

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
Asst. Sect./Treasurer
Jaime C. Mellon

October 15, 2008

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Oct. 15, 2008 at the Port Republic Vol. Fire Company by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

Chief Yochim of the Port Republic Fire Company was introduced. Chief Yochim welcomed all to Port Republic.

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 Sep. 17, 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 is scheduled for Oct. 31, 2008. The committee, and all interested in joining them for dinner, will meet in South Egg Harbor at 17:30 and travel to Hammonton for dinner. The Executive Committee meeting will follow dinner in South Egg Harbor at 19:30.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board will be held on Nov. 3, 2008.

Fire Coordinator – Oscar Dutch made the report for Ed Vincent. The approval for the FY2009 monies has been received from the county. If any departments have any items they would like to purchase beyond their budget, contact Ed with a list of the items. Lefty Clayton and Chip Stockton reported on the drill held at Seaview Marina in Egg Harbor Township.

Fire Marshal / Public Relations – Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz reported on the poster contest. Both the state and Whitey have sent information about the contest to all the schools in the county. Whitey reported on the fire departments that have not yet sent any run totals for the county report. Whitey reported that the repairs to the burn building have been completed. Sod has been installed around the memorial. Whitey would like to schedule a service at the memorial in May of 2009. Whitey will be distributing an informational book to all county departments. Whitey reported that the golf cart at the training center has died. The county may buy a used gasoline model as a replacement. Whitey reported that the rail car at the training center is in need of painting. Donations of paint for the project are being sought. Please spread the word to those who may want to donate paint.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the Board of Managers held their reorganizational meeting. Oscar has been appointed Chairman for another year. Oscar reported on various news and projects at the home.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein reported that the poor behavior exhibited at the 2nd session of the convention was discussed at the last committee meeting. Henry reported that due to this behavior, Sgt-At-Arms will be posted at all convention entrances in 2009 and will be checking for proper credentials as per the president. Henry reported on the possibility of a code of conduct being adopted for the convention.

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

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported the following. The burn building repairs are complete. The building has already been burned in and is holding up well. New smoke barrels have been put into service. These barrels have feet and are the only ones to be used from now on. A new parapet wall has been installed and includes tie off points. Plans are in place to start a defensive driving class. The instructors will be trained to deliver the class to departments utilizing the department's apparatus for hands on training. A class is being developed for extrication and hybrid cars. The class will include an emergency response guide for hybrid cars and hopefully several hybrid models will be available for inspection. FFI and FFII are currently running. The basic and advanced extrication classes need more students. The county has reported that no instructor turnout gear, smoke machines, or mannequins have been approved with the latest grant request. Apparently the grant specs did not meet the specs of the homeland security grant process. The county may be able to budget money for a couple of sets of instructor turnout gear now and more sets in 2009. A NFPA standard now limits the life of turnout gear to ten years. President Portale will schedule a meeting to discuss the instructor gear with Vince Jones. Mike also reported that a dive trailer is going to Brigantine and a cascade/light trailer is going to Ventnor/Margate/Longport (to be stored in Ventnor). The trailers were received under the latest grants and are available to the entire county when needed.

4H Fair – Howard Berchtold, Gene Wellington, and Ellsworth Ott presented trophies to the winning teams from the Firefighter Competition held at the 2008 Atl. Co. 4H Fair. Plans are already under way for next year's competition. President Portale thanked the committee for a job well done and congratulated the competition winners.

Reverse Hose Lay – Germania VFC
Water Rocket – Weymouth VFC

Midnight Run – Laureldale VFC
Overall Winner – Germania VFC

ACFFA Dinner (Ladies' Night) – Wayne Dilks reported that planning has started for the 2009 dinner. A possible date would be Friday April 17, 2009.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act on.

New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

Nomination of Officers

The first of two rounds of nominations was held. Those nominated are as follows.

President (1)	Amor "Skip" Portale
1 st Vice President (1)	Ellsworth Ott
2 nd Vice President (1)	Charles "Chick" Kisby
Secretary (1)	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer (1)	Stacey Wellington
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	Jaime C. Mellon
Chaplain (1)	Rev. Thomas Sweeny
Sgt.-at-Arms (3)	Jeffrey A. Rascone, Charles Harlan
Executive Comm. (9)	Howard Berchtold Jr., Oscar Dutch Jr., Dennis C. Sharpe Ronald Bird Jr., James Garth Sr.*, Ted Reinhard, R. Thomas Hunter Jr.* Rick Coraluzzo Sr.*, Charles J. Guenther, Gilbert Zonge Jr.*, Vince "Skip" Granese

*have not yet formally accepted nomination, must do so before elections

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

Patrick L. Broecker of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department was accepted into membership.

Timothy R. Hesse Jr. of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department was accepted into membership.

Michael Kienzle of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department was accepted into membership.

Chris Zipfel of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department was accepted into membership.

Good of the Order

Whitey Swartz reported that he has posters of last year's state poster contest winner available for distribution.

Dennis Sharpe reported that Chief Danz sends his thanks for all those that attended the recent drill at Seaview Marina.

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

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

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 Nov. 19, 2008 in Somers Point Sta. No. 1.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Date Clearing

Sat. Oct. 18	12:00	Pomona VFC	Building Dedication and Truck Housing
Sat. Oct. 18	12:00	Oceanville VFC	Classic Car Show (Smithville Town Square)
Sat. Oct. 18	16:00	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner
Sat. Oct. 25	10:00	Farmington VFC	Craft Show
Sat. Oct. 25	11:00	Landisville VFC	Beef BBQ
Sun. Oct. 26	07:00	Weymouth VFC	Breakfast Buffet
Sat. Nov. 1	09:00	South Egg Harbor VFC	Craft Show
Sat. Nov. 8	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Ham & Oyster Dinner - Raffle Drawing (Tickets May Be Available)
Sat. Nov. 22	11:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sale
Thurs. Jan. 22, 2009	20:00	Absecon FD	Meeting of Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund

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