

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



October 20, 2021

Call to Order & Introduction of Host Chief

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:05 on October 20, 2021 at the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company by President Charles E. "Chick" Kisby III. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by Howard Berchtold asking for a moment of silence to honor Robert J. Gibney Sr., Past Chief of Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company, and offering condolences on behalf of this Association and Officers. Chief Jess Hand, Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company, reported that they are grateful for all the calls they have received offering support after the passing of Chief Gibney. Howard asked for continued prayers for the family, and fire service family, of Chief Gibney. President Kisby then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 34 of 168 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 15 of 42

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2021 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 October 29, 2021 in South Egg Harbor at 19:30. The committee will not be meeting for dinner prior to the meeting.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the Advisory Board met on October 18, 2021 at the training center. The meeting was well attended. The training center facility, instructors, and policy were reviewed. Howard reported on the county plan to start the refurb of the burn building mid-December and that it should take approximately ninety days to complete. Mike Corbo reported that the building is usable until the project starts and then will be unavailable until the project is finished. Howard reported that Public Safety Director Michael Fedorko was in attendance and that they discussed the probability of targeting the training tower for the next building refurbishment project as soon as funding is available. Other projects of smaller scale are being researched including repairs to the propane pad controls, refurb of the roof mockup, refurb of the confined space mockup, and repairs to the valves on the engines. Howard reported that they also discussed the county plans for replacing the old audio-visual system at the training center and the Intro to Firefighting program being run by the Greater Egg Harbor Regional School District. The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for January 10, 2022 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the current Firefighter I class started with twenty-two and now has nineteen students. The Firefighter II class is running with thirteen students. Mike noted that these are low numbers for these classes. Mike reported that only one registration has been received for the upcoming Safety Officer class and that it will be cancelled due to low enrollment. Mike reported that the upcoming I300 class has low enrollment, but he is expecting to receive some more registrations. Mike reported that the audio-visual system in classrooms 2 & 3 are out of service, and they are working on a plan to make something work. Mike reported that the burn building project is moving along and provided an update on the status of the two engines. Mike reported that the engine valves have leaks and the relief valves need advanced maintenance or replacement. The engines have had basic maintenance done in-house but now more advanced work is needed. Mike would like to send them out for that work. Mike also reported that the county took the golf cart to their maintenance facility for repair. The work required was outside their scope of practice and the golf cart has been sent out for repair. There has been no update on the return of the golf cart.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reported that they are still dealing with lack of incident notification from the Sheriff's dispatch center to the Fire Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators. Lefty reported that Tim Kreisler, Shared Services Coordinator for Atlantic County, has been collecting data from other counties using a central Fire/EMS dispatch. Lefty reported that he is reaching out to all county fire chiefs for 2019 and 2020 incident counts. Lefty reported that Tim contacted the NJ Department of Community Affairs and learned that they can provide some assistance with research if the plan is to keep moving forward to a formal proposal.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported on the October 13th meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held in East Vineland. Butch reported that Donald Nelsen, new Shore Region Fire Coordinator for NJ DFS, was in attendance. Donald's reporting to the chiefs included: Report that the NJ DFS Office of Fire Department Preparedness (OFDP) has the responsibility of investigating all complaints and that a county north of Atlantic County has had many recent complaints. Recommendation that every effort be made to resolve issues locally and keep documentation of any issues or excessive complaints that may be driven by efforts to sway decisions and less than concern for policy and procedure. Any department being strong armed for contracts via complaints should document and report to the proper authorities. Report that many complaints are facial hair related and ultimately fall under NJ PEOSH which can result in very expensive fines. Recommendation that all NJ PEOSH and NJ DFS or DOL training standards be periodically reviewed, and any noncompliance be corrected. Butch Kienzle reported that the Fire Coordinator for Atlantic County, Levon Clayton, has determined that he will not be seeking another two-year appointment. Butch reported that he has received resumes from three Deputy Fire Coordinators seeking appointment as Atlantic County Fire Coordinator for a two-year term (2022/2023). They are Jeffery Ciccone (Absecon), William A. Collins (Collings Lakes), and Chip Stockton Jr. (Germania). The resumes will be sent to the county fire chiefs via email for review. A recommendation from the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be decided by ballot at the November 10th meeting. Butch reviewed the voting guidelines per the bylaws of the association. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 in Linwood.

Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that there have been no submissions for valor recognition and reminded all Fire Chiefs to submit any incident worthy of valor recognition as soon as possible after the incident so that it is not forgotten.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

Secretary Robert A. Mellon reported that notice of forgiveness for the second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan has been received from Bank of America and the Small Business Administration.

New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

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 first of two rounds of nominations was held. Those nominated are as follows:

- President (1) Charles E. “Chick” Kisby, Charles J. Mackintosh
- 1st Vice President (1) Dennis C. Sharpe*
- 2nd Vice President (1) (no nomination made)
- 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 S. “Lefty” Clayton, Kim Feinstein,
Marylynn Graham*, Walter R. “Butch” Kienzle III, Christopher Kislow,
William L. Merola Jr., Eugene M. Sharpe, C. Robert Winkler III*

***have not yet formally accepted nomination and must do so before elections.**

Good of the Order

Secretary Robert A. Mellon reported that Dove currently has a marketing program to provide a free sample of Dove Care & Protect Antibacterial Bar Soap as a Thank You to First Responders. Several cases have been received and will be made available at meetings for distribution.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:45. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on November 17, 2021 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Oct. 23, 2021	12:00	Absecon VFC	Building Dedication, Housing, & Parade
Sat. Oct. 30, 2021	11:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale (11:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Nov. 13, 2021	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Dec. 11, 2021	19:00	Hammonton VFD	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (lineup 18:00 & parade 19:00)
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Sat. Apr. 9, 2022	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. May 14, 2022	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill
Sat. Nov. 12, 2022	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Nov. 17, 2021	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 15, 2021	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 19, 2022	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 17, 2022	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. Oct. 29, 2021	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 7, 2022	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

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Mon. Jan. 10, 2022	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Nov. 10, 2021	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 8, 2021	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
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Tues. Jan. 25, 2022	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
February 2022	-----	-----	NO MEETING

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

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Thurs. Jan. 27, 2022	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 28, 2022	19:30	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association