Jersey Firemen’s Home 2017 Golf Outing at the bronze level with a \$200.00 donation.

Butch Kienzle brought up the \$500 contributed toward the food expense for the Swartz funeral and noted that he believes more should be contributed. President Portale and Howard Berchtold reported that it is not known if the food expense exceeded the funds collected. This will be reviewed with those who coordinated the services to see if additional assistance may be needed. There was discussion of other ways that the Swartz family and the Firefighters Museum of Southern New Jersey may be assisted in the future. The discussion will be on the agenda for the executive committee to review and make any recommendations should they be warranted and consistent with donation guidelines.

### **Bills**

The bills, totaling \$7,736.28, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Mike Corbo - \$2,382.55 (reimburse 25 fire officer books) / Air & Gas - \$525.00 (21 pass device keys @ \$25 ea.) / Hayes Mindish - \$95.00 (2017 schedule cards) / NJ Dept. of Community Affairs - \$1,100.00 (11 NJ code books @ \$100 ea.) / Cindy Badger - \$500.00 (reimburse food for Whitey Swartz funeral) / South Jersey Welding - \$12.88 (equipment rental) / Staples - \$455.85 (training office supplies) / Berkley - \$1,565.00 (general liability insurance) / Good Enoughts - \$900.00 (150 bales straw) / New Jersey Firemen’s Home - \$200.00 (sponsor golf tournament)

### **Applications for Membership**

There were no applications for membership.

### **Good of the Order**

Thank you to the Weekstown Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

## **Adjournment**

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 April 19, 2017 at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center and hosted by the Margate City Fire Department. This meeting will include the “Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition” program.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Sat. Mar. 18, 2017	15:00	Scullville VFC	Spring Fundraiser Beef & Beer
Fri. Apr. 7, 2017	17:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	6th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner
Sat. Apr. 8, 2017	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. May 6, 2017	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner (16:00 – 19:30)
Tues. May 9, 2017	08:30	Neschanic Valley Golf Club	New Jersey Firemen's Home 2017 Golf Outing
Sun. Jun. 4, 2017	12:00	Dorothy VFC	60th Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
Tues. Aug. 8, 2017	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association - Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 15, 2017	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 16, 2017	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Oct. 7, 2017	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner (16:00 – 19:30)
Sat. Nov. 11, 2017	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

**ACFFA Meetings****Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

Wed. Apr. 19, 2017	20:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center (Host -Margate FD)	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation
Wed. May 17, 2017	20:00	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 21, 2017	20:00	Richland VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 19, 2017	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 16, 2017	20:00	Cologne VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 20, 2017	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 18, 2017	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 15, 2017	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 20, 2017	20:00	Farmington VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jan. 17, 2018	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 21, 2018	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee**

Fri. May 5, 2017	19:30	Firefighters Museum of Southern New Jersey	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 7, 2017	19:30	Landisville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 1, 2017	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Nov. 3, 2017	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jan. 5, 2018	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

**Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings**

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board**

Mon. May 8, 2017	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 10, 2017	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Sep. 18, 2017	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Nov. 13, 2017	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 8, 2018	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association**

Wed. Apr. 12, 2017	20:00	Farmington VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. May 10, 2017	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jun. 14, 2017	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jul. 12, 2017	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Aug. 9, 2017	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Sep. 13, 2017	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Oct. 11, 2017	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Nov. 8, 2017	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 13, 2017	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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Tues. Jan. 23, 2018	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
February 2018-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----

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

Thurs. Jul. 27, 2017	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 25, 2018	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 26, 2018	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association