

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*

President  
R. Thomas Hunter, Jr.  
Vice President  
Dennis Sharpe  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Charles Kisby



Secretary  
Robert A. Mellon  
Treasurer  
Lou Raciti  
Asst. Sect./Treasurer  
Stacey Wellington

November 21, 2007

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on November 21, 2007 in Somers Point No. 2 by President R. Thomas Hunter Jr.. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence. Howard Berchtold Jr. offered words of prayer in memory of Chester "Chet" Crowell and for the recovery of Charles Guenther, as he had spent the weekend in the hospital. President Hunter then indicated the location of the fire exits.

## **Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief**

Chief Denan of the Somers Point No. 2 Fire Company was introduced. Chief Denan welcomed all to Somers Point and introduced his line officers and the Mayor. Mayor Dan Reilly extended a welcome to Somers Point as well as expressing appreciation and support of fire service.

## **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 Oct. 17, 2007 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 Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Stacey Wellington.

## **Bills**

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

## **Committee Reports**

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent gave an update on the distribution of foam throughout the county. A SOP for the foam will be added to the mutual aid plan once approved. Ed reported on the difficulty of keeping the mutual aid plans updated. A website should be operational in early 2008 where chiefs will be able to update their department's mutual aid information directly. The mutual aid plan is required to be updated every two years. Ed reported on Fire Trax classes to be held at the start of December. Twenty-five states are already using the Fire Trax system. FieldComm 25 has been outfitted with four of the handheld scanners. Ed reported on the Sands implosion. Ed reported on the re-banding of the 800 mhz. radio spectrum.

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. summarized the minutes of the Nov. 2, 2007 meeting held in South Egg Harbor. The next Executive Committee meeting will be on Jan. 4, 2008 in Pomona.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. summarized the Nov. 5, 2007 meeting. Issues discussed included the liability created by projects at the academy. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 14, 2007. Howard noted that Ted Reinhard created a teak ribbon that has been installed above the memorial tree.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 29, 2007 in Linwood.

NJ Fireman's Home – Oscar Dutch Jr. reported that all of the additions are on schedule. Oscar reported that a committee has been formed to start meeting with the Mason's Burlington City home.

NJ Fireman's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein reported that the committee for a southern home is awaiting a meet and greet meeting to be scheduled with the Masons in early 2008. Henry reported on compendium changes that have been approved that will alter the survivor payout in an attempt to eliminate or minimize the possibility of a claim resulting in multiple checks being issued. Henry reported that an ISO manual has been put on disk and is offered to insurance companies that do not want to buy the book in an attempt to get them to use the ISO for the 2% distribution. Seven properties have been identified for as possible locations for the new association headquarters. All properties are in northern NJ and the association will have one year after the signed sale agreement to vacate the current office. Henry reported that Dec. 14 is the cutoff for filing for the 2007 special relief fund. Henry reported on the realization that a President Emeritus need be done by resolution and the floor nomination and positive vote for Lee Peterson is not valid. Henry reported that the requirement for admittance to the Fireman's Home is one year of service.

Dinner Committee - President R. Thomas Hunter Jr. instructed the committee to prepare a report soon.

Library – Ron Bird reported that he is in the process of moving the most sought after material to the office so that it is still accessible when classes are held in the library.

### **Communications**

A letter was received from Lou Raciti indicating that he would accept nomination to the office of treasurer if so nominated. A card was received from the family of Chester “Chet” Crowell expressing appreciation and thanks for the kindness and sympathy.

### **Deferred Business**

There was no deferred business to act on.

### **New Business**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay George Duncan \$50.00 from the monument for his work on the monument lighting.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to donate \$200.00 from the communications fund to the Sandpipers.

### **Nomination of Officers**

The second of two rounds of nominations was held. All of those nominated have accepted nomination. Amor “Skip” Portale respectfully declined nomination for the Executive Committee after being nominated in round one. Those nominated are as follows.

President (1)	Amor “Skip” Portale, Dennis Sharpe
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (1)	Ellsworth Ott
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (1)	Charles “Chick” Kisby
Secretary (1)	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer (1)	Stacey Wellington
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	[No Nomination]
Chaplain (1)	Rev. Thomas Sweeny
Sgt.-at-Arms (3)	Jeffrey A. Rascone, Charles Harlan, William Thomas Hand
Executive Comm. (9)	Howard Berchtold Jr., Oscar Dutch Jr., Ronald Bird Jr., James Garth Sr., Ted Reinhard, R. Thomas Hunter Jr. Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Charles J. Guenther, Gilbert Zonge Jr.

### **Application for Membership**

There were no applications for membership to act on.

### **Good of the Order**

Ted Reinhard reported on a box of DVDs received from Fire Engineering. Catalogs are available for those who want one. Ted has sent cards of appreciation to his contacts.

President Gwynne Brown of the Minotola Fire Company thanked the association for all those who attended the viewing for Chester “Chet” Crowell.

Dennis Sharpe shared information and concerns about the MRSA outbreaks.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:25. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Dec. 19, 2007 in Farmington.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

### **Date Clearing**

Sat. Dec. 1	11:00	Cardiff	Open House with Santa
Sat. Dec. 15	08:00	Farmington	Breakfast with Santa

(Please email your event info to [robert.mellon@atlanticcountyfireassoc.org](mailto:robert.mellon@atlanticcountyfireassoc.org))