

# 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  
Sandra L. Walczk

February 21, 2018

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on February 21, 2018 at the Longport Volunteer Fire Department by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of all fallen firefighters and military personnel along with all those affected by the recent school shooting in Florida. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Introduction of Host Chief**

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 that Longport utilizes the firefighter health screening program by Access Health Systems that will be presented at this meeting. Mayor Russo reported that the medical information is confidential and firefighters are categorized as A, B, C, or D according to their clearance for duty. Mayor Russo offered to speak to any elected officials in Atlantic County that may be willing to look at implementing the screening program. Mayor Russo noted that the cost is well worth the results and that some firefighters were able to address medical issues that they were not aware of even though they did see their own doctor on a regular basis.

## **In Attendance**

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 38 of 176      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 18 of 44

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

## **Report of Treasurer**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

## **Special Presentation**

President Portale reported that the association will continue to seek presentations concerning firefighter health and wellness at least once every quarter. President Portale introduced Kevin O'Brien and Lynda Joy from Access Health Systems to speak about their Firefighter Medical Surveillance Program. The program utilized NFPA 1582 as a guideline for development while not being fully NFPA compliant due to the excessive costs still associated when attempting to follow that standard. The Access Health Systems program uses a classification system assigning firefighters as A, B, C, or D based upon medical clearance. An A classification would be a fully cleared interior firefighter with the other classifications being tiered down in allowable duty that keeps volunteers that are still able to perform other duties. The program is used in many jurisdictions in

New York and New Jersey and has helped identify medical issues that a firefighters primary physician had not identified by following normal age based medical protocols allowed by insurance companies. Generally the primary screening can be done for a company in one evening by utilizing several screening stations. Firefighters will receive a general physical, a hearing/vision screening, pulmonary function test, and a cardiac screening. The program is approximately \$150 per firefighter and additional programs are also available. Any firefighter needed a DOT medical screening completed can add that to the firefighter screening for an additional \$40 to the base cost. The basic screening is a maintenance program that allows for medical screening will managing costs. It was noted that a stress test is recommended for all firefighters but it can be very costly. It was noted that the Gift from Captain Buscio program provides the cardiac stress tests to all NJ firefighters at no cost to them and that all NJ firefighters should be taking advantage of that program. Those that would like more information can contact Lynda Joy at (732)296-1000 or LJJoy@accesshealthsystems.com or Kevin O'Brien at (518)782-2200 or kobrien@accesssolutions.com.

## **Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported on the annual reorganizational meeting of the committee held on January 12, 2018 in Pomona after being delayed from the original January 5<sup>th</sup> date due to weather. The committee acknowledged Chuck Mackintosh for his service on the committee before retiring to Florida and welcomed Billy Merola to the committee. The committee also welcomed Sandra Walczak starting as the new Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. Howard thanked the Executive Committee for reelecting him as Chairman and Oscar Dutch as Vice-Chairman. Howard summarized the minutes from that meeting and reported on the recommendations that the association adopt the 2018 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Budget Proposal of \$25,000 and Capital Purchase Proposal of \$20,600. Also recommended for adoption are the Public Relations Budget Proposal of \$2,500, which will include the funding of one CyanoKit if required, and the Administrative Budget Proposal of \$3,580. Howard noted that the budgets are available for review when requested. Valor award requests will be sent out and that committee will need to meet soon and review the submissions. The firefighter health and wellness initiative is going well. The Firefighter I Entrance Screening is still being reviewed by Director Corbo. The Cape-Atlantic CyanoKit Consortium has asked for additional funding be made available and were subsequently informed by President Portale that this association has budgeted for the replacement of one kit if it is needed. The committee reviewed the final draft proposal for a vendor presentation policy and has recommended that the association adopt the policy. Fire Marshal Buzby had presented the committee with information about a Digital Fire Training System by BullEx and sought approval to seek grant funding to obtain the system. The committee agreed to recommend that the association approve the seeking of grant funding to purchase a BullEx Digital Fire Training System. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for March 2, 2018 in Cardiff.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the fire training advisory board is on April 16, 2018 at the training center.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton on attending a NJ Division of Fire Safety meeting recently. Lefty reported that the mutual aid updates have been completed. A Homeland Security Grant meeting was held and the grants will continue to be based on the existing initial justifications (IJs). Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) recently met and welcomed Bargaintown back to the task force.

**Fire Marshal** – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that a pre-construction meeting has been scheduled for the pump replacement at the training center.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I has started with thirty-three students. Firefighter II is scheduled to start on Monday March 5<sup>th</sup>. Mike reported that the course book has been mailed, emailed, and posted online. Mike reported that if any additional print copies are required, just contact Marianne to mail them out. Mike reported that Marianne will be retiring effective May 1<sup>st</sup> and that he is working with Director Jones and President Portale to find a replacement solution that will minimize disruption. Mike reported that the Firefighter I graduation ceremony held on January 29<sup>th</sup> was well attended. Mike reported that the last Fire Inspector course based on the 2006 fire code started on February 20<sup>th</sup> with twenty-three students. The new 2015 fire code will go into effect in March and the course will be redone to reflect that. Mike reviewed his budget process and reported that he will be purchasing training mannequins. Mike reviewed the BullEx Digital Fire Training System and noted that the system is worth purchasing and he would like to seek whatever funding may be available if the search for grant funding does not pan out. Mike reported that the majority of the training center's SCBA cylinders will be at the end of life soon and a plan will be formulated to replace them. Mike reported that the Kean University Fire Training course book is scheduled to be posted on March 6<sup>th</sup> with registration starting on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Mike reviewed the classes scheduled to start soon. Mike noted that the Firefighter II course has an ICS200 class scheduled and any county firefighter needing that class may attend at no cost.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association** – Butch Kienzle reported on the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held in Absecon. Freeholder Rich Dase was in attendance to swear in the officers for 2018. A plaque was presented to Ed Vincent honoring his fourteen years of service as Atlantic County Fire Coordinator. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on March 14, 2018 at the Landisville Volunteer Fire Company.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that they have been busy at the home and are currently working with an architect to add an additional floor for the memory care wing. The new floor addition would include a new elevator that would improve access to the remainder of the building. The nurses have been trained and certified to use peripherally inserted central catheters (PICC). The home is changing their medication provider and looking into adding a staff infectious disease doctor and a physical therapy program. Oscar reminded all that he is available for tours of the home when the weather improves.

**NJ State Firemen's Assn.** – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported that all Atlantic County locals are currently 100% filed for reports due at this time. Membership reports are due by February 28<sup>th</sup>, local relief reports are due by April 30<sup>th</sup>, and delegate reports are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Cindy reported that she has information about a Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship Program to be held in Alabama and anyone that is interested should contact her.

### **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

### **Deferred Business**

There was no deferred business to act upon.

### **New Business**

The proposed Policy on Vendor Presentations was read.

#### **Policy on Vendor Presentations, Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

The Atlantic County Firefighters' Association recognizes that vendor presentations can provide useful educational and research materials that could be a learning experience that allows for the evaluation of products, devices and services, and the possibility of learning new techniques. However, there must be guidelines for programs presented by persons who have a financial interest in products or procedures they discuss.

1. Any vendor making a presentation at a meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association must have an invitation from a member who should first seek the approval of the President and Chair of the Executive Committee, or assigned designees.
2. The presentation must be related to the missions of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association or the well-being of the association members.
3. Any members that have a financial relationship with the vendor must disclose that relationship prior to the presentation.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Policy on Vendor Presentations, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2018 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Budget proposal, with a total of \$25,000, and the 2018 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Capital Purchase proposal, with a total of \$20,600, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2018 Public Relations Budget proposal, with a total of \$2,500, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2018 Administrative Budget proposal, with a total of \$3,580, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to seek grant funding for the purchase of the BullEx Digital Fire Training System, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

**Bills**

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

**Good of the Order**

Howard Berchtold reported that Tom Sweeny just returned from the hospital. Bill Danz reported that he had just visited him and that his extensive back surgery required a longer stay at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and now he will have a long recovery at home. Bill noted that phone calls are appreciated as well as visits, but call before visiting.

Dennis Sharpe reminded all that NFIRS reports are required to be filed monthly and that Firehouse Software has been bought out by ESO Solutions and will be phased out over the next two years.

President Portale presented a Certificate of Recognition, a Proclamation, and a Plaque to Cindy L. Badger for eight years of service as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. Cindy was not able to be in attendance at the January meeting when recognitions were presented.

Thank you to the Longport Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:30. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on March 21, 2018 in Sweetwater.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Fri. Mar. 9, 2018	18:00	Fred & Ethel's Lantern Light Tavern, Smithville	Beef & Beer to Benefit Oceanville VFC
Sun. Mar. 11, 2018	10:30	St. Nicholas Church, Atlantic City (10:30) & Tropicana Casino, Atlantic City (12:00)	200 Club of Atlantic & Cape May Counties - Memorial Service (10:30) & Brunch (12:00)
Fri. Mar. 23, 2018	17:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	7th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner
Sat. Mar. 24, 2018	15:00	Scullville VFC	3rd Annual Spring Fundraiser - Beef & Beer
Sat. Mar. 24, 2018	18:00	Five Points Inn Restaurant	Beef & Beer to Benefit East Vineland VFC
Sat. Apr. 14, 2018	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Apr. 21, 2018	11:00	Mizpah VFC	Sub Sale (11:00 - 17:00)
Sun. Jun. 3, 2018	12:00	Dorothy VFC	61st Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
Tues. Aug. 14, 2018	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 14, 2018	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 15, 2018	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Nov. 10, 2018	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
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Sat. Apr. 13, 2019	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Nov. 9, 2019	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

**ACFFA Meetings****Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

Wed. Mar. 21, 2018	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Apr. 18, 2018	20:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center (Host - Margate FD)	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation
Wed. May 16, 2018	20:00	Oceanville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 20, 2018	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 18, 2018	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 15, 2018	20:00	Mays Landing VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 19, 2018	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 17, 2018	20:00	Port Republic VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 21, 2018	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 19, 2018	20:00	West Atlantic City VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 16, 2019	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 20, 2019	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee**

Fri. May 4, 2018	19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 6, 2018	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 7, 2018	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Nov. 2, 2018	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 4, 2019	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

**Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings**

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board**

Mon. Apr. 16, 2018	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 16, 2018	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Oct. 15, 2018	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 21, 2019	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association**

Wed. Mar. 14, 2018	20:00	Landisville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Apr. 11, 2018	20:00	West Atlantic City VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. May 9, 2018	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jun. 13, 2018	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jul. 11, 2018	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Aug. 8, 2018	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Sep. 12, 2018	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Oct. 10, 2018	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Nov. 14, 2018	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 12, 2018	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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Tues. Jan. 22, 2019	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
February 2019-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----

**Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.**

Thurs. Jul. 26, 2018	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 24, 2019	19:30		Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 25, 2019	19:30		Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association