

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

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



Secretary
Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer
Stacey Wellington

May 21, 2008

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on May 21, 2008 at the Oceanville Vol. Fire Company by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Opening Remarks and Welcome

Firefighter/EMT-B Robert A. Mellon of the Oceanville Fire Company was introduced. Firefighter Mellon welcomed all to Oceanville.

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 Apr. 16, 2008 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 Treasurer Stacey Wellington.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. summarized the minutes of the May 2, 2008 meeting. Howard noted that the meeting was held at Whitey's museum and that the museum is phenomenal. Howard reported that Wayne Dilks and the dinner committee did an excellent job organizing the annual dinner.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the meeting scheduled for May 12, 2008 was cancelled due to severe weather. The next scheduled meeting is July 14, 2008.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent reported on the recent tanker task force drill. Ed reported that the other task forces will be scheduling drills in the near future. Ed reported that the fire annex and the wildland interface plans for the county emergency response plan have been submitted. Ed reported that he is seeking answers to the whereabouts of radios that should have come from the 2007 grants. Ed congratulated Wayne Dilks for an excellent job on the dinner. Ed offered congratulations and thanks to all of the Valor Award recipients and Poster Contest winners honored at the April meeting. Ed reported on the current status of the FireTrax system and Dennis Sharpe reported on some further updates to the system. Ed reported that the county mutual aid website should be available to county fire chiefs within a month.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the flashover simulator is being used regularly and is available for departments to use. Mike reported that FFII is wrapping up and FFI will wrap up in June. Mike reported that the June 8 Basic Pump class will need four engines. Mike reported that the summer FFI class has only three students signed up and more are needed. Mike reported on a straw shortage in the area and recommended that anyone scheduled to use the training center should call ahead to make sure straw is available. Anyone who has QTO, QSO, and ODI certification needs to attend a refresher session. Mike reported on the failure of the training center engine and that a replacement is being sought. The ladder is now in the bay and has been cleaned up. There are new carpets in the classrooms and no food or drink, except water, will be allowed. Mike reported that he working with the county on the possibility of having them assume the costs for propane and straw. Mike reported on the RIT training standards that will apply to future classes.

Library – Ron Bird reported that the library is open and that the relocation will be completed by the end of summer.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Chief Jim Garth reported that the next meeting is scheduled for May 29, 2008 in Northfield.

NJ Fireman's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that check was received from the state association. Oscar reported on the ongoing efforts to establish a second home in South Jersey. Oscar reported on a recent trip to tour the new home in New York State. Oscar reported on two new patios installed at the home and that the recent golf tournament was a success with approx. \$15,000 raised.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein reported financial reports show that more was paid for relief last year than was paid for convention expenses. Three resolutions will be presented at this year's convention. The burial benefit will be raised to \$9,300 on July 1, 2008.

Audit Committee – President Portale reported that the committee will meet with the accountant on May 22, 2008.

4H Fair – President Portale reported that Gene Wellington will take the lead for arranging the firefighter competition as well as scheduling the trucks. The competition will be limited to five or six teams.

ACFFA Dinner – President Portale reported that Wayne Dilks did an excellent job on the dinner. The appetizers, the venue, the dinner, and the dessert were all excellent. The dinner committee reported that a small profit was made by the association and a good time was had by all in attendance.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

President Portale reported that he will be accepting resumes for the vacant position of Assistant Secretary-Treasurer due to the need to fill the position. The financial committee will review the resumes.

New Business

There was no new business to act on.

Bills

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

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership to act on.

Good of the Order

Lefty Clayton reported that Major General Thomas Matthews, Ret. will make a presentation at the July 16 meeting in Linwood. The general's last assignment was as the federal communication coordinator at the California wildfires last fall.

President Portale reported that Atlantic City Electric will have their safety trailer at the Aug. 20 meeting in Mays Landing.

Thank you to the Oceanville Vol. Fire Company for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

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 Jun. 18, 2008 in Collings Lakes.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Date Clearing

Sat. May 31	12:00	Port Republic VFC	Housing, Parade, and Firefighter Challenge
Sun. Jun. 10	7:00	Dover Downs Speedway	Egg Harbor City Fire Co. NASCAR Bus Trip
Sat. Jun. 7	08:00	Hammonton Sta. 1	Boater Safety Course
Fri. Jun. 13	13:00	McCullough's Emerald Links	Bargaintown VFC Golf Outing
Fri. Jun. 13	14:00	Hammonton Fire Co. #2	Howard Macri Memorial Blood Drive
Tues. Aug. 19	19:30	Egg Harbor City	Atl. Co. Firemen's Caucus
Fri. Sept. 12	13:00	Wildwood	NJ State Firemen's Convention
Sat. Sept. 13	10:00	Wildwood	NJ State Firemen's Convention
Sat. Oct. 4	15:30	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sat. Oct. 18	12:00	Pomona VFC	Building Dedication and Truck Housing

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