

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

November 19, 2008

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Nov. 19, 2008 at the Somers Point Fire Company No. 1 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

President John Batty Jr. of the Somers Point Fire Company No. 1 was introduced. President Batty welcomed all to Somers Point. President Batty then introduced Mayor Jack Glasser who also welcomed all to Somers Point.

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 Oct. 15, 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 Oct. 31, 2008 Executive Committee meeting. Howard emphasized the need to collect overdue training payments or the possibility of barring a department from training will have to be looked at. With the new partnership with the County of Atlantic for Firefighter I training, it is imperative that collection of training fees be done in a timely manner. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Jan. 2, 2009 in Pomona. This will be a reorganizational meeting.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. summarized the details of the meeting held on Nov. 3, 2008. Vince Jones was in attendance and explained what happened with the grants and reviewed what he will submit with his budget including instructor turn-out gear.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent reported on the Homeland Security Grants that applications will be submitted for. Ed requested that if any departments have something to be put on the grant wish list that they email him at evincent@thomascoinc.com. Please have the details, including literature, pricing, and availability to the county, before

Dec. 3, 2008. The fire coordinators will meet after the grant meeting to discuss the proposals. Ed reported on the fires that the coordinators have responded to, including the forest fire in Burlington County.

Fire Marshal / Public Relations – Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz requested that all 2008 fire reports be submitted to him before Feb. 1, 2009. Whitey reported that the Cape-Atlantic 200 Club will award Valor Awards in 2009, This is not related to the ACFFA Valor Awards. Whitey requested that all new officers names be sent to him just after the start of the new year. Whitey reported that the informational book is done and mailing will start tomorrow. Whitey reported on several bulletins of interest, including bulletins about Compact Fluorescent Bulbs and Scott Packs. Whitey had copies of the bulletins for those in attendance. Whitey reported that the county will purchase a new golf cart for the training center, ACFD will be conducting trench rescue training at the training center, and the old F2500 bus will be donated to the Sandpipers once all necessary resolutions have been approved.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that FFI will finish on Dec. 4 and will conduct a night burn on Dec. 2. The elevator rescue class, scheduled for Dec. 7, may be cancelled due to low enrollment. The spring semester FFI will start in February and FFII will start in March. Nov. 29 is the rain date for Engine Ops. And Adv. Vehicle Extrication. A new course on Hybrid Vehicles will be scheduled for the spring semester. Each student will get a copy of the Emer. Response Guide for each hybrid vehicle. An Educational Methodology class will be scheduled for the spring. The burn building is not to be used with water if the temperature will drop below 34 degrees following training. Mike reported on the recent problems with the burn building since the repairs. Only smoke barrels with legs are to be used in the burn building. Mike reported on the steps being taken to collect training fees owed to the association and on the search for a new engine for the training center. Mike further reported that he will be retiring from the Pleasantville Fire Department on Dec. 31, 2008.

Library – Ron Bird reported that the library is open and if anything is needed, please contact him. Ron is still working on the inventory of the library.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Jim Garth reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association will be on Nov. 25, 2008 in Linwood.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported on the ongoing projects at the home including taking pictures of the property for the home's website. Oscar reported on the efforts to market the home in order to increase occupancy.

ACFFA Dinner (Ladies' Night) – Wayne Dilks reported that the dinner is scheduled for Friday April 17, 2009 at Careme's, Atl. Cape Comm. College, and the menu will include a beef option. Wayne reported that a check for \$100.00 will be needed to reserve the date.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

Director of Training Mike Corbo made the recommendation of four new instructors to be hired. These recommendations were chosen after all candidates meet with the Director of Training and the Interview Committee of the association. Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association hire the recommended instructors.

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

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association donate \$200.00 to the NJ Firemen's Home.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association pay the annual stipends to the secretary and the treasurer.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association put down \$100.00 to reserve the date of the annual dinner to be held at Careme's at Atl. Cape Comm. College on April 17, 2009.

Nomination of Officers

The second of two rounds of nominations was held. Only the nominations made by, and seconded by, delegates to the association, in good standing, were recognized. Those that were nominated had to be a delegate or member, as stipulated in the by-laws, of the association and formally accept the nomination. 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, William Thomas Hand
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, C. Robert Winkler III, John Keeper

An election by secret ballot will be held for the contested offices of the Executive Committee at the Dec. 17, 2008 meeting of the association. All other offices are uncontested and a motion that the secretary of the association cast a single ballot for those offices will be in order for the Dec. 17, 2008 meeting of the association.

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.

Good of the Order

Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that VFIS has trained some association instructors to teach a defensive driving class. This is a practical hands-on two day class. The training will be done with the apparatus belonging to the company being trained. The training can be done at the training center or an area provided by the department being trained as long as it is the correct size.

Skip Portale thanked all companies that attended Pomona's dedication and housing on behalf of himself and the Pomona Vol. Fire Co. No. 3 of the Galloway Township Fire Department.

Ted Reinhard reported on his recent acquisitions for the training department donated by Pennwell Publishing. Catalogs were provided by Pennwell Publishing for distribution to association departments. Please support them since they provide so much support for this association.

Dennis Sharpe thanked everyone who was able to attend the viewing and service for his father.

Dennis Sharpe reported on the recent Egg Harbor City fire and the excellent effort that was put into extinguishing it.

Thank you to the Somers Point Fire Company No. 1 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 21:20. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Dec. 17, 2008 in West Atlantic City, Egg Harbor Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Date Clearing

Sat. Nov. 22	11:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sale
Wed. Nov. 26	18:00	Gourmet Italian Cuisine, Galloway	Firefighter's Night Out Benefit - Bayview VFC
Wed. Dec. 10	19:00	Prudential Center – Newark, NJ	NJ Devils vs. Pittsburgh Penguins – Firefighter/EMS Discount
Sat. Dec. 13	19:00	Hammonton Fire Dept	11 th Annual Christmas Parade – Reg. @ 17:30, Parade @ 19:00
Sun. Dec. 14	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community Breakfast
Sun. Dec. 21	13:00	Prudential Center – Newark, NJ	NJ Devils vs. Philadelphia Flyers – Firefighter/EMS Discount
Thurs. Jan. 22, 2009	20:00	Absecon FD	Meeting of Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund
Sat. Apr. 4, 2009	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Fri. Apr. 17, 2009	18:30	Careme's @ Atl. Cape Comm. College	Annual ACFFA Dinner
Sat. May 2, 2009	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sat. Nov. ?, 2009	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner

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