

# 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

October 17, 2018

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on October 17, 2018 at the Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Deacon Rich Maxwell. Deacon Maxwell informed all that he is available to visit with sick/injured firefighters and/or family members. Deacon Maxwell can be reached on his cell phone at (609) 517-3961 or his home phone at (609) 241-6277. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Introduction of Host Chief**

President Portale introduced Port Republic Volunteer Fire Company Chief, John Yochim. Chief Yochim welcomed all to Port Republic.

## **In Attendance**

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 28 of 176      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 14 of 44

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the September 19, 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** – President Portale conveyed apologies from Chairman Howard Berchtold as he could not attend the meeting due to work related travel. 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** – President Portale reported that Advisory Board met on October 15<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the wiring issue that has caused a lighting problem on the drill ground. All those utilizing the drill grounds for training at night should bring portable lighting. The county is currently working on repairing the problem by replacing the bad wiring. The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for January 14, 2019 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association** – Butch Kienzle reported on the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held in East Vineland. There was much discussion about the recent county radio user meeting. The county will start upgrading the equipment on the towers starting with the western towers and moving east. When that is complete they will improve the microwave links between the towers. It was reported that each tower would be out of service for approximately 1 - 2 hours during an equipment upgrade. Mobile radios and portable radios that are outside should not be negatively affected during an equipment upgrade. Portable radios that are being utilized in a building, closer to the tower that is out of service, may experience service issues during the time that the tower is down. It was noted at the meeting that not all local agencies have their radios programed for all county talk groups associated with their respective fields. i.e. Fire Departments should have four county fire talk groups and Police Departments should have four county police talk groups. The programing of all county talk groups will now be required. The county will no longer be programming radios. Tactical Public Safety will no longer program radios for free, a service contract will be required for each municipality. Some reported, but unconfirmed, costs were \$175 per radio or a \$10k annual service contract for some municipalities. It was also noted that batteries are only good for approximately one thousand charge cycles then they need to be replaced. The average time expectancy for that number of charge cycles is 1 - 2 years and replacement batteries are approximately \$80 each. Some municipalities are seeking alternative battery suppliers. 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, November 14, 2018 in Linwood.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that all is going well at the home. The Board of Managers recently held their reorganization meeting. They expect the plans for the memory care wing to be cleared by the state soon. Oscar will be delivering the donated desk to the home on his next trip. They are looking at including dialysis treatment transportation and gym memberships, for rehabilitation, into the home's annual budget.

### **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

### **Deferred Business**

There was no deferred business to act on.

### **New Business**

There was no new business to act on.

### **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. President Portale reported that he and his wife are moving to South Carolina and he will not be seeking reelection. President Portale also reported that Oscar Dutch Jr. and R. Thomas Hunter Jr. have informed the association that they will not be seeking reelection to the Executive Committee. Secretary Mellon read a letter from C. Robert Winkler III informing the association that he will accept nomination to the Executive Committee if he were to be nominated. Those nominated are as follows:

President (1)	Dennis Sharpe
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (1)	Ellsworth Ott
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (1)	Cindy L. Badger*
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 "Lefty" Clayton\*, James Garth Sr.\*,  
Walter R. "Butch" Kienzle III, Christopher Kislow\*, Charles J. Mackintosh,  
William L. Merola Jr.\*, Eugene M. Sharpe\*, John Sullivan\*, C. Robert Winkler III  
**\*have not yet formally accepted nomination and must do so before elections.**

**Good of the Order**

The December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the association will be hosted by the West Atlantic City Volunteer Fire Company at the Farmington Fire Hall.

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

**Adjournment**

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Rich Maxwell. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:30. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on November 21, 2018 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 1.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

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. Nov. 21, 2018	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 19, 2018	20:00	West Atlantic City VFC (@ Farmington Fire Hall)	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**

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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. 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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