

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

November 21, 2018

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on November 21, 2018 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 1 by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Deacon Rich Maxwell. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department Chief; Michael R. Sweeney, Sr. Chief Sweeney welcomed all to Somers Point, wished all a Happy Thanksgiving, and then introduced Somers Point Mayor, Jack Glasser. Mayor Glasser thanked all firefighters for their service to their respective communities.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 37 of 176 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 15 of 44

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the October 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.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Executive Committee held on November 2, 2018 in South Egg Harbor. Howard thanked Oscar Dutch for having served thirty-three years on the committee and Tom Hunter for having served ten years on the committee after serving as the President of the association. Howard also thanked Skip Portale for having served ten years as President of the association and having served on the Executive Committee prior. All three have opted to retire and not seek reelection for 2019. Rob Winkler is working on CISD contacts and resources for Atlantic County. There was a long discussion concerning the legislation bill that would allow 16 and 17-year-old recruits to attend Firefighter I training in New Jersey even though they would still be limited in the tasks they could perform on an emergency scene. President Portale reported that Congressman Frank Lobiondo (ret.) had not sought reelection in order to retire recommended that the association present a proclamation and plaque to Congressman Lobiondo recognizing the Congressman's commitment to the congressional district's fire departments during his twenty-four years of service in the House of Representatives along with his dedication and friendship to the fire service by assisting in the process to obtain many federal fire service grants for the region. The presentation would be at the January 2019 meeting of the association and it is likely that the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association may also make a presentation at this

association's meeting to minimize the impact to the Congressman's schedule as he starts his retirement. The Executive Committee passed a motion to recommend that the association present Congressman Lobiondo a proclamation and plaque. There was also discussion about the future of both the Atlantic County Firefighter's Association and the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association. Howard reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for January 4, 2019 in Pomona at 19:30 and will be the reorganizational meeting for 2019. Howard wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for January 14, 2019 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reported that there have not been any incidents requiring coordinator response recently. Lefty reported that Mike Ruberton has resigned from the position of TTF-B leader and that Marc Corsiglia will be taking the lead. Jeff Ciccone is working on a Homeland Security Grant request for TTF-A and will work with TTF-B to get a list of desired equipment to add to the grant request. All mutual aid plan updates have finally been received and submitted to the state. They were due in September and it was noted that Atlantic County was the last to file and is not in good standing with the Director of the Division of Fire Safety because of it. It was also reported that the Atlantic County fire service has still only filed 47% of the NFIRS incidents to date and the state wants the filings to be completed in a timelier manner. Lefty reported that they are still seeking a host company in the western side of the county to host the foam tote trailer currently temporarily housed in Richland. Richland will soon need to utilize the space the trailer is occupying.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that Vince Jones has been reminded multiple times that Atlantic County has a low filing rate for NFIRS. Dave requested that all departments try to bring the reports up to date and at least file quarterly if monthly is too much of a burden. Dave wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that a second nomination for a valor award has been submitted and that there may be a third nomination submitted.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the twenty-three students in Firefighter I will complete their training on December 18th. The Firefighter II class has already finished except for a vehicle extrication makeup class. The six sets of instructor turn-out gear have been ordered. Instructor boots will be ordered separately due to discount pricing requirements for instructors. The county has repaired the training ground lighting. Mike reviewed NJ Assembly Bill A4037 that would allow 16-17-year-old recruits to attend Firefighter I training while other rules still in place would prevent formal certification until the age of 18. The full impact of the proposed changes is still being evaluated and it was noted that the push for the changes appears to be from northern New Jersey fire companies. Mike reported that the cascade system at the training center is out of service and is scheduled for diagnostic testing to determine what is wrong. At this time arrangements are being made to have mobile cascade units at the training center during any live fire training. Mike reviewed the upcoming classes scheduled and the current enrollment levels. Mike reported that the fall semester invoices will soon be sent out. Mike noted that the Spring 2019 Course Book should be completed before the January 2019 meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association. Mike wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Secretary Mellon reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 in Sweetwater. Nominations and election of officers will be conducted.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the governor has signed the home's eleven-million-dollar budget. The home has just received word that the NJ DCA has approved the plans for the new memory care wing. They will soon meet with the architect to put the project out for construction bids. Oscar reported that the residents are looking forward to Thanksgiving and that twenty of the family members of residents will be at the home for Thanksgiving. Oscar reported that one of the home's maintenance employees use to work in a furniture factory and that he is completely refurbishing the donated desk. Oscar reminded all that he will arrange for a tour of the home upon request.

Communications

A letter was received from The Church of St. Mark & All Saints thanking the association for the contribution made in loving memory of The Reverend Thomas E. Sweeny, Deacon.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act on.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association present Congressman Frank Lobiondo (ret.) a proclamation and plaque thanking him for his years of service in the House of Representatives and his dedication as a friend of the fire service.

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.

Nomination of Officers

The second of two rounds of nominations was held. The office of President and the seats on the Executive Committee are contested. There was no written or verbal acceptance from Cindy L. Badger for being nominated for 2nd Vice President during the first round of nominations, therefore the nomination was dropped. There were no further nominations for the position of 2nd Vice President and the position will be vacant at the start of 2019 with the responsibility falling on the next President of the Association to appoint someone to fill the position. All other nominees have accepted their nomination to office. Those nominated are as follows:

- President (1) Charles E. “Chick” Kisby, Dennis Sharpe
- 1st Vice President (1) Ellsworth Ott
- 2nd Vice President (1) *[vacant, no accepted nominations]*
- Secretary (1) Robert A. Mellon
- Treasurer (1) Jaime C. Mellon
- Asst. Sec./Trea. (1) Sandra L. Walczak
- Chaplain (1) Dcn. Rich Maxwell
- Sgt.-at-Arms (3) Wayne Dilks, William Donath, Charles Harlan
- Executive Comm. (9) Howard Berchtold Jr., Levon “Lefty” Clayton, James Garth Sr.,
 Walter R. “Butch” Kienzle III, Christopher Kislow, Charles J. Mackintosh,
 William L. Merola Jr., Eugene M. Sharpe, John Sullivan, C. Robert Winkler III

Good of the Order

The December 19th meeting of the association will be hosted by the West Atlantic City Volunteer Fire Company at the Farmington VFC Banquet Hall.

Howard Berchtold read the letter sent from Congressman LiBiondo to all county Fire Chiefs thanking all for the support he had received during his twenty-four years in office. A copy of the letter will be emailed along with the minutes.

President Portale wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Thank you to the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department Sta. 1 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Rich Maxwell. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be hosted by the West Atlantic City Vol. Fire Company at 20:00 on December 19, 2018 at the Farmington VFC Banquet Hall. Election of officers for 2019 will be conducted.

Attested:
Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

through Dec. 15, 2018		Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Letters to Santa Drop Off
Sat. Dec. 8, 2018	19:00	Hammonton VFD	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (lineup 18:00 & parade 19:00)
Sun. Dec. 9, 2018	12:00	Richland Train Station (Bargaintown VFC)	Train Ride with Santa (Adults \$23.00 children 2-12 \$18.00 see any BVFC member)
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. Dec. 19, 2018	20:00	West Atlantic City VFC (@ Farmington Fire Hall)	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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. 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. Jan. 21, 2019	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Dec. 12, 2018	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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. 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