

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

December 16, 2009

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Dec. 16, 2009 at the Cardiff Vol. Fire Co. by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation and a Christmas story about faith and trust 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 Sweeny of the Cardiff Vol. Fire Co. was introduced. Chief Sweeny welcomed all to Cardiff and introduced the officers of the fire company.

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 November 18, 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: \$8,606.63 / Tuition: \$26,776.95 / Eighteen Month CD: \$51,685.53 / Nine Month CD: \$10,265.43 / Capitol CD: \$4,651.41

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Jan. 8, 2010 in Pomona. The reorganization of the committee will take place. Howard reflected on the past year and the association accomplishments and thanked all those who served on the Executive Committee or as association officer. Howard pointed out that the association is lucky to have a member of the clergy serve as chaplain, Rev. Thomas Sweeny. Howard wished all the happiest of holidays and a very Merry Christmas.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the board will be on Jan. 11, 2010.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent reported that only ten of the forty-eight mutual aid updates have been submitted. All updates should be submitted before Jan. 26, 2010. Ed reported on the approximately \$27,000.00 of equipment received through a homeland security grant. Ed reported that there have been no incidents requiring the fire coordinators since the last meeting and wished everyone happy holidays.

Fire Marshal/Public Relations – Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz reported that he will be sending out questionnaires for updates to the county information book. Whitey requested that valor award nominations be sent in for review. Whitey thanked all that have assisted him during the many events of the past year and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Training –Director of Training, Mike Corbo reported on the many classes held during the last semester and thanked all that have assisted with training over the past year. Mike reported that starting on January 1, 2010; a Level II Instructor must be present at any live burn per NJ regulation. Mike reported that the new engine should be equipped and ready for service by the end of January. Mike thanked all of the instructors for the many hours of training accomplished over the past year. Mike reported on new classes for the spring 2010 semester including a Basic Tools Course. Mike reported on the NJ State Training and Advisory Committee meetings and the changes that will be applied to future training. Mike reported that the FFII challenge test will only be available during 2010. In order to sit for the challenge test one must have attended a prior FFII class or have served at least five years in the fire service. Mike reported on the new instructor gear for the academy. Mike reported that effective February 1, 2010 he will be officially retired from the Pleasantville Fire Department. Mike wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Library – Ron Bird reported that the library will be closed for the next couple of weeks and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Atl. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association – Jim Garth reported that the next meeting of the Chiefs' Association is scheduled for Jan. 26, 2009 in Absecon and that a representative from the fire remediation company, ServPro, will give a presentation.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported on the updates scheduled for the coming year at the home and how much the residents appreciate the updates that have already been completed. Oscar wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein reported that he has scheduled a county workshop to be held on Jan. 12, 2010 at 19:00 in Egg Harbor City. The NJ Firemen's Assn. Field Examiner will be in attendance. The workshop is designed to assist with answering any questions and addressing any concerns that anyone may have about the NJ Firemen's Assn. on what it is and how it operates. All members of the association, especially relief officers, delegates, and trustees, are welcome and encouraged to attend. Henry wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Legislative Update – President Portale asked for volunteers to serve on this committee for 2010. The committee is to monitor and inform the association of any legislative activity that will affect the emergency services.

Communications

Secretary Robert A. Mellon read a letter of thanks, from this association, that is being sent to Beth Kershner at Fire Engineering thanking her and her company for the many donations of books and DVDs that have been made through the association Officer of Procurement, Ted Reinhard.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

Bills

The bills were read by Treasurer Stacey Wellington. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills, totaling \$24,069.13, from the proper funds.

Bills --- Payroll - \$22,077.19 / Battery Zone - \$97.95 / Modern Gas - \$930.33 / Modern Gas - \$502.36 / Staples - \$21.37 / Primos - \$56.00 / IRS – 61.13 – Jun. 2008 / IRS - \$52.98 – Dec. 2006 / Primos - \$110.00 / Home Depot - \$4.35 / Lowes - \$64.27 / ICC - \$91.20

Election of Officers

The election of officers was held. The positions of Treasurer and the Executive Committee were voted on by ballot. The remaining positions were unopposed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the secretary cast the ballot for all unopposed positions. Due to the results of the vote for Treasurer, the position of Asst. Sec./Trea. is now vacant. Those elected to office for the year 2010 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)	Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	
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., Ronald Bird Jr., James Garth Sr., Ted Reinhard, R. Thomas Hunter Jr. Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Charles J. Guenther, C. Robert Winkler III

Applications for Membership

Devon Haeffner the Oceanville Volunteer Fire Company was accepted into membership.

Good of the Order

Thank you to the Cardiff Vol. Fire Co. 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 21:20. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on January 20, 2010 in Egg Harbor City. This meeting includes the annual memorial service of the association. Please submit the names of those that have passed during 2009 to Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz before Jan. 11, 2010 so that they may be included in the memorial service program. Please plan on attending the meeting and service in full class A dress uniform.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Date Clearing

Christmas Season		Tilley Residence, EHT	Atlantic County Toys For Kids – Toy Drop Box Location
Sat. Jan. 9, 2010	09:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting Blood Drive @ Route 9 Station 09:00 – 15:00
Sun. Jan. 10, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Tues. Jan. 12, 2010	19:00	Egg Harbor City FD	Hosting NJ Firemen's Assn. Atlantic County Workshop
Thurs. Jan. 21, 2010	20:15	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)