

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

President
Amor "Skip" Portale
Vice President
Ellsworth Ott
2 Vice President
Charles "Chick" Kisby



Secretary
Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer
Stacey Wellington
Asst. Sect. / Treasurer
(vacant)

January 16, 2008

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Jan. 16, 2008 at the Egg Harbor City Vol. Fire Company by outgoing President R. Thomas Hunter Jr. The meeting was opened with the flag salute, followed by an invocation offered by Rev. Thomas Sweeny, Chaplain of the Association. President Hunter then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

In Attendance

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

President Hunter welcomed and introduced guests: NJ Senator: Jim Whelan, NJ Assemblyman: John Amedeo, Atlantic County Freeholder Vice Chairman: Frank Sutton, Atl. Co. Fire Marshall: Harold "Whitey" Swartz, Atl. Co. Director of Public Safety: Vincent Jones III, Atl. Co. Deputy Director of Emergency Management: Ed Conover, Atlantic County Fire Coordinator: Edward Vincent.

Opening Remarks

Chief Russell Fenton, of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department, welcomed the membership and guests to Egg Harbor City. Chief Fenton then introduced the line officers of the fire department. Chief Fenton then introduced Egg Harbor City council members John "Jack" Peterson and Elizabeth "Betty" Schoenstein. Both council members welcomed the firefighters to Egg Harbor City and thanked everyone for making the county safer.

Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. welcomed all those in attendance to the annual meeting and memorial service on behalf of the Executive Committee. Howard expressed gratitude on behalf of the Executive Committee for the confidence that the association has in trusting that the committee will do a good job. Howard introduced Oscar Dutch Jr. who will be the new Co-Chairman of the Executive Committee for 2008. Howard expressed much gratitude for the officers who are leaving office after many years of serving the association with great dedication. Howard and the committee are looking forward to working closely with county officials on seeking improvements with the training program.

Dispensing of Regular Business

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the regular business except for the paying of the bills.

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Paying of Bills

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

Annual Memorial Service

The annual memorial services were conducted by the Memorial Committee with Chaplain Reverend Thomas Sweeny giving the homily with the memorial candles being lit by First Vice President Ellsworth Ott and Second Vice President Charles "Chick" Kisby, and the bell being tolled by Charles J. Guenther as Secretary Robert A. Mellon read the roll of the Firefighters of Atlantic County who answered their last alarm during the past year.

Firefighters of the Final Roll were:

ABSECON

Harold L. Leeds
Frank Weber Jr.

ATLANTIC CITY

George F. Black
Edmond J. Crosson Jr.
Edmond J. Crosson III
Pierre Hollingsworth
Donald Barry Innis Sr.
Robert Kennedy
Thomas U. Palmer
Raymond E. Shepperson Jr.
Kenneth A. Souder

BARGAIN TOWN

Kenneth Kaelble

BAYVIEW

Edward G. Goodman Sr.
Clifford A. McCourt

CARDIFF

Michael P. Flanagan Jr.

COLLINGS LAKES

Fortunato Guadagno Jr.

COLOGNE

Gregory S. Hagel Sr.

DOROTHY

Frank R. Klimek Jr.

EGG HARBOR CITY

Howard Anthony Dickerson

ESTELL MANOR

Herbert H. Hann

FARMINGTON

Dean E. Driscoll

GERMANIA

John Christian Ade Sr.

Martin Paul Lampe (also Oceanville & South Egg Harbor)

Ernest R. Miller

HAMMONTON

Howard F. Macri

Michael Perna

LONGPORT

Charles R. Thomas

MAYS LANDING

Nicholas Giaconia (also Mizpah)

Harry Raymond Owen

MINOTOLA

Chester P. Crowell

MIZPAH

Gerald Patrick Hamilton

NEW FOREST FIRE

SERVICE

George Robert Dirkes

Joseph Jobbagy

NORTHFIELD

Thomas M. Crane

OCEANVILLE

Donald Moring

Robert T. Sander

PLEASANTVILLE

Ralph Fuller Ames (also Northfield)

Oliver B. Applegate Jr.

Nunzio Capelli

William E. Champion III

Robert E. Johnson

RICHLAND

Dominic Mesiano Sr.

SOUTH EGG HARBOR

William R. Corbin Sr.

VENTNOR

Harry V. Bickel

"The Lord's Prayer" was sung by Howard Berchtold Jr., "Taps" was played by Bugler Joseph Ward, followed by the playing of "Amazing Grace" by the Sandpipers.

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Installation of Officers for 2007

All of the invited guests addressed the membership and expressed their appreciation for all that the firefighters do for their local communities and for Atlantic County. A letter from Congressman Frank Lobiondo expressing his regret for being unable to attend, as well as congratulating the new officers, was read. Outgoing President R. Thomas Hunter Jr. expressed his gratitude for all of the help he had received while president, especially from Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz.

Atlantic County Freeholder Vice Chairman: Frank Sutton installed the following into office for the year 2008:

President	Amor "Skip" Portale	Executive Committee:
1 st Vice President	Ellsworth Ott	Howard Berchtold Jr.
2 nd Vice President	Charles "Chick" Kisby	Ronald Bird Jr.
Secretary	Robert A. Mellon	Rick Coraluzzo Sr.
Treasurer	Stacey Wellington	Oscar Dutch Jr.
Chaplain	Rev. Thomas Sweeny	James Garth Sr.
Sergeants-at-Arms	William Thomas Hand	Charles J. Guenther
	Charles Harlan	R. Thomas Hunter
	Jeff Rascone	Ted Reinhard

Those not present were:
Executive Committee

Gilbert Zonge Jr.

Good of the Order

New President Amor "Skip" Portale took over the meeting. Skip thanked all for the support as he takes over as the association president. Skip expressed his willingness to work with the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board on the many upcoming projects. Skip expressed the gratitude that he and the association have for the many years of service that Lou Raciti put in as the Treasurer and that Dennis Sharpe put in as the First Vice President. Unfortunately neither was able to attend and a plaque will be presented to both men as soon as possible.

President Amor "Skip" Portale and Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. presented a plaque to R. Thomas Hunter Jr. for having served seven years as the association President and two years prior to that as the First Vice President. Howard offered a few words of gratitude for Tom's years of service in the administrative offices and noted that he is not retired as he will now serve on the Executive Committee.

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Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:55. The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Feb. 20, 2008 at the Longport Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Date Clearing

Sun. Mar. 30	10:30	St. Nicholas / 12:00 Borgata	23 rd Annual Cape/Atlantic 200 Club Memorial Service and Brunch
Sat. Apr. 12	16:00	Oceanville	Ham & Oyster Dinner
Fri. Apr. 18	18:00	Atl. Cape Comm. College	ACFFA Dinner at Careme's
Tues. May 13		Neschanic Valley Golf Club	NJ Firemen's Home 2008 Golf Outing

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