

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

April 19, 2017

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:05 on April 19, 2017 at the Atlantic County Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center by 2nd Vice President Charles "Chick" Kisby. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny. Vice President Kisby then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. Vice President Kisby welcomed all to the meeting which serves as the twenty-sixth annual Valor Awards presentation and the eighth annual recognition of firefighters with fifty or more years of active service. Vice President Kisby noted that it was good to see many family members of those being recognized in attendance.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

Vice President Kisby thanked the Margate City Fire Department for hosting and introduced Deputy Chief Daniel Adams who reported that Chief Anthony Tabasso was unable to attend due a prior commitment. Deputy Chief Adams welcomed everyone to the annual valor awards and expressed how proud the Margate City Fire Department is to be the official host while also thanking the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association for arranging tonight's program. Deputy Chief Adams spoke about the many changes in what the fire service does, and how they do it, since when he started and when his father served before him. Deputy Chief Adams noted that future planning should be based on what needs to be done in order to ensure the proper resources are available and utilized in a timely manner to provide for the best possible outcome for the public when they call for help. Deputy Chief Adams remembered back to when the valor awards were first started by Harold "Whitey" Swartz and noted that it is only fitting that they be formally named after him to honor his dedication to the awards and the Atlantic County fire service as a whole. Deputy Chief Adams thanked all for attending on behalf of the Margate City Fire Department and then ended his remarks with a quote from Chief Edward F. Croker, Chief of Department FDNY 1899-1911. "I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling. Our proudest moment is to save lives. Under the impulse of such thoughts, the nobility of the occupation thrills us and stimulates us to deeds of daring, even of supreme sacrifice."

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance - 26 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 16

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2017 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$1,709.63, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Continental Fire & Safety - \$303.84 (fire hooks) / ISFSI - \$125.00 (annual membership) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$544.00 (special detail & training lunches) / Public Safety Center - \$673.70 (PPE, firefighter gloves) / SJ Welding - \$9.66 (rental) / Staples - \$30.43 (training classroom supplies) / Tom Sweeny - \$23.00 (life member cards)

Dispensing of Business

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the remaining business.

Introduction of "Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition"

Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. welcomed all to the awards presentation and "50" year service recognitions and conveyed regards from President Portale whom was unable to attend. Chairman Berchtold thanked all valor award recipients for having the courage to do what needed to be done and also thanked the "50" years of service recipient for having the dedication and commitment for all those years. Chairman Berchtold also thanked the valor awards committee for the tough job of reviewing the nominations and Lefty Clayton for accepting the job to chair the committee. Chairman Berchtold reported that three will be honored with valor recognition and one will be honored for fifty years of service. Chairman Berchtold reported that the association had just passed a motion in March to name the awards "Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition" to honor the legacy that Whitey Swartz has left with the Atlantic County fire service. Whitey had done much for the fire service and the valor awards, and later adding the service recognition, was one of those that he made happen every year. Chairman Berchtold reported that Whitey will be greatly missed and asked all to stand for a moment to remember him.

Chairman Berchtold welcomed and introduced guests; Michael Francis on behalf of Congressman Frank LoBiondo; Atlantic County Freeholders: Vice-Chairman John W. Risley, John L. Carman, Maureen Kern, and Alexander C. Marino; and Atl. Co. Fire Marshal: David Buzby. All invited guests offered words of gratitude for the local fire service and the honored award recipients. Chairman Berchtold thanked all of the invited guests for attending, the association officers and executive committee for all of the work that they do, all county firefighters, and their families that support them, tonight's valor award recipients for being in the right place at the right time, and all of the "50" years of service recipients for their dedication to the fire service. Chairman Berchtold noted that much assistance is received from Atlantic County government and thanked Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson and the county administration for all they do to continue working with the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association.

"50" Year Service Awards

The presentation of the "50" Year Service Award was made by Executive Committee Chairman, Howard Berchtold Jr. and 2nd Vice President Charles "Chick" Kisby. The honoree received a uniform bar, gold life member card, and framed certificate from the association. The honoree also received a certificate of special congressional recognition from Congressman Frank LoBiondo, an assembly commendation from NJ Assemblyman Chris Brown, a certificate of recognition from the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and a recognition plaque from Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson.

"50" Year Service Award Recipient:

William Swain, Sr., Linwood Volunteer Fire Company

Chairman Berchtold congratulated William Swain for 50 years of service and thanked his family members that supported him for all of those years and were in attendance to continue that support.

Valor Awards

2nd Vice President Charles "Chick" Kisby and Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. presented each of the Valor Award recipients with their awards from the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association. This is the twenty-sixth year of the Valor Awards presentation. Recipients have included firefighters, police officers, medical personnel, and civilians. All honorees also received a certificate of special congressional recognition from Congressman Frank LoBiondo, an assembly

commendation from NJ Assemblyman Chris Brown, a certificate of recognition from the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and a certificate of recognition from Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson.

Chief Shawn Vallauri, Cologne Volunteer Fire Company, highlighted the details surrounding the May 11, 2016 incident that earned recognition for Captain Mark Martin and Firefighter Ryan Alexander.

On May 11, 2016 at 21:47 hours, Captain Martin and Firefighter Alexander forced entry to a second floor apartment at Harding Run 2 complex. Under heavy smoke conditions, they located an unconscious victim and removed her from the building.

Letter of Commendation:

Captain Mark Martin, Cologne Volunteer Fire Company
Firefighter Ryan Alexander, Cologne Volunteer Fire Company

Deputy Chief David Buzby, Linwood Fire Department, highlighted the details surrounding the July 2, 2016 incident that earned recognition for Firefighter John Sarno.

On July 2, 2016, at 19:19 hours, Firefighter John Sarno administered lifesaving Heimlich back blows to a choking, 11-month old child.

Letter of Commendation:

Firefighter John Sarno, Linwood Fire Department

Good of the Order

Vice President Kisby and Chairman Berchtold thanked everyone for coming out for the presentations and thanked the Margate City Fire Department for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments. Chairman Berchtold noted that Firefighter Sarno's training and quick action highlights the need for all first responders, and the public in general, to be trained in CPR, Heimlich maneuver, and AED usage.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting and awards presentation was adjourned at 20:45. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on May 17, 2017 in South Egg Harbor, Galloway Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. May 6, 2017	15:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 1	Pig Roast BBQ (15:00 – 19:00)
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
Sat. Jun. 3, 2017	12:00	Cologne VFC	Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 – 18:00)
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. 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. May 10, 2017	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jun. 14, 2017	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jul. 12, 2017	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Aug. 9, 2017	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Sep. 13, 2017	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Oct. 11, 2017	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Nov. 8, 2017	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 13, 2017	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
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Tues. Jan. 23, 2018	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs 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