



ATLANTIC COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

Sept. 20, 2006

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Sept. 20, 2006 in Hammonton by President R. Thomas Hunter Jr.. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an invocation offered by the Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

Chaplain Sweeny updated the association on the current condition of the Fire Marshal, Harold "Whitey" Swartz. Whitey has had heart surgery and now is recovering. Chaplain Sweeny asked that all keep Whitey in their thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

Chief Dominico of the Hammonton Fire Department was introduced. Chief Dominico welcomed all to Hammonton.

In Attendance

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the Aug. 16, 2006 meeting as sent to chiefs and secretaries.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer as read by Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Stacey Wellington.

Bills

The bills were read by Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Stacey Wellington. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the Executive Committee met on Sept. 1, 2006 in Absecon. The minutes of that meeting were summarized by Secretary Robert A. Mellon. Howard further elaborated on the formal motions that the Executive Committee is recommending that the association take action on. The \$250.00 voluntarily donated by the 4H Fair Firefighter Competition participants for the Burn Foundation, of their own accord, should be transfer to the Burn Foundation. The training director has requested that additional t-shirts be purchased for the fire instructors since supplies of such are almost depleted.



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Chris Kinslow, of Germania, has been recommended by the interview committee for the open fire instructor position. The ACFFA website is up for renewal and should be renewed. Howard also reported that the old F2500 has been moved out of Hammonton.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the Advisory Board met on Sept. 11, 2006. The board will take the lead role in seeking funds from the C.R.D.A. along with the county freeholders. Freeholder Frank Sutton is the liaison to the board from the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Fire Expo – The fire expo has been postponed until October of 2007.

Training – Mike Corbo reported that they are still waiting for the Delmar FFI books to be delivered from the state. They have been promised by the end of September. The Fall 2006 FFI class is now running with twenty-three students, up from the original sixteen students. The I300 class, originally scheduled for the end of October, has been rescheduled. It will now be held in the beginning of November, a memo will be sent to all departments with the exact dates. The flashover simulator is now running on two nights of each month.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent thanked all the fire coordinators that covered for him while he was away in August. Ed formally apologized to Chief Kelly of Margate for the harsh words that were used as the result of a misunderstanding. Tanker Task Force B will be hosting a drill on Oct. 1 at the Hammonton Airport. The radio call signs for the Tanker Task Force divisions will be 25-60A for Tanker Task Force A and 25-60B for Tanker Task Force B. The fire coordinators now have EMS talk groups programmed on their radios. Ed and the fire coordinators are continuing to meet with the county fire departments in order to update the mutual aid plan. Ed also reported on recent county fire activity including the Anchorage Tavern fire in Somers Point. Ed then pointed out that even though the governor stated that Larry Petrillo will be reappointed the NJ State Fire Marshal position, it has not yet happened.

Library – Ron Bird reported that the library will have a new schedule soon. The schedule will be posted at the academy and on the website when it is ready.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Jim Garth Sr. reported that the next meeting will be Sept. 26, 2006 in Nesco. Nomination of officers will be on the agenda.

NJ Forest Fire Service – Ken Badger reported that if a company would like the NJ Forest Fire Service to be at their fire prevention open house, they should call soon as the schedule is filling up. The grant program is now open; please contact them for an application.



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Report of Chaplain - Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny reported that the office of emergency management is setting up a program with approved and badged chaplains available for response to incidents. If anyone knows a member of the clergy who would like to participate, they should contact the office of emergency management or Rev. Sweeny for more information. There are training classes for those who participate. Rev. Sweeny also reported that he is available if anyone needs his assistance with a critical stress incident, just contact District 15 to request him.

NJ Fireman's Relief Assn. – Henry Schoenstein reported on the outcome of the 2006 convention resolutions. The four resolutions that had a yes vote will now go to committee for review. Henry also reported on the new memorial to fallen firefighters. It was dedicated after the convention in front of the Wildwood Convention Center.

NJ Fireman's Home – Oscar Dutch reported on the ongoing projects at the home. Oscar also reported on the continuing difficulty in dealing with the East Orange office of the NJ Fireman's Relief Association.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

The status of the mailing of the minutes was questioned. At the recommendation of the Executive Committee, as per a request of the county administration, the mailing will be cut back to the officers of the association and the listed secretaries of the fire companies. All others may request to be added to an email list or retrieve a copy off of the association website.

New Business

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to hire Chris Kinslow as an instructor per the recommendation of the interview committee.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to purchase additional t-shirts for the instructors as long as sufficient funds are in place.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to forward the \$250.00 donation collected from the firefighter competition participants to the Burn Foundation. The competition teams were from the Farmington, Laureldale, Bayview, Pomona, Weymouth, and Hammonton fire companies.

Billy Merola reported that John Bartlett is willing to demonstrate Barricade fire blocking gel at an association meeting.



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Pres. R. Thomas Hunter Jr. reported that NJ American Water Co. will address the association at the October meeting.

Ed Vincent made a motion to send a card and fruit basket to Whitey Swartz. The motion was seconded and carried.

Applications for Membership

Joe Giordano, Zach Perna, Phil Cunningham, and Randy Shepherd of the Egg Harbor City Fire Company and Jaime C. Leek of the Oceanville Fire Company were accepted into membership.

Good of the Order

Pres. R. Thomas Hunter Jr. reported that some companies have not paid their dues and/or not submitted a listing of their delegates. Additional notice has been distributed to the companies that need to submit delegate names and/or dues. Some companies also still owe back dues for prior years.

Howard Berchtold reported further on Whitey Swartz's heart surgery and the need to postpone the fire expo while he is recovering. Tom Hunter reported that, as always, Whitey was working hard on his many projects right up to his scheduled surgery.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:20. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Oct. 16, 2006 in Sweetwater.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary



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Date Clearing

Sat. Sept. 30	Weymouth	Flea Market
Mon. Oct. 2	Weymouth	Fire Prevention and Open House
Sat. Oct. 7	Germania	Turkey or Pork Dinner
Sat. Oct. 21	Port Republic	Roast Beef Dinner
Sat. Oct. 14	Training Ctr.	Atlantic County Fire Expo
Sat. Nov. 4	Oceanville	Ham and Oyster Dinner
Sat. Nov. 4	Cologne	Craft Show

(Please email your event info to robert.mellon@oceanvillevfc.org)