

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



February 19, 2020

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on February 19, 2020 at the Longport Volunteer Fire Department by President Charles E. "Chick" Kisby III. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of all fallen firefighters and military personnel. President Kisby then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Kisby introduced Chief Levon "Lefty" Clayton of the Longport Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Clayton welcomed all to Longport reported that the Longport Board of Commissioners honored William "Bill" A. Fiore for his more than 60 years of service as a firefighter in Longport and Anthony J. Vicchiarelli Jr., who has been a Longport volunteer firefighter for 50 years. Chief Clayton then introduced Longport Mayor, and Firefighter, Nick Russo. Mayor Russo welcomed all to Longport and reported he recently learned that Atlantic City Fire Chief Scott Evans is working on having all his firefighters aware of their mental health needs and seeking assistance when needed. Mayor Russo reported that the mental health needs discussion also came up at retired police and firefighter event.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 34 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 January 15, 2020 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 on the annual reorganizational meeting of the committee held on January 3, 2020 in Pomona. Howard congratulated all those that were reelected and welcomed Marylynn Graham to the Executive Committee, Dennis Sharpe as 1st Vice President, and Charles J. Mackintosh as 2nd Vice President. Howard thanked the Executive Committee for reelecting him as Chairman and Lefty Clayton as Vice-Chairman. Howard noted that the health and wellness initiative has been going well and they are working on presentations for 2020. Howard reported that Director Corbo provided the committee a good review of the 2019 training program. The committee reviewed the NJ minimum wage changes and approved recommending that the level 1 instructor rate be increased to \$11 per hour and to automatically match the future NJ minimum wage increases when they go into effect. The committee requested that Director Corbo review the impact to the annual training budget of adjusting all instructor rates proportionately. The committee reviewed the worker's

compensation insurance coverage and needs related to a recent claim. Howard reported that the committee will be reviewing improvements to the association website in 2020. Howard reported that the committee received the 2020 Administrative Budget proposal, with a total of \$4,200, and recommended the association approve it. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for March 6, 2020 in Cardiff.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the board met on January 13th and discussed the worker’s compensation insurance and it was reported that the county has committed one million dollars for the refurbishment of the burn building. The next meeting of the fire training advisory board is on April 20, 2020 at the training center.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that the NJ DFS fire prevention poster contest is currently underway, and submissions are due to his office by March 18th.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reported that a request for mutual aid updates have been sent to all county chiefs in an excel format. Several have been returned already. Lefty reported that he receives many NJ homeland security notifications and that he forwards those affecting the fire service to the county chiefs. Lefty reported on the recent response of a tender strike team to the storage unit fire in Somers Point.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch reported that all is going well at the home. The construction of the addition is progressing. Oscar reported on the ongoing state review of the 2% funds used for the NJSFA and NJFH and why the home took the position they did when the first state proposal for changes was presented.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association – Butch Kienzle reported on the January 28th meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association held in Absecon. NJ DFS Regional Fire Coordinator, Robert Tharp was in attendance to provide some updates from the NJ Division of Fire Safety. Wesmont Fire Co. No. 1, Haddon Twp., Camden County, sent their Mobile Ventilation Unit (MVU) for inspection prior to the meeting. Butch reported that the MVU committee is continuing to look for a source of funding to get an MVU in Atlantic County. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association will be 8:00 PM on March 11, 2020 at the Landisville Volunteer Fire Company.

Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that a valor committee met to review the single submission on January 16th and approved the nominees to be honored at the award ceremony in April. Dave Buzby requested that all submissions of members achieving fifty plus years of service should be submitted no later than March 20th.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I class is running with thirty-one students. Mike reported that the Fire Inspector class is scheduled to start on February 25th and Firefighter II will start on March 11th. There is currently a daytime Firefighter I recruit class running for career departments. Mike reported that options are being researched for the refurbishment of the interior of the burn building. Mike noted that the Firefighter I graduation ceremony, held on January 27th, went well. Mike reported that he will be sending a letter to students and chiefs prior to future graduation ceremonies so that they are briefed on how the ceremony will be conducted. Mike reported that the fire academy pumpers have been moved to the annex building for the winter so that they are not constantly being moved out to the cold when the police academy is training in the engine bays. Mike reported that the instructor air packs are approaching end of life and that he will be working on a plan/budget for their eventual replacement.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

Atlantic County Overdose Advisory Council – Margate Fire Chief Dan Adams reported that the Atlantic County Undersheriff is working with Rowan University on the development of a training program and will start with train-the-trainer courses as soon as the program is ready. A contract is now in place and funded. They are seeking to capture information from all county first responder agencies so that training can be offered to the first responders. Dan reviewed the goals of the program and reported that a survey form will be sent to the Atlantic County Fire Coordinator for distribution to the county fire chiefs. They are requesting that the survey be completed in a timely manner and returned by either email or fax.

New Business

Margate Fire Chief Dan Adams reported that the downbeach fire departments house and man the county asset air trailer. The trailer is available to the entire county and only need be requested. They have modified the response plan to expedite the dispatch of the trailer to incidents. It will initially respond with one operator and additional personnel will follow if needed.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2020 Administrative Budget proposal, with a total of \$4,200, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to increase of the level 1 instructor rate to \$11 per hour and to automatically match the future NJ minimum wage increases when they go into effect, 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

Thank you to the Longport Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:00. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on March 18, 2020 in Weekstown.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sun. Mar. 8, 2020	10:30	St. Nicholas Church (10:30) & Tropicana	200 Club of Atlantic & Cape May Counties - Memorial Service (10:30) & Brunch (12:00)
Fri. Mar. 13, 2020	18:00	Fred & Ethel's Lantern Light Tavern,	Beef & Beer to Benefit Oceanville VFC
Sun. Mar. 15, 2020	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Aux.	All You Can Eat Breakfast (08:00 - Noon)
Tues. Mar. 31, 2020	16:00	Chick-Fil-A Cumberland, 3849 South	Minotola VFC - Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night
Fri. Apr. 3, 2020	17:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	9th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner
Sat. Apr. 4, 2020	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. May 2, 2020	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner (16:00 - 19:30)
Sat. May 16, 2020	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)
Sun. May 17, 2020	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Aux.	All You Can Eat Breakfast (08:00 - Noon)
Sat. Jun. 6, 2020	12:00	Cologne VFC	Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
Sun. Jun. 7, 2020	12:00	Dorothy VFC	63rd Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
Sat. Jun. 13, 2020		Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	100th Anniversary
Sun. Jul 19, 2020	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Aux.	All You Can Eat Breakfast (08:00 - Noon)
Mon. Jul. (TBD), 2020	19:00	Egg Harbor Township Community Center	Firefighter I Graduation Ceremony
Mon. Aug. 3, 2020	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Thurs. Aug. 6, 2020	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 7, 2020	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 7, 2020	19:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Firefighter Competition
Sat. Aug. 8, 2020	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
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
Sun Sep. 20, 2020	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Aux.	All You Can Eat Breakfast (08:00 - Noon)
Sat. Oct. 3, 2020	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner (16:00 - 19:30)
Sat. Nov. 14, 2020	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sun. Nov. 22, 2020	08:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 Aux.	All You Can Eat Breakfast (08:00 - Noon)
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Sat. Apr. 10, 2021	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Nov. 13, 2021	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

Wed. Mar. 18, 2020	20:00	Weekstown VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Apr. 15, 2020	20:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation
Wed. May 20, 2020	20:00	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 17, 2020	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 15, 2020	20:00	Linwood FD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 19, 2020	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 16, 2020	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 21, 2020	20:00	Port Republic VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 18, 2020	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 16, 2020	20:00	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 20, 2021	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 17, 2021	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. Mar. 6, 2020	19:30	Cardiff VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. May 1, 2020	19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 10, 2020	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 4, 2020	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Oct. 30, 2020	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 8, 2021	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Mon. Apr. 20, 2020	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 20, 2020	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Oct. 19, 2020	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 11, 2021	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Mar. 11, 2020	20:00	Landisville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Apr. 8, 2020	20:00	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. May 13, 2020	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jun. 10, 2020	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jul. 8, 2020	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Aug. 12, 2020	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Sep. 9, 2020	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Oct. 14, 2020	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Nov. 11, 2020	20:00	Linwood FD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 9, 2020	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
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Tues. Jan. 26, 2021	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
February 2021-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jul. 23, 2020	19:30	Linwood FD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 28, 2021	19:30	Bargaintown VFC Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 22, 2021	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association