

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. Walczk

March 28, 2018

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on March 28, 2018 at the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of all fallen firefighters and military personnel. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale thanked the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the meeting and accommodating the one week postponement due to the winter weather. President Portale introduced Chief Gary Franklin of the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Franklin welcomed all to Sweetwater and noted that the local roads were treacherous during the winter storm and rescheduling the meeting was a good move.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 32 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 February 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.

Introduction of Guests

President Portale introduced New Jersey State Firemen's Association President, Frank B. Gunson 3rd, and Vice President, Robert F. Ordway. President Portale thanked Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger for arranging their visit.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the meeting of the committee held on March 2, 2018 in Cardiff. The committee reviewed the plans for continuing firefighter health and wellness presentations on a quarterly basis and noted that the presentation at the February meeting was very informative. Howard reported that Hammonton Firefighter John Warren is now recovering at home after spending nearly a month in the hospital following a cardiac event in the line of duty at a structure fire on February 14th. The committee discussed plans to organize a trip to visit the NJ Firemen's Home and will be working with Oscar Dutch to set a date. The committee discussed the upcoming Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition ceremony scheduled to be held at the April meeting of the

association. Howard noted that the valor committee will meet on April 2nd to review an application and that five names have been submitted for reaching 50+ years of service. Dave Buzby reported that he is currently seeking a grant of approximately \$25,000 for the Digital Fire Training System by BullEx and that he also recommended, with the committee agreeing, that alternative funding ideas should be sought out as this system would be a great training asset and is worth the effort to find funding for it. The committee discussed the upcoming retirement of training center administrative assistant, Marianne Cullen. Howard noted that the work she has done for many years with the county has been outstanding and that she will be missed by all. Dave Buzby had reported that fellow county employees have scheduled a retirement party for her on April 20th. The committee agreed that she should be invited to the April 18th meeting of the association to be recognized for her service and retirement. Oscar Dutch recommended presenting her with a gold metal life member card and the committee agreed to recommend that to the association along with a gift of a VISA, or equivalent, pre-paid gift card in the amount of \$200 plus fee. The committee also discussed and recommends that the association continue with an annual donation to the Sand Pipers in the amount of \$100 and a donation to the New Jersey Firemen's Home Golf Tournament in the amount of \$200. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for May 4, 2018 in Longport.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the fire training advisory board is on April 16, 2018 at the training center.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reported on the recent third alarm fire in Ventnor and the two structure fires in Burlington County requiring tender task force deployments. Lefty reported that Deputy Fire Coordinator Chip Stockton was contacted by the fire chief in Lower Bank about looking into a tender task force A/B hybrid strike team that may be able to more efficiently deploy into Burlington County when required. Lefty reported that the review of Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) guidelines is almost complete and the updated plan will be distributed to county fire chiefs when completed. Current changes include removing Oceanville to prevent deploying all tenders from one geographic area and the return of Bargaintown to the task force. Lefty summarized the incident encountered by a Margate Firefighter with his SCBA during the fire in Ventnor. A couple of operator errors led to a premature low air event and subsequent exposure to the IDLH atmosphere requiring a short stay at the hospital for observation due to exposure. The firefighter did not require admittance to the hospital and was released after a few hours. It was also noted that radio issues encountered at the same incident appear to have been corrected and were primarily due to the damage to one county radio tower during the high winds that day. Lefty reported that all structures, including commercial, with fuel burning appliances now require working CO detectors. Fire Inspectors have been informing all business owners during regular inspections and there may be a noticeable increase in CO alarm responses as a result.

Valor Awards – Lefty Clayton reported that the valor committee will meet on April 2nd to review one application for valor. There has also been five names submitted for reaching 50+ years of service.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that the two pumps have been installed at the training center with one operational now and the second to be operational soon. The next phase of the project will be the rebuilding of the training center hydrants.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I is running with thirty-three students and Firefighter II is running with twenty-one students. Mike reported that the recent weather has caused the need to reschedule many classes with Firefighter I and II. The classes will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Mike noted that the county employee sponsored party for Marianne's retirement conflicts with FDIC and that they are looking into scheduling a second party that the instructors will be able to attend to thank her for her years of service. Mike reported that both training center pumpers have developed water leaks and that they are working on getting them repaired.

NJ State Firemen's Assn. – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reminded all local officers to open all mail as when it arrives as some is time sensitive. Any OPRA requests received should be forwarded to the state office immediately. Cindy reported that fifty-two applications for the Health Care Assistance/Rehabilitation Program that is available for members who need assistance from a licensed caregiver. None were from Atlantic County. Cindy reminded all that any member with a line number may request an application for relief. The local trustees are responsible for reviewing relief applications and making a recommendation to the local representatives. The representatives then vote on whether to grant or deny the application. All applications must have the required support documentation submitted with the application. The current death benefit for an exempt member is \$11,500 and is prorated for those still working towards exemption. Cindy reminded all local officers of the upcoming reports that are due. 1st Quarter 2018 Relief Paid Report due April 30th and Convention Delegate Selection Forms are due May 1st, both can be submitted online. All locals must file IRS 990, 990N, or 990EZ form with the IRS by May 15th and a copy of the filing or a copy of the acknowledgement of receipt must be received in the NJSFA State Office by June 14th. Cindy reported that currently four local associations will not be seated at the convention. One local not being seated is in Atlantic County. The state office is working on updating their website. Cindy reminded local officers that local applications

for relief will be collected, when scheduled for a field exam, to be reviewed in depth at the state office before being returned. Cindy reported that the Atlantic County Caucus has been scheduled for August 14th in Egg Harbor City at 7:30 PM with registration starting at 6:30 PM. The convention is scheduled for 1:00 PM September 14th and 10:00 AM September 15th in Wildwood. The Memorial Service is to precede the convention meeting on September 15th. NJSFA President, Frank B. Gunson 3rd, reported that the green sheets have been mailed out to the locals. President Gunson requested that all locals review their rolls for accuracy and look into the current status of any members that may have passed without notification. It was discovered that some locals still had members on their rolls that would currently be in excess of one hundred twenty years of age. An updated actuarial study will soon be conducted and would be negatively impacted if the rolls are not cleaned up.

Audit – Wayne Dilks reported that the audit committee met on March 27th and found the financial records to be in good order. The committee did take note that some association payments sent out have not been cashed or deposited and remain outstanding more than sixty days later. The committee is recommending that a sixty day limit on checks be researched.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association donate \$100.00 to the ACFD Sand Pipers Pipe and Drum Band, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association sponsor the New Jersey Firemen's Home 2018 Golf Outing at the bronze level with a \$200.00 donation, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to acknowledge the upcoming retirement of training center employee Marianne Cullen and thank her for the many years of service to the county and the fire service community by presenting her with a gold colored metal life membership card and a gift of a VISA, or equivalent, pre-paid gift card in the amount of \$200 plus fee by utilizing the good of the order funds that are received directly from meeting attendees, 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

Lefty Clayton reported that he spoke with Chaplain Tom Sweeny and that his recovery is coming along and he will be able to attend meetings again very soon.

Cindy Badger reported that she had recently spoke with Joy Swartz and that she is currently dealing with some health issues.

President Portale reported that the Farmington Volunteer Fire Company had sent a birthday card for 3 year old Benjamin Graham and they would like all in attendance to sign it. Benjamin Graham, Honorary Firefighter of the Elmer Fire Department, Honorary New Jersey State Trooper, Honorary Firefighter of the Mizpah Fire Company, Honorary Firefighter of the Malaga Fire Company, Honorary Police Officer of the Philadelphia Police Department, and Honorary Sheriff of the Atlantic County Sheriff Department, has been bravely battling Neuroblastoma over at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Benjamin's birthday is on April 17th, but the family is celebrating with him now and have been receiving birthday cards from many public safety organizations.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on April 18, 2018 at the Anthony “Tony” Canale Training Center and hosted by the Margate City Fire Department. This meeting will include the “Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition” program.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Apr. 14, 2018	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Apr. 21, 2018	11:00	Mizpah VFC	Sub Sale (11:00 - 17:00)
Sat. May 5, 2018	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner (16:00 - 19:30)
Sun. Jun. 3, 2018	12:00	Dorothy VFC	61st Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
Tues. Aug. 14, 2018	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 14, 2018	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 15, 2018	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Nov. 10, 2018	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
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Sat. Apr. 13, 2019	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Nov. 9, 2019	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

Wed. Apr. 18, 2018	20:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center (Host -Margate FD)	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation
Wed. May 16, 2018	20:00	Oceanville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 20, 2018	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 18, 2018	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 15, 2018	20:00	Mays Landing VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 19, 2018	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 17, 2018	20:00	Port Republic VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 21, 2018	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 19, 2018	20:00	West Atlantic City VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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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. May 4, 2018	19:30	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 6, 2018	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 7, 2018	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Nov. 2, 2018	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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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. Apr. 16, 2018	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 16, 2018	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Oct. 15, 2018	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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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. Apr. 11, 2018	20:00	West Atlantic City VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. May 9, 2018	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jun. 13, 2018	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jul. 11, 2018	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Aug. 8, 2018	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Sep. 12, 2018	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Oct. 10, 2018	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Nov. 14, 2018	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 12, 2018	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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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. Jul. 26, 2018	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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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