

# 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  
Jaime C. Mellon

January 20, 2010

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Jan. 20, 2010 at the Egg Harbor City Vol. Fire Company by President Amor "Skip" Portale after a bagpipe musical selection was performed by the Sandpipers. The meeting was opened with the flag salute. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Opening Remarks**

Chief Russell Fenton, of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department, welcomed the membership and guests to Egg Harbor City. Chief Fenton then introduced the line officers of the fire department. Chief Fenton then introduced Egg Harbor City Council member; Patrick Moran.

## **In Attendance**

President Portale welcomed and introduced guests; Atlantic County Freeholders: James Curcio and Frank Sutton, Atl. Co. Fire Marshall: Harold "Whitey" Swartz, Atl. Co. Director of Emergency Management: Ed Conover, Atlantic County Fire Academy Director of Training: Michael Corbo, and Atlantic County Fire Coordinator: Edward Vincent.

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 Dec. 16, 2009 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

## **Dispensing of Regular Business**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the remainder of the regular business except for the paying of the bills.

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## Paying of Bills

The bills, totaling \$593.37, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Gil Zonge - \$120.00 - Bank Fees / Mike Corbo - \$55.23 - Tools & Equip. / Levon Clayton - \$128.14 - Training Supplies / Primos - \$187.00 - Training Food / Primos - \$103.00 - Training Food

## Annual Memorial Service

President Amor "Skip" Portale welcomed all to the annual Memorial Service. The annual memorial services were conducted by the Memorial Committee with Chaplain Reverend Thomas Sweeny giving the homily, the memorial candles being lit by First Vice President Ellsworth Ott and Second Vice President Charles "Chick" Kisby, and the bell being tolled by Charles J. Guenther as Secretary Robert A. Mellon read the roll of the Firefighters of Atlantic County who answered their last alarm during the past year.

Firefighters of the Final Roll were:

### ABSECON

Alfred H Eldredge, Jr.  
Lester A. Hutchinson, Jr.  
Donald W. Peterson

### ATLANTIC CITY

Maurice A Crist  
Ernest S. Duke  
Ralph F. Girard, III  
Joseph K. Mawhinney, Jr.  
Donald R. Snowden

### CARDIFF

Edward Wetzel

### COLOGNE

Dominick Hagel  
Sebastian J. Leuci

### EGG HARBOR CITY

Charles Thomson

### HAMMONTON

Peter A. Berenato, Sr.

### LANDISVILLE

David Martinelli

### LAURELDALE

John B. Jones, Sr.

### LONGPORT

Eunice M. Adams  
Samuel Cianci  
Andrew J. Kilcoyne  
Thomas B. Reed

### MAYS LANDING

Leon L. Franks

### NORTHFIELD

Robert S. Long

### OCEANVILLE

Harry W. Leeds, Sr.

### POMONA

Thomas W. Bond, IV  
Ernest Grunow

### RICHLAND

Ben Petrini

### SCULLVILLE

Donald H. Souder

### SOMERS POINT

Richard E. Fitzpatrick  
Victor Stretton, Sr.

### SWEETWATER

Lawrence F. Vogleman

### VENTNOR

Edward Allen Arentz, Sr.  
Walter Nelson Riley, Jr.

### WEST ATLANTIC CITY

Robert W. Gill, Sr.

### WEYMOUTH

James W. Owens

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"The Lord's Prayer" was recited by all in attendance. "Taps" was played by Bugler Joseph Ward, followed by the playing of "Amazing Grace" by the Sandpipers. "The Firefighter's Prayer" was recited by all in attendance. Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

## **Installation of Officers for 2010**

All of the invited guests addressed the membership and expressed their appreciation for all that the firefighters do for their local communities and for Atlantic County. A letter from Congressman Frank Lobiondo expressing his regret for being unable to attend, as well as congratulating the new officers, was read.

Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. welcomed all those in attendance to the annual meeting and memorial service on behalf of the Executive Committee. Howard thanked all of the association officers for the hard work that they do. Howard noted that he is proud to have again been elected to the Chairman position on the Executive Committee and that Oscar Dutch Jr. has been elected Asst. Chairman. Howard noted that Rev. Sweeny had lost his wife last year and is sure that the fire service, that Rev. Sweeny provides comfort to, will return that comfort to him as he moves forward with the days and years ahead. Howard reported that Ted Reinhard is recovering from surgery and should be home by the weekend. Ted sent his regards, also a box of Fire Engineering catalogs, and wishes that he could have been in attendance. Howard thanked the prior Treasurer of the association, Stacey Wellington, for her two years of dedicated service in that position. Howard thanked all of the county government, including the Freeholders and the Dept. Heads, which have provided much assistance with keeping the association going strong.

President Amor "Skip" Portale read the following prepared statement.

"Good evening and welcome to the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association Annual Memorial Service and 86<sup>th</sup> annual reorganization meeting.

As we begin 2010 let us look back at 2009 and some of the accomplishments that were achieved keeping in mind that none of this would have been possible without the assistance of Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson and his staff, as well as the Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with the Director of Fire Training, and the dedicated staff of instructors; and for that we thank them.

As you are aware, the primary duty of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association is to provide training to all the firefighters from Atlantic County and the surrounding area.

In 2009 the Firefighters' Association held its biggest Firefighter I class to date with over 50 students enrolled. There were 54 different classes with three new classes added. Total enrollment for all classes was 883 students totaling 2,889 hours of training.

With assistance from the Atlantic County government, the Board of Freeholders, and advisory board member; Freeholder Frank Sutton we were able to acquire a used fire engine that was desperately needed to aide in properly training our firefighters.



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We were able to operate on the budget that was established in 2009. We distributed annual financial reports to our members. We conducted the annual memorial service to honor our fallen Firefighters at the training center for the first time. We hosted the Women in the Fire Service retreat and the Fire Expo as well as sponsoring the annual Firefighters Competition at the Atlantic County 4H Fair.

As we begin 2010, I look forward to working with county government and the members of the executive committee along with the Director of Training Mike Corbo to help keep the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association one of the best in the state."

Atlantic County Freeholder Frank Sutton installed the following into office for the year 2010:

President	Amor "Skip" Portale	Executive Committee:
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Ellsworth Ott	Howard Berchtold Jr.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Charles "Chick" Kisby	Ronald Bird Jr.
Secretary	Robert A. Mellon	Rick Coraluzzo Sr.
Treasurer	Jaime C. Mellon	Oscar Dutch Jr.
Chaplain	Rev. Thomas Sweeny	James Garth Sr.
Sergeants-at-Arms	William Thomas Hand	Charles J. Guenther
	Charles Harlan	R. Thomas Hunter
	Wayne Dilks	Charles R. Winkler III

Those not present were:

Executive Committee                      Ted Reinhard

## Good of the Order

Thank you to the Egg Harbor City Fire Dept. for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

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## Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:45. The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Feb. 17, 2010 in Longport.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

## Date Clearing

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.
Thurs. Jan. 28, 2010	19:00	Fire Academy	Summer & Fall 2009 Firefighter I Graduation
Sun. Feb. 14, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sun. Mar. 14, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Thurs. Mar. 25, 2010	20:00	Landisville VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Sat. Apr. 10, 2010	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. Apr. 10, 2010	19:30	Hammonton VFC #2	Comedy Show and Buffet Dinner
Sun. Apr. 11, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sun. Apr. 18, 2010	10:30	St. Nicholas & Borgata	200 Club 25 <sup>th</sup> Annual Cape/Atlantic Memorial Service and Brunch
Sat. May 1, 2010	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sun. May 9, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Thurs. May 27, 2010	20:00	Northfield VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Sat. Jun. 5, 2010	12:00	Cologne VFC	Annual Chicken BBQ
Sun. Jun. 13, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sun. Jul. 4, 2010	12:00	Dorothy VFC	75th Anniversary, Parade, and Celebration
Sun. Jul. 11, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Thurs. Jul. 22, 2010	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund
Tues. Jul. 27, 2010	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.

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Sun. Aug. 15, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sun. Sep. 12, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Thurs. Sep. 30, 2010	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Sat. Oct. 2, 2010	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sun. Oct. 10, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sat. Nov. 13, 2010	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sun. Nov. 14, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Tues. Nov. 30, 2010	20:00	Linwood VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Sun. Dec. 12, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Tues. Jan. 25, 2011	20:00	Absecon VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Thurs. Jan. 27, 2011	20:00	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund

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