

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

March 17, 2010

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Mar. 17, 2010 at the Folsom Fire Dept. 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 Chief

Chief Smith of the Folsom Fire Company was introduced. Chief Smith welcomed all to Folsom.

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 Feb. 17, 2010 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer, totaling \$111,263.80, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. The Treasurer further reported that a new CD has been set up at Hudson City Savings, at 1.42% with 1.45 APY, after researching twenty banks for the best rate.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Bank of America / Hudson City Savings / Bank of America
Checking: \$38,785.25 / Savings: \$4,672.99 / 18 Month CD-8286: \$51,888.42 / 12 Month CD: \$10,297.77 / 9 Month CD-9551: \$5,619.37
Due 3/1/2011 Due 3/8/2011 Due 9/6/2010

Special Presentation

A presentation was made by Glenn Liepe, Div. C Warden NJ Forest Fire Service, on the current operational plans for this fire season. Glenn also reported on the available grants and a video for the "Firewise Communities" program was played. <http://www.firewise.org/>

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Asst. Chairman Oscar Dutch Jr. summarized the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Mar. 5, 2010 in Somers Point.

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Fire Coordinator – Oscar Dutch reported for Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent. Oscar reported that a firefighter medical incident occurred in Longport. Ken Badger gave a summarized report of the fire scene incident. The deputy coordinators handled the reporting of the incident to the NJ Div. of Fire Safety. The fire captain is now in the Philadelphia Presbyterian Medical Center and is recovering.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Oscar Dutch summarized the minutes of the Mar. 8, 2010 meeting of the board. New policies are being adopted for the academy's new engine as well as the use and storage of academy equipment. Several property upgrades and maintenance projects are being planned for the training grounds and buildings. The county will be purchasing another smoke machine.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Oscar Dutch reported for Henry Schoenstein. The executive committee has voted to lower the fire call and drill percentage from 60% to 50% for achieving exempt status. It was reported that Henry Schoenstein made the motion for the percentage change. There has been continuing discussion concerning a southern NJ Firemen's Home and progress is being made. Field exams for the local associations are scheduled for May 13, 2010 at the Egg Harbor City firehouse.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported on damages to the homes roof during recent storms. The insurance has already paid for some of the repairs on the newer roof covered by a warranty. There are also other roofs that will now have to be repaired or replaced. Oscar reported on recent operational improvements and on the progress being made on repairing damaged trails, due to storm runoff, on the home's grounds.

Public Relations / Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz reported on the 2009 county fire reports. No reports have been received from the Atlantic City, Newtonville, and SJTA fire departments. Whitey reported that the valor award committee will meet on Mar. 18, 2010 and make the final decisions for awards. Six valor nominations have been received. Whitey reported that the entire information book is being replaced due to the volume of updates. They will be sent out soon with a District 25 update to follow later. Whitey reported that any NJ fire prevention poster from schools should be submitted before April 1st for judging followed by submission to the state. Only four poster entries have been received. There will not be any county level awards. Whitey reported that the memorial service at the Fallen Heroes Monument will be scheduled for a Sunday in the fall. The Cape/Atlantic 200 Club memorial service and brunch is scheduled for April 18, 2010. Ticket request forms are available on the ACFFA website under date clearing. Whitey reported that he has obtained newer desktop computers for the ACFFA and Instructors offices. Tom Sweeny will be making name plates for the ACFFA office desks. Whitey will be working with Howard Berchtold to set up the ACFFA fire prevention poster contest to be held in conjunction with the Atlantic County 4H Fair. Whitey reported that Oscar Dutch and Tom Hunter are on the committee for recognizing the 50+ years of active service firefighters in the county. There are twenty-eight submissions for 50+ years. Tom Hunter reported citation bars that will be issued. Whitey reported that a certificate and a gold honorary card will also be issued.

Training – Billy Merola reported for Director of Training, Mike Corbo. The FFI class is going well and the FFII class has been canceled due to low enrollment. The summer FFII class will be limited to sixteen students.

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Library – Ron Bird reported that inventory of the library is continuing.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Jim Garth reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association will be on Mar. 25, 2010 in Landisville.

ACFFA Dinner – Wayne Dilks reported that the dinner is scheduled for 18:30 on Friday, April 16, 2010 at Careme's, Atl. Cape Comm. College. Please RSVP by April 1st. Cost is \$40.00 per person. A flyer is available on the ACFFA website under date clearing.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

President Portale appointed Cindy Badger, Northfield, to fill the remainder of the term for the vacant office of Asst. Secretary-Treasurer.

Cindy Badger reported that the ongoing issue of the IAFF policy concerning their members also being volunteer firefighters has now affected the Northfield Fire Department. Two Northfield volunteers, one with 23 years service, have recently resigned due to this policy. Both are employed by the SJTA Fire Department. This issue has affected many departments in NJ and across the nation.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association reimburse the Secretary for expenses incurred while correcting the association's NJ corporation status. Total was \$585.00 (\$410 annual fees 1988-2007, \$25 agent update, and \$150 reinstatement fee).

Bills

The bills, totaling \$5,597.35, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Robert Mellon, Incorporation Fees - \$585.00 / NJ Treasurer, Corp. Alternate Name - \$50.00 / This & That, FFI Shirts - \$1,885.50 / This & That, Uniform Replacement - \$36.00 / Mike Corbo, Tools from Harbor Freight - \$200.96 / Hayes Mindish, 2010 Schedule Cards - \$110.00 / Education & Employment Law, Encyclopedia of Public Law - \$263.70 / Dell, Admin. Laptop & Case - \$986.48 / South Jersey Welding, Welding Tools - \$881.06 / Staples, envelopes & ink - \$163.65 / Landsman Uniforms, commendation bars - \$400.00 / Thomas Sweeny, plaque & badges - \$35.00

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Applications for Membership

Joshua A. Willson of the Scullville Volunteer Fire Company was accepted into membership.

Good of the Order

Whitey Swartz asked if the schedule card invoices have been sent out. The secretary reported that Egg Harbor Township FD has been invoiced for the 50% of the total that they donate in the remembrance of Chief Tony Canale.

Whitey Swartz recommended that a committee be formed in order to research the IAFF issue. President Portale requested that anyone interested in researching the issue should contact him.

Jim Garth suggested that the association meeting time should maybe be moved to 19:30 instead of 20:00. This will be brought up at the executive committee meeting for discussion. This would require a constitutional change.

Clarification of the fire academy's FFI dress code requirements are on page six of the training announcement book and call for dark pants and shoes in addition to the FFI shirt.

Scott Denelsbeck, Dorothy VFC, reported on the need for donated used equipment for the Gilmore Co. Vol. Fire Department in West Virginia. They are in need of 1 ½ inch hose, 2 ½ inch hose, and turn-out gear along with other equipment. Scott has arranged shipping for any donated equipment. Scott can be contacted at home, (609)476-3315, or by cell, (609)412-4135.

Thank you to the Folsom Fire Department for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

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 Apr. 21, 2010 at the Training Center. This will be the annual Valor Awards and honoring of firefighters with 50+ active years of service in the county. Full dress uniform is requested as the public will be in attendance.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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Date Clearing

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
Fri. Apr. 16, 2010	18:30	Careme's @ ACCC	2010 ACFFA Dinner
Sun. Apr. 18, 2010	10:30	St. Nicholas & Borgata	200 Club 25 th 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
Sat. May 15, 2010	08:00	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Large Scale Disaster Exercise w/ Local Emer. Response Agencies
Sat. May 15, 2010	09:00	Hammonton VFC #2	3 rd Annual "Second 2 None" Motorcycle Run
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. 6, 2010	12:00	Dorothy VFC	53 rd Annual Chicken BBQ
Sun. Jun. 13, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sat. Jun. 19, 2010	14:30	Mays Landing Golf	Bargaintown VFC 3 rd Annual Phoenix Fund Golf Outing
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.
Sun. Aug. 15, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Tues. Aug. 17, 2010	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFC	Atl. Co. NJ Firemen's Assoc. Caucus
Sun. Sep. 12, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Fri. Sep. 17, 2010	13:00	Wildwood Conv. Ctr.	NJ Firemen's Assoc. Convention
Sat. Sep. 18, 2010	09:00	Wildwood Conv. Ctr.	NJ Firemen's Assoc. Convention
Sat. Sep. 25, 2010	12:00	Cologne VFC	50 th Anniversary Celebration
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)