

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



April 17, 2019

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on April 17, 2019 at the Atlantic County Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center by President Charles E. "Chick" Kisby III. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Deacon Rich Maxwell. President Kisby then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. President Kisby welcomed all to the meeting which serves as the twenty-eighth annual Valor Awards presentation and the tenth annual recognition of firefighters with fifty or more years of active service.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

President Kisby thanked the Margate City Fire Department for hosting and introduced Chief Daniel Adams. Chief Adams welcomed everyone to the annual valor awards and expressed how proud the Margate City Fire Department is to be hosting the awards for the ninth year. Chief Adams spoke about how providing the best service possible is what the fire service does and while paraphrasing a recent magazine article about handling every call for service as though you have been called to assist your own mother and to always be respectful. Chief Adams thanked all for attending on behalf of the Margate City Fire Department and then ended his remarks with a quote from Chief Edward F. Croker, Chief of Department FDNY 1899-1911. "I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman. The position may, in the eyes of some, appear to be a lowly one; but we who know the work which the fireman has to do believe that his is a noble calling. Our proudest moment is to save lives. Under the impulse of such thoughts, the nobility of the occupation thrills us and stimulates us to deeds of daring, even of supreme sacrifice."

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 57 of 176 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 20 of 44

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2019 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Dispensing of Business

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the regular business except for the paying of the bills.

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.

Introduction of “Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition”

President Kisby welcomed all to the awards presentation and “50” year service recognitions. President Kisby thanked all valor award recipients for having the courage to do what needed to be done and then also thanked the “50” years of service recipients for having the dedication and commitment for all those years. President Kisby also thanked the valor awards committee for the tough job of reviewing the nominations. President Kisby welcomed and introduced Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson. County Executive Levinson stated that he is proud to serve this county with the dedicated firefighters that have the courage to get the job done and thanked all for that dedication and courage. Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold recognized Harold “Whitey” Swartz, for whom the valor awards are now named to honor his memory and dedication to the Atlantic County fire service. Howard also recognized Deacon Rich Maxwell for stepping up to fill the position of Chaplain after the tragic loss of Reverend Thomas Sweeny. Howard thanked those that served on the valor awards committee including co-chairs Billy Merola and Sandy Walczak. Howard spoke about the fire service being a family and how it was an honor to be able to recognize all the award recipients. Howard reminded all that this association and the government of the County of Atlantic worked together to open the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center twenty-six years ago. Howard welcomed and introduced guests; Atlantic County Director of Public Safety Michael A. Fedorko, Atlantic County Director of Fire Training Michael J. Corbo, and Atlantic County Freeholder Chairwoman Amy L. Gatto. Freeholder Gatto introduced the other Freeholders that were in attendance; Atlantic County Freeholders: Frank D. Formica, Vice-Chairwoman Maureen Kern, Ashley R. Bennett, Richard R. Dase, and John W. Risley. All invited guests offered words of gratitude for the local fire service and the honored award recipients.

Valor Awards

President Charles E. “Chick” Kisby III and Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. presented each of the Valor Award recipients with their awards from the Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association. This is the twenty-eighth year of the Valor Awards presentation. Recipients have included firefighters, police officers, medical personnel, and civilians. All honorees also received recognitions from NJ Senator Chris Brown, the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson.

Certificate of Valor Class One:

Firefighter (Ret.) Ernie Tarsitano, Ventnor City Fire Department

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Winneberger, Bayview Volunteer Fire Company, highlighted the details surrounding the July 26, 2018 incident that earned recognition for Firefighter (Ret.) Ernie Tarsitano whom had served with the Ventnor City Fire Department.

On July 26, 2018 Firefighter (Ret.) Ernie Tarsitano successfully removed the occupant from a fully involved structure fire on the White Horse Pike in Galloway Township, without the benefit of firefighter protective gear or a water source, just moments before the structure became untenable and a rescue would not have been possible.

Unit Citation:

Captain Jim Day, Hammonton Fire Department
Chief Sean Macri, Hammonton Fire Department
Firefighter Ryan Finn, Collings Lakes Volunteer Fire Company / Hammonton PD Dispatcher / AtlantiCare EMT
Lieutenant Tim Kelly, Hammonton Fire Department
Captain AJ Berenato, Hammonton Fire Department

Lieutenant Kevin Friel, Hammonton Police Department, highlighted the details surrounding the February 14, 2018 incident that earned recognition for Captain Jim Day, Chief Sean Macri, Firefighter Ryan Finn, Lieutenant Tim Kelly, and Captain AJ Berenato. Lieutenant Friel introduced Firefighter John Warren Jr. who was in attendance.

On February 14, 2018 Captain Day, Chief Macri, Firefighter Finn, and Captain Berenato successfully performed CPR on Firefighter John Warren Jr. after he suffered a myocardial infarction while operating the pump at a structure fire on Union Road in Hammonton. Lieutenant Kelly took over the pump operation and restored water flow to the attack lines in place. Due to the quick thinking and actions of all involved, Firefighter Warren is alive and well today.

“50” Year Service Awards

President Charles E. “Chick” Kisby III and Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. presented each of the “50” Year Service Award recipients with a uniform bar, gold life member card, and framed certificate from the association. The honorees also received recognitions from NJ Senator Chris Brown, the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson.

“50” Year Service Award Recipients:

Charles F. Sear, Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company
Raymond Wenzel Jr., Germania Volunteer Fire Company
Edward Hackett, Northfield Fire Department
Henry Martinelli, Northfield Fire Department
Charles H. Horner, Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company

President Kisby congratulated all 50 year service award recipients and thanked all of the families that supported them for all of those years.

Special Presentation

In addition to honoring those for their service and valor, a ceremony to add a leaf bearing the name of fallen Firefighter Natalie Dempsey to the Tree of Fallen Heroes was held. Firefighter Dempsey, Mizpah Volunteer Fire Company, died in a tragic motor vehicle accident while responding to the firehouse for a reported structure fire on Christmas morning, December 25, 2018. The Tree of Fallen Heroes was installed at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center in 2007 to honor all the Atlantic County first responders (police, fire, and EMS) that have died in the line of duty. Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. thanked Natalie’s parents and family for attending.

Good of the Order

Thank you to the Margate City Fire Department and FMBA Local 41 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 and awards presentation was adjourned at 21:05. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on May 15, 2019 in Germania, Galloway Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Fri. Apr. 26, 2019	18:00	Five Points Inn Restaurant	Beef & Beer to Benefit East Vineland VFC
Sun. Apr. 28, 2019	07:00	Landisville VFC	Annual Breakfast
Sun. Apr. 28, 2019	11:00	Richland VFC	5th Annual Chicken BBQ (Takeout Only)
Sat. May 4, 2019	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner (16:00 - 19:30)
Sat. May 11, 2019	11:00	Mizpah VFC	Sub Sale (11:00 - 17:00)
Sun. May 12, 2019	07:00	Nesco VFC	Mother's Day Breakfast
Sat. May 18, 2019	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill
Sat. May 18, 2019	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)
Sat. Jun. 1, 2019	13:00	Collings Lakes VFC	55th Anniversary and New Truck Housing
Sat. Jun. 1, 2019	15:00	Gabriel Field, Galloway NJ	1st Annual Natalie Dempsey Memorial Game & Spaghetti Dinner (benefits Mizpah VFC & AC Humane Society)
Sun. Jun. 2, 2019	12:00	Dorothy VFC	62nd Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
Sat. Jun 15, 2019	11:00	Bayview VFC	First Annual Cornhole Tournament (6th Ave. Station)
Mon. Aug. 5, 2019	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Thurs. Aug. 8, 2019	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 9, 2019	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 9, 2019	19:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Firefighter Competition
Sat. Aug. 10, 2019	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Sun. Aug. 18, 2019	10:00	Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, Millville, NJ	39th Annual Glasstown Antique Fire Brigade and Fire Fighter's Family Day
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
Sun. Sep. 29, 2019	10:00	NJFM, 4 Polhemustown Rd, Allentown, NJ	NJ Fire Museum 4th Annual Open House (10:00 - 15:00)
Sat. Nov. 9, 2019	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
-----	-----	-----	-----
Sat. Apr. 4, 2020	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Aug. (TBD), 2020	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 18, 2020	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 19, 2020	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Nov. 14, 2020	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

Wed. May 15, 2019	20:00	Germania VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 19, 2019	20:00	Milmay VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 17, 2019	20:00	Linwood FD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 21, 2019	20:00	Mizpah VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 18, 2019	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 16, 2019	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 20, 2019	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 18, 2019	20:00	Cardiff VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
-----	-----	-----	-----
Wed. Jan. 15, 2020	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 19, 2020	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. May 3, 2019	19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 5, 2019	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 6, 2019	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Nov. 1, 2019	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
-----	-----	-----	-----
Fri. Jan. 4, 2020	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Mon. Jul. 15, 2019	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Oct. 21, 2019	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
-----	-----	-----	-----
Mon. Jan. 13, 2020	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. May 8, 2019	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jun. 12, 2019	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jul. 10, 2019	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Aug. 14, 2019	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Sep. 11, 2019	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Oct. 9, 2019	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Nov. 13, 2019	20:00	Linwood FD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 11, 2019	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
-----	-----	-----	-----
Tues. Jan. 28, 2020	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
February 2020-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jul. 25, 2019	19:30	Port Republic VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
-----	-----	-----	-----
Thurs. Jan. 23, 2020	19:30	Bargaintown VFC Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 23, 2020	19:30	Linwood FD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association