

# 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  
Stacey Wellington

March 19, 2008

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Mar. 19, 2008 at the Folsom Vol. Fire Company by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. Next was a moment of silence in remembrance of Charlie Parker, past Chief of Folsom Fire Company for twenty-five years.

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

Chief Smith of the Folsom Fire Company was introduced. Chief Smith welcomed all to Folsom.

## **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 Feb. 20, 2008 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

## **Report of Treasurer**

No report was available due to the absence of the treasurer.

## **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. summarized the items reviewed at a special committee meeting held prior to the regular meeting due to a lack of a quorum at the scheduled Mar. 7, 2008 meeting. Howard summarized the recommendations that will be made to the association under new business.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. reviewed the reports made at the Mar. 10, 2008 meeting of the advisory board. All Emergency Management apparatus and equipment will be stored in the new building when completed in April. Howard reviewed the discussion that was held on how the county can assist with the escalating cost of FFI training.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent reported on the ongoing work to create a website link where each department chief can update mutual aid info online. Ed reminded everyone about the Tanker Task Force Alpha Division drill scheduled on April 27 at the 4H fairgrounds. Observers are welcome. Ed reported on the regional coordinators meeting. Craig Augustini is the new regional area coordinator for this area. Ed reviewed the protocol for coordinator deployment. Ed reported on the current confusion at the state level on the need for CDL licensing for the NJ fire service. Ed reported that he is part of a working group within county government that is seeking homeland security grants. The grants cover police, fire, and EMS and must benefit the county at-large. A smoke machine, turn-out gear, and AFFF foam trailers have been put on a wish list. Ed reviewed the need that all task force participants must be an active member of a company or department within the county for insurance purposes. The final evening classes for Fire Trax have been scheduled for April 7, April 14, May 5 and May 12. No more evening or weekend training will be scheduled. Ed reported on a recent incident in which a Farmington truck was hit while staged at an accident on the Garden State Parkway. Ed reported on a draft proposal, after a meeting of several agencies, concerning how to operate and position apparatus at accident scenes on highways. Further discussion will be sought at the Mar. 25 meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chiefs as well as the chief's support of the proposal or support with changes. Tom Eppler reported on the online updating of mutual aid plans that is being put together with the county. Ed reported on intelligence data from Colorado concerning suspicious surveillance of fire stations.

Valor Awards, Poster Awards – President Portale reported that the valor and poster awards will be presented at the April meeting of the association at the Training Center. Officers and Executive Committee members are requested to wear full dress uniforms.

Library – Ron Bird and Tom Hunter reported that two cabinets have been moved.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Chief Jim Garth reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Mar. 25, 2008 in Landisville. Jim reported that he, along with Somers Point Chief Sweeny, are trying to arrange a meeting with Parkway officials and all chiefs who run on the Parkway. Jim reported on the damage that Farmington's truck received when it was hit on the Parkway.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein reported that the lease of a new building has been approved and there are plans to purchase or build a new office in the future. The leased building is in Cranford off exit 138. The updated computer system is close to completion and will be set up in the new leased office. The Atlantic County Caucus is scheduled for Aug. 19, 2008 in Egg Harbor City at 19:30. The convention in Wildwood is scheduled for 13:00 Fri. Sept. 12 and 10:00 Sat. Sept. 13, 2008. The delegate and lifetime member expenses will be raised \$10.00 for Atlantic County. The office will be closed one week in July.

NJ Fireman's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the superintendent has resigned. The CFO has been appointed as the acting superintendant. Oscar reported that a Nintendo Wii has become very popular with the residents, particularly the bowling game. One of the nurses has filled out application forms on behalf of forty-three war veteran residents so that they may receive medals that may be due to them since Washington is updating their records. She has done this of her own accord.

ACFFA Dinner – Wayne Dilks reported on the dinner scheduled for Apr. 18, 2008 at Careme's on the campus of Atlantic Cape Community College. There will be entertainment.

### **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

### **Deferred Business**

There was no deferred business to act on.

## **New Business**

- 1) Motion was made, seconded, and approved that two plaques be made for the two civilian valor awards.
- 2) Motion was made, seconded, and approved to establish monthly billing and review an out of county billing policy.
- 3) Motion was made, seconded, and approved to split the next due CD into two CDs with staggered dates.
- 4) Motion was made, seconded, and approved to bond the check signers for \$100,000 at a cost of \$157.00.

## **Special Presentation**

A presentation was made by Glenn Liepe, Div. C Warden NJ Forest Fire Service, on the current operational plans for this fire season. Glenn reported that even though the state is cutting budgets, "Everything is Normal". The presentation included public education program about making 100 feet around the home into defensible space. Glenn also reported on the available grants.

## **Bills**

No bills were available due to the absence of the treasurer.

## **Applications for Membership**

There were no applications for membership to act on.

## **Good of the Order**

President Portale reported that Ted Reinhard is going to attend FDIC and if anyone has any requests for equipment, they should let Ted know.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:40. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on April 16, 2008 at the Fire Training Center and will include the Valor Awards and the Poster Awards.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

## **Date Clearing**

Sun. Mar. 30	10:30	St. Nicholas / 12:00 Borgata	23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Cape/Atlantic 200 Club Memorial Service and Brunch
Sat. Apr. 5	20:30	Hammonton Sta. 2	Dinner & Comedy Show
Sat. Apr. 5	16:00	Oceanville	Ham & Oyster Dinner
Mon. Apr. 7	19:00	Fire Training Center	Fire Trax Training – contact <a href="mailto:lees_jake@aclink.org">lees_jake@aclink.org</a>
Mon. Apr. 14	19:00	Fire Training Center	Fire Trax Training – contact <a href="mailto:lees_jake@aclink.org">lees_jake@aclink.org</a>
Fri. Apr. 18	18:00	Atl. Cape Comm. College	ACFFA Dinner at Careme's
Sun. Apr. 20	07:00	Landisville Fire & Rescue	Annual Breakfast
Sat. Apr. 26	16:00	Nesco VFC	Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner
Sun. Apr. 27	08:00	Atl. Co. 4H Fairgrounds	Tanker Task Force Drill
Mon. May 5	19:00	Fire Training Center	Fire Trax Training – <a href="mailto:lees_jake@aclink.org">lees_jake@aclink.org</a>
Sat. May 10	08:30	Hughs Tech Center	Atl. City Airport IAFF Local S-18 / Engine Co. & Truck Co. Ops Training
Mon. May 12	19:00	Fire Training Center	Fire Trax Training – contact <a href="mailto:lees_jake@aclink.org">lees_jake@aclink.org</a>
Tues. May 13	10:30	Neschanic Valley Golf Club	NJ Firemen's Home 2008 Golf Outing
Sat. May 17	11:00	Hammonton Sta. 2	Motorcycle Run & Open House
Sat. May 17	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner
Sun. May 18	11:30	Vineyards Golf @ Renault Winery	Egg Harbor City Fire Co. Golf Tournament
Sat. May 31	12:00	Port Republic VFC	Housing, Parade, and Firefighter Challenge
Sun. Jun. 1	07:00	Dover Downs Speedway	Egg Harbor City Fire Co. NASCAR Bus Trip
Fri. Jun. 13	13:00	McCullough's Emerald Links	Bargaintown VFC Golf Outing
Thurs. Jul. 24	20:00	Egg Harbor City	Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Meeting

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