

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

August 15, 2018

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on August 15, 2018 at the Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company by 1st Vice President Ellsworth Ott. The meeting was opened with a flag salute. 1st Vice President Ott then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that President Portale was unable to be in attendance and thanked 1st Vice President Ott for running the meeting. Howard reported on working with President Portale to find someone to fill the role of Chaplain. After seeking input from many sources and speaking with interested individuals, Howard announced that President Portale and he both agreed on whom should be appointed to fill the Chaplain position after the sudden loss of Reverend Thomas Sweeny. Howard introduced Deacon Richard Maxwell. Deacon Maxwell serves as a Deacon with the Catholic Church in Mays Landing, is a retired Pleasantville firefighter, currently serves as a volunteer firefighter with the Oceanville Vol. Fire Co. in Galloway, and resides in the Leeds Point section of Galloway Township. Deacon Maxwell thanked Howard for the introduction and provided some detailed information about his background and service as a Deacon. Deacon Maxwell then provided an Invocation to start the meeting.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced President Gene Wellington of the Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company. President Wellington welcomed all to Mays Landing.

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 – 19 of 44

Special Presentation

Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. welcomed and introduced Greg Matthews from First Responder Task Force. Greg serves as the NJ Coordinator for Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS with Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA) First Responder Task Force. They will provide a \$5,000 life benefit at no cost, \$40,000 survivor scholarship for family, and access to no-exclusion military coverage if needed. Greg provided an overview of the benefits offered. The no cost \$5,000 life benefit covers those between ages 18 and 59. Additional no-exclusion military coverage is available at reasonable rates in \$50,000 increments from \$50,000 up to \$500,000. After initial presentation and sign up for no-cost coverage, there will be no phone calls or hard sales tactics to sell additional coverage. Greg passed out a summary of the program and contact information. Any department looking to schedule a presentation and program sign-up at their station should contact Greg at gmatthews@frtf.us or (856)266-0239.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the July 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 reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on September 7, 2018 at the Absecon Fire Department. Howard thanked Greg Matthews for the life insurance presentation and noted that this is something good with the current program of improving firefighter health and wellness. Howard also thanked Deacon Maxwell for accepting the Chaplain position and reported that President Portale has also appointed Dennis Sharpe to the ACFFA Fire Photographer position.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for October 15, 2018.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reported that the July 15th Tender Task Force Bravo (TTF-B) drill in East Vineland went well. Some members of the task force were not in attendance and adjustments were made in the plan. The Atlantic City Airshow is scheduled for Wednesday, August 22nd with a practice day on Tuesday, August 21st. The usual departments and companies that provide emergency services support during the show will again be requested to assist. Lefty reported on the recent notification from the NJ Division of Fire Safety to all jurisdictions where the NJ DFS acts as the Local Enforcing Agency (LEA) for the Uniform Fire Code. The NJ DFS is to be notified of all fire incidents within those jurisdictions so that they may decide if they will investigate. It was questioned as to whether this conflicts with Title 40 duties of a fire chief being responsible for investigations. Lefty reported speaking with a NJ DFS official and that they note that the currently adopted uniform fire codes supersede any other conflicting statutes or code.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby thanked all those that assisted at the 4H Fair.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that 24 of the 27 students and approximately 120 guests attended the Firefighter I graduation on July 30th. The Fall Firefighter I course start on Thursday August 16th and the Firefighter II course will start on Monday September 10th. Mike reported that the 2018 Fall Course book has been sent out to print and will also be emailed and posted online soon. Mike made it very clear that going forward all those participating in Atlantic County Fire Academy courses that requires the utilization of SCBA shall have no beards or other facial hair interference with the facepiece. This is part of the recognized and accepted standards and there will be no exceptions.

BEARDS & SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

In accordance with N.F.P.A. 1500: 5-3.10, “Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program”, and OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134, the Atlantic County Fire Training Center policy prohibits training individuals with facial hair that interferes with the mask seal on positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus in those courses where SCBA must be worn. Those students with beards or such facial hair that does interfere with the face-to-mask seal may not participate in some blocks of instruction and, therefore, cannot be given credit toward completion of those courses.

Mike reported that he is working with the county webmaster to create online class registration with a goal to deploy it sometime this semester. Mike reported on a discussion at the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Assn. meeting about certified Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) in the county. Mike is working on an obstacle course for RIT training and certification similar to the one in Ocean County. It should be completed for the 2019 Spring Semester. Mike reported on the current NJ DFS policy for RIT operations adopted in March of 2018. The policy is not currently mandatory. It states that RITs should be evaluated and certified every three years. There was a question raised about the Firefighter I uniform policy. Mike clarified that a t-shirt is issued for the training grounds and a golf shirt is issued for classroom training. The students are responsible to provide dark blue or black uniform pants and black boots to complete the uniform.

NJ Forest Fire – Ken Badger reported that NJ Forest Fire crews are currently deployed to several western states to assist with the wildfires.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – Howard Berchtold thanked all those that assisted at the 4H Fair and all of the departments that provided display apparatus. The NFPA’s 2018 fire prevention theme “Look. Listen. Learn.” was presented at the ACFFA booth. Howard reporting speaking with many families about fire safety. Howard noted that there are some extra posters available and the banner is available on loan for any departments wishing to use them. Howard reported that the fair went well and the addition of a car show on Thursday night appeared to have gone over well. Howard thanked Mike Corbo and the Fire Instructors for running an excellent firefighter competition.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act on.

New Business

There was no new business to act on.

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

It was reported that there will be work done on the railroad crossings in the Dorothy section of Weymouth Township. This includes the 10th Avenue and 11th Avenue crossings near Tuckahoe Road. The dispatchers will be kept informed as to which crossings are out of service at any given time.

Billy Merola reported that one nomination for valor application is currently being worked on and reminded everyone to complete a nomination application as soon as possible after any qualifying incident so that it is done.

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

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Richard Maxwell. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:55. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on September 19, 2018 at the Hammonton Fire Department Station 2.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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. Sep. 22, 2018	16:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Clam Bake (16:00 - 19:00)
Sun. Sep. 30, 2018	16:00	Hidden Sands Brewing Company, EHT	Beer & Food Festival to Benefit Bargaintown VFC
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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

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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
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