

# 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 "Chick" Kisby



Secretary  
Robert A. Mellon  
Treasurer  
Jaime C. Mellon  
Asst. Sect./Treasurer  
Cindy L. Badger

October 20, 2010

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on October 20, 2010 at the Sweetwater 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 Chief

President Portale introduced Asst. Chief Ficken of the Sweetwater Fire Company. Asst. Chief Ficken welcomed all to Sweetwater, Mullica Township on behalf of Chief Franklin, who is out of town.

## 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 September 15, 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 \$123,302.93, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / ING Direct / Bank of America / Hudson City Savings / ING Direct  
Checking: \$11,971.77 / Savings: \$3,000.00 / Savings: \$40,025.78 / 18 Month CD-8286: \$52,374.08 / 12 Month CD: \$10,297.77 / 12 Month CD: \$5,633.53  
1.60% - Due 3/1/2011 1.42% - Due 3/8/2011 1.25% - Due 10/12/2011

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Oct. 29, 2010 in South Egg Harbor. The committee will meet at the South Egg Harbor firehouse at 17:00 or the Never There Gun Club, Hammonton, at 17:20 for the spaghetti and crab sauce dinner at the gun club. All are welcome to join the committee for dinner.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold Jr. reported the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for November 8, 2010.

**Fire Coordinator** – Ed Vincent thanked Howard Berchtold for giving a report for him at the last meeting of the association. Ed reported on the current Atlantic City FD mutual aid needs, current staffing, recent press coverage, and the issues related to the same. Ed reported on the 2009 Homeland Security grants. The foam unit is to be delivered to the training center on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> and demonstration/ training session is scheduled for Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at 08:00. Ed reported on the current status of the 2010

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Homeland Security grants and the plans for them. Ed reported on the application process and requirements for the 2011 Homeland Security grants. The county's working group for the grants will meet at the end of October. The 2011 grants will only focus on communications as the needs for the fire service. Ed reported that he has a fire coordinators meeting scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>. Ed reported on the updated mutual aid book for Atlantic County. The book should be printed and distributed to departments soon. The mutual aid plan meets current state guidelines for counties.

**Public Relations** – Whitey Swartz reported that he will soon be sending out requests for valor award recipients and fire service members who have fifty or more years of service for presentation at the annual valor awards scheduled for the April 2011 meeting of the association

**Facilities** – Whitey Swartz reported that the county may have funds available to replace the gear washer and dryer. Whitey is working with Tom Sweeny to obtain an ACFFA door plaque and some overdue officer badges. Whitey reported that the Bargaintown VFC has an engine running out of the training center while their station is being rebuilt. The bay in service has been signed for no parking.

**Fire Marshal** – Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz reported that the Atlantic County Fire report for 2009 is complete and has been distributed. There were a total of four departments that failed to submit data. In the future the report will be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Whitey reported that a meeting communications, including VHF, narrowband, and 800Mhz. rebanding, has been scheduled for Nov. 18, 2010 at the Egg Harbor City firehouse at 19:00. Intentions are that a good cross section of the Atlantic County fire service will be represented and a committee can be formed to evaluate current frequencies, future needs/requirements, and dispatching procedures. All departments are encouraged to send a representative to this meeting. Whitey reported that the NJ DFS will hold up grants if a department is not filing their NFIRS reports. Whitey reported that Chief Danz, EHTFD, has been contacted by state Assemblymen interested in looking into the issues with the electric company. At their request, a meeting will be scheduled with Atlantic City Electric, and the other utilities, at the training center. Chief Danz would like departments to bring any reports documenting long wait times for the utility companies to this meeting. Chief Danz reported that he has requested that this be an evening meeting. The area police departments will also be attending this meeting. When the meeting is scheduled, all departments will be notified.

**Training** – Director of Training Michael Corbo reported that class attendance has been very low this semester and several classes have been canceled as a result. Mike reported that the vehicle extrication class has been rescheduled for Sat. Oct. 30 to gain additional students. There is still QTO, QSO, ODI classes scheduled for those who need to attend so that their company may utilize the training grounds for drills. Mike reported that three more Firefighter 2 challenge exams are scheduled for November. The option to challenge the exam expires on Dec. 31, 2010. Any department may request that Mike schedule an exam for them if they can guarantee at least twenty or more will be taking the exam, contact Mike ASAP. Mike reported that there is new hose on the engine and new mannequins are being ordered. Mike reported that Governor Christie has named a new Director for the Division of Fire Safety, a prior Deputy Chief from Clifton, and the legislature is currently reviewing. Mike reported that the ACUA is working with him to schedule a training session about the new CNG fueling station and the vehicles that will use it. Mike thanked Whitey for getting the new instructor's ready room installed and reported that all of the instructor gear has been moved in.

**Library** – Ron Bird reported that the library is open and to contact him if assistance is needed. Ron reported that he has been trying to get those that have completed that FFI or FFII classes to loan their Delmar Firefighter manual to the library so that others can use them to study for the FFII challenge exam.

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**Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association** – Jim Garth reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 30, 2010 in Linwood. Plans are that the chief's association will continue with the discussion started at the Nov. 18, 2010 communication meeting.

**Legislative** – John Wagner reported on the ongoing conversation with JIF representatives and how the auto insurance works with the firefighters. John reported that JIF has informed him the firefighter's personal vehicles (POVs) are only covered for workers compensation and not collision or liability even when used in the line of duty. John is looking to get these statements in writing because of the many issues that may come of them. John requested that he be contacted if anyone has any other issues that require research.

**NJ Firemen's Assn.** – Henry Schoenstein thanked all local, Atlantic County, associations for getting their IRS form 990s filed. Henry reported that the recent field exams went well with only a few minor issues. Henry reported that one local in the state has filed a complaint concerning the physical being valid for only ninety days. The issue is being reviewed since there may be some validity to the concern raised. Oscar Dutch raised a concern about recent communications between the NJ Firemen's Assn. and the NJ Firemen's Home. Henry will look into the matter.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch reported that there is forward progress for creating a southern home as a wing or pod in an existing home. Oscar reported that the home's budget has been submitted to the NJ Commissioner of Banking and Finance. Oscar reported on the continuing repairs at the home. The next project will be the repair or replacement of deteriorated asphalt. Oscar responded to several questions from the floor.

## Communications

There were no communications to report.

## Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act on.

## New Business

The first reading of the proposed Constitution and By-laws revisions and additions were accepted as read.

## Bills

The bills, totaling \$979.00, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Megan Koshney - \$200.00 / Mike Corbo - \$234.07 / Chris Kislow - \$20.00 / Staples - \$44.93 / This & That Uniform - \$480.00

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## **Nomination of Officers**

The first of two rounds of nominations was held. Those nominated are as follows:

President (1)	Amor "Skip" Portale
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (1)	Ellsworth Ott
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (1)	Charles "Chick" Kisby
Secretary (1)	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer (1)	Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	Cindy L. Badger
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, John V. Wagner, Dennis C. Sharpe

**\*have not yet formally accepted nomination, must do so before elections**

## **Applications for Membership**

David Bell of the Richland Vol. Fire Co. and Michael J. O'Hagan of the Bayview Vol. Fire Co. were accepted into membership.

## **Good of the Order**

Dennis Sharpe gave a presentation on the Oct. 11, 2010 fire at The Storage Inn on Fire Road in Egg Harbor Township. Approximately a dozen storage units burned and all kinds of dangerous material was found within. The lesson is to be aware of storage facilities and be prepared before any incidents.

President Portale congratulated the East Vineland, Collings Lakes, and Laureldale fire companies for winning trophies at the Wildwood parade in September.

Thank you to the Sweetwater Vol. Fire Company for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.



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## Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:45. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held 20:00 on Nov. 17, 2010 at the Somers Point Vol. Fire Company #1.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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## **Date Clearing**

Sat. Oct. 30, 2010	09:00	South Egg Harbor VFC	24 <sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Craft Show
Nov. 5 & 6, 2010		Farmington VFC	Hosting Large Vehicle Extrication Training
Sat. Nov. 6, 2010	08:00	Atl. Co. Fire Training Ctr.	New Foam Unit Demonstration/Training
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
Thurs. Nov. 18, 2010	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting Atl. Co. Communication Meeting
Sat. Nov. 20, 2010	10:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale 10:00 – 14:00
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))

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Proposal for Addition

"Constitution, Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of the State of New Jersey".

**NEW**

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Proposed:**

*SECTION 3: DISSOLUTION Upon dissolution of the association, the association's assets shall be disposed of exclusively for the purposes of the association or distributed to such organizations, or departments of local government, organized and operated exclusively for fire and emergency services within Atlantic County, New Jersey. Dissolution must be approved by a majority vote of the member fire companies' delegates at two consecutive monthly meetings.*

Respectfully submitted;

By-laws Committee  
Friday, September 10, 2010

First Reading  
Wednesday, October 20, 2010

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Proposal for Revision and Addition

"By-Laws, Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of the State of New Jersey".

## REVISION

### ARTICLE V ELIGIBILITY OF OFFICERS

#### **Section 4**

**Current:** To be re-elected to any position, a member must have attended at least 2/3 of the regular meetings during the previous year. Executive Committee members and Administrative Officers must also attend at least 2/3 of the Executive Committee meetings.

**Proposed:** *To be re-elected to any position, a member must have attended at least fifty percent (50%) of the regular meetings during the previous year. Executive Committee members and Administrative Officers must also attend at least fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Committee meetings. The attendance requirement for re-election may be waived by recommendation of the Executive Committee and a majority vote of the association at a regular meeting. The Executive Committee shall only make such a recommendation after reviewing acceptable extenuating circumstances that have prevented an officer or committee member from fulfilling their obligations during the prior year. The Executive Committee may make such recommendation to the association without specific explanation if needed to provide appropriate privacy to the officer or committee member requesting that attendance requirements be waived.*

## NEW

### ARTICLE XII

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