

# 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. Walczak

December 19, 2018

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on December 19, 2018 at the Farmington Firehouse (hosted by West Atlantic City Vol. Fire Company No. 5) 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. Deacon Maxwell shared a couple of touching stories from his interaction with the public while performing Santa details with his fire company. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Introduction of Host Chief**

President Portale introduced West Atlantic City Volunteer Fire Company, Wally Bakely. Chief Bakely welcomed all to Egg Harbor Township, thanked the Farmington Volunteer Fire Company for the use of their hall, wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, then introduced Egg Harbor Township Fire Department Chief, C. Robert Winkler III. Chief Winkler welcomed all on behalf of the entire Egg Harbor Township Fire Department and wished all a Happy Holiday Season and a Safe and Prosperous Happy New Year.

## **In Attendance**

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 48 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 November 21, 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 is scheduled for January 4, 2019 in Pomona at 19:30 and will be the reorganizational meeting for 2019. Howard thanked the members of the Executive Committee, the association officers, the committee chairpersons, and the fire instructors for all the hard work and effort put in for 2018. Howard noted that he is looking forward to continuing and growing the firefighter safety and wellness program in 2019. Howard noted that not all member companies had their delegates in attendance at the meeting and requested that everyone help get them to the meetings by bringing it up whenever possible. Howard reminded all to slow down once and a while, take a breath, and count your blessings. Howard wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that 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 the mutual aid plan updates were submitted to the state on November 28<sup>th</sup> which was later than the September due date. Lefty reported that he will appoint Will Hancock to the open Deputy Fire Coordinator position and that Marc Corsiglia is now the leader for Tender Task Force Bravo (TTF-B). Lefty reported that Michael Fedorko, Department Head for Atlantic County Dept. of Public Safety, has been invited to the January meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association. Lefty wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

**Fire Marshal** – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reminded all to notify him no later than January 7th of any firefighter deaths in 2018 for inclusion in the annual memorial service program on January 16, 2019.

**Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition** – Billy Merola reported that two nominations for a valor awards have been submitted and that there may soon be a third nomination submitted. Billy will schedule a committee meeting to review the nominations after the start of the new year. President Portale reminded all to submit valor nominations as soon as possible after an incident so that the details are documented while still fresh and so that the nomination will not be forgotten later.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I just wrapped up with twenty-three students taking the exam. Mike reported that he has scheduled the Firefighter I graduation ceremony for 7:00 PM on Monday January 28, 2018. Mike reported that Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II are the only remaining classes for the semester. The spring semester course book should be completed by the January meeting of the association. Mike reported on a recent conference call with the NJ Division of Fire Safety and the Fire Commission Training and Education Advisory Committee. The legislative bills concerning junior firefighters have been held in committee and are under review of how they would work with many joint insurance fund policies. Mike reported that four hours of Traffic Incident Management Systems (TIMS) will become part of the Firefighter I curriculum and will include a practical evolution. Mike reported that, on average, only 10% of Firefighter I graduates continue with Firefighter II training. Mike reminded all chiefs that NFPA1001 was adopted by NJ and that it states that Firefighter I level firefighters are to always work with a qualified person. Only Firefighter II level firefighters may operate independently. Mike reported that NJ is considering putting Firefighter I and II together in one course. Mike reviewed the pros and cons of such a plan and noted that to prevent the state from considering such a course of action may only be accomplished by increasing the averages of those that take a Firefighter II course. There was much discussion about the differences in training between the twenty-one training agencies in NJ. Mike thanked all the fire instructors for their hard work and effort in 2018. Mike noted that he couldn’t do his job without them. Mike thanked the Executive Committee and association officers for working with him. Mike wished Skip Portale, Oscar Dutch, and Tom Hunter the best now that they are stepping down for their elected positions. Mike wished all Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association** – Butch Kienzle reported on the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held in Sweetwater. Nominations and election of officers for 2019 was conducted. A plaque to thank Congressman Lobiondo for his years of service was approved. Vince Jones provided the chiefs an update on the memorandum of understandings being signed with neighboring counties to allow for cross programming of radios. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be 8:00 PM on January 22, 2019 at the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department and there will be no meeting in February. Butch wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**NJ Firemen’s Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that a request was received from an Atlantic County firefighter for a room at the home. Oscar noted that this was only the fourth request from Atlantic County in the seventeen years he has served on the Board of Managers. Oscar reported that the home has received all plans back, with approvals, from the NJ DCA for the memory care wing expansion.

**NJ State Firemen’s Assn.** – Cindy Badger reviewed NJSFA reports and their due dates. Cindy reported that the healthcare reimbursement program has been increased to \$700 a month. Cindy reported that the Atlantic County Caucus will be held on Monday August 5, 2019 in Egg Harbor City at 7:00 PM. The NJSFA 2019 convention is scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Wildwood. The 2018 convention red book is available online. Rob Winkler reported that a NJ Comptroller report concerning the NJSFA had just been released and is in the news. Cindy was not aware of the report and will be looking into it.

### Communications

There were no communications to report.

**Deferred Business**

There was no deferred business to act on.

**New Business**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2019/2020 meeting schedule as submitted by Secretary Mellon.

2019/2020 Meeting schedule for the Executive Committee (meetings at 19:30):

March 1 – Cardiff	May 3 – Longport
July 5 – Somers Point #1	September 6 – TBD
November 1 – South Egg Harbor	January 3, 2020 – TBD

2019/2020 Meeting schedule for the Regular Meetings (third Wednesday of month at 20:00):

March 20 – Elwood	April 17 - Fire Training Center (Host Margate)	May 15 – Germania
June 19 – Milmay	July 17 – Linwood	August 21 – Mizpah
September 18 – Hammonton #1	October 16 – Dorothy	November 20 – Somers Point #2
December 18 – Cardiff	January 15, 2020 – Egg Harbor City	February 19, 2020 – Longport

**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 election of officers was held. The office of President and the positions on the Executive Committee were voted on by ballot. There were no accepted nominations for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and the office will be vacant at the start of 2019 with the responsibility falling on the President of the Association to appoint someone to fill the position. The remaining positions were unopposed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the secretary cast the ballot for all unopposed positions. Those elected to office for the year 2019 are as follows:

President (1)	Charles E. “Chick” Kisby
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (1)	Ellsworth Ott
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (1)	<i>[vacant, no accepted nominations]</i>
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, C. Robert Winkler III

**Good of the Order**

President Portale reported that Joe Ward recently underwent hip surgery and is now recovering. Joe sent his regards that he was unable to attend the meeting.

President Portale wished all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year on behalf of himself and the association officers.

Thank you to the West Atlantic City Vol. Fire Company No. 5 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

**Adjournment**

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Rich Maxwell. Dcn. Maxwell asked all to keep the retiring officers and the new officers in their prayers and wished all Merry Christmas. 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 January 16, 2019 in Egg Harbor City. This meeting includes the annual memorial service of the association. Please submit the names of those that have passed during 2018 so that they may be included in the memorial service program and plan on attending the meeting and service in full class A dress uniform.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Mon. Jan. 28, 2019	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony
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
Mon. Aug. 5, 2019	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 13, 2019	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 14, 2019	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Nov. 9, 2019	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

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

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)
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**Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings****Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board**

Mon. Jan. 14, 2019	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association**

Tues. Jan. 22, 2019	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' 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