

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
Asst. Sect./Treasurer
Cindy L. Badger

September 21, 2011

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on September 21, 2011 at the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Dept. Sta. 1 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

President Portale introduced Chief DiGiovannangelo of the Hammonton Fire Department. Chief DiGiovannangelo welcomed all to Hammonton.

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 August 17, 2011 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 \$118,170.98, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / ING Direct / ING Direct / Parke Bank
Checking: \$14,291.19 / Savings: \$5,099.28 / Savings: \$70,004.57 / 12 Month CD: \$5,698.13 / 13 Month CD: \$23,077.81
/ 1.25% - Due 10/12/2011 / 1.35% - Due 5/6/2012

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Co-Chairman Oscar Dutch Jr. summarized the minutes of the meeting held on September 2, 2011 in Absecon. Oscar reported that the secretary of the association has been instructed to send letters to the leadership of the Atlantic County Firemen's Death Benefit Fund Association inviting them to attend the November 4, 2011 meeting of the Executive Committee. The purpose of the invitation is to continue an open dialog about the history between the two separate associations and the path each needs to take heading into the future. Oscar reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for November 4, 2011 in South Egg Harbor at 19:30. 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.

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Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – President Portale reported that the meeting scheduled for September 12, 2011 was canceled due to lack of business due before the board. President Portale reported that the next meeting of the board is scheduled to be held on November 14, 2011.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported that the training provided by the NJ DOT grant for foam operations was excellent. Ed pointed out that attendance at this free training should have been better than it was and all departments should be more aware and take advantage of any future grant funded training that may be obtained. This class was emailed and posted at least three months ahead and attendance was just barely fifty percent of what the grant would have covered. Ed reported on the Atlantic County emergency operations during Hurricane Irene. Fortunately the area received less of an impact from the storm than was initially expected. Ed reported on the partial tanker task force response to Northern New Jersey during a water system failure that caused hydrant failure. Ed thanked all depts./companies that sent apparatus north. Ed thanked Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz for organizing the county 9/11 ceremony. Ed reported on the tanker task force drill being organized in Burlington County by the New Gretna Vol. Fire Company. The drill was originally scheduled for Oct. 15 and is now pending for Oct. 22. There still remains a possibility that the drill might be further rescheduled or canceled. The plan for the drill includes real time dispatching of resources to an incident at Viking Yachts. Ed reported on the current status of the Homeland Security grants. FY2009 is waiting for two final pieces of equipment, FY2010 is waiting on final equipment delivery, FY2011 has been reduced by fifty percent, and FY2012 is dependent on federal approval but a meeting will be held in October to finalize a submission of equipment for if/when federal approval and guidelines are released. If any depts./companies have suggestions for the FY2012 submission, please forward them to Ed as soon as possible.

Fire Marshal / Public Relations – President Portale reported that Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz was not able to be in attendance. President Portale reported on all of the work Whitey did to organize the county 9/11 ceremony and went on record to thank him on behalf of himself and the association.

Training – President Portale reported that Director of Training, Mike Corbo was not able to be in attendance. President Portale reported Firefighter I is running with thirty students and Firefighter II is running with twenty students. The other semester classes are receiving low numbers for enrollment. Please review the fall semester scheduled and encourage your firefighters to further their education with some of the classes offered. President Portale reported that Atlantic City Fire Department Battalion Chief Joe Rush and Captain Joe Haney will be hosting a high-rise seminar in October. Details will be sent out by email when available.

Library – Ron Bird reported that due to the library being housed in a classroom that is scheduled out often, it is best to contact the training center, who then can contact Ron, and arrange for a mutually convenient time to access the library resources.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Chick Kisby reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association will be on September 29, 2011 in Nesco.

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Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

President Portale reported that East Vineland, Landisville, Collings Lakes, and Weymouth Fire Companies all won trophies at the Wildwood parade. President Portale extended a heartfelt congratulations to all the winning companies.

New Business

Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon reported that the CD with ING Direct Bank matures on October 12, 2011 and recommended that a CD be opened at Parke Bank with those funds while also adding funds to that balance. Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association follow the recommendation of the treasurer and invest in a CD at a bank that has the best possible rate.

Lefty Clayton reported on news that the NJ state government may possibly break up the Division of Fire Safety and distribute the responsibilities to other parts of the government. Lefty received the news while attend the September 15, 2011 meeting of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission. Ed Vincent reported having heard the same news through the NJ State Fire Coordinators. Ed also reported that he has heard that there is no actual final plan to break up the DFS and that the governor is in the process of finally filling the vacant Director position. Lefty reported that NJ State Assemblyman Wisniewski has requested that all interested parties proactively send letters to their legislative representatives and the governor to state support for the DFS as it is and to not break it up. Lefty reported that he has prepared a letter that includes researched history of the DFS. Lefty will share the letter with all departments/companies. President Portale requested that the secretary of the association draft a letter of support and recommendation that the NJ DFS not be dissolved in any way. Motion was made, seconded, and carried that secretary of the association sent letters to the legislative representatives and the governor emphasizing the associations support that the NJ DFS be allowed to continue as is and not be dissolved.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$6,123.02, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Lowes - \$176.25 (workshop) / Thomas Sweeny - \$150.00 (2011 Wildwood trophies) / Brown & Brown - \$139.00 (insurance policy correction) / Modern Gas - \$627.20 (propane) / Staples - \$220.78 (training - office supplies) / Continental Fire Safety - \$3,255.00 (capital exp. - training appliances, harnesses, helmets, mask bags) / This & That Uniforms - \$1,084.25 (73 shirts) / Responder - \$401.24 (airway bag) / Absecon Locksmith - \$12.00 (keys) / Whitey Swartz - \$32.30 (4H Fair Exp.) / State of New Jersey - \$25.00 (annual report fee)

Applications for Membership

Kyle Steven Kaenzig of the Sweetwater Vol. Fire Co. was accepted into membership.

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Good of the Order

Thank you to the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Dept. Sta. 1 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 20:45. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on October 19, 2011 at the Dorothy Vol. Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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Date Clearing

Thurs. Sep. 29, 2011	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
October Fri. Sat., & Sun.	18:00	Scullville VFC	Haunted Hayride at Flemings Junkyard (Firefighter ID gets \$1 off Sep. 30 Opening Night)
October Fri., and Sat.	19:00	Nesco VFC	Haunted House and Haunted Hayride 19:00-23:00 Oct. 7,8,14,15,21,22,28,29
Sat. Oct. 1, 2011	10:00	Smithville	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest (Foot-Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries) (10:00 - 17:00)
Sat. Oct. 1, 2011	12:00	Nesco	1 st Annual Operation Vets Chili Challenge
Sat. Oct. 1, 2011	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sun. Oct. 2, 2011	10:00	Smithville	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest (Foot-Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries) (10:00 - 17:00)
Sun. Oct. 2, 2011	14:00	Bargaintown VFC	4 th Annual Phoenix Fund Golf Outing – Mays Landing Golf & Country Club
Sat. Oct 8, 2011	08:30	Elwood VFC	10 th Annual Golf Tournament – Green Tree Golf Course, Mays Landing
Wed. Oct. 19, 2011	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Fri. Oct. 21, 2011	16:30	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner
Sat. Oct. 29, 2011	09:00	South Egg Harbor VFC	25 th Annual Craft & Home Show
Sat. Oct. 29, 2011	13:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Craft Beer Fest
Sat. Nov. 12, 2011	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Wed. Nov. 16, 2011	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Tues. Nov. 29, 2011	20:00	Linwood FD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Sat. Dec. 10, 2011	19:00	Hammonton VFD	Annual Christmas Parade & Block Party – Reg. @ 17:30, Parade @ 19:00
Wed. Dec. 21, 2011	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jan. 18, 2012	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Thurs. Jan. 26, 2012	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.
Tues. Jan. 31, 2012	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Wed. Feb. 15, 2012	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

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