

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*

President  
Amor "Skip" Portale  
Vice President  
Ellsworth Ott  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Charles "Chick" Kisby



Secretary  
Robert A. Mellon  
Treasurer  
Stacey Wellington  
Asst. Sect./Treasurer  
Jaime C. Mellon

May 20, 2009

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on May 20, 2009 at the Pomona Vol. Fire Co. 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. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief**

Chief Portale of the Pomona Fire Company welcomed all to Pomona and Galloway Township. Chief Portale also welcomed all on behalf of the Pomona Vol. Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary. The Ladies Auxiliary prepared the food for the evening.

## **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 Apr. 15, 2009 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

## **Special Presentation**

Jim Combs of [www.FirefightersNeeded.com](http://www.FirefightersNeeded.com) was introduced. Mr. Combs presented information concerning the firefighter recruitment programs that he has worked on. Mr. Combs also presented a PSA that was recently filmed with Ron Jawarski and will air on Comcast Cable in the near future.

## **Report of Treasurer**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer as read by Treasurer Stacey Wellington.

Checking: \$14,448.23 / Tuition: \$21,096.92 / Twelve Month CD: \$50,885.15 / Nine Month CD: \$10,179.15 / Capitol Account: \$5,530.34

## Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. summarized the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on May 1, 2009 at Whitey Swartz’s Fire Museum. Howard thanked Joy and Whitey Swartz for hosting the meeting. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for July 3, 2009 in Landisville.

4H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported on the details of the 4H Fair. The fair is scheduled for Aug. 6, 7, & 8, 2009. Howard reported that the Atlantic County 4H organization appreciates the firefighter participation in the fair. The firefighter competition will be held on Friday Aug. 7, 2009. It was suggested that a youth competition be arranged to coincide with the firefighter competition. The 4H organization agrees with this idea and will clear it with their insurance carriers.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. summarized the minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting of the board. The county will obtain a trailer for the golf cart. The buildings are being reviewed for needed repairs. The county may budget \$25,000 in the 2010 budget for a used engine if one is not obtained before then. The county will need a written specification for a used fire apparatus. The county will purchase a second smoke machine for training. The county will lift the prohibition on coin drops on county roads by fire or EMS agencies during the summer holidays. Municipal permission will still be needed for coin drops. The next meeting of the board is scheduled for July 13, 2009.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent offered his congratulations to the recipients of the valor awards in April. Ed reported on the calls that the fire coordinators responded to, including the 314 acre EHC/Galloway forest fire. Ed reported on the regional fire coordinator meetings, including one with Cape May County where discussion was held about creating strike teams within the tanker task forces. Ed reported that Tanker Task Force Div. A will hold a drill, hosted by Elwood, on Sun. Jun. 28, 2009 at the Carpenter Center on the White Horse Pike. Ed reported that the Atlantic City Air Show is scheduled for Aug. 19, 2009 with a practice day on Aug. 18, 2009. Ed reported on the current status of the Homeland Security Grant. It appears that the foam and tanker equipment may be approved. The final approval will come in June. Ed reported on the updated information about the H1N1 (Swine) Flu. The Division of Fire Safety has asked county fire coordinators to ensure that regional task forces are maintained should they be needed to cover a fire dept. or district affected by the Flu. Ed requested that the mutual aid update access be added to the ACFFA website. Ed informed all that the Atl. Co. Sheriff Dispatch should be contacted at (609)909-7200 for emergency requests. The old number should not be used for emergencies.

Public Relations/Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Harold “Whitey” Swartz reported on the fire prevention poster contest and the issues associated with it due to low participation within the county schools. Whitey explained the reasoning for suspending the ACFFA poster contest and just supporting the NJ state contest. Whitey reported on the Valor Awards and how well they went with many presentations from the association, the county, the state, and federal government offices. Whitey reported on the idea for honoring the long term active senior fire members within the county. Whitey reported that the Memorial Service at the Fallen Heroes Monument is scheduled for Oct. 4, 2009 and the Fire Expo on Oct. 10, 2009. Committees will be formed for these events in the near future. Whitey explained his idea of publishing a photo book about the Atlantic Co. Fire Service with his collection of photographs. Whitey has pledged all of the proceeds from the book to the association.

Training – Instructor Chris Kislow reported for Director of Training, Mike Corbo. Confined Space Ops has room for more students on May 28, 29, & 30, 2009. Thermal Imaging is scheduled for Jun. 3 & 4, 2009. Advanced Pump is scheduled for Jun. 5 & 7, 2009. A tanker, with portable pond, and two engines are needed for the advanced pump class. The Spring FFI & FFII graduation will be scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2009. The Summer FFI class starts on June 11, 2009.

Library – Ron Bird reported that he is working with the county librarians to computerize the tracking of the ACFFA library collection.

Atl. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association – The next meeting of the Chiefs' Association is scheduled for May 28, 2009 in Northfield.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch Jr. reported on the ongoing renovations and additions at the home. A virtual tour will be added to the home's website (www.njfh.org). The home may be disposing of a shuffle board if anyone is interested. The recent golf tournament raised a significant sum of money for the home.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein distributed and reviewed an updated guideline for 2009 convention expenses. Changes include two days fuel for commuting and member (not the local) retains receipt for lodging. Henry reported that the full death benefit for qualified members has been increased to \$9,500.00. Henry reported that checks have been distributed to the local associations and some locals may see an adjustment in their amount due to a refund made to Homesite Insurance Co. for overpayments.

ACFFA Dinner – President Portale thanked Wayne Dilks for all of the hard work that he and the dinner committee put into arranging the dinner. Wayne reported that the dinner was enjoyed by all in attendance and that he would like to see even more people attend the next dinner. The association netted a \$650.00 profit from the dinner.

### **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

### **Deferred Business**

President Portale reported that the Executive committee received the 2009 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Report from the Treasurer. The report, and future reports, will be summarized for general distribution on a biannual basis in the months of June and December.

### **New Business**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association suspend the ACFFA Fire Prevention Poster Contest for a period of three years (2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012) and reconsider at that time as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association form a committee to research and prepare a system for honoring long term active senior members of the association as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Rev. Sweeny reported on the need for an understanding, within the county fire service, as to what musical support that the Sandpipers will provide, when requested, for a firefighter funeral. A line of duty death will be supported with the full band, and possibly other bands, without hesitation. When a request is for a standard funeral, please be aware that there are costs that will need to be covered. These costs will vary with what support is being requested.

### **Bills**

The bills were read by Treasurer Stacey Wellington. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills, totaling \$8,955.50, from the proper funds.

241-American Safety (Smoke Machine)-\$1,349.00-Capitol Account / 242-Wayne Dilks-\$165.51-Dinner / 243-ACCC-\$484.55-Dinner / 244-Primo Pizza-\$648.00-Tuition Account / 245-Whitey Swartz-\$116.01-Public Relations / 246 This & That Uniform-\$570.00-Public Relations, Instructor Shirt / 247-Tom Sweeny-\$501.00-Public Relations, Poster / 248-Hayes Mindish-\$499.30-Public Relations, Poster / 249-Bill Merola-\$32.04-Academy / 250-Liberty Mutual-\$37.00-Tuition Account / 251-Hughes Farm-\$480.00-Academy / 252-Lowes-\$28.32-Academy / 253-Modern Gas-\$2,000.40-Academy / 254-Stacey Wellington-\$86.63-Admin. / 255-Lee's Emergency-\$244.43-Academy / 256-Gene Wellington-\$1,713.31-FDIC

### **Applications for Membership**

There were no applications for membership to act on.

### **Good of the Order**

Lefty Clayton reported on news from the National Vol. Fire Council. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano proposed reducing funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program from \$565 million to \$170 million and to increase funding for the Staffing for adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program from \$210 million to \$420 million during testimony at budget hearings before the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee and the House Homeland Security Committee.

Dennis Sharpe reported on the \$210 million firehouse construction grant.

Whitey Swartz reported that he has plenty of the fire prevention poster contest 1<sup>st</sup> place posters available for distribution. Whitey has also added plants to the urns in front of the Fallen Heroes Monument.

Thank you to the Pomona Vol. Fire Co. for hosting the evening and their Ladies Auxiliary for providing the refreshments.

### **Adjournment**

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:45. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on June 17, 2009 in Richland.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

## Date Clearing

Thurs. May 28, 2009	20:00	Northfield FD	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Sat. Jun. 6, 2009	12:00	Cologne VFC	49th Annual Chicken Barbeque
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
Sun. Jun. 14, 2009	13:00	Bayview VFC	Tower 26-49 Housing
Sat. Jun. 20, 2009	11:00	Scullville VFC	75th Anniversary Parade & Housing
Fri. Jun. 26, 2009	09:00	Farmington VFC	Annual Egg Harbor Twp. Blood Drive 09:00-18:00
Sun. Jul. 12, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sat. Jul. 18, 2009	10:00	Estell Manor VFC	Italian Sub Sale 10:00 - 14:00(or sold out)
Thurs. Jul. 23, 2009	20:00	Port Republic VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund
Tue. Jul. 28, 2009	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
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
Sun. Aug. 9, 2009	08:00	Blue Heron Golf Course	Egg Harbor City VFC 12 <sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament
Sat. Aug. 15, 2009	10:00	Estell Manor VFC	Italian Sub Sale 10:00 - 14:00(or sold out)
Tues. Aug. 18, 2009	19:30	Egg Harbor City	Atl. Co. - NJ State Firemen's Caucus
Sat. Aug. 29, 2009	10:00	Atlantic County Park (Rt. 50)	Estell Manor VFC @ Friends of the Park Folk Festival
Fri. Sept. 18, 2009	13:00	Wildwood	NJ State Firemen's Convention
Sat. Sept. 19, 2009	10:00	Wildwood	NJ State Firemen's Convention
Sat. Sept. 27, 2009	12:00	Dover Intl. Speedway	Fundraiser – National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Sun. Sept. 20, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Thurs. Sept. 24, 2009	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
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
Sat. Oct. 10, 2009	12:00	Greentree Golf Course	Elwood VFC Golf Tournament
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
Tues. Nov. 24, 2009	20:00	Linwood VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Sun. Dec. 13, 2009	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Tues. Jan. 26, 2010	20:00	Absecon VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.

(Please email your event info to [robert.mellon@atlanticcountvfireassoc.org](mailto:robert.mellon@atlanticcountvfireassoc.org))