

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

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



Secretary
Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer
Stacey Wellington
Asst. Sect./Treasurer
Jaime C. Mellon

July 16, 2008

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on July 16, 2008 at the Linwood 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 Introduction of Host Chief

Chief Foster of the Linwood Fire Company was introduced. Chief Foster welcomed all to Linwood.

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 June 18, 2008 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Special Presentation

General John Matthews Ret., US Army North was introduced by Chief Clayton. Gen. Matthews spoke on his involvement at the forest fires in California as well as the mission of Army North and the support that can be provided to civil authorities during natural disasters and other large scale incidents. Gen. Matthews pointed out, that so far Dept. of Defense resources have only been deployed to wildfire incidents.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer as read by President Amor "Skip" Portale as he received it from Treasurer Stacey Wellington, whom was not in attendance.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Executive Committee held on July 11, 2008 in Landisville. Howard also summarized the submitted proposals changes and additions to the Constitution and Bylaws that will be read under new business. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be Sept. 11 in Absecon.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. summarized the minutes of the meeting held July 14, 2008. The repair of the burn building and the new security procedures were discussed.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent reported on the Sweetwater Casino fire and thanked the Deputy Fire Coordinators for an excellent job. The LDH strike team recently held a drill in Absecon that went well. Bargaintown has sold their tanker and as a result they are no longer part of Tanker Task Force Div. A. The mutual aid web access will be presented at the July 29 meeting of the Atl. Co. Chiefs' Assn. in Estell Manor. Ed reported on the critique held in Hammonton after the Universal Supply fire. Ed reported on many alerts and advisories that he has received as well as a SCBA composite bottle replacement plan being put together by the State of NJ. Ed would like to know the total count of composite bottles in the county. Please contact him at (609)839-1584.

Fire Marshal / Public Relations – Whitey Swartz thanked everyone who submitted run totals for the annual county fire report. Whitey reported on the county security chief's written plan for the training center and the procedures that are currently being implemented. Whitey reported that he will not be able to schedule a fire expo for this year, but defiantly plans on putting one together for 2009.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the fall training schedule has been printed and mailed. The county will completely clean and repair the burn building. The building will be out of service for approximately sixty days and should start in mid August. The recent Basic Pump course went well. Over one hundred attended the FFI and FFII graduation in June. The fall FFI will start on August 12 and FFII will start in September. Mike summarized the schedule of classes and emphasized the importance of the flashover training that is available. Several county departments have not yet attended flashover training and they should consider doing so. Mike apologized for not yet have instructor applications ready. They will be sent to all county chiefs within the next week. All tuition bills have been sent out; please submit payment as soon as possible. The possibility of a regional grant to obtain a new or used engine for the academy is being researched.

Library – Ron Bird reported that the library is open and that the relocation will be completed by the end of summer. If anything is needed, please contact him.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Chief Jim Garth reported that the next meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2008 in Estell Manor. The acting commander of the Bass River barracks of the state police should be in attendance. Discussion will include response procedures on the Garden State Parkway.

NJ Fireman's Home – Oscar Dutch reported on the hiring of a new superintendant for the home. The acting superintendant has accepted the job. Oscar also reported on the continuing improvement projects at the home.

NJ Fireman's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein reported that the death benefit for exempt members has been increased to \$9300 from \$9000 on July 1. The Atlantic County Caucus is scheduled for 19:30 (reg. start 18:45) on Tuesday August 19 in Egg Harbor City. Henry reviewed the two resolutions that will be voted upon at the convention. Henry reported that the office of the 2nd Asst. Secretary is the only contested position. Henry reported that convention expenses have been raised to \$500 for delegates and the penalty for missing the caucus is \$100. The convention will be held on Sept. 12 and 13 in Wildwood.

Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund - Henry Schoenstein reported that a meeting is scheduled for Thurs. July 24 at 20:00 in Egg Harbor City.

4H Fair – Scheduled for Aug. 7, 8, and 9. Gene Wellington reported on the apparatus display and firefighter competition plans.

Procurement Committee – Ted Reinhard reported on the recent acquisition of books and DVDs from Pennwell Publishing. The secretary will send out letters of appreciation on behalf of the association.

Communications

A letter from the NJ Firemen's Home thanking all for support of their golf outing.

Deferred Business

President Portale reported that he is appointing Jaime C. Mellon, of the Oceanville Vol. Fire Co., to the position of Assistant Secretary-Treasurer for the remainder of the year.

New Business

Drawing for Wildwood Parade order within Atlantic County:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Galloway Twp. | 6. Swartz Fire Museum | 11. Remaining Atl. Co. Units |
| 2. Buena Boro | 7. Egg Harbor Twp. | as submitted directly to Parade Committee |
| 3. Egg Harbor City | 8. Longport | |
| 4. Hamilton Twp. | 9. Somers Point | |
| 5. Absecon | 10. Linwood | |

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association sponsor two trophies for the Memorial Parade in Wildwood. One trophy for best appearing Atlantic County Apparatus and one for best overall appearing Atlantic County Company or Department.

The first reading of the proposed Constitution and By-laws revisions and additions were accepted as read.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to have the finance committee decide the best possible manner of dealing with the CD that is due on August 26.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to purchase a mannequin for training, not exceeding \$975.00, if the funds are available.

President Portale announced that a new system of funding will be in place for the Atlantic County Firefighter I training for the year 2009.

Bills

The bills were read by President Amor "Skip" Portale as he received it from Treasurer Stacey Wellington, whom was not in attendance. 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

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

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 22:10. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Aug. 20, 2008 in Mays Landing.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Date Clearing

Thurs. Jul. 24	20:00	Egg Harbor City	Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund Mtg.
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)

Proposal for Revision
"Constitution, Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of the State of New Jersey".

CHANGES

Article II (OBJECTIVES)

Section 1

Current: *OBJECTS The objects of this Association shall be to promote the welfare of the several member fire companies; to arouse interest, through discussions, toward improving our services as firefighters; to create a feeling of good will and good fellowship among the members; and, by means of our unity, to promote legislation beneficial to this Association and its members.*

Proposed: *OBJECTS The objects of this Association shall be to promote the welfare of the several member fire companies; to arouse interest, through discussions, toward improving our services as firefighters; and to create a feeling of good will and good fellowship among the members.*

Section 3

Current: *COMMUNICATIONS To operate and maintain the Atlantic County Station of the Seven (7) County South Jersey Radio Network for intra-county emergency communications. To operate and maintain the Atlantic County Emergency Communications Control Center and the Mobile Communications Unit of Atlantic County. To provide emergency fire and disaster communications for the Fire Departments of Atlantic County during any fire or disaster.*

Proposed: *COMMUNICATIONS To work with and assist the Atlantic County Office of Emergency Management with the operation of the emergency communications system as it pertains to the fire service within Atlantic County.*

NEW

Proposed:

ARTICLE X

SECTION 1: SEVERABILITY *If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of the Constitution shall be held to be invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Constitution.*

SECTION 2: CONFLICTS *This Constitution is subordinate to all provisions of the Declaration, and to any applicable provisions of the Annotated Code of New Jersey. All of the terms hereof, except where clearly repugnant to the context, shall have the same meaning as in the Declaration or the aforesaid statutes. In the event of any conflict between the aforesaid Declaration and any applicable provisions of the Annotated Code of New Jersey, the provisions of the statute shall control.*

Respectfully submitted;

By-laws Committee
Friday, July 11, 2008

First Reading
Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Proposal for Addition
“By-Laws, Atlantic County Firefighters’ Association of the State of New Jersey”.

NEW

Proposed:

ARTICLE XII

SECTION 1: SEVERABILITY If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of these By-Laws shall be held to be invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of these By-Laws.

SECTION 2: CONFLICTS These By-Laws are subordinate to all provisions of the Declaration, and to any applicable provisions of the Annotated Code of New Jersey. All of the terms hereof, except where clearly repugnant to the context, shall have the same meaning as in the Declaration or the aforesaid statutes. In the event of any conflict between the aforesaid Declaration and any applicable provisions of the Annotated Code of New Jersey, the provisions of the statute shall control.

Respectfully submitted;

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