

# 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

May 21, 2014

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on May 21, 2014 at the Germania 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.

## Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Asst. Chief Chip Stockton of the Germania Volunteer Fire Company. Asst. Chief Stockton welcomed all to Germania, thanked all that attended Germania's May Turkey Dinner where they served 1,430 dinners, and reminded all to join them at their next Turkey Dinner in October. Asst. Chief Stockton then introduced the Germania officers and firefighters in attendance. President Portale switched hats to Galloway Township Fire Department Chief and welcomed all to Galloway and expressed the honor shared by all five volunteer fire companies to annually host the May meeting of the association.

## In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 43      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 23

## Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2014 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 \$126,964.78, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank  
Checking: \$46,001.29 / Savings: \$5,004.82 / Savings: \$52,348.97 / 13 Month CD: \$23,609.70  
/ 0.65% - Due 5/6/2014

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold took a moment to recognize Executive Committeeman Charles Guenther for having just celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Chaplain Sweeny offered a blessing for Charles. Howard reflected on the many years he has served and worked with Charles in the Galloway Township Fire Department. President Portale noted that the birthday party went on till one in the morning. Howard then summarized the minutes from the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the executive committee and thanked Joy and Whitey Swartz for hosting that meeting at their firefighting museum. Howard reported on a discussion concerning the annual ACFFA dinner and thanked Wayne Dilks for all the work he does to arrange

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that dinner. A committee will review and compare ACCC versus Mays Landing Country Club for next year's dinner. Howard reported on Director of Fire Training Corbo's ongoing diligence in regards to collecting the outstanding tuition. Director Corbo will work with a committee of senior fire instructors to compile an instructor handbook and SOPs in order to bring together all regulations and policies into one clarifying document. Howard reported on a meeting with Attorney Lynn Caterson prior to the executive committee meeting. Attorney Caterson was concerned about the impact of applying for 501(c)(3) status when currently holding 501(c)(4) status and she reached out to the IRS and was informed to proceed with the normal application process. Howard reported that Secretary Mellon has put in many hours of work keeping the 501(c)(3) process moving forward and that Attorney Caterson acknowledged that we are moving in the right direction. Howard reported on the recommendation of the executive committee to accept the recommendation of the interview committee and hire four new fire instructors. Howard reported that the executive committee has also recommended making a \$200 donation to the Atlantic City Sand Pipers.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Oscar Dutch reported that a brief meeting was held on May 5<sup>th</sup> and the ongoing effort to replace the burn building doors was the topic of discussion.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported on two 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fires in Atlantic City and the plane crash in Hamilton Township. Ed reported that the canceled April 27<sup>th</sup> Tender Task Force - Alpha (TTF-A) drill will be rescheduled. Tender Task Force - Bravo (TTF-B) held a drill on May 19<sup>th</sup> that went very well. The Large Diameter Hose (LDH) Strike Team held a planning meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> and has scheduled a drill for June 1<sup>st</sup> on Clarks Landing Road. Ed reported that the Forest Fire Interface Plan is due back to the NJ Division of Fire Safety (NJ-DFS) by June 1<sup>st</sup> and the Mutual Aid Plans are due back to the NJ-DFS by June 14<sup>th</sup>. Ed reported that he has sent emails to the fire chiefs asking for updated mutual aid plans as related to their dispatch protocols. Ed reported on the airport security passes. Two will be issued, one to Mike Corbo and one to Chip Stockton. Ed reported that most municipalities have signed the mutual aid agreement with the exception of Margate, Buena Borough, Pleasantville, and Hammonton. Ed reported that all deputy fire coordinators will need to be issued new county identification and they should make arrangements to get a new ID by contacting Jake Lees.

**Fire Marshal / Public Relations** – President Portale reported that Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz has sent thanks to all involved with setting up and executing the valor awards in April.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I is currently running with forty-one students and Firefighter II is testing and wrapping up tonight. Mike reported that the Summer Firefighter I will start Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup> and currently only four students are registered with a minimum of ten needed. Of the four registered, two are from out of county and two are from out of state. Firefighter II will start Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> and currently has only one student registered with a minimum of ten needed. A Thermal Imaging class is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mike reviewed the remainder of the scheduled classes on the calendar. Mike reminded all that when utilizing the training center, all sheds need to be closed up when finished.

**Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association** – Charles "Chick" Kisby reported that the next meeting of the chiefs' association is scheduled for June 11, 2014 and will be hosted by Collings Lakes Volunteer Fire Company.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar reported that the golf tournament fundraiser was a huge success and they even had to turn away some last minute registrants due to being unable to get anymore onto the tee schedule. One hundred twenty golfers played in the tournament. Another twenty had to be turned away. They only had plans for one hundred golfers. They will research the possibility of switching to a course that can handle more participants for future fundraisers. Oscar reported that the home currently has sixty-three residents staying in the ninety-six bed facility. If anyone would like a tour of the home, please

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contact Oscar. Oscar reported on a recent property survey and noted that the grounds are looking good and are in great condition.

**Atlantic County Fire Radio Policy Committee / Central Dispatch** – Oscar Dutch reported that there have been many county level meetings concerning central dispatch. The county has published a request for qualifications (RFQ) for the design professionals such as architect and engineer. Oscar reported on the CAD/RMS plans and how will work with the Atlantic City system being purchased now. Oscar reported that a committee of mayors is now involved with the process and that they should be reporting back to all mayors with progress reports.

**NJ State Firemen's Association** – Henry Schoenstein reported that an increase of \$250 has been approved to the burial benefit increasing it to \$10,750. Henry reported that there are no contested offices or resolutions pending for the 2014 convention. Henry reported that a four point audit is required of all local relief treasurers. The audit will focus on canceled checks, check book, treasurer journal, and investment/CD statements. There have been reports of local relief level theft throughout the state, not in Atlantic County, that has brought about the need for the audit. This may become an annual audit in addition to the full audit conducted every five years. The Atlantic County audit is scheduled for Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 PM and has staggered times assigned to each treasurer. The local relief treasurers have been inform of their scheduled time to report at. Henry reported on the court case where an individual is attempting to OPRA an application for relief. The state association has won thus far by having the personal nature of an application for relief deemed not an OPRA permissible document. The complainant is appealing that determination. Henry reported that eighteen local relief associations will not be seated at the convention. None of the eighteen are from Atlantic County.

**ACFFA Dinner** – Wayne Dilks reported that he is still waiting for all the figures in order to compile a final report of the 2013 dinner held in April.

**Atlantic County 4H Fair** – Howard Berchtold requested that the fire instructors should start putting together plans for this year's firefighter competition and noted that he is working on compiling all relevant data and will report on plans for the 4H fair at the next meeting of the association.

## Communications

There were no communications to report.

## Deferred Business

Egg Harbor Township Fire Chief William Danz Jr. reported that he requested the cancellation of the April 27<sup>th</sup> TTF-A drill after he reviewed the location choice. Chief Danz would prefer drills be in locations with greater accessibility. All task force and strike team drills are welcome in Egg Harbor Township.

Chief Danz reported that he met with Senator Van Drew and he agreed to amend the bill, S1480, he sponsored to increase municipal aid to volunteer fire companies. The amendment would allow up to \$150,000 for the first three fire companies within a municipality and an additional \$50,000 for each fire company beyond three. There was discussion on the details of the bill is and how it will help all volunteer fire companies in New Jersey. Chief Danz is anticipating a positive legislative response and hopes that the bill is moving forward by the end of summer.

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President Portale reported that the audit committee will meet in June, after he returns from a trip.

## **New Business**

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to formally hire Dave Buzby, Marylynn Graham, Eric Moran, and Joe Rush to the position of fire instructor as recommended by the interview and executive committees.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to make a donation, in the amount of \$200.00, to the Atlantic City Sand Pipers as recommended by the executive committee.

## **Bills**

The bills, totaling \$3,447.26, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Hayes Mindish Inc. - \$85.00 (ACFFA schedule cards) / Cheech 2 Go - \$159.43 (training lunches) / Mike Corbo - \$286.55 (maintenance and office supplies reimbursement) / Goodenoughs - \$600.00 (straw) / MES - \$261.50 (PPE gear repair) / Thomas Sweeny - \$81.60 (eight 50yr cards) / Whitey Swartz - \$93.02 (valor/50yr supplies) / Primos Pizza - \$429.25 (training and detail lunches) / Home Depot - \$139.84 (maintenance and training supplies) / South Jersey Welding - \$25.62 (rental fees) / Public Safety Center - \$310.45 (PPE gloves and batteries) / NJ Dept of Community Affairs - \$700.00 (7 option B books) / Atlantic City Sand Pipers - \$200.00 (donation) / Treasurer State of NJ - \$75.00 (corporate document change fee)

## **Applications for Membership**

Paul Sicurella of the Egg Harbor City Fire Department was accepted into membership.

## **Good of the Order**

There was a question from the floor requesting the status of the 2014 dues. Secretary Mellon reported that he is finalizing the dues now and that they were delayed due to working on the 501(c)(3) paperwork.

Skip Ritchie reported that the Egg Harbor Township Fire Department is sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Farmington firehouse on Friday June 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 PM till 7:30 PM. Call Skip at (609)641-8941 for more information or visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org> to schedule an appointment.

Thank you to the Germania Volunteer Fire Company 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 20:55. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on June 18, 2014 at the East Vineland Volunteer Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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**Date Clearing**      [http://www.atlanticcountyfireassoc.org/ACFFA\\_Date\\_Clearing.htm](http://www.atlanticcountyfireassoc.org/ACFFA_Date_Clearing.htm)

## Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. May 24, 2014	18:00	Laureldale VFC	Beef & Beer at Irish Eyes Pub, Egg Harbor City
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)
Fri. Jun. 27, 2014	14:30	Farmington VFC	American Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by Egg Harbor Twp. Fire Dept. (14:30 – 19:30)
Sat. Jul. 19, 2014	22:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	50/50 Raffle @ 139 <sup>th</sup> Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
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. Oct. 11, 2014	08:00	Elwood VFC @ Mays Landing Country Club	13 <sup>th</sup> Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sat. Nov. 8, 2014	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
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## ACFFA Meetings

### Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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. 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. 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. 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