

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

President
Amor "Skip" Portale
Vice President
Ellsworth Ott
2nd Vice President
Charles "Chuck" Kisby



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

September 20, 2017

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:10 on September 20, 2017 at the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2 by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was relocated from Hammonton Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 1 due to ongoing construction. 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 William Eppler of the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Eppler welcomed all to Hammonton and introduced Captain Jim Day and President Joseph Caruso representing Station 2. Chief Eppler thanked all those that assisted with the multi-alarm fire on Pine Avenue and President Caruso reported that Station 2 will be hosting a Clambake on Saturday, September 23rd from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 41 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 August 16, 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 \$107,660.42, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$25,324.72 / Savings: \$5,009.90 / Savings: \$53,050.45 / 13 Month CD: \$24,275.35
Matures 6/13/2018

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the September 1st meeting of the Executive Committee. Director Corbo and the instructors will inventory the air packs and bottles and start planning for the incremental replacement of all due to their starting to reach their maximum life expectancy. The valor committee will soon schedule a meeting to start the process of reviewing the valor award nomination requirements and procedures. The treasurer is obtaining limited use debit cards for certain instructors. Full control of the card limits, currently at \$1,000, remains with the treasurer and a review of the insurance policies determined that coverage is in place for any unauthorized use of the cards. Moving forward, any reimbursement of expenses will require an expense statement, with copies all receipts, be submitted by

everyone that seeks reimbursement. Health and Wellness programs are to continue on a quarterly basis at the regular meetings. AtlantiCare currently has seven CyanoKits in service on their ALS vehicles. Mike Corbo, Director of Fire Training, informed the Executive Committee of issues being encountered with the physical ability of some Firefighter I trainees. There may be a need to require some kind of physical ability screening if it is not being done by the trainee's home company. President Portale reviewed the unwritten rule of not allowing vendor product presentations at the regular meetings. The committee discussed creating some basic guidelines for allowing such presentations. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for November 3, 2017 in South Egg Harbor at 19:30. The committee will meet at the South Egg Harbor firehouse at 17:15 or the Never There Gun Club, Hammonton, at 17:30 for the spaghetti and crab sauce dinner at the gun club. All are welcome to join the committee for dinner.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Dave Buzby reported on the meeting held on September 18, 2017 at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center. Repairs to the smokehouse building will start soon. The contract for the new pumps has been signed but no start date has been set. The high rise and standpipe operations mockup is being built in the training tower by the Pleasantville Fire Department and it will be fully movable.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported that there had been a 2nd alarm fire in Atlantic City at the Ritz building. Ed reported that the state is working on adopting and implementing the 2015 fire code update. Ed noted that changes will include increasing Fire Inspector/Official certification renewal fees. Ed reported that the remaining \$2,000 from the FY2015 Homeland Security Grant funds and the remaining \$870 of the FY2016 funds have been spent. Ed reported that the FY2017 spending plan has not yet been approved and that the county fire service has submitted \$52,000 worth of equipment requests for the FY2017 grants. The approval is expected before the end of September. When the plan is approved, updated quotes will be requested from those that have submitted requests for FY2017. A meeting to plan for FY2018 will soon be scheduled and any requests for equipment must meet the original IJs (initial justification). The Homeland Security Grant initial justifications are to provide equipment for county task forces and strike teams. Ed reported on the coordinator and resource support provided to the Atlantic City Air Show in August and noted that the Atlantic City Fire Department sends their thanks for all those that assisted. Ed reported that the NJ Division of Fire Safety has sent a request to the president of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association and to the Director of the Atlantic County OEM seeking their recommendations for the position of Atlantic County Fire Coordinator for 2018/2019. Their recommendations are due by October 20th. Ed reported that the damaged foam tote in Hammonton is still being emptied out and that the foam is available to any station that has five gallon containers and would like to use the foam for training. Ed reported that the county task forces and strike teams will be scheduling their next drills in the spring. Lefty Clayton reported that a representative from NJ PEOSH was at a recent NJ DFS meeting to inform all that the fire service HazMat Awareness/Operations and Right to Know requirements are being reviewed after issues were identified following a train derailment incident in Paulsboro, Gloucester County.

Atlantic County Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that new commercial building carbon monoxide detector requirements went into effect at the beginning of September. Dave also reported that the NJ Division of Fire Safety is looking to hire additional Per-diem Fire Inspectors and that the 2015 update of the fire code should be approved soon.

Training – Instructor William Merola reported that Firefighter I is running with twenty-seven students and Firefighter II is running with twelve students. A review of the upcoming classes on the schedule was also provided.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported on the September 13th meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held in Nesco. Butch noted that Freeholder John Carman had attended the meeting and that his support of the county fire service is always greatly appreciated. The Absecon Fire Department had reported issues with utilizing currently owned David-Clark headsets with the new Harris radios and that they are researching third party solutions for compatibility. The NY Jets sent information about a First Responder night scheduled at MetLife Stadium on Thursday, November 2nd. The Tender task Force Bravo (TTF-B) policy is being updated and will be distributed when completed. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 in East Vineland.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that this was the first year that the home's budget had not been completed before the NJSFA convention in Wildwood. Oscar noted that it has been a pleasure working with the NJSFA officers this year. The home is researching the probability of housing higher care level residents such as those with feeding tubes as well as the continuing research on a memory care unit. The higher level of care can be provided by a subcontractor and will require the renovation of one wing. Oscar discussed the complaints that were heard on the floor of the NJSFA convention to the best that he is allowed to elaborate. As was mentioned at the convention, the home is not equipped or licensed for the level of care that the individual would have required. Oscar reported that an application had been requested for an Atlantic County firefighter. Tom Sweeny reported that he had requested the application for a parishioner of his and noted that the

packet was very professional with a nice letter of introduction included. Oscar reminded all that he may be contacted for a tour of the home.

Bylaws – Chuck Mackintosh reported that the committee met on September 19th to review and clarify proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. The committee will be introducing the proposed changes to the Constitution at the October meeting of the association for discussion and changes. The proposed changes to the Constitution will be read again at the November meeting for additional discussion and changes followed by a vote on the proposal at the December meeting. The committee will be introducing the proposed changes to the Bylaws at the November meeting of the association for discussion and changes. The proposed changes to the Bylaws will be read again at the December meeting for additional discussion and changes immediately followed by a vote on the proposal.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act on.

New Business

President Portale introduced the possibility of allowing some vendor presentations at the meetings and requested input from the floor. After some discussion, all were in agreement to move forward with allowing such presentations after some basic guidelines are approved by the Executive Committee. All agreed that the presentations should be reviewed for relevance to Atlantic County's fire service and be something new and/or innovative as opposed to being what most would consider widely used and known equipment.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$1,765.09, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Tech Soup Global - \$50.00 (QuickBooks Pre2017 software license) / Rob Winkler - \$20.94 (reimburse training supplies) / NFPA - \$201.20 (4H Fair fire prevention supplies) / Dave Buzby - \$432.95 (reimburse 4H Fair fire prevention supplies) / Thomas Sweeny - \$160.00 (two parade trophies) / Good Enoughs - \$900.00 (150 bales straw)

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

Good of the Order

President Portale congratulated the following for winning trophies at the parade in Wildwood. Collings Lakes: Best Marching Unit 1-20 people 1st Place (CLFD); Northfield: Best Appearing Pumper 0-5 years 2nd Place (E65) & Best Appearing Utility 2nd Place (U66); Somers Point: Best Appearing Light Rescue (R48), Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Assoc. - Best Appearing Atlantic County Aerial (T2), & Atlantic County Firefighters' Assoc. – Best Appearing Atlantic County Company (SPFD); East Vineland: Best Appearing Tanker 1st Place (1222) & Atlantic County Firefighters' Assoc. – Best Appearing Atlantic County Apparatus (1222); Richland: Best Appearing Tanker 2nd Place (1219); Mizpah: Best Appearing Tanker Pumper 2nd Place (18-27).

Jim Garth reminded all about the Oddfellows Lodge bus trip to the 9/11 Memorial, FDNY Museum, and dinner on October 14th. There are only fifteen seats left.

Dennis Sharpe reported that the Assistance to Firefighters Grant workshop has been canceled, and the pending application period for next year has been put on hold, due to the multiple natural disaster mitigations currently underway. Grants from last year's application period are currently being distributed.

Thank you to the Hammonton 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 21:15. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on October 18, 2017 at the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Sep. 23, 2017	13:30	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Clam Bake (13:30 - 17:00)
Sun. Oct. 1, 2017	10:00	Northfield FD	2nd Annual Classic Car Show (@ Sta. 2 Burton Ave. - 10:00 - 14:00)
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. Oct. 21, 2017	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)
Sat. Oct. 28, 2017	08:00	Elwood VFC @ Mays Landing Country Club	16th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Thurs. Nov. 2, 2017	20:25	MetLife Stadium	NY Jets First Responders' Night
Sat. Nov. 11, 2017	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
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Sat. Apr. 14, 2018	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Nov. 10, 2018	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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. 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. 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. 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. 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
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