

# 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 "Chick" Kisby



Secretary  
Robert A. Mellon  
Treasurer  
Jaime C. Mellon  
Asst. Sect./Treasurer  
Cindy L. Badger

June 21, 2017

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on June 21, 2017 at the Richland Volunteer Fire Company 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

President Portale introduced Chief Anthony Monfredo of the Richland Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Monfredo welcomed all to Richland and reported that they will be receiving a new tanker before the end of the month.

## In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 36 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 May 17, 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 \$145,466.41, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank  
Checking: \$63,166.47 / Savings: \$5,009.52 / Savings: \$53,015.07 / 13 Month CD: \$24,275.35  
Matures 6/13/2018

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the executive committee is scheduled for July 7, 2017 in Bayview.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that next meeting of the advisory board is scheduled for July 10, 2017 at the training center.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported that there has been no request for coordinators since the last meeting. Ed reported that the Large Diameter Hose (LDH) drill at the airport on June 4<sup>th</sup> went well and that the Tender Task Force Bravo (TTF-B) spring drill has been delayed until the fall so that an ISO observation of the drill can be conducted to improve the local insurance ratings. The TTF-B drill will be held in Estell Manor. Ed reported that the FY2017 Homeland

Security Grant spending will start soon and that NJ Assembly Bill A3908, to create a state 9/11 Memorial registry, has passed and will be voted in the NJ Senate next week.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the summer Firefighter I class is running with ten students and the Firefighter II class has been canceled due to low enrollment. Mike reported that the spring Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Monday, July 24, 2017 at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association** – Butch Kienzle reported on the June 14, 2017 meeting of the chiefs’ association. Butch reported on a discussion about issues identified with the activation of the tender task force during the May 11<sup>th</sup> fire in Hammonton. County officials have been requested to address the concerns identified with the dispatching. Hammonton Assistant Chief Dennis LaSassa reported that the fire at Buffalo Farms Cold Storage utilized approximately 1.4 million gallons of water and resulted in approximately nine million dollars in damage. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be 8:00 PM on July 12, 2017 at the Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Company.

**NJ Firemen’s Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that all is quiet and well at the home with summer BBQs being sponsored for the enjoyment of the residents.

**NJ State Firemen’s Assn.** – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported that three local associations will not be seated at the convention, one is from Atlantic County. The Executive Committee continues to discuss an age limit increase being requested by some northern local associations. An attorney review has deemed the current age limit does not pose an age discrimination issue. Cindy reported that a locked ballot box will be available at the convention to collect completed ballots if the need were to arise. To prevent the need to use a lock box, ten voting machines will be in service as opposed to the six last year. The association is purchasing two more and will have two loaners in service. Cindy reported that the handicapped parking for the convention will be at a lot north of the convention center this year. Bids are being received for the new office building. There has only been approximately 50% feedback on the red book survey. They will be recommending only one copy be printed for each local association after the convention. The addition of a FAQ page for the NJSFA website is being looked into. Cindy reported on the approved increases of convention expenses, reminded all to forward any OPRA requests immediately to the state office, and to check mail and email often as important information is sent out and may require immediate follow-up. Cindy reviewed the incumbents and challengers running for office. Cindy noted that the office is running smooth right now with the incumbent officers. Cindy reminded all that local relief reports are due by July 30<sup>th</sup> and that any member with an active line number may request relief along with any qualified members and their widow/widower prior to remarrying. Cindy noted that any member resigning before qualifying needs to be retired from the system.

**Atlantic County 4H Fair** – Howard Berchtold reported that the fair is scheduled for August 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> with the Firefighter Competition to be held on Friday August 11<sup>th</sup>. Howard requested that fire departments look into entering the competition. Howard reminded all that assistance will be needed on August 10<sup>th</sup> to set up and apparatus will again be requested for display for the length of the fair. An apparatus display application will be distributed and only a few hours will be requested of each display piece. Those displaying apparatus may also run a demonstration evolution and it is requested that they note that on the display application. The association booth will have plenty of fire prevention material to share with the public. Howard thanked all those that assist every year and requested that some of the younger generations try to assist this year. Howard reminded all that this is one of the largest county level events to share the fire service mission with the public by showing off equipment and sharing information.

### **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

### **Deferred Business**

President Portale reported that the Bylaws Committee will be meeting on July 6th. Anyone with bylaw concerns or requests are asked to forward them to the President or Secretary.

### **New Business**

President Portale reported that Tom Sweeny will not be available in August and that any trophy orders for the Wildwood Firefighters’ Memorial Parade need to be submitted now.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to purchase the two trophies, Best Appearing Atlantic County Apparatus and Best Appearing Atlantic County Department/Company, to be presented at the Wildwood Firefighters' Memorial Parade in September.

### **Bills**

The bills, totaling \$3,736.52, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Staples - \$130.68 (training) / This & That Uniforms - \$1,103.25 (42 polo & 41 t-shirt) / Continental Fire & Safety - \$1,244.00 (20 hood liners) / Primo Pizza - \$718.00 (training lunches) / Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Assoc. - \$20.00 (forward Hammonton's chiefs' assoc. dues received) / Public Safety Center - \$501.61 (5 pairs gloves) / Gil Zonge - \$18.98 (reimburse wood for FFI)

### **Applications for Membership**

Ted Gogol, Perry Coker, Cameron Fickling-Rone, Martin Walley, and Darren Hutchinson of the Margate Fire Department were accepted into membership.

### **Good of the Order**

Howard Berchtold shared information about the New Jersey efforts to advance criminal justice reform in order to provide a fair system for all by creating a risk-based pretrial system and setting time deadlines for the timely filing of indictments and the right to a speedy trial. Howard shared a FAQ brochure prepared by the state. Howard invited anyone with questions to contact him.

John Armato, Richland Firefighter and Buena Vista Township Committeeman, shared information of the current opioid crisis affecting all communities. John reminded all first responders to wear appropriate protective gear and avoid contact opioids, especially fentanyl, as just exposure to skin can be a great risk to the first responder. John also noted that all should be aware of the growing crisis and that it may be affecting family and friends. John invited all with questions to contact him by cell at (609)805-3680 or email at jarmato@buenavistanj.com.

Jim Garth informed all the Independent Order of New Jersey Odd Fellows Union Lodge No. 213 will be hosting a bus trip to the 9/11 Museum and the NYC Fire Museum on October 14, 2017. The trip cost will be \$98pp and includes lunch at Forlini's.

Thank you to the Richland Volunteer Fire Company 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 20:50. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on July 19, 2017 in Linwood.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Sun. Jul. 16, 2017	-----	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	2017 Lawn Raffle Drawing at Mt. Carmel Festival
Mon. Jul. 24, 2017	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony
Tues. Aug. 8, 2017	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association - Atlantic County Caucus
Thurs. Aug. 10, 2017	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 11, 2017	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 11, 2017	19:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Firefighter Competition
Sat. Aug. 12, 2017	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
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. Oct. 14, 2017	09:00	New York City	Odd Fellows 9/11 Museum and NYC Fire Museum Bus Trip
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. 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. Jul. 7, 2017	19:30	Landisville VFC Bayview 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. 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. 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