

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 19, 2012

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on December 19, 2012 at the Farmington Volunteer Fire Company 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 Leonard Tilley of the Farmington Vol. Fire Company. Chief Tilley welcomed all to Farmington and introduced Egg Harbor Township Fire Dept. Chief Bill Danz. Chief Danz welcomed all to Egg Harbor Township.

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 21, 2012 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 \$125,643.24, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America	/	Bank of America	/	ING Direct	/	Parke Bank	/	Parke Bank
Checking: \$53,726.45	/	Savings: \$5,001.80	/	Savings: \$20,208.72	/	12 Month CD: \$23,251.50	/	13 Month CD: \$23,454.77
					/	1.10% - Due 10/30/2013	/	1.01% - Due 5/6/2013

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be in Pomona on January 4, 2013 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. Howard thanked all county firefighters for their effort during the year and noted that he is proud of their response and efforts during Superstorm Sandy.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the board is on January 14, 2013 at the training center. Howard emphasized the need for this meeting due to the last two meetings having been canceled.

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Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported on the recent responses of the fire coordinators. There was for multiple alarm events in the western side of the county. One of those is suspicious for arson, as well as a fire in Gloucester County. Everyone should maintain vigilance as to the possibility of any other suspected arson fires. Ed reported on the FEMA Superstorm Sandy disaster declaration informational meeting held in Egg Harbor City. Approximately fifty were in attendance. It was reported that the disaster declaration application period has been extended through January. Ed highlighted the fire department/company application process for damage and equipment losses due to the disaster. Ed reported that online application is preferred but he has paper applications if needed. Ed will attempt to keep all informed of any updates to the process and requirements. Ed reported that the NJ DFS has extended the deadlines for filing NFIRS reports. Ed reported on the need for municipalities to have signed mutual aid agreements in place. Only Absecon, Linwood, Longport, Estell Manor, Collings Lakes, and Port Republic have signed agreements. There is a possibility that in the future any municipalities not having a signed agreement will have to cover the cost of any county resources if/when requested. Ed thanked everyone for the cooperation over the past year working with him and the deputy fire coordinators. Ed wished all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year.

Fire Marshal / Public Relations – President Portale reported that Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz has sent out requests for the names of all firefighters that have passed during 2012 for inclusion in the Memorial Service in January as well as sending out requests for valor award nominations and submissions of firefighters that have achieved fifty plus years of service. Please contact Whitey with this information as soon as possible.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I will finish this Sunday with their CPR class. Fire Officer I will start on January 8, 2013 and Fire Officer II has been canceled due to the NJ DFS reworking the class with a whole new format and PowerPoint presentation. It will be scheduled in the future after the instructors have time to learn the new requirements. Mike reported that Marianne has applications for the open fire instructor position/s. Completed applications will be accepted through December and the interview process will start in January. President Portale reported that the interview committee consists of himself, Billy Merola, and Ron Bird. If anyone else is interested on serving on the committee, they are to contact President Portale. Mike reported on the many classes held over the past year and the instructor's great effort to teach that many classes. Mike thanked the fire academy instructors for their hard work throughout the past year and the association Executive Committee and Officers for working with him. Mike wished all Happy Holidays and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Library – Ron Bird reported that if anyone needs library access, contact him at tower452002@yahoo.com.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Chick Kisby reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association will be on January 29, 2012 at the Absecon Fire Department.

Legislative – John Wagner reported not much is happening legislatively due to the storm recovery effort. John thanked everyone that contacted him over the past year with legislative questions and research requests.

County Radio Communications / Central Dispatch – Oscar Dutch reported that he spoke with the president of the Atlantic County Association of Police Chiefs and learned that Executive Levinson informed them that there will be no further effort towards central dispatch if he does not have all municipalities onboard with the plan. Ed Vincent reported on the current status of dispatch within Atlantic County. Ed reported on the different radio technologies in use within the county and on some of the pending FCC upgrade requirements. Ed reported on the November motions from both this association and the Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association to send letters of support for central dispatch to the county officials and municipalities. Ed requested that all seek support from their municipality or distract for central dispatch and to have them

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inform the county of that support. Both Oscar and Ed agree that central dispatch should not be allowed to be shelved yet again without a good fight. Ultimately it is up to the Fire Chiefs and Police Chiefs to work with their municipalities or districts to request the plan for central dispatch continue moving forward.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the home had a great year and thanked everyone for their support of the home. The home has been inspected top to bottom over five days and was found to have zero defects. Oscar reported that the home currently has a waiting list for admission and the final wing will be renovated in May. Oscar wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

ACFFA Dinner – Wayne Dilks reported that the dinner has been scheduled for 18:30 on Friday, March 15, 2013 at Careme's, Atlantic Cape Community College.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act on.

New Business

There was no new business to act on.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$31,497.23, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- MES - \$1,525.00 (instructor uniforms & equipment maintenance) / Modern Gas - \$1,733.02 (propane) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$253.00 (training food) / AtlantiCare - \$45.00 (CPR cards) / Butterhof's Farm - \$975.00 (straw) / Mike Corbo - \$1,179.42 (reimburse for instructor computer and printer both w/ extended warranty from Sam's Club) / Lowes - \$156.78 (flashover wood) / Payroll - \$23,830.01 (instructors) / Robert A. Mellon, Secretary - \$900.00 (annual expenses) / Jaime C. Mellon, Treasurer - \$900.00 (annual expenses)

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 2013 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

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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

Applications for Membership

Casey Hunt of the Pomona Vol. Fire Company was accepted into membership.

Good of the Order

Much discussion was held on the FEMA disaster reimbursement application process for fire departments/companies and municipalities.

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

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Howard Berchtold. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:25. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on January 16, 2013 in Egg Harbor City. This meeting includes the annual memorial service of the association. Please submit the names of those that have passed during 2012 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

http://www.atlanticcountyfireassoc.org/ACFFA_Date_Clearing.htm

Wed. Jan. 16, 2013	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Thurs. Jan. 24, 2013	20:00	Somers Point VFC Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.
Tues. Jan 29, 2013	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Wed. Feb. 20, 2013	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Fri. Mar. 15, 2013	18:30	Careme's, Atl. Cape Comm. College	Annual ACFFA Dinner
Sat. Apr. 13, 2013	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. May 4, 2013	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sat. May 11, 2013		Absecon VFD	100 th Anniversary
Sat. Oct. 5, 2013	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sat. Nov. 9, 2013	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
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