

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

August 20, 2008

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Aug. 20, 2008 at the Mays Landing 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 Connelly of the Mays Landing Fire Company was introduced. Chief Connelly welcomed all to Mays Landing and introduced the officers of the fire company. Chief Connelly then introduced Deputy Mayor Nelson Gaskill who welcomed all to Hamilton Township and expressed appreciation for all that the firefighters do for the community.

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 July 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. reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be Sept. 5 in Absecon.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board will be Sept. 8.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent reported that he has not received any counts of the SCBA composite bottles in the county. The total count is needed for a 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 to report the count for your company as soon as possible. Ed reported on the last County Chief's meeting where a NJ State Police representative was present to discuss response issues on the Garden State Parkway. Ed reported that he has been receiving a phone call when any apparatus in the county is pulled from service or returned to service. This information has helped greatly when determining what mutual aid apparatus is available. Ed reported on the planning and execution of plans put in place for the 2008 Atlantic City Air Show. Ed reported that 800mhz. radios have been received from the 2008 Homeland Security Grant. Other items to be covered by the grant are fire gear for the instructors and mannequins for training. The radios will be distributed to certain companies in September. Ed further reported on some date changes for classes sponsored by the Division of Fire Safety and many other reports and notifications he has received from the state.

Fire Marshal / Public Relations – Whitey Swartz reported that information about the poster contest will be sent out to the schools soon. Please contact your schools and push for participation. The last poster contest had a poor response and the contest may not be held if that continues. Whitey reported that sod will be installed in front of the monument soon. The burn building is out of service for approximately four to five weeks. A full cleaning and repair job is being done by the county. Whitey reported that he will send a questionnaire out to all departments and companies in the county so that a contact and information book can be prepared for the county. Whitey asks that everyone please reply to the questionnaire when they are received.

Training – President Portale reported that FFI has started and the Director of Training, Mike Corbo, has received seven applications for the open instructor positions. Billy Merola reported that FFI has thirty students, FFII starts on Sept. 8, and the Basic Rope Rescue class has been moved to Sept. 5, 6, & 7.

Library – Ron Bird reported that the library is open and if anything is needed, please contact him.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – President Portale reported that the last meeting of the Chief's Association was productive with a discussion held with a NJ State Police representative about response issues on the Garden State Parkway. The next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association is Sept. 25 in Nesco.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that he has a newsletter published by the Firemen's Home is available and will be published semi-annually.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein thank all that attended the Atlantic County Caucus on Tuesday August 19 in Egg Harbor City. President Portale congratulated Henry for being reelected as the Executive Committeeman for Atlantic County. The convention will be held on Sept. 12 and 13 in Wildwood.

4H Fair – Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the 2008 4H Fair was very successful. Howard Berchtold Jr., Ellsworth Ott, Harold "Whitey" Swartz, and Gene Wellington served on the committee for the association. Howard thanked Stacy Wellington, Ron Bird, Mike Corbo, and Ed Conover for all of the assistance that they provided for the fair. Howard also thanked Gene Wellington and all of the fire instructors that put on an excellent firefighter competition. Howard noted that a 4H member built and donated the water rocket for the competition. Gene Wellington reported on the competition and has already starting planning for next year. Howard Berchtold thanked all of the companies that displayed apparatus. President Portale thanked Dennis Sharpe and Joe Landy for all of their hard work with establishing the firefighter competition and running it for several years prior to this year. President Portale also thanked Gene Wellington and all of the fire instructors that put together this year's competition. The winners of the competition were; Reverse Hose Lay – Laureldale, Water Rocket – Weymouth, Midnight Run (Obstacle Course) – Germania, and the Overall Time Winner – Germania.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

Treasurer Wellington reported that CDs are due to mature soon and she would like to reallocate those assets into multiple CDs that will mature at three month intervals so that funds would be available if needed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to follow the Treasurer's recommendation.

New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

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

Dennis Sharpe reported that Chief Danz, of the Egg Harbor Township Fire Dept., has scheduled a drill at the Seaview Harbor Marina at 08:00 on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008. Recent reports show that as many as 500 – 600 people may be living and/or sleeping in the boats during the summer season. Longport and Somers Point will also participate in the drill.

Dennis Sharpe congratulated Henry Schoenstein for being reelected to Atlantic County Executive Committeeman for the New Jersey State Firemen's Association.

Dennis Sharpe thanked Howard Berchtold for helping free him from some responsibilities so that he may care for his father.

Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz reported that Vince Jones is now the Public Safety Director as well as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Atlantic County.

Ted Reinhard, Ambassador of Procurement, received a thank you card from Julie Simmons of Pennwell Publishing (Fire Engineering).

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

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:15. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Sep. 17, 2008 in Hammonton Sta. 2.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Date Clearing

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
Sat. Nov. 8	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Ham & Oyster Dinner

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