

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

January 21, 2009

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Jan. 21, 2009 at the Egg Harbor City Vol. Fire Company by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with the flag salute, followed by an invocation offered by Rev. Thomas Sweeny, Chaplain of the Association. A bagpipe musical selection was played by the Sandpipers. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Opening Remarks

Chief Russell Fenton, of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department, welcomed the membership and guests to Egg Harbor City. Chief Fenton then introduced the line officers of the fire department. Chief Fenton then introduced Egg Harbor City Mayor, Joseph A. Kuehner, Jr.. Mayor Kuehner welcomed all to Egg Harbor City and introduced Egg Harbor City Council members; Elizabeth "Betty" Schoenstein, Edward D. Dennis, Patrick Moran, and Lisa Jiampetti.

In Attendance

President Portale welcomed and introduced guests: Bill Carson on behalf of U.S. Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo, Atlantic County Freeholders: James Curcio, Jim Schroeder, and Frank Sutton, Atl. Co. Fire Marshall: Harold "Whitey" Swartz, Atl. Co. Director of Highway Safety: Michael Shurman, Atl. Co. Deputy Director of Emergency Management: Ed Conover, Atlantic County Fire Academy Director of Training: Michael Corbo.

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 Dec. 17, 2008 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Dispensing of Regular Business

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the remainder of the regular business except for the paying of the bills.

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Paying of Bills

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

Annual Memorial Service

President Amor "Skip" Portale welcomed all to the annual Memorial Service. The annual memorial services were conducted by the Memorial Committee with Chaplain Reverend Thomas Sweeny giving the homily with the memorial candles being lit by First Vice President Ellsworth Ott and Second Vice President Charles "Chick" Kisby, and the bell being tolled by James Garth Sr. as Secretary Robert A. Mellon read the roll of the Firefighters of Atlantic County who answered their last alarm during the past year.

Firefighters of the Final Roll were:

ABSECON

Harold C. Conover

ATLANTIC CITY

Walter Cress

James C. Hogan Sr.

Edward W. Jordan

Daniel L. McMeekin

Andrew J. Roe Jr.

Frank Charles Woener

BARGAIN TOWN

Ronald W. Gaskill Jr.

BRIGANTINE

Paul L. Barrie

Mark John Drabik

EAST VINELAND

Charles C. Bylone

EGG HARBOR CITY

Robert G Dampf

Joseph A. Eichinger Sr.

FOLSOM

Anthony P. Curatola Sr.

Charles G. Parker

George R. Smith Sr.

GERMANIA

Clyde W. Stockton Sr.

Emory R. Stuckel

HAMMONTON

John A. Tomasello

LANDISVILLE

Frank Santagata

LINWOOD

Earl Mulford Potter Sr.

MILMAY

Henry Frank

MINOTOLA

Robert Hogan

MIZPAH

Sebastiano Dellagatta

NESSCO

William Thibault Jr.

NJ AIR NATIONAL GUARD

177TH FIGHTER WING

James P. Hannon Sr.

NJ FOREST FIRE SERVICE

Harry Morris III

NORTHFIELD

Harry Cummings

OCEANVILLE

David G. Leeds Jr.

PLEASANTVILLE

Anthony E. Cardile

Joseph C. McLaughlin

John Williams Sharpe

POMONA

Ernest Grunow

PORT REPUBLIC

Ralph J. Shaw Jr.

RICHLAND

Leonard L. Armato

SCULLVILLE

Frank T. Smith

SOMERS POINT

Arthur Elwell Jr.

WEEKSTOWN

William R. Bebeck

Leroy Ricci

WEST ATLANTIC CITY

Charles Adams

"The Lord's Prayer" was sung by Howard Berchtold Jr., "Taps" was played by Bugler Joseph Ward, followed by the playing of "Amazing Grace" by the Sandpipers. Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

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Installation of Officers for 2009

All of the invited guests addressed the membership and expressed their appreciation for all that the firefighters do for their local communities and for Atlantic County. A letter from Congressman Frank Loblondo expressing his regret for being unable to attend, as well as congratulating the new officers, was read.

Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. welcomed all those in attendance to the annual meeting and memorial service on behalf of the Executive Committee. Howard thanked all of the association officers for the hard work that they do. Howard noted that he is proud to have again been elected to the Chairman position on the Executive Committee and that Oscar Dutch Jr. has been elected Asst. Chairman. Howard welcomed Charles "Rob" Winkler II as a new member of the Executive Committee. Howard thanked all on the Executive Committee and all of the other committee chairman for their hard work. Howard thanked all of the county firefighters that support and make this association work and noted that President Obama's inaugural speech made reference to firefighters as one of the service jobs for community that he will be putting emphasize on when pushing the public to do more community service.

President Amor "Skip" Portale read the following prepared statement.

"Good evening and welcome to the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association Annual Memorial Service and reorganization meeting. As most of you know, the primary function of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association is to provide training to all volunteer firefighters in Atlantic County. During the year 2008 we were able to provide training to 509 students, through 39 different course, for a total of 2,063 hours of training. Without the assistance of Atlantic County government, and our dedicated staff of instructors, much of this would not have been possible and for that we thank them.

We have always been thankful for the help that we receive from county government, but in 2008, with the economy in such bad shape, the county really deserves our praise. Even though they were not always able to grant our request for additional equipment, they were always willing to meet with us and come up with viable solutions to our needs. We didn't always get what we asked for, but rest assured that County Executive Levinson and his staff always kept the best interest of both the taxpayers and the association in mind.

2008 was a very productive year for the association. With the assistance of County Executive Levinson and Freeholder Frank Sutton, the county agreed to help with the funding of Firefighter I. We also finalized the training budget for the first time and are currently putting together a three year plan for equipment needs. We computerized our financial records with the goal of generating quarterly financial reports and have welcomed four new instructors and a new Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

As we begin 2009, I look forward to working with county government and the members of the Executive Committee to keep the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association one of the best in the State of New Jersey"

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Atlantic County Freeholder Frank Sutton installed the following into office for the year 2009:

President	Amor "Skip" Portale	Executive Committee:
1 st Vice President	Ellsworth Ott	Howard Berchtold Jr.
2 nd Vice President	Charles "Chick" Kisby	Ronald Bird Jr.
Secretary	Robert A. Mellon	Rick Coraluzzo Sr.
Treasurer	Stacey Wellington	James Garth Sr.
Asst. Sec.-Trea.	Jaime C. Mellon	R. Thomas Hunter
Chaplain	Rev. Thomas Sweeny	Ted Reinhard
Sergeants-at-Arms	William Thomas Hand	Charles R. Winkler III
	Charles Harlan	
	Jeff Rascone	

Those not present were:

Executive Committee	Oscar Dutch Jr.
Executive Committee	Charles J. Guenther

Good of the Order

The 50/50 raffle was drawn.

Thank you to the Egg Harbor City Fire Dept. 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 meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Feb. 18, 2009 at the Longport Fire Company. There will be a presentation on new pagers at this meeting.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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Date Clearing

Thurs. Jan. 22, 2009	20:00	Absecon FD	Meeting of Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund
Mon. Jan. 26, 2009	19:00	Atl. Co. Fire Academy	FFI and FFII Graduation Ceremony
Sun. Feb. 8, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sat. Feb. 28, 2009	09:00	New Egypt Fire Sta. 39	Hosting New Jersey F.O.O.L.S. Seminar
Sun. Mar. 15, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sat. Apr. 4, 2009	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sun. Apr. 19, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
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
Sun. May 10, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sun. Jun. 14, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sat. Jun. 20, 2009	11:00	Scullville VFC	75th Anniversary Parade & Housing

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