

# 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 "Chuck" Kisby



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

August 19, 2009

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Aug. 19, 2009 at the Mizpah Vol. Fire Co. by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

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

Chief Cortes of the Mizpah Fire Company was introduced. Chief Cortes welcomed all to Mizpah.

## **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 July 15, 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.

Checking: \$14,727.29 / Tuition: \$8,687.03 / Twelve Month CD-due 08/27/09: \$51,324.09 / Nine Month CD-due 02/27/10: \$10,222.64 / Capitol CD-due 12/12/09: \$4,215.84

## **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 4, 2009 in Absecon. Howard reported that a motion will be needed under new business for a CD that is due this month.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 14, 2009.

Fire Coordinator – Oscar Dutch reported on the Atlantic City Airshow and assisting with lost children during the show. Oscar reported that Ed Vincent has been vacationing out west. Howard Berchtold reported that mutual aid updates need to be filled out and returned by all companies and departments. The update form is available on the association website and the project is far behind schedule due to poor response. Howard further reported on a table top and full scale exercise that is scheduled with Washington Twp., Burlington County.

Fire Marshal –Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz reported on ideas for honoring older and long term serving members of the county fire service within the county. Some feedback and further ideas are requested as to what the guidelines should be. Whitey reported that the 4H poster contest went very well and will be continued. Whitey reported on the Memorial Service scheduled for Oct. 4 at 13:00. Whitey has put together a committee for the service. The program should be around forty-five minutes and followed by refreshments. The committee will meet soon and notice with service details will be sent to all departments. Whitey reported that the 2009 Fire Expo is scheduled for Sat. Oct. 10 from 12:00 till 15:00. Whitey reviewed the plans for the expo as well as the requests for apparatus. Whitey will form a committee for the expo soon and details of apparatus and personnel needs will be sent to all departments.

Training – Director of Training Michael Corbo reported that the Fall FFI class started on Aug. 18 with thirty-nine students on the roster. Six of those students missed the first day and will be dropped if they do not show up on the second day of the class. This class is at the desirable maximum number of students. No more registrations will be accepted at this time. Mike reviewed the change of FFI books recently contracted by the NJ DFS. Mike has enough Delmar books for the fall semester but the spring 2010 FFI class will be using the new Jones Bartlett training manuals. NJ was contracted to purchase 8,500 Jones Bartlett FFI manuals under a one year contract with a two year extension. Mike reported that the Summer FFI class will be completed soon. Mike reported on the Fire Inspector course scheduled to start on Sept. 8 and run for ninety hours at a cost of \$450.00 per student, including manual. Mike reported that the new golf cart trailer is now in service at the Fire Academy. Mike reported on an ongoing issue with proper clean-up on the training grounds after department drills. All companies and department utilizing the training grounds are required to clean equipment and return it to the proper storage location when drills are completed. Also two solid bore 1 ½ nozzles are missing. If your department mistakenly took these, please return them. Mike reported that the fall 2009 course catalog is available on the association website. Mike reminded all that the correct forms need to be used when registering for FFI. Mike reported on the status of Fire Officer certification in NJ. Mike reported that the FFII challenge test is available for anyone with five years experience or has previously taken a FFII course. At this time there is no state mandate requiring that either the Fire Officer or FFII certifications be achieved. Mike reported that a highway safety grant will cover the cost of manuals for the defensive driving training. Defensive driving training should commence in September. Mike reported that the new smoke machine works superbly and use of it will be covered in the QTO, QSO, ODI training.

Library – Ron Bird reported that books have been returned to the library after seven or eight years out and if anything is needed, call him.

Atl. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association – Jim Garth reported that the next meeting of the Chiefs' Association is scheduled for Sept. 24, 2009 in Nesco.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch Jr. had nothing to report.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein thanked all that attended the Atlantic County Caucus on Aug. 18 in Egg Harbor City. Henry thanked everyone for reelecting him and congratulated Oscar Dutch for being reelected to the Firemen's Home Board of Managers for Atlantic County.

4H Fair – Howard Berchtold reported that the fair was excellent and extremely well attended by the public. Howard thanked all those that put in time to staff the ACFFA booth at the fair. Howard reported on all the displays set up for the ACFFA and thanked Whitey for setting up the poster contest on such short notice. Howard reported that the poster contest went very well and received some excellent entries. Howard reported on the winners of the poster contest and reported that the theme and contest for next year's 4H fair will be issued in January so that the kids will have more time to prepare their entries for judging at the August fair. Gene Wellington reported on the firefighter competition. There was a large crowd of spectators at the competition. Gene reported on the individual events and the event winners as well as the overall winner of the competition, Germania VFC for the second year straight. Gene reported on the children's competition and how well it went. A DVD of the competition and trophies will be available at the Sept. meeting of the association. Howard reported on TOT finder questions from the public. Howard requested feedback as to what county departments policy is for TOT finders. Whitey reported that NJ County Fire

Marshals no longer recommend the use of the stickers due to the fact that criminals have used the sticker to identify target windows and the fact that people do not remove them when no longer in use. Oscar Dutch thanked Dennis Sharpe for bring several books of fire photos to the fair. The public was very interested in the photos. President Portale thanked all those that assisted during the fair and thanked Mizpah VFC for sending apparatus to supply hose lines and water for the firefighter competition.

### **Communications**

There were no communications to report.

### **Deferred Business**

There was no deferred business to act upon.

### **New Business**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Treasurer of the Association reinvest the 12-Month CD, that is coming due on 08/27/09, in an account with the best interest rate that can be found.

### **Bills**

The bills were read by Treasurer Stacey Wellington. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills, totaling \$5,446.32, from the proper funds.

Bills --- Atlanticcare - \$170.00 / Brown & Brown - \$789.04 / Brown & Brown - \$1,350.04 / Home Depot - \$6.84 / Public Safety - \$128.65 / Staples - \$104.18 / This & That Uniforms - \$1,177.25 / Gil Zonge - \$75.00 / Bill Merola - \$75.00 / Lefty Clayton - \$75.00 / Mike Corbo - \$75.00 / NEPM - \$435.00 / Whitey Swartz - \$108.10 / Bank of America - \$165.96 / State of NJ - \$711.26

### **Applications for Membership**

Glenn Blackman, Robert Broskey, Harrison Bustard, Daniel R. Haviland, Robert Hewitt, Charles H. Horner, Louis Imperitrice, Konstadinos E. Koltoukis, John R. Mooney, Gary C. Panter, Frank Paulsgraf, George A. Perkins Jr., Justin Schurr, Matthew Scull, John Serody, Mark Sooy IV, Charles A. Thomas Jr., and Dennis Weiss of the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company were accepted into membership.

### **Good of the Order**

Whitey reported that he is the president of the Glasstown Antique Fire Brigade. The recent muster at Wheaton Village saw the crew that runs the games, including bucket brigade and water ball, cancel. Whitey asked Gene Wellington to step in and run the games. Gene did an excellent job and Whitey thanked him for the help.

Henry Schoenstein reminded all that the Convention Memorial Parade registration is available online only at [www.njfireexpo.com](http://www.njfireexpo.com).

Dennis Sharpe reported that all departments with air trailers and cascade units should coordinate an effort to make sure that all fittings are in place for complete interoperability. Some fittings interoperability issues have already been identified between two different departments.

Thank you to the Mizpah Vol. Fire Co. for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

## Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:10. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on September 16, 2009 at Hammonton Sta. 1.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

## Date Clearing

Sat. Aug. 29, 2009	10:00	Atlantic County Park (Rt. 50)	Estell Manor VFC @ Friends of the Park Folk Festival
Sat. Aug. 29, 2009	09:00	Elwood VFC	Bikes, Beef, and Beer Motorcycle Run 2009
Sat. Sept. 12, 2009		Weekstown VFC	Pig Roast
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. 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.
Sat. Sept. 27, 2009	12:00	Dover Intl. Speedway	Fundraiser – National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Sat. Sept. 27, 2009	07:00	Dover Intl. Speedway	Oceanville VFC Bus Trip to Fundraiser – National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
Sat. Oct. 3, 2009	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
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. 7, 2009	09:00	South Egg Harbor VFC	23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Craft & Home Show
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
Thurs. Jan. 21, 2010	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Firemen's Assn. Death Benefit Fund
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))