

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 18, 2009

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Nov. 18, 2009 at the Somers Point Vol. Fire Co. Sta. 2 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 President

Chief Denan of the Somers Point Vol. Fire Co. was introduced. Chief Denan welcomed all to Somers Point and introduced the officers of the fire company. Chief Denan then introduced Mayor Jack Glasser who also welcomed all to Somers Point and thanked all for their commitment to the communities.

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 October 21, 2009 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Special Presentation

A presentation was made by Gregory Gregory, owner of Gregory's restaurant. Greg Gregory thanked all of the Somers Point firefighters for their service and all firefighters for the service provided to their own communities. Mr. Gregory reported on the small town of Sedan, Kansas. There are 1,800 residents and only nineteen volunteer firefighters serving 625 square miles. The fire trucks date back to the 1960s and the turnout gear is old and tattered. They only just received new helmets through a Wal-Mart grant. Mr. Gregory is looking to collect old gear that still has some life left to it. Mr. Gregory will arrange for the transportation of the equipment and will have a certified letter from the Sedan Vol. Fire Co. Chief certifying that no gear or equipment will be used inappropriately or sold through any means. Any unneeded equipment will be offered to neighboring fire companies that are in the same situation. Any equipment will be accepted including gloves, pants, jackets, tools, etc. Tears in the turnout gear are OK as they are equipped to repair them. Mr. Gregory will be selling bricks that are used in a yellow brick road fundraiser for the town of Sedan, Kansas. Some proceeds from the sale of bricks in this area will be used to fund the shipping of the donated equipment. For further information or to make a donation, please contact Greg Gregory or Somers Point Fire Chief Frank Denan. Mr. Gregory can be reached at his restaurant, Gregory's 900 Shore Rd. Somers Point, NJ 08244, (609)927-6665 between 9 A.M and 12 Noon, Monday through Friday. Mr. Gregory will

have pamphlets available at the restaurant in the near future. The Sedan City Fire Dept. in Sedan, Kansas can be reached at (620)725-3010 and the Chief is Elroy Smith.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer as read by Treasurer Stacey Wellington. The Treasurer reported that the Simple Life CD is due 12/12/2009 and recommended placing the funds in the tuition account to achieve the best possible interest rate.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. summarized the minutes of the Oct. 30, 2009 Executive Committee meeting held in South Egg Harbor. Howard noted that the Executive Committee has mandated that all budgets be submitted prior to the next committee meeting on Jan. 8, 2010 in Pomona. Howard reported that the committee has recommended that the association accept the administrative capitol budget if funds are available, make a donation to the Sandpipers, and purchase a new print head for the ID card printer. Howard further reported that the Executive Committee supports that Treasurer's recommendation to place the funds from the Simple Life CD into the tuition account due to the higher interest available and to track the funds separately. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Jan. 8, 2010 in Pomona.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reviewed the discussion held at the board meeting on Nov. 2, 2009. Howard noted the recent purchases made by the county and reported that the county will test the air packs and ladders. Hose testing will be done during the FFII training as this is now part of the curriculum. President Portale reported that a booster hose is still needed for the training center engine. A donation of this hose would be greatly appreciated.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent reported on recent events that fire coordinators responded to. When responding to Atlantic City one coordinator will be with incident command and one coordinator will be assigned to dispatch. Ed reported on the recent drill held by the Div. B Tanker Task Force and the drill held by the LDH Strike Team. Ed reported that mutual aid updates need to be filed before January. Only a few of the forty-eight fire companies within the twenty-three municipalities have filed an update. Ed explained how to fill out the three page update form that is available on the fire coordinator page of the association website. It can be scanned and emailed after completion or sent by regular mail. Ed will be collecting phone numbers from task force leaders and members so that text messages can be sent when there is an incident. Ed reported that approximately \$83,000 of equipment has been received through grants for the foam and tanker task units. Ed reported on the hydrant tread size difference in some communities. Any department responding to Atlantic City, Egg Harbor City, or Hammonton should be carrying the correct adapters for the hydrants. Oscar Dutch reported that any department in the LDH Strike Team should have the correct adapters that were received in a prior grant. Ed reported that the NJ Div. of Fire Safety has sent a letter to all fire departments clarifying the required training that anyone accepting a fire officer or incident command position must have. The letter is available on the fire coordinator page of the association website. Ed reported that the Burlington Co. Wildland/Urban Interface drill has been rescheduled for June 5, 2010 with a rain date of June 6, 2010.

Library – Ron Bird reported all is the same and to call him if anything is needed.

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

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch thanked everyone for the phone calls and cards he received while recovering from knee surgery. Oscar reported that he has been reelected as the Chairman of the Board of Managers. Oscar reported on several donations received after the home was featured on the "Cake Boss" TV show. Oscar reported on the renovations

scheduled for 2010 and that the New York State Firemen's Home is donating an Aherns Fox truck that was originally from NJ.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein congratulated Oscar Dutch for his reelection as the Chairman of the Board of Managers of the NJ Firemen's Home. Henry thanked all of the local relief associations for getting their paperwork in on time. Henry reported on action that is being taken for the resolutions passed at the convention.

Communications

Letter received Rob Winkler, Cardiff Fire Co., accepting nomination to the Executive Committee. He could not attend the meeting due to attending fire service training.

Letter received from Leonard Tilley, Asst. Chief Farmington Fire Co., requesting donations to a toy drop box being hosted at his residence, 16 Delancy Ave. Egg Harbor Twp. behind Sam's Club, for the Christmas season.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Treasurer of the Association place the Simple Life CD, due 12/12/2009, in the tuition account to achieve the best possible interest rate and to track the funds separately from tuition funds, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association donate \$200.00 to the Sandpipers from the public relations fund, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association purchase a new print head for the ID card printer for \$313.50 from the administrative funds, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association accept the administrative capital expenditure for a laptop computer, \$750, and QuickBooks Pro software, \$350, for a total of \$1,100 if funds are available, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Executive Committee pursues the purchase of a memorial bench at the NJ Firemen's Home and report back to the association with the details.

Wayne Dilks reported that he is seeking information from Careme's for hosting the annual ACFFA dinner.

Bills

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

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, Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	Jaime C. Mellon
Chaplain (1)	Rev. Thomas Sweeny
Sgt.-at-Arms (3)	Charles Harlan, William Thomas Hand, Wayne Dilks
Executive Comm. (9)	Howard Berchtold Jr., Oscar Dutch Jr., C. Robert Winkler III Ronald Bird Jr., James Garth Sr., Ted Reinhard, R. Thomas Hunter Jr. Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Charles J. Guenther, Dennis C. Sharpe

An election by secret ballot will be held for the contested offices of the Executive Committee and Treasurer at the Dec. 16, 2009 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. 16, 2009 meeting of the association.

Applications for Membership

Dean Petrovic and Stephen Allen of the Egg Harbor City Volunteer Fire Company were accepted into membership.

Good of the Order

Ted Reinhard reported on another donation of books from Pennwell Publishing. The secretary will send a letter of appreciation on behalf of the association.

Rev. Thomas Sweeny thanked everyone for the support, cards, phone calls, and attending the service for his wife whom just passed away.

Thank you to the Somers Point Vol. Fire Co. Sta. 2 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 21:40. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on December 16, 2009 in Cardiff.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Date Clearing

Sat. Nov. 21, 2009	19:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Elvis Tribute Show
Tues. Nov. 24, 2009	20:00	Linwood VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Christmas Season		Tilley Residence, EHT	Atlantic County Toys For Kids – Toy Drop Box Location
Sat. Dec. 5, 2009	12:00	Pomona VFC	Photos with Santa
Sat. Dec. 12, 2009	08:00	Farmington VFC	Breakfast with Santa
Sat. Dec. 12, 2009	19:00	Hammonton Fire Dept.	12 th Annual Christmas Parade – Reg. @ 17:30, Parade @19:00
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.
Sat. Apr. 10, 2010	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. Nov. 13, 2010	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner

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