

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

February 18, 2009

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Feb. 18, 2009 at the Longport Fire Dept. by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Howard Berchtold. Howard asked that all remember Ted Reinhard who is recovering from glaucoma surgery while also celebrating his 80th birthday. A card was made available for all to sign for Ted. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

Chief Clayton of the Longport Fire Company was introduced. Chief Clayton welcomed all to Longport. Chief Clayton introduced Mayor Nick Russo. Mayor Russo welcomed all to Longport and offered several informative, as well as humorous, stories from his time with the NJ State Police Arson Investigation Unit.

In Attendance

Roll call was taken by Secretary Robert A. Mellon who reported a quorum was present.

Special Presentation

Chief Clayton introduced D'Shawna Dupree-Wilson of RITEC Enterprises, Inc. out of Rochester, NY. Mrs. Dupree-Wilson gave a presentation on the RE629 analog receiver (pager) made by Swissphone based in Switzerland. Swissphone was founded in 1969 and has been manufacturing fire service alert systems (pagers) since 1970. Swissphone is the current number one fire alert system supplier to Europe with 85% of the market. Mrs. Dupree-Wilson presented the RE629 analog receiver (pager) as a reliable and cost effective replacement of the Motorola Minitor pager series. The Swissphone pager is fully compatible and can be used at the same time as the Motorola pagers. Mrs. Dupree-Wilson provided literature on the pager to those in attendance as well as provided a demo unit for a hands on look at the pager. President Portale thanked Mrs. Dupree-Wilson for the very informative presentation.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the Jan. 21, 2009 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 meeting of the Executive Committee held on Jan. 2, 2009 in Pomona. Howard reported that he has been elected to chair the committee for another year and Oscar Dutch Jr. will also serve another year as Assistant Chairman of the committee. Howard summarized the lengthy discussion from the committee meeting about the training program and the training budget that was submitted to and adopted by the Executive Committee.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that he was unable to attend the board meeting held on Jan.12, 2009 at the training center. Howard summarized the minutes of that meeting as taken by Fire Marshal Harold “Whitey” Swartz. Director of Public Safety, Vince Jones and Freeholder Frank Sutton were in attendance. A new golf cart has been obtained for the training center. Discussion was held concerning the county budgeting for new instructor gear as well as finding a replacement engine. The next trench rescue class will be held at the FAA Tech Center due to space constraints at the training center. Whitey reported that a firefighter banner, donated by Charles Sander (dec.), has been hung at the training center.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent thanked the firefighters’ association for working with him over the last year. Ed reported on the status of the Homeland Security grant as well as the entire system of getting a grant request submitted. Ed reported that not all departments submit for a grant and suggested that those not submitting may want to volunteer to sponsor a grant request for the county. Ed reported on the two upcoming seminars for the grants and suggested that all those that can attend would find them to be informative.

Public Relations – Fire Marshal Harold “Whitey” Swartz reported that he needs Valor Award nominations to be submitted as soon as possible. Whitey reported that not many posters have been submitted for the Poster Contest. Whitey asked that everyone check with their local schools to see if they have any. Posters should be submitted by March 1. Whitey suggested that if there is a poor response to the poster contest, maybe it should be dropped for a couple of years. Whitey reported on the Cape Atlantic 200 Club Memorial Service and Breakfast scheduled for Mar. 8. Whitey suggested scheduling a Memorial Service to be held at the Heroes Monument at the training center. The suggestion from the floor was for the first Sunday in October since the Fire Expo will be held on the following Saturday. All felt that this was a good idea. Whitey reported that he will soon begin planning the Fire Expo and will need volunteers to serve a the Fire Expo Committee as well as assist with the planning. Whitey reported on the appointees to the Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board as well as the need for a new trailer for the training center golf cart.

Training –Director of Training, Mike Corbo reported that the training webpage has the course book available for viewing, downloading, and printing. Mike reported that FFI now has 51 students and FFII will start soon and has room for more registrants. Mike reported that other scheduled classes do not yet have the minimum number of registrants to run. Please schedule your firefighters for the excellent training opportunity available at the Atlantic County Fire Academy. Mike reported on the NJ DFS and National Fire Academy (NFA) training opportunities that are also available. Mike reported that the fire academy will conduct two fire officer classes in the spring. Mike reported that the NJ Women in the Fire Service retreat will be held at the fire academy this spring. Mike also reported on the condition of the burn building and the ongoing monitoring of the situation.

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 Mar. 31, 2008 in Minotola.

NJ Firemen’s Home – Oscar Dutch reported on the response to the survey that was sent to all relief associations. Only two were received back from Atlantic County. Oscar requested that all relief associations please return the completed survey. Oscar reported on the scheduled golf tournament and the construction and repair plans for the proceeds of the tournament. Oscar reported that he had heard that the Ocean County Fire Academy had a painting of the Firemen’s Home. Oscar called the artist and was able to obtain a donation of a painting of the Firemen’s Home for the Atlantic County Fire Academy. Oscar presented the painting to Whitey Swartz to be displayed at the fire academy.

NJ Firemen's Assn. –Henry Schoenstein reported that a committee meeting will be held soon. Henry thanked the secretary of the Atl. Co. Firefighters' Association for posting both his and Oscar's business cards on the website along with links to the NJ Firemen's Assn. and NJ Firemen's Home. Henry also thanked the secretary for posting information and application on the website for the Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund.

Audit Committee – Wayne Dilks reported that the Audit Committee met on Jan. 15, 2009 and found that the books are in good order. Wayne reported on the recommendations of the committee to consolidate checking accounts, establish a capitol fund with half of the "Simple Life" CD, and to put the 50/50 towards the capitol fund. President Portale thanked the Audit Committee for a job well done.

ACFFA Dinner (Ladies' Night) – Wayne Dilks reported that the dinner is scheduled for 18:30 Friday April 17, 2009 at Careme's, Atl. Cape Comm. College. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

Communications

Thank you letter received from Hugh E. Flood, Superintendent and CFO NJ Firemen's Home, thanking the Atl. Co. Firefighters' Assoc. for the donation of \$200.00 to the home.

Letter from Vince Jones, Director Atl. Co. Dept. of Public Safety, appointing Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz to serve as the Atlantic County Anthony "Tony" Canale Fire Training Center Director.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

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

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association follow the recommendation of the audit committee by consolidating checking accounts to one or two instead of the current five.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association follow the recommendation of the audit committee by creating a capitol fund with half of the "Simple Life" CD and send the remainder of the CD to the savings account.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association follow the recommendation of the audit committee by directing future 50/50 funds to the capitol fund.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association purchase a smoke machine, smoke fluid, and a manikin with a limit of \$2,000 from the capitol fund.

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

Samuel Sofia Jr. of the Elwood Fire Company was accepted into membership.

Good of the Order

Chief Lefty Clayton reported on the new Air and Light Trailer delivered to the down beach fire departments that will be available county wide after title, tags, and SOPs are in place.

Whitey reported that he will mail out any event notices with his mailings if they are submitted to him.

Thank you to the Longport Fire Department for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Howard Berchtold Jr.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:35. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Mar. 18, 2009 in Folsom.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Date Clearing

Sat. Feb. 28, 2009	09:00	New Egypt Fire Sta. 39	Hosting New Jersey F.O.O.L.S. Seminar
Sun. Mar. 8, 2009	10:30	St. Nicholas / 12:00 Borgata	24 th Annual Cape/Atlantic 200 Club Memorial Service and Brunch (forms)
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
Fri. Apr. 17, 2009	18:30	Careme's @ Atl. Cape Comm. College	Annual ACFFA Dinner
Sun. Apr. 19, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
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. 7, 2009	12:00	Dorothy VFC	52nd Annual Chicken Bar-B-Que
Sun. Jun. 14, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sun. Jun. 14, 2009	12:00	Mays Landing Golf & Country Club	Bargaintown VFC #2 Phoenix Fund Golf Outing
Sat. Jun. 20, 2009	11:00	Scullville VFC	75th Anniversary Parade & Housing
Sun. Jul. 12, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Thurs. Jul. 23, 2009	20:00	Port Republic VFC	Meeting of Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund
Thurs. Aug. 6, 2009	16:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds	ACFFA @ Atlantic County 4H Fair
Fri. Aug. 7, 2009	16:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds	ACFFA @ Atlantic County 4H Fair & Firefighter Competition
Sat. Aug. 8, 2009	09:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds	ACFFA @ Atlantic County 4H Fair
Sun. Aug. 9, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Tues. Aug. 18, 2009	19:30	Egg Harbor City	Atl. Co. - NJ State Firemen's Caucus
Fri. Sept. 18, 2009	13:00	Wildwood	NJ State Firemen's Convention
Sat. Sept. 19, 2009	10:00	Wildwood	NJ State Firemen's Convention
Sun. Sep. 20, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sun. Oct. 4, 2009	13:00	Atl. Co. Fire Training Center	Memorial Service @ Fallen Heroes Monument
Sat. Oct. 10, 2009	12:00	Atl. Co. Fire Training Center	2009 Fire Expo - Please Encourage Public to Attend
Sun. Oct. 11, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sat. Nov. 14, 2009	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sun. Nov. 15, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sun. Dec. 13, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat

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