



ATLANTIC COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

August 15, 2007

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on August 15, 2007 in Cologne by President R. Thomas Hunter Jr.. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence. President Hunter then indicated the location of the fire exits and asked that all pagers and phones be set for silence or turned off.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

Chief Elkner of the Cologne Fire Company was introduced. Chief Elkner welcomed all to Cologne.

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 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 Secretary Robert A. Mellon.

Bills

The bills were read by Secretary Robert A. Mellon. 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 next meeting will be Sept. 7, 2007 in Absecon. Howard thanked Skip for handling the report in his absence at the last association meeting. Howard reported that there are continuing efforts to improve the financial reporting and establish a line item budget.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – The July 9, 2007 meeting of the advisory board was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 10, 2007. Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that getting the academy's ladder truck into some kind of shelter will be on the agenda.



ATLANTIC COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

Fire Coordinator – Oscar Dutch Jr. reported for Ed Vincent, who was unable to attend the meeting. Ed would like the email addresses of all the county fire chiefs or their point of contact, such as a department secretary. This will enable him to update and review the mutual aid plan without having to schedule many meetings. One 800 mhz. portable radio will be issued to each municipality that is still using VHF radios for communication. The fire coordinators assisted with the forest fire in the Atsion Lake area.

NJ Fireman's Home – Oscar Dutch Jr. reported that renovations are ongoing. The residents will be attending the convention in Wildwood. Please stop by to say hello when you are down there. There is no word on whether the residents will qualify for expenses. There has been some positive forward movement in obtaining a home in southern New Jersey.

NJ Fireman's Relief Assn. – Henry Schoenstein reported that the county caucus will be held on Tues. Aug. 21, 2007 in Egg Harbor City. The offices of Vice President and Secretary are being contested. Resolutions number six and eight of the eight resolutions have been removed from the ballot leaving only six resolutions to vote on. The resolutions were read and discussion followed.

Training – Mike Corbo reported that FFI started on Aug. 14 with only eleven students. This is an abnormally low number that may be due to the earlier start date required to cover all state mandated training. If any departments have members that are in need of FFI training, please register them ASAP so that they may join the current class without too much to make up. There are twenty-six classes scheduled at the academy this semester. A new class being offered is Power Point training. The Educational Methodology class is being paid for by the state. Fire Officer training should be ready for next semester. Many departments have not yet taken advantage of the training being offered with the Flashover Simulator. If not sending an entire company for exclusive training, please send your firefighters to the regularly scheduled classes. This is invaluable training in recognizing the signs of a pending flashover, which could save lives.

Library – Ron Bird reported that he is available to assist with getting what you need, just contact him.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association. – Jim Garth reported that the next meeting will be Sept. 25, 2007 in Nesco. The Chief's Association is sponsoring a trophy for best appearing Atl. Co. rescue in the Wildwood parade.

Atl. Co. 4H Fair – Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the fair went well. Ed Conover and his staff from Emergency Management were very helpful with the setup of the booth. This booth had a fire prevention theme. The firefighter competition was excellent and ran smoothly. Mizpah Fire Company was instrumental with support operations for the competition. The overall winner was Weymouth Fire Company.



ATLANTIC COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

2007 ACFFA Firefighter Competition at Atl. Co. 4-H Fair

Overall winner – Weymouth Fire Company

Drafting – Weymouth Fire Company

Bucket Brigade – Laureldale Fire Company

Decathlon – Weymouth Fire Company

Water Rocket – Germania Fire Company

Dinner – Pres. Hunter asked that everyone start thinking about the annual dinner held in March each year. Years ago the dinner would include a show such as a comedy show. If anyone has any ideas of where to hold the 2008 dinner, please contact Pres. Hunter so that a committee could be formed.

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

Application for Membership

There were no applications for membership to act on.

Good of the Order

Billy Merola challenged all in attendance to personally assist Robert Mellon with fundraising for Multiple Sclerosis as he will be participating in the MS150 City to Shore two day bike-a-thon on Sept. 29 and 30.

Pres. Hunter reported that this is Firefighter Health Week sponsored by the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC).

Sec. Mellon reported that documentation is available for the Gift from Capt. Buscio physical that is now offered at Deborah Heart and Lung. This program was recently used by ACFFA member Mike Lancaster and it discovered a problem that he then had repaired at Deborah.



ATLANTIC COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:00. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Sept. 19, 2007 in Hammonton No. 1.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Date Clearing

Sun. Aug. 19	Egg Harbor City	Golf Tournament at Renault Vineyards
Tues. Aug. 21	Egg Harbor City	Atlantic Co. Fireman's Relief Caucus
Sat. Sept. 8	15:30 Weekstown	Pig Roast
Fri. Sept. 14	Wildwood	NJ Fireman's Relief Assoc. Convention
Sat. Sept. 15	Wildwood	NJ Fireman's Relief Assoc. Convention
Sat. Sept. 22	09:00 Cologne	Home Party Expo
Sat. Oct. 6	16:00 Germania	Turkey Dinner
Sat. Oct. 13	12:00 Somers Point #1	100 th Anniversary and Housing 09:00 Reg. & 12:00 Parade
Sat. Nov. 3	09:00 Cologne	Craft Fair
Sat. Nov. 10	16:00 Oceanville	Ham & Oyster Dinner

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