

# 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

October 18, 2017

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on October 18, 2017 at the Dorothy 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 Jess Hand of the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Hand welcomed all to Dorothy. Chief Hand then introduced the officers of the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company that were in attendance.

## In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 40 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 September 20, 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 \$144,257.67, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank  
Checking: \$61,849.30 / Savings: \$5,010.02 / Savings: \$53,085.86 / 13 Month CD: \$24,312.49  
Matures 6/13/2018

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that 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 17:00 or the Never There Gun Club, Hammonton, at 17:20 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** – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for November 13, 2017.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I has added three recruits from Ventnor, while also losing one student, and currently has twenty-nine students. Firefighter II is running with twelve students. Mike reported that

the smokehouse is probably out of service until next year. The county has started a renovation of the structure. It has been power washed inside and out, bricks repointed, and new doors and roof are being installed. Howard Berchtold noted that the excellent partnership with Atlantic County is paramount in getting projects like this done. The county is investing approximately \$123,000 to extend the life of the smoke house. Howard thanked the Atlantic County government for the continual support of the fire service. Mike reported that “NFPA 1403: Standard on Live Fire Training” 2018 edition has revised many of the requirements of live fire training. Mike noted that he will create a written proposal for training ground changes for review by the Executive Committee at their next meeting. Mike wanted to get some of the information out there as the changes will affect the departmental use of the training grounds when conducting live fire training. The standard will require a minimum of three Level 2 instructors and one EMT on the training ground for live fire training. Mike reported that that future departmental use of the training ground for live fire training may require the scheduling of three staff fire instructors with their cost to be covered by the department utilizing the facility. One of the staff instructors may also be an EMT if one is not provided by the department conducting live fire training. All proposals will be reviewed by the Executive Committee before any changes in facility usage policies are implemented. Mike also reported that when the NJ fireworks laws changed, in June 2017, the use of incendiary smoke bombs for fire service training also became allowable. Mike reminded all that even though incendiary smoke bombs are now allowed, they are still not a “friendly” smoke and the safety data sheet (SDS) should be reviewed for health and safety considerations. Mike reported that the fire inspector class was canceled due to low enrollment and that the fire official class would be starting soon. Mike reported that a CPR class was scheduled for the Firefighter I class and any others that need it and he also reviewed the other upcoming classes on the schedule. Mike noted that the basic vehicle extrication class had been canceled due to there being only three enrolled students. This is the first time ever that basic vehicle extrication did not have enough students to run the class.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association** – Butch Kienzle reported on the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held in East Vineland. Levon S. “Lefty” Clayton was selected by the chiefs for recommendation to serve as the Atlantic County Fire Coordinator for the 2018/2019 term. Butch noted that Lefty will do a good job and that he is an excellent choice for the position. A letter of recommendation was sent to Vince Jones, Atlantic County Director Office of Emergency Operations, who will send that, along with his own letter of recommendation, to the NJ Division of Fire Safety for final determination.

**Bylaws** – President Portale reported that the committee has submitted a proposal for revision of the constitution for a first reading and discussion under new business. Copies of the proposal were distributed for review and discussion.

### **Communications**

Secretary Mellon reported that he had received an email from East Coast Roofing and Siding. They are seeking nominations of worthy recipients for their annual free roof installation and would like to award the roof to a member of the first responder community or military. Secretary Mellon noted that the email has been forwarded to the fire service email distribution list.

### **Deferred Business**

President Portale inquired if the donated portable microphone had been refurbished yet. John Garth reported that the project had been temporarily delayed and that some parts were needed. John will work on getting the portable microphone repaired as soon as possible.

### **New Business**

The first reading of the proposed Constitution revisions were accepted as submitted.

### **Bills**

The bills, totaling \$2,568.30, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- State of New Jersey - \$54.67 (Dept. of Labor 2016 assessments) / State of New Jersey - \$25.50 (annual report) / MES - \$1,832.00 (AV-3000 facepiece x7 & equipment repair parts) / Staples - \$113.44 (office supplies, training) / Home Depot - \$26.90 (equipment maintenance) / Mike Corbo - \$320.79 (reimburse Scantron machine replacement) / Dave Buzby - \$195.00 (reimburse instructor boots)

### **Nomination of Officers**

The first of two rounds of nominations was held. Those nominated are as follows:

President (1)	Amor “Skip” Portale
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (1)	Ellsworth Ott*, Dennis Sharpe
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (1)	Charles “Chick” Kisby
Secretary (1)	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer (1)	Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	(open)
Chaplain (1)	Rev. Thomas Sweeny
Sgt.-at-Arms (3)	Charles Harlan, Wayne Dilks, William Donath
Executive Comm. (9)	Howard Berchtold Jr., Levon “Lefty” Clayton*, Oscar Dutch Jr.*, James Garth Sr.*, R. Thomas Hunter Jr.*, Walter R. “Butch” Kienzle III, Dennis Sharpe, Eugene M. Sharpe, C. Robert Winkler III*

\*have not yet formally accepted nomination and must do so before elections.

### **Applications for Membership**

There were no applications for membership.

### **Good of the Order**

Thank you to the Dorothy 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 20:40. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on November 15, 2017 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Proposal for Revision

“Constitution, Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association of the State of New Jersey”.

1) **DELETE**

**ARTICLE III**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 2: Any member of a fire company belonging to this Association may submit his or her application as an individual non-voting member.

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2) **CHANGE**

**ARTICLE IV**  
**REPRESENTATIVES**

**Current:**

SECTION 2: A Township Fire Chief shall not be a delegate by virtue of that title, except he shall be the Chief Officer of his home fire company or a delegate thereof.

**Proposed:**

SECTION 2: A Municipality Fire Chief shall not be a delegate by virtue of that title, except when they shall be the Chief Officer of their home fire company or a delegate thereof.

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3) **CHANGE**

**Current:**

**ARTICLE V**  
**ENTRANCE FEES AND DUES**

SECTION 1: Entrance fees and dues for fire companies and also individual non-voting members shall be provided for in the By-Laws.

**Proposed:**

**ARTICLE V**  
**DUES**

SECTION 1: Dues for fire company members shall be provided for in the By-Laws.

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4) **CHANGE**

**ARTICLE VII**  
**MEETINGS**

**Current:**

SECTION 3: The Annual Meeting shall be the January meeting. At this meeting the newly elected Officers shall be installed, Standing Committees as far as possible shall be appointed, and the Auditing Committee's report for the previous year shall be due.

**Proposed:**

SECTION 3: The Annual Meeting shall be the January meeting. At this meeting the newly elected Officers shall be installed.

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5) CHANGE

ARTICLE X

**Current:**

SECTION 3: DISSOLUTION Upon dissolution of the association, the association's assets shall be disposed of exclusively for the purposes of the association or distributed to such organizations, or departments of local government, organized and operated exclusively for fire and emergency services within Atlantic County, New Jersey. Dissolution must be approved by a majority vote of the member fire companies' delegates at two consecutive monthly meetings.

**Proposed:**

SECTION 3: DISSOLUTION Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

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6) ADD

ARTICLE X

SECTION 4: PURPOSE Said corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and/or scientific purposes, included, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

SECTION 5: NET EARNINGS No part of the net earnings of the corporations shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth.

SECTION 6: POLITICAL ACTIVITY No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

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Respectfully submitted;

By-laws Committee  
Tuesday, September 19, 2017

First Reading  
Wednesday, October 18, 2017

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

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. 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. 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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