

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*

President  
Amor "Skip" Portale  
Vice President  
Ellsworth Ott  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Charles "Chick" Kisby



Secretary  
Robert A. Mellon  
Treasurer  
Jaime C. Mellon  
Asst. Sect./Treasurer  
Sandra L. Walczak

September 19, 2018

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on September 19, 2018 at the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2 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 reported that Chaplain Rich Maxwell sent apologies for his absence as he was celebrating his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with family. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Introduction of Host Chief**

President Portale introduced Chief Sean Macri of the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Sean Macri welcomed all to Hammonton.

## **In Attendance**

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 43 of 176      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 23 of 44

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the August 15, 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 summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Executive Committee held on September 7, 2018 at the Absecon Fire Department. Howard noted that he has concerns about the association filling future leadership positions and is worried that the association may be in trouble in 24 to 36 months if more members fail to take an active role in running and guiding the association into the future. Howard reported that many of the current officers and executive committee have served the association for many years and several will not be seeking reelection over the next couple of years. Howard challenged all to go back to their departments and encourage their members to become more involved with the association so that the training provided, and information shared, may be continued for many more years to come. Howard reviewed two recommendations from the Executive Committee for new business. The amending of the 2018 training capital purchase plan to allow for the additional purchase of two more instructor turn-out gear sets at reduced cost utilizing the 2019 allotment. The creation of two achievement awards that may be earned by the Firefighter I trainees. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for November 2, 2018 in South Egg Harbor at 19:30. The committee will meet at the South Egg Harbor firehouse at 17:15 or the Never There Gun Club, Hammonton, at 17:30 for the spaghetti and crab sauce dinner at the gun club. All are welcome to join the committee for dinner.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for October 15, 2018 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center.

**Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition** – Billy Merola reported that one nomination for a valor award has been submitted and one additional nomination is currently being compiled.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that all certifications for completed classes, that have tuition paid in full, have been sent out. The Firefighter I class is running with twenty-five students and Firefighter II has eight students. The instructor turn-out gear is currently being ordered. The valves on the one pumper have been repaired and both pumpers are now running without issues. Mike reminded all that there is a facility usage form that needs to be completed for the county prior to utilizing the training center. The form is required to get on the schedule. Mike reported on the plan to certify Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) in the county. Mike is working on an obstacle course for RIT training and certification like the programs in Morris and Ocean Counties. The training and certification will meet the non-mandatory NJ DFS standard for rapid intervention teams. It should be completed for the 2019 Spring Semester and a more detailed presentation for the program should be ready for the January 2019 meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association** – Butch Kienzle reported on the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held in Nesco. There was discussion about the rapid intervention teams in Atlantic County. Butch reported that East Vineland won the Chiefs' Association trophy, Best Appearing Atl. Co. Rescue Pumper, at the parade in Wildwood. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 in East Vineland.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that all is going well at the home. Oscar will soon deliver a desk and chairs, originally at an Atlantic City fire station, donated by a local resident. Oscar reported that the new wing plans are currently with NJ DCA for review. The residents of the home enjoyed the video stream allowing them to watch the NJSFA convention in Wildwood. Oscar reminded all that they may contact him to arrange for a tour of the home. It is a worthwhile trip.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reported that the county has scheduled a radio user meeting for October 1<sup>st</sup>. They are urging all user groups to send a representative. The meeting information has been distributed via email. Lefty reported that he will be attending a County Homeland Security Grant meeting. They will review the 2017 spending, get an update on the 2018 grant, and start planning for the 2019 grant. Lefty reported on attending the NJ Fire Commission meeting in Wildwood. They met the new Director of the NJ Division of Fire Safety. Lefty reported that mutual aid plan updates, due on September 1<sup>st</sup>, were received. The state now has a type 3 incident management team available for any large-scale incidents. Lefty reported on a state database where residents can register any special needs, disabilities and other critical data, that can be accessed by county and local emergency management teams. Lefty noted that the county will no longer provide FIT test machines on loan. The current machines have reached the end of their usable life and the county will only purchase one new machine for county employee use only. Mike Corbo reported that they have tried to get new machines through the annual Homeland Security Grants but have been turned down every year. Ed Vincent reported that the rejections were based on the grants having been required to meet the initial justifications, task forces and strike teams, that were submitted several years ago. There was much discussion about the FIT test machines. Some municipalities are purchasing their own. Lefty noted that the down beach municipalities have determined that renting a machine is more cost effective than owning and maintaining them. They are renting a machine from Pine Environmental in Windsor, NJ. Any other municipalities wishing to research rental costs can find them at Pine Environmental 92 North Main St. - Building #20 Windsor, NJ 08561 (800) 301-9663 or (609) 371-9663 or <http://www.pine-environmental.com>. All agreed that maybe the wording of a grant submission should include that task force/strike team members need to comply with respiratory protection standards including annual FIT testing. Lefty will inquire about that wording at the next Homeland Security Grant meeting.

### **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 amend the 2018 Atlantic County Fire Academy Training Capital Purchase approval to include the 2019 allotment for two sets of fire instructor turn-out gear so that the purchase may be made at the current negotiated discount as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the establishment of Firefighter I recruit achievement awards in memory of Fire Instructors Don DaGrossa and Ted Reinhard as recommended by the Executive Committee. The “Don DaGrossa Academic Achievement Award” and the “Ted Reinhard Best Recruit Performance Award”. The Director of Fire Training will create a fair and impartial selection process for the awards that will be reviewed 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**

President Portale thanked the Egg Harbor Township Fire Department for having their members lead the Atlantic County unit, and carry the association banner, at the Wildwood parade after Galloway Township was unable to do so.

President Portale congratulated the following for winning trophies at the parade in Wildwood. East Vineland: Best Appearing Rescue Pumper 1<sup>st</sup> Place (1221) & Atlantic County Fire Chiefs’ Assoc. - Best Appearing Atlantic County Rescue Pumper (1221); Farmington: Best Appearing Pumper 26-50 years 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (1545) & Atlantic County Firefighters’ Assoc. – Best Appearing Atlantic County Apparatus (1545); Northfield: Best Appearing Pumper 0-5 years 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (E65) & Atlantic County Firefighters’ Assoc. – Best Appearing Atlantic County Company (NFD); Mizpah: Best Appearing Straight or Tractor Drawn Tanker 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (18-27).

Thank you to the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department St. 2 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 October 17, 2018 at the Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Sat. Sep. 22, 2018	16:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Clam Bake (16:00 - 19:00)
Sat. Sep. 29, 2018	08:00	Elwood VFC @ Mays Landing Country Club	17th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sun. Sep. 30, 2018	16:00	Hidden Sands Brewing Company, EHT	Beer & Food Festival to Benefit Bargaintown VFC
Sat. Oct. 6, 2018	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner (16:00 - 19:30)
Sat. Oct. 20, 2018	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)
Sun. Oct. 21, 2018	10:00	NJFM, 4 Polhemustown Rd, Allentown, NJ 08501	NJ Fire Museum 3rd Annual Open House (10:00 - 15:00)
Sat. Oct. 27, 2018	11:00	Landisville VFC	Roast Beef BBQ (11:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Nov. 10, 2018	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Nov. 17, 2018	11:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale (11:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Nov. 17, 2018	11:00	Mizpah VFC	Sub Sale (11:00 - 17:00)
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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. 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. 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. 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.**

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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
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