

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

April 18, 2018

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:05 on April 18, 2018 at the Atlantic County Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. President Portale welcomed all to the meeting which serves as the twenty-seventh annual Valor Awards presentation and the ninth annual recognition of firefighters with fifty or more years of active service.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale 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 eighth year. Chief Adams reflected eight years back when the Margate Fire Department was contacted by Whitey Swartz and asked to take over hosting the April meeting and awards ceremony. The Margate Fire Department was honored to be offered that privilege and their union, FMBA Local 41, volunteered to supply the refreshments. Chief Adams spoke about how providing the best service possible is what the fire service does and those receiving valor awards exemplify that best possible service. The eight being honored for fifty years of service have reached a milestone that very few do and their level of dedication to providing a great service to residents of Atlantic County for many years is quite an accomplishment and Chief Adams applauded them for that. 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. "...When a man becomes a fireman his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that is all in the line of work..."

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance - 52 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 23

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2018 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 Portale welcomed all to the awards presentation and “50” year service recognitions. President Portale 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 Portale also thanked the valor awards committee for the tough job of reviewing the nominations. President Portale reflected on the life of Harold J. “Whitey” Swartz for whom the awards are now named in honor of. Whitey passed in March of 2017 and was affiliated with the fire service his entire life. Whitey grew up in Pleasantville by the firehouse where he delivered their paper and helped them out as a child. It was there that he received his nickname “Whitey” for the white hair he had since his youth. Whitey served in the military after school and tested to join the Pleasantville Fire Department afterwards. Whitey retired from the fire department as a Battalion Chief to then serve many years as the Atlantic County Fire Marshal. Whitey had spent many years working with this association and it was he that started the valor awards twenty-seven years ago and then the service recognition nine years ago. President Portale noted that it was only fitting that these awards be named in his honor. Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold noted that it was good to see Chaplain Sweeny in good health and back to it after recovering from back surgery. 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-five years ago and reported that something will be planned for later in the year to recognize that. President Portale welcomed and introduced guests; Michael Francis on behalf of Congressman Frank LoBiondo; NJ Assemblyman John Armato; and Atlantic County Freeholders: Vice-Chairwoman Maureen Kern, John W. Riskey, and Caren L. Fitzpatrick. All invited guests offered words of gratitude for the local fire service and the honored award recipients. President Portale thanked all the invited guests for attending, the association officers and executive committee for all the work that they do, all county firefighters, and their families that support them, tonight’s valor award recipients for being in the right place at the right time, and all the “50” years of service recipients for their dedication to the fire service.

Valor Awards

President Amor “Skip” Portale 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-seventh year of the Valor Awards presentation. Recipients have included firefighters, police officers, medical personnel, and civilians. All honorees also received recognitions from Congressman Frank LoBiondo, NJ Senator Chris Brown, NJ Assemblyman John Armato, the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson.

Battalion Chief Scott Trythall, Pleasantville Fire Department, highlighted the details surrounding the January 30, 2017 incident that earned recognition for Acting Captain Pete Bowker, Firefighter Gary Guerra, and Firefighter Stan Kolbe.

On January 30, 2017 Acting Captain Bowker, Firefighter Guerra, and Firefighter Kolbe successfully rescued a trapped occupant from a structure fire on Sixth Avenue in Pleasantville.

Certificate of Valor Class Two:

Acting Captain Peter R. Bowker, Pleasantville Fire Department
Firefighter Gary E. Guerra, Pleasantville Fire Department

Meritorious Citation:

Firefighter Stanley Kolbe, Pleasantville Fire Department

“50” Year Service Awards

President Amor “Skip” Portale 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 Congressman Frank LoBiondo, NJ Senator Chris Brown, NJ Assemblyman John Armato, the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson.

“50” Year Service Award Recipients:

William Danz Jr., Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company
William Loder, Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company
Robert Casazza, East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company

Lonnie Ricci, East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company
Enrico H. Coraluzzo, Landisville Volunteer Fire Company
Bruce Funk, Longport Volunteer Fire Department
Harrison S. Bustard, Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company
Hugh Harkins, West Atlantic City Volunteer Fire Company

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

Special Presentation

President Amor "Skip" Portale reported that Marianne Cullen has retired from her position as Keyboarding Clerk 3 for the County of Atlantic. Marianne spent twenty-two, of twenty-four years with the county, working at the training center to assist with the utilization of county resources and the association's firefighter training program. Mike Corbo, Director of Fire Training, reported that Marianne was the one whom most people spoke to when calling the training center and that she was instrumental with coordinating the schedules for utilizing the training center. Marianne was presented with a proclamation, a gold life member card, and a gift card by President Amor "Skip" Portale on behalf of this association. Marianne was also presented with a gift card by President Walter "Butch" Kienzle III on behalf of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association.

PROCLAMATION

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

**Recognizing and Honoring Marianne Cullen upon Her Retirement
As Keyboarding Clerk 3 for the County of Atlantic**

WHEREAS, Marianne Cullen is retiring from her position as Keyboarding Clerk 3 for the County of Atlantic since May 1994; and

WHEREAS, Marianne has given diligently of her time to the County of Atlantic; and

WHEREAS, Marianne was assigned to work at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center where she provided invaluable assistance coordinating the use of county facilities and working with the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Atlantic County Fire Academy firefighter training program; and

WHEREAS, Marianne has shown dedication and loyalty to the County of Atlantic, its citizens, and all of the county fire service community; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2018, Marianne will retire as Keyboarding Clerk 3 for the County of Atlantic after 24 years of professional and courteous service; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Amor Portale, President of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association, for the Association Membership, Officers, Executive Committee, and on behalf of all of the fire service community of the County of Atlantic, New Jersey, do hereby express appreciation to Marianne Cullen on the occasion of her retirement following 24 years of service as Keyboarding Clerk 3 for the County of Atlantic. Furthermore, I express the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association's gratitude for Marianne Cullen's contributions to the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center and the Atlantic County Fire Academy firefighter training program and in doing so I extend to her heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and caused the Seal of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of the State of New Jersey to be affixed this 18th day of April, 2018.

President Amor "Skip" Portale reminded all that the Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny, had been honored at the January meeting of this association for having now served twenty-five years as Chaplain. Chaplain Sweeny went in for back surgery on the day of the Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association meeting, January 23, 2018, and was not in attendance. President Walter "Butch" Kienzle III, on behalf of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association, presented Chaplain Sweeny with a plaque recognizing his twenty-five years as Chaplain.

(Plaque)
Rev. Thomas Sweeny,
Chaplain
In Recognition of Your
25 Years of
Extraordinary Service to the
Fire Service Community of
Atlantic County.
January 23, 2018
ATLANTIC COUNTY
FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

Good of the Order

Chaplain Sweeny reported that it is good to be back out at fire service functions after recovering from back surgery and noted that in September he will be celebrating sixty years in the fire service.

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 Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting and awards presentation was adjourned at 21:10. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on May 16, 2018 in Oceanville, Galloway Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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. 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. 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. 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