

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

April 16, 2014

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:05 on April 16, 2014 at the Atlantic County Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by Howard Berchtold. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. President Portale welcomed all to the meeting which serves as the twenty-third annual Valor Awards presentation and the fifth annual recognition of firefighters with fifty or more years of active service.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

The meeting is being hosted by the Margate City Fire Department. President Portale introduced Chief Anthony Tabasso who welcomed everyone to the annual valor awards and expressed how much of an honor it has been for the Margate City Fire Department to have been hosting the meeting and awards these past few years. Chief Tabasso quoted meaningful words from a speech by President Theodore Roosevelt that he felt reflects the valor and dedication of the award recipients.

THE MAN IN THE ARENA

Excerpt from the speech "Citizenship in a Republic"

By President Theodore Roosevelt, delivered at the Sorbonne, in Paris, France on 23 April, 1910

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat. "

In Attendance

Roll call was taken by Secretary Robert A. Mellon who reported a quorum was present.

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 45 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 17

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2014 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

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Bills

The bills, totaling \$7,310.67, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Atlantic Cape Community College - \$454.86 (ACFFA dinner) / Butterhof's Farm - \$975.00 (150 bales straw) / Lowes - \$108.24 (flashover supplies) / Staples - \$154.31 (training office supplies) / Public Safety Center - \$2,604.00 (fire hose) / SJ Welding - \$13.46 (rental) / ISFSI - \$125.000 (membership renewal) / Mike Corbo - \$30.00 (gear bag reimbursement) / Mike Corbo - \$908.28 (FDIC reimbursement) / Eric Grace - \$968.76 (FDIC reimbursement) / Will Hancock - \$968.76 (FDIC reimbursement)

Dispensing of Business

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with the remainder of regular business for the evening.

Introduction of Awards

President Portale welcomed all to the awards presentation and "50" year service recognitions. President Portale thanked all valor award recipients for having the courage to do what needed to be done and also thanked the "50" years of service recipients for having the dedication and commitment for all those years. Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold thanked, on behalf of the Executive Committee, all of the "50" years of service recipients for their dedication to the fire service. President Portale introduced the invited guests; Congressman Frank Lobiando, NJ State Assemblyman: Vincent Mazzeo, Atlantic County Freeholders: John W. Risley and Frank Sutton, Atlantic County Sheriff: Frank Balles, Atlantic County Director of Emergency Preparedness: Vince J. Jones III, Atlantic County Fire Marshal: H.J. Whitey Swartz and Atlantic County Director of Fire Training: Michael Corbo. All invited guests offered words of gratitude for the local fire service and the honored award recipients. Freeholder Risley also conveyed gratitude and congratulations on behalf of the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders and NJ Assemblyman Chris Brown. Freeholder Risley reported on Assembly Bill A3408, sponsored by Assemblyman Brown, seeking allowance of increased municipal aid to volunteer fire companies.

"50" Year Service Awards

The presentation of the "50" Year Service Awards was made by Executive Committee Chairman, Howard Berchtold Jr. and President Amor "Skip" Portale. All honorees received a uniform bar, gold life member card, and framed certificate from the association. All honorees also received a certificate of special congressional recognition from Congressman Frank LoBiondo, an assembly commendation from NJ Assemblyman Chris Brown, a certificate of recognition from the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, a certificate of recognition from Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson, and a certificate of recognition from Atlantic County Sheriff Frank Balles.

"50" Year Service Award Recipients:

Chief Charles Mackintosh, Bayview Volunteer Fire Company No. 4
Chief Charles Kisby III, Linwood Volunteer Fire Department
Clarence Abbott, Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company No. 2
Skip Richie, Farmington Volunteer Fire Company No. 4
John Campanella, Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department

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Louis Marshall, Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department
Frank Silvesti, Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department
William A. Fiore, Longport Volunteer Fire Department

President Portale congratulated all 50 year service award recipients and thanked all of the families that supported them for all of those years.

Video Presentation

A short video highlighting some of the incidents that occurred in Atlantic County was played.

Valor Awards

President Amor "Skip" Portale and Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. presented each of the Valor Award recipients with their awards from the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association. This is the twenty-third year of the Valor Awards presentation and two hundred fourteen recipients have been honored since the program was initiated. Recipients have included firefighters, police officers, medical personnel, and civilians. All honorees also received a certificate of special congressional recognition from Congressman Frank LoBiondo, an assembly commendation from NJ Assemblyman Chris Brown, a certificate of recognition from the Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, a certificate of recognition from Atlantic County Executive Dennis Levinson, and a certificate of recognition from Atlantic County Sheriff Frank Balles.

Chief Jerry Cohen, Absecon Volunteer Fire Department, highlighted the details surrounding the incidents that earned recognition for two Absecon firefighters.

Meritorious Citation Recipient:

Rob Kuhn – Absecon Volunteer Firefighter

Absecon firefighter Rob Kuhn was camping at Cape Cod Camp Resort. While setting up his camper, he heard a person screaming. He immediately went to the camp site to investigate. He found a young girl on the ground not breathing due to something lodged in her throat and she was turning blue. Firefighter Kuhn used the abdomen thrust two times to clear the object. The victim then started to cry and breathe normal. If it wasn't for Firefighter Kuhn's quick actions, the victim could have had other serious problems.

Class Two Valor Recipients:

Rob Kuhn – Absecon Volunteer Firefighter
Dale Conover – Absecon Volunteer Firefighter

Absecon firefighters Rob Kuhn and Dale Conover were returning home from a camping trip and traveling south on the Garden State Parkway in Washington Township. They observed a vehicle accident with one vehicle on fire. They pulled their campers over and proceeded to the accident. On arrival they noticed people were trying to get the person out of the car that was on fire, but he was pinned under the dash. Firefighter Kuhn reached into the vehicle and freed him and enabled other people on location to pull him to safety. As this was happening, Firefighter Conover used their fire extinguishers to control

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the fire while the victim was being rescued. If it wasn't for the quick actions of Firefighters Rob Kuhn and Dale Conover, this person could have died in the fire.

Special Presentation

President Amor "Skip" Portale Executive Committee Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. presented a plaque to Atlantic County Fire Marshal H.J. Whitey Swartz to recognize his many contributions to the fire service. Howard noted that, among many things, Whitey is responsible for the valor awards, "50" years of service recognition, fire expo, and the annual memorial service every January.

Presented
to
H.J. Whitey Swartz
In Recognition, Admiration and Thanks
Firefighter, Fire Officer, Fire Coordinator, Fire Marshal, Fire Photographer,
Fire Historian....
Mention firefighting in Atlantic County and undoubtedly the discussion
will turn to countless contributions, years of incredible service and
dedication of H.J. Whitey Swartz.
No one, no one has impacted the fire service community in Atlantic County
– past, present and future – more than H.J. Whitey Swartz.
And no one, no one could be more humble and unassuming in doing so
than our dear friend Whitey.
On behalf of the entire fire service community, The Atlantic County
Firefighters' Association thanks, honors and salutes
H.J. Whitey Swartz
April 16, 2014

Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny recalled when Whitey asked him to serve as Chaplain for the association ten years ago and how that helped start him on a path to ordination.

Good of the Order

Thank you to the Margate City Fire Department 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 and awards presentation was adjourned at 21:05. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on May 21, 2014 in Germana, Galloway Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. May 3, 2014	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sat. May 3, 2014	20:00	Mainland Regional High School (Linwood VFD)	Beatlemania
Sun. May 4, 2014	07:00	Minotola VFC	Breakfast (07:00 – 12:00)
Tues. May 6, 2014	08:30	Neschanic Valley Golf Club	New Jersey Firemen's Home 2014 Golf Outing
Sat. May 17, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ MayFest
Sat. May 17, 2014	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 – 19:30)
Sun. May 18, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ MayFest
Sun. Jun. 1, 2014	12:00	Dorothy VFC	57th Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 – 20:00)
Sat. Jun. 7, 2014	12:00	Cologne VFC	Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 – 18:00)
Aug. 7, 8, 9, 2014	varies	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair
Tues. Aug. 12, 2014	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 12, 2014	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 13, 2014	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Oct. 4, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ OktoberFest
Sun. Oct. 5, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ OktoberFest
Sat. Nov. 8, 2014	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
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ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. May 21, 2014	20:00	Germania VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 18, 2014	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 16, 2014	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 20, 2014	20:00	Mizpah VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 17, 2014	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 15, 2014	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 19, 2014	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 17, 2014	20:00	Cardiff VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 21, 2015	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 18, 2015	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. May 9, 2014	19:30	Fire Museum of Southern New Jersey	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 11, 2014	19:30	Landisville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 5, 2014	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Oct. 31, 2014	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 2, 2015	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

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Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Mon. May 5, 2014	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 14, 2014	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Sep. 8, 2014	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Nov. 3, 2014	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 5, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association

Wed. May 14, 2014	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jun. 11, 2014	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jul. 9, 2014	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Aug. 13, 2014	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Sep. 10, 2014	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Oct. 8, 2014	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Nov. 12, 2014	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 10, 2014	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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Wed. Jan. 14, 2015	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Feb. 11, 2015	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jul. 24, 2014	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 22, 2015	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association