

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. Walczak

July 18, 2018

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on July 18, 2018 at the Linwood Fire Department 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 introduced Chief Martin Walley of the Linwood Fire Department. Chief Walley welcomed all to Linwood.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 40 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 June 27, 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.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported on the meeting of the Executive Committee held on July 13th. Howard thanked Somers Point Vol. Fire Co. Station #1 for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. Greg Matthews, First Responder Task Force, provided the Executive Committee an overview of the zero exclusions military grade life insurance available to all first responders and a \$5,000 no-cost thank you policy available to first responders up to age 59. It was noted that most of Burlington and Camden County fire department members have already signed up for the insurance and that Collings Lakes is the first department in Atlantic County to sign up members. The committee agreed to invite Mr. Matthews back to present the overview of the program at the August 15th meeting of the association in Mays Landing. Mr. Matthews will also provide overview and contact information to those in attendance so that they may get their department scheduled for a presentation and thank-you policy enrollment. Howard reminded all of the need to seek greater participation in association events and management while pointing out that there will be near and long term need to identify the future leadership of the association. President Portale is currently seeking an individual to fill the position of Chaplain and he has a couple of good candidates he is currently reaching out to. Planning for the Atlantic County 4H Fair apparatus display and firefighter competition is ongoing. The fair is scheduled for August 9, 10, and 11 with the competition to be held on the 10th. Billy Merola and Sandy Walczak are taking the lead on the valor award committee and will soon schedule a meeting after contacting all prior members to ascertain whether they wish to continue serving. All are reminded to submit a valor

nomination as soon as possible after an incident. Treasurer Jaime Mellon reported that the CD at Parke Bank rolled over. President Portale brought up the need to clarify association policy with respects to honoring current/past officers, fire instructors, and members with a history of significant contribution to this association upon their passing. There was much discussion on the subject and the potential need to allow for officer discretion when determining the specifics about any one individual. A motion to recommend a policy to the association was agreed upon. President Portale brought up the need to purchase trophies and/or plaques with a new vendor since Chaplain Sweeny had been this associations primary vender. President Portale recommended Crown Trophies for the upcoming purchases of Wildwood Parade trophies and Firefighter Competition trophies. Tom Sweeny had utilized Crown Trophies to assist him when his equipment was not functioning. All agreed with this recommendation. President Portale reported that he is seeking to fill the position of Atlantic County Firefighters' Association Photographer last held by Whitey Swartz. All agreed that any individual selected should be fully aware of proper fire scene photographer protocols that should be followed and that the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association should have input as to what those protocols should be. The committee discussed keeping in touch with Joy Swartz and letting her know that the association is there to assist in whatever way possible.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported on the meeting of the board held on July 16th. The status and condition of the training structures was discussed. It was reported that the Fire Instructors put much time and effort into maintain the evolution structures and the association is grateful for their dedication and effort. The newly hired Atlantic County Director of Public Safety was discussed including a county request to rethink office assignments at the training center. All agreed that changes with fire service office space would not be a beneficial decision for the fire service. It was noted that the training center is now twenty-five years old and that a public event to commemorate the anniversary is being looked into.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reported that the Atlantic City Airshow is scheduled for Wednesday, August 22nd with a practice day on Tuesday, August 21st. The usual departments and companies that provide emergency services support during the show will again be requested to assist. Tender Task Force Bravo (TTF-B) held a drill on July 15th with two fill sites. Lefty also reported that he had been notified that two of the four Atlantic City Fire Department aerial apparatus recently failed testing and one will be repaired soon. The neighboring departments were made aware of the potential need to assist Atlantic City with aerial apparatus while awaiting repairs.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the summer Firefighter I class is running with nine students and that the spring Firefighter I graduation ceremony is scheduled for 19:00 Monday July 30th at the training center. Mike reported that the 4H Fair firefighter competition has one team signed up and applications for additional teams are due back by August 3rd. The fall course book should be completed prior to the August meeting of the association. Mike reported that the academy hosted 306 students in 18 classes in the spring of 2017 and 676 students in 40 classes in the spring of 2018. Training invoices and certificates should be sent out in the coming week. The turn-out gear washing machine at the training center is now operational after clogged lines were cleared. The county has allocated additional funds for the purchase of four sets of instructor turn-out gear. The county allocates funding annually for inspection and maintenance of the cascade system. The training center's NJDFS live burn permit has been renewed for another year following an inspection. Mike will add the request of a live burn training plan on the application when companies are doing live fire training at the training center. Some training scenarios will require additional instructors.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 in Laureldale. Butch also reported that he attended the procession from the funeral home to the church for Chaplain Tom Sweeny, noted that there was a poor turnout of county fire apparatus, and that more from the fire service should have made the effort to attend the procession and service.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that all is well at the home. They just had a meeting with the NJ State Firemen's Association leadership to provide an update on the home before the county caucuses. They hope to have renovation plans submitted to NJ DCA by August 5th. Oscar reported that he recently took up some donated blueberries from Hammonton which were greatly enjoyed by the guests of the home.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – The fair is scheduled for August 9th, 10th, and 11th with the Firefighter Competition to be held on Friday August 10th. Assistance will be needed on August 9th to set up at the fairgrounds and every day to assist at the fire safety booth. Dennis Sharpe is scheduled apparatus for display.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act on.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to allow the officers the discretion to honor current/past officers, fire instructors, and members with a history of significant contribution to this association upon their passing by sending flowers to the service or donating to a reasonable church or charity, in lieu of flowers, in the memory of the decedent with a maximum cost of \$150, from the discretionary funds donated at meetings, for either the flowers or donation.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association do business with Crown Trophies for trophies, plaques, and other related purchases.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to purchase two trophies, Best Appearing Atlantic County Apparatus and Best Appearing Atlantic County Department/Company, to be presented at the Wildwood Firefighters’ Memorial Parade in September.

Drawing was held for the Wildwood Parade order for the Atlantic County Unit (lead Dept./Co. to also carry ACFFA banner):

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|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Galloway Twp. | 6. Longport | 11. Egg Harbor City | 16. Somers Point |
| 2. Estell Manor | 7. Hammonton | 12. Dorothy, Weymouth Twp. | 17. Remaining Atl. Co. Units |
| 3. Egg Harbor Twp. | 8. Port Republic | 13. Hamilton Twp. | as submitted directly to Parade Committee |
| 4. Absecon | 9. Buena Vista Twp. | 14. Mullica Twp. | |
| 5. Buena Boro | 10. Northfield | 15. Linwood | |

Online registration still required at <https://www.njfireexpo.com/memorial-parade>

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

Butch Kienzle noted that Atlantic County may be the last NJ county without some kind of central dispatch and that if the county is pushing the need for greater public safety, as with the recent hiring of a Public Safety Director, maybe the matter should again be revisited. The majority agreed and President Portale noted that the matter should be addressed through the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Association.

President Portale requested that if anyone is interested in filling the open position of Chaplain they should contact him.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:55. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on August 15, 2018 at the Mays Landing Volunteer Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Aug. 4, 2018	16:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	22nd Annual Spaghetti Dinner (16:00 - 19:00)
Thurs. Aug. 9, 2018	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 10, 2018	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 10, 2018	19:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Firefighter Competition
Sat. Aug. 11, 2018	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
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. Sep. 22, 2018	16:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Clam Bake (16:00 - 19:00)
Sun. Sep. 30, 2018	16:00	Hidden Sands Brewing Company, EHT	Beer & Food Festival to Benefit Bargaintown VFC
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. May 18, 2019	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill
Sat. Nov. 9, 2019	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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. 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. 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. Aug. 8, 2018	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Sep. 12, 2018	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Oct. 10, 2018	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Nov. 14, 2018	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 12, 2018	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
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Tues. Jan. 22, 2019	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs 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