

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
Sandra L. Walczak

May 16, 2018

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on May 16, 2018 at the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company 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. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced President Robert Broskey of the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company. President Broskey welcomed all to Oceanville.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 39 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 April 18, 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.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the meeting of the committee held on May 4, 2018 in Longport. Howard noted that the training center is now twenty-five years old. Howard reported that the valor awards was well attended and had positive news coverage. Howard reported Billy Merola and Sandra Walczak will now be heading up the valor committee and reminded all that a valor nomination form should be completed as soon as possible after an event instead of waiting until the nomination deadline. Treasurer Mellon reported that the fine for a late response to a NJ DOL request has been abated with the caveat that no further abatements will be allowed. Treasurer Mellon reported that several checks have gone uncashed over the past year and requested that a ninety-day limit be printed on the checks and allowing for one reminder to be sent to those that have not yet cashed checks issued to them. All committee members present agreed with a motion to recommend that the association authorize the notice on the checks. Howard reminded all that if an association check is issued to them, it should be cashed or deposited as soon as possible. The Director of Training is still reviewing Firefighter I entrance requirements and NFPA1403 requirements. Dave Buzby reported that the grant, for the approximate \$25,000 cost of the training system, he was researching will not cover the training system. There was discussion about seeking corporate sponsorship and sending requests to Atlantic City Electric, South Jersey Gas, and possibly the casinos in Atlantic City. Secretary Mellon will obtain system brochures and draft proposals that could be sent out. Butch

Kienzle reported that he had received an email with information about a company call First Responder Task Force. They are offering a no cost \$5,000 Life Benefit to all first responders. There is apparently an option to buy up to greater benefit coverage. They will be invited to the July meeting of the Executive Committee and possibly to a regular association meeting after the committee reviews their program. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on July 6, 2018 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Station 1.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold summarized the meeting of the board held on April 16, 2018 at the training center. The Advisory Board and the Executive Committee are reviewing the workload that was done by Marianne Cullen before her retirement and looking to work with the county to find a solution on how to best accomplish that work now. Fire Marshal Buzby provided an update on the training center hydrant rebuild project.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reported they are finalizing the updates for Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A). The fire chief from Indian Mills in Shamong Township, Burlington County has requested that a strike team of Atlantic County tankers be established for response into their area if needed since the Burlington County task force is at a greater distance. Chip Stockton is organizing the strike team, from both TTF-A and TTF-B, with six tankers and one engine.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the Firefighter I class now has twenty-seven students after starting with thirty-three and Firefighter II still has some weather delayed classes that need to be made-up. Mike reported on attending the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC). Mike is working on getting all class certificates sent out. Mike Spoke with Atlanticare and they will be attending the June meeting of the association to speak about their firefighter medical evaluation. Mike noted that it is not as comprehensive as the Gift from Captain Buscio program at Deborah Heart and Lung, but it is better than no evaluation at all. Mike reviewed the upcoming classes scheduled and reported that the summer Firefighter I class will start on June 21st. Mike requested that the summer Firefighter II class be recommended to those that have not yet taken Firefighter II. There is currently not enough enrolled to run the class that is scheduled to start on June 4th. Mike reported that the clerk currently answering the phone at the training center is off on Mondays so that it is best to call Tuesday through Friday when she is working and she will contact Mike for the information requested. Mike suggested reaching out to him on his cell phone if something is needed more immediately.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported on the May 9, 2018 meeting of the chiefs' association. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on June 13, 2018 at the Collings Lakes Volunteer Fire Company, Buena Vista Township.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported the golf tournament was held on May 15th. Strong storms had moved into the area causing a power outage, but all of the food was eaten as the players moved inside early. Oscar thanked the association for sponsoring a hole with a donation. Oscar noted that volunteers for the tournament are always being sought if anyone would like volunteer for next year. Oscar reported that they had Chief Roger Hull, Beechwood Vol. Fire Co., give a presentation about the federal Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program (PSOB). Beechwood had a past chief suffer a medical incident during a Memorial Day service leading to his line of duty death. It took three years to finalize the PSOB claim for the surviving family. One issue with the lengthy claim process is that an officer had signed off for all members present on the event/incident run sheet. The preferred method would be for members to always sign for every event/incident they respond to. Oscar noted that Chief Hull offered to give the presentation in Atlantic County. President Portale requested that Oscar reach out and extend an invitation for him to do so.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that planning for the annual 4H Fair is underway. President Portale noted that there are many new pieces of apparatus in the county and those that would like to display them at the fair should contact Dennis Sharpe to get on the schedule.

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 that the association allow for the printing of "Void After 90 Days" on the checks of this association, 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

President Portale reported that Chaplain Thomas Sweeny had addition surgery on his back in Philadelphia and is currently at Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation, Galloway Township, in room 11W.

Mike Corbo reported on an unconfirmed story of NJ PEOSH fines being filed against both a northern NJ fire company and a firefighter, \$1,000 each, after the investigation of a social media photo. Oscar Dutch reported having heard the same story during the recent golf tournament. This photo in question allegedly showed the firefighter operating a hand line at a vehicle fire. The firefighter was wearing an airpack but did not have his facepiece on and he also had a full beard. Though there is no official confirmation that this did happen, it should serve as a reminder to all that cameras are now everywhere. All protective gear should be worn, and utilized, when actively working within, or adjacent to, an IDLH atmosphere. The NJ PEOSH Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134) states that the employer shall not permit respirators with tight-fitting facepieces to be worn by employees who have facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face or that interferes with valve function.

Thank you to the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

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 June 20, 2018 in East Vineland, Buena Vista Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. May 19, 2018	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)
Sun. Jun. 3, 2018	12:00	Dorothy VFC	61st Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
Sat. Jun. 9, 2018	sunrise	Longport VFD	Inaugural Flounder Tournament (sunrise - 17:00 weigh-in deadline)
Tues. Jun. 19, 2018	11:00	Nesco VFC	Italian Hoagie Sale (11:00 - 16:00)
Mon. Jul. 16, 2018	22:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Lawn Raffle Drawing at Mt. Carmel Festival
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. May 18, 2019	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill
Sat. Nov. 9, 2019	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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. 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. 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. 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	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 25, 2019	19:30	Port Republic VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association