

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

December 21, 2011

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on December 21, 2011 at the Scullville Volunteer Fire Company by President Amor "Skip" Portale. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny.

Opening Remarks

President Portale introduced Chief Fieder of the Scullville Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Fieder welcomed all to Scullville and wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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 16, 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 \$117,745.71, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America	/	Bank of America	/	ING Direct	/	Parke Bank	/	Parke Bank
Checking: \$49,380.12	/	Savings: \$2,100.01	/	Savings: \$20,109.69	/	13 Month CD: \$23,155.89	/	12 Month CD: \$23,000.00
					/	1.35% - Due 5/6/2012	/	1.10% - Due 10/30/2012

Committee Reports

Executive Committee –Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be in Pomona on January 6, 2012 and will be the annual reorganizational meeting of the committee. Howard offered his, and the Executive Committee's, thanks to the entire association, the committees, Rev. Sweeny, and the officers for much hard work and commitment during the year and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the board is on January 9, 2012 at the training center.

Fire Coordinator –Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent thanked all of the county departments, companies, chiefs, and deputy fire coordinators for a productive year. Ed thanked the deputy fire coordinators for their response to the recent missing person search in the Elwood section of Mullica Township. Ed reminded all deputy fire coordinators that the mutual aid updates from

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their assigned departments/companies are due during the second week of January. Ed reported that the county has budgeted for ten sets of USAR style turnout gear for the deputy fire coordinators. Two tanker task force box trailers and four flat bed trailers, to carry foam totes, have been received. The box trailers will be housed in South Egg Harbor (alpha task force) and East Vineland (bravo task force). The flat bed trailers will be housed in Farmington and Somers Point (alpha task force) and Hammonton and Richland (bravo task force). The trailers should be titled and ready for pickup from the county by mid January. Ed reported on the current status of the 2010 and 2011 Homeland Security grants final purchase plans and the proposed plans for the 2012 grant. The 2012 grant will have \$157,000 worth of submissions from the Atlantic County fire service for consideration. On behalf of himself and the Deputy Fire Coordinators, Ed wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the current Firefighter I class will conclude with the written test this week. A recent study session for the test was well attended by eighteen of the current students. Mike reported that he is still working on collecting the final tuition due for the year. Mike reported that Fire Officer I starts on January 3, 2012, Firefighter I starts on February 14, 2012, and Firefighter II starts on March 12, 2012. Mike relayed that the NJ DFS has schedule the NJ Weekend at the National Fire Academy for April 27, 28, and 29 of 2012. This includes training, room, and board for only \$35.00 and is an opportunity not to be missed. Mike reported that he is going to schedule a Basic Fire Police class for sometime between late January and early February due to an increased need and request from county fire companies. Notice will be sent out as soon as the Fire Police class is scheduled. Mike reported on the new state standards for RIT training. RIT will become part of Firefighter I and has added three hours to Firefighter I making the total 157 hours of training. A RIT class will include 24 hours of training and any standing RIT teams will need 16 documented hours of annual training that can be provided in house. Mike reported that the southern NJ counties have collectively received Proboard certification for FFI and FFII training. Any firefighter wanting to add Proboard certification to their training can do so at an additional cost of \$30. Any firefighter currently certified at FFI and/or FFII can challenge the Proboard test to gain that additional certification for a projected cost of \$150. The Proboard certification is useful to any individual that will be seeking firefighter employment with some government agencies and most industrial fire brigades due to it being a requirement of those jobs. Mike reported that he will schedule an I400 class ASAP for any new chief officers that need it before they can assume office and formally take on the title. Notice will be sent to all as soon as the I400 class is scheduled. Mike reported that he has an excellent working relationship with Atlantic County government and this Association and Executive Committee that makes his job easier and creates the environment that makes the Atlantic County Fire Academy one of, if not the, best fire academies in New Jersey. Mike thanked the fire academy instructors for their hard work throughout the past year. Mike wished all Happy Holidays and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Library – Ron Bird reported that he is working with a Mays Landing Librarian to try and get a book tracking computer program at no cost to the association. If anyone needs library access, contact Ron at tower452002@yahoo.com.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Chick Kisby reported the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Assoc. will be January 31, 2012 at the Absecon Fire Department. Chick wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch Jr. reported on a recent plane crash that occurred near the home and generated much news up there. Oscar wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Communications

The association was copied on a letter sent from the Tuckerton Fire Department's Chief Eggert to Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson. The Tuckerton Fire Chief expressed thanks to Atlantic County for the impressive facility, extensive course selection, enthusiastic instructors, and excellent training (including vehicle extrication class beyond expectations) received at the Atlantic County Fire Academy.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act on.

New Business

There was no new business to act on.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$30,624.16, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- National Pen - \$88.40 (office supplies) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$447.00 (training food) / Lowes - \$50.08 (flashover wood) / Firehouse Magazine - \$24.95 (annual subscription) / AtlantiCare - \$170.00 (BLS books, CPR cards) / Hughes Farms - \$880.00 (straw) / Adams Fire Protection Company - \$4,455.68 (2 sets instructor turn-out gear) / Robert A. Mellon, Secretary - \$900.00 (annual expenses) / Jaime C. Mellon, Treasurer - \$900.00 (annual expenses) / Payroll - \$19,504.08 (instructors) / Federal Payroll Taxes - \$3,109.42 (instructors) / Scantrone - \$54.56 (office supplies) / Public Safety - \$39.99 (battery)

Election of Officers

The election of officers was held. The positions for 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. Those elected to office for the year 2012 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)	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., David G. Buzby, Levon "Lefty" Clayton, Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Oscar Dutch Jr., James Garth Sr., Charles J. Guenther, R. Thomas Hunter Jr., C. Robert Winkler III

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Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

Good of the Order

Chief Tomasco, Elwood Vol. Fire Co., thanked all that assisted with the missing person search this past Sunday. Manpower totaled 199 and so much equipment was offered that much had to be turned down. All manpower was accepted and the Bargaintown Ladies Auxiliary saved his butt, as reported by Chief Tomasco, for being able to provide food to all of the searchers. Unfortunately the missing individual was not found but the individuals daughter was thankful for the overwhelming assistance and impressed that such a large area was searched in just a few hours.

Thank you to the Scullville Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year to all.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on January 18, 2012 in Egg Harbor City. This meeting includes the annual memorial service of the association. Please submit the names of those that have passed during 2011 to Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz 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

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Date Clearing

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
Sat. Apr. 14, 2012	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. May 5, 2012	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Tues. May 8, 2012	08:00	Neschanic Valley Country Club	New Jersey Firemen's Home 2012 Golf Outing
Sat. Nov. 10, 2012	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner

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