

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

February 15, 2017

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on February 15, 2017 at the Longport Volunteer Fire Department 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.

Introduction of Host Chief & Special Presentation

President Portale introduced Chief Levon "Lefty" Clayton of the Longport Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Clayton welcomed all to Longport and introduced Longport Mayor, and Firefighter, Nick Russo. Mayor Russo welcomed all to Longport and reported on the "A Gift from Captain Buscio" firefighter cardio-pulmonary screening program available at two locations in New Jersey including Deborah Heart and Lung Center. Mayor Russo then introduced Thomas Campbell, Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Deborah Heart and Lung Center. Mayor Russo noted that it was good to see many speaking with Tom before the meeting about their experience with the program and noted that Tom has now been with Deborah for more than twenty-two years. Tom Campbell reported that the NJ FMBA and the New Jersey State Firemen's Association have had a relationship with Deborah since 1991 to provide state firefighters with access to Deborah. Tom reported that the Captain Buscio program started in Newark approximately twelve years ago and the programs founder, Donna Buscio, asked Deborah to join the program approximately ten years ago. Tom provided a history on Deborah Heart and Lung Center and the programs offered there. The primary focus of the center is heart, lung, and vascular systems and in their ninety-five years of operation they have never billed a patient. They do accept insurance coverage but without copays, coinsurance, or deductibles. Deborah Heart and Lung Center is proud of their history of not billing patients and noted that they will assist with state charitable care coverage for those without health insurance. Tom provided a review of the Captain Buscio screening process and noted that it will be completed with only one visit. The Captain Buscio screening is available for all NJ firefighters and police officers, including those that have retired. Hundreds of lives have been saved since the program's inception. Tom reported that Deborah is available for any firefighters to utilize any of their other services such as a second opinion for a cardio, pulmonary, or vascular condition being treated elsewhere. The program is highly recommended for all firefighters. Those that are currently healthy will have that confirmed and have a good baseline exam to compare future medical tests against. Tom provided handouts with information about the program. Chief Clayton and President Portale thanked Tom for taking the time to visit Atlantic County and provide the update on the Captain Buscio program.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 43 of 176

Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 20 of 44

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the January 18, 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 \$111,757.74, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$29,617.89 / Savings: \$5,009.02 / Savings: \$52,927.58 / 13 Month CD: \$24,203.25

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported on the annual reorganizational meeting of the committee held on January 6, 2017 in Pomona. Howard thanked the Executive Committee for reelecting him as Chairman and Oscar Dutch as Vice-Chairman. Howard reported that the committee is looking to make a push for firefighter health and wellness this year and it was good to see Tom Campbell promoting the Captain Buscio screening at Deborah Heart and Lung Center. Howard noted that the committee will also be seeking greater department delegate attendance and participation with the association. Howard summarized the minutes from that meeting and reported on the recommendations that the association adopt the 2017 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Budget Proposal of \$30,800 and Capital Purchase Proposal of \$15,000. Also recommended for adoption are the Public Relations Budget Proposal of \$1,865 and the Administrative Budget Proposal of \$3,730. Howard noted that the budgets are available for review when requested. Howard reported that the association has received a ST-5 NJ Sales Tax Exemption Certificate. Howard reviewed the committee reports received by the executive committee and noted that the EcoMedia grant applied for in 2016 was not awarded. Howard reported that the Executive Committee will be working with the Bylaws Committee to review the membership dues and categories. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for March 3, 2017 in Cardiff.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported on the meeting held on January 9, 2017. The training center and equipment are in good shape. The next meeting of the board is on March 6, 2017 at the training center.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent thanked the association for working with him and allowing him time to provide a report at the monthly meetings. Ed reported that there was only one call requiring fire coordinator response on February 5th on Tuckahoe Road. The fire left an East Vineland firefighter, and his family, in need of assistance. The East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company is leading efforts to provide assistance. Ed reported that a meeting was held at the airport on February 14th to plan for a LDH/TTF-A drill at the airport. The drill is tentatively scheduled for May 7th and details for fire department access to the airport is being worked on. Ed reported that Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) will hold a drill planning meeting on February 21st in Port Republic at 7PM and County OEM Director Vince Jones is scheduled to attend for a discussion about the dispatching issues encountered when TTF-A was requested for a Port Republic fire in December. Ed provided an update for the Homeland Security Grant programs. There was a meeting of the working group to review the FY2017 requirements. There were some changes for FY2017. In prior years the funds were approx. \$200K and split \$100k each between local and regional programs. For FY2017, the funds are increased to approx. \$225k and combined with both local and regional applications seeking the same funds. Ed requested that if any departments would like to submit proposals for the FY2017 funding, they should contact him with up to date quotes. The FY2017 requests must meet current initial justifications (IJs). That would include any equipment supporting the existing strike teams and task forces in Atlantic County. Ed reported that FY2016 equipment is currently being purchased and that some unused grant funds were able to be transferred to other approved requests. Ed reviewed the Homeland Security Grant process and noted that some of the funds are being earmarked for cyber-security enhancements. Ed reviewed the list of new fire chiefs in the county for 2017. Somers Point Sta. 2 Chief Jim Somers, Galloway Township Chief Rick Smith, South Egg Harbor Chief Rob Robinson, Brigantine Chief Tige Platt, Scullville Chief Steve Prisament, SJTA Atlantic City Airport Chief Nelson Wiest, Nesco Chief Carmen Merlino III, Dorothy Chief Jess Hand, and Mays Landing Chief Lou Dimartine. Ed reminded all that Chief Brain Alexander, of the 177th Fighter Wing NJ Air National Guard Fire Department, has been out on medical leave with Assistant Chiefs Ron Wilkens and James Gillespie serving as alternate points of contact. Ed reported that there was a NJ State Fire Coordinator meeting held on January 21st and that Lou Kilmer is the current Acting Director of the NJ Division of Fire Safety and that the position will probably remain and acting one until the next governor takes office. Ed reported that he will not be seeking reappointment to the Atlantic County Fire Coordinator position when his term is up this year. Ed noted that those willing to be considered for the position must have their name submitted through the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association which will submit their recommendation to County OEM Director Vince Jones before final approval is received by submission to the NJ Division of Fire Safety.

Lefty Clayton provided a summary of what was learned at the NJ State Fire Coordinator meeting held on January 21st. The NJ Fire Code update is being outsourced. The Fire Service Resource Emergency Deployment Act will be readopted. The NJ DFS has had two fire investigators retire and only hired one. They also had two fire investigation dogs retired and currently have two replacement dogs being trained. Lefty reported that municipal fire officials should be receiving updates from the

construction officials whenever solar panel systems are installed. There are several proposed code updates being reviewed and there will be a push to get more state fire departments reporting to NFIRS. There are plans to have requirements for those that service SCBA fill station and cascade systems. Reports that some local fire officials have not been inspecting fire stations and churches is being investigated. A bulletin was distributed concerning natural gas emergencies. A guest speaker spoke on terroristic threat studies. The NJ DFS does in house fire safety brochures and they can be customized for fire departments when requested. Representatives from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) (<https://www.firehero.org>) gave a presentation about firefighter health and safety and noted that literature and training is available online at <http://fireherolearningnetwork.com>

Valor Awards – Lefty Clayton reported that the 50+ year member recognition submissions and valor award nominations need to be submitted. It is requested that a chief submit nominations for valor awards and that a chief or president submit the name of those reaching 50+ years of service. Lefty reported that application packets will be mailed to all fire chiefs.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I has started with forty students. Firefighter II is scheduled to start on Monday March 6th. Mike reported that the course book has been mailed, emailed, and posted online. Mike reviewed the classes scheduled to start soon. Mike noted 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. Mike reported that he recently held an instructor meeting and that they are looking to build a RIT Practical Operations course in the 2nd floor of the smokehouse.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported on the January 11th and February 8th meetings of the chiefs' association. Butch reported that, starting in 2018, the chiefs' association January meeting will be held on the fourth Tuesday and that there will not be a February meeting. 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 March 8, 2017 at the Minotola Volunteer Fire Company.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported they are researching the need for dementia care at the home. 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 that many groups have been scheduling one of their meetings at the home then taking a tour and visiting residents. One local association donated a wheelchair swing that has become quite popular with the residents. Oscar reported that the home's annual golf outing has been scheduled for Tuesday May 9th at the Neshanic Valley Golf Club. Oscar reported on the great assistance the home receives through partnerships with Berkeley College and County College of Morris to provide nursing students to the home where they receive training.

NJ State Firemen's Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported that NJSFA financial reports are due by February 20th, the percentage sheets are due by February 28th, and the delegate report is due by May 1st. Cindy noted that many locals still need to file some, or all, of these reports. Cindy reported that the Atlantic County Caucus has been scheduled for August 8th in Egg Harbor City at 7:30 PM with registration starting at 6:30 PM. The convention is scheduled for 1:00 PM September 15th and 9:00 AM September 16th in Wildwood. The Memorial Service is to precede the convention meeting on September 16th.

Audit – Wayne Dilks reported that the Audit Committee met with the President and Treasurer to conduct a review of the financial records. Wayne reported that the committee found all records to be in good order.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the 2017 Public Relations Budget Proposal of \$1,865, the 2017 Administrative Budget Proposal of \$3,730, the 2017 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Budget Proposal of \$30,800, and the 2017 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Capital Purchase Proposal of \$15,000 as recommended by the Executive Committee.

President Portale requested that those willing to serve on the Bylaws Committee please contact him.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$284.31, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Eric Grace - \$107.55 (reimburse burn rack material) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$162.50 (food for Firefighter I graduation) / South Jersey Welding - \$14.26 (equipment rental)

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

Good of the Order

Tom Sweeny reported that Whitey Swartz has been having ongoing medical issues. Tom asked that everyone take some time to visit him.

Jim Garth reminded all that turnout gear needs to be washed regularly due to the cancer risks associated with continued exposure to the byproducts of fire.

Thank you to the Longport 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 21:25. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on March 15, 2017 in Weekstown.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Feb. 25, 2017	18:00	Fred & Ethel's Lantern Light Tavern, Smithville	Beef & Beer to Benefit Oceanville VFC
Sun. Mar. 12, 2017	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)
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
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ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

Wed. Mar. 15, 2017	20:00	Weekstown VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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
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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. Mar. 3, 2017	19:30	Cardiff VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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
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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. Mar. 6, 2017	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of 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. Mar. 8, 2017	20:00	Minotola VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's 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