

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

October 15, 2014

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on October 15, 2014 at the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Company by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of all firefighters and military personnel. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Chief Robert Gibney of the Dorothy Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Gibney welcomed all to Dorothy and Weymouth Township and wished all a good meeting and enjoyable night on behalf of the members and himself. Chief Gibney asked that the construction be excused as they are updating the building and reported that there is plenty of food for after the meeting.

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 - 22

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the September 17, 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 \$143,835.49, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$62,669.13 / Savings: \$5,005.37 / Savings: \$52,436.65 / 12 Month CD: \$23,724.34
/ 0.60% - Due 5/6/2015

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for October 31, 2014 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.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for November 3, 2014. Howard reported that all board members have been reappointed by the county.

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Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported on the fire coordinator response to Atlantic City for a three alarm fire on September 30th. Ed reported on some mutual aid issues, and current ACFD staffing levels, that came to light during that call. Ed Vincent reported that the CAD/RMS committee has received information from all existing fifteen dispatch centers concerning fire department dispatch protocols. Ed reported that he reviewed the matrix of imported data from the dispatch centers and it appears to be complete and up to date. Therefore it is not necessary to hold a fire service meeting to review the matrix. Ed reported on the plans for five county fire dispatch consoles. The fire departments will be split among the consoles with a goal of balanced call ratios with Atlantic City FD having a dedicated console. Ed has requested total call volume for each fire department in order to determine the distribution among the remaining four consoles. Ed reported that all FY2013 Homeland Security grants have been closed out and then reported on the FY2014 Homeland Security grant regional distribution plans. The EHTFD Technical Rescue Team will receive \$20,000 for equipment, the task forces/strike teams will receive \$14,300 for water distribution equipment, and the ACFD will receive \$9,466 for confined space equipment. Ed reported that FY2015 Homeland Security grants will follow the same guidelines as FY2014 and that an additional ten years of grants has been ensured. Ed reported that the county recently received six hundred fifty 800 MHz P25 Phase II compliant radios. County fire departments that currently have county issued 800 MHz radios, because they remained on VHF, will have them replaced with a new one. Ed reported on the several pieces of apparatus around the county currently out of service including Pomona's aerial, Cologne's aerial, and Bayview's aerial. Ed reminded all to keep him informed when apparatus is out of service and when returned to service. Ed reported that the architect contract has been finalized with Sosh Architects and AECOM. Stockton College will manage the construction of the building. The expectation is twelve months for architectural renderings and Pinelands, and other, approvals. Construction should take eighteen months after final approvals are received. The central dispatch committee will be kept informed of progress throughout the process. Ed reported that the CAD/RMS software will be put out to bid around November 14th. Ed reported that a county survey shows that a majority of fire departments currently utilize Firehouse® Software for NFIRS. A decision has been made at the county level to purchase/utilize Firehouse® Software with central dispatch and to provide the software to all twenty-three municipalities at no cost. Ed reported that the county will also purchase/utilize a smartphone/text application, such as Active 911® or Spotted Dog®, with central dispatch and provide that to all twenty-three municipalities at no cost. A decision about which application has not yet been made. Ed reported that all mutual aid plan updates have been received with the exception of Ventnor and Brigantine. The mutual aid plan has been scanned and sent to all fire chiefs and dispatch centers on a CD. Ed reported that all municipalities have signed the mutual aid agreement with the exception of Margate and Hammonton. The mutual aid agreement expires in July 2015 and the county will start seeking municipal signatures for a new agreement starting in January 2015. Ed reported that a representative from Harris Radio will be at the Atl. Co. Fire Chiefs' Assoc. meeting in Linwood on November 12th. The meeting will start at 19:30, instead of the usual 20:00, to all time for the radio presentation. A trailer with radio equipment will be there and an update on radio systems will be provided with time for some questions. Ed reported that an informal survey showed that approximately 70% of county fire departments currently are purchasing Harris radios. Ed requested that he be informed if any fire department is purchasing other vendor radios and would like to have a representative from that vendor provide a presentation. Ed reminded all that when buying new 800 MHz radios that they need to be P25 Phase II compliant. Ed reported that Atlantic County was one of the first to complete an update of the Wildland/Urban Interface Plan. Both the NJ DFS and NJ Forest Fire have signed off on the plan. A drill will be scheduled for November 2nd at the Canale Training Center. The drill will consist of a classroom session followed by an equipment review. Details of the drill will be sent to all fire chiefs when finalized.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I and Firefighter II are running fine. Some makeup classes are required due to inclement weather. Mike provided an update to the Firefighter I test score issues. Mike reported that fifty question quizzes are now be utilized every three modules in order to ascertain ongoing comprehension levels. Mike reported on the new NJ curriculum for Firefighter I and II that will start on January 1, 2015. Mike reported that a Fire Official class will start on October 16th. Mike reported that twenty-one doors need to be replaced in the burn building and smoke

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house. A prototype door has been created and an estimate for all doors is being generated for county review. Mike reviewed the upcoming schedule of classes and reported that those that need CPR may join the Firefighter I class on November 16th at a cost of \$40 per person.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Charles "Chick" Kisby reported that the next meeting of the chiefs' association is scheduled for November 12, 2014 and will be hosted by Linwood Fire Department. The meeting will start at 19:30, instead of the usual 20:00, to allow time for the Harris Radio presentation.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the Board of Managers held a reorganization meeting and that he was elected as Chairman of the Executive Committee now that he is no longer the Chairman of the Board of Managers. Oscar reported that all is good at the home and that they will start on some needed projects including the installation of a generator and the rewiring of the old building where knob and tube wiring was discovered. Oscar reported that he will be making more one day trips to the home now, instead of the overnight trips, if anyone would like to join him for a tour of the home and property.

ACFFA Dinner – Cindy Badger reported that she contacted the Mays Landing Country Club and all of the Fridays in March are available. It was unanimously decided to set March 20th as the date for the annual dinner. A door prize request letter will be created to seek door prize donations for the dinner. It is requested that everyone assists with locating door prizes.

Administration – Secretary Robert Mellon reported that association dues have not yet been received from Absecon, Brigantine, Newtonville, Milmay, Collings Lakes, Mizpah, Weymouth, Cologne, Nesco, and Pleasantville.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

Egg Harbor Township Fire Chief William Danz Jr. reported on his continuing effort to get N.J.S.A. 40A:14-34 municipal appropriation to fire companies changed to allow greater municipal support of volunteer fire companies. Chief Danz reported that the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee has reported favorably on Senate Bill S1480 with the revisions to reflect up to \$150,000 of allowed municipal assistance for the first three volunteer fire companies and an additional \$50,000 of allowed municipal assistance for each additional volunteer fire company beyond three. Chief Danz reported that he has remained in contact with Senator Jeff VanDrew and Assemblyman Jim Whelen with letters of thanks and requests to continue fighting for the bills.

New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

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Bills

The bills, totaling \$2,064.88, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- State of New Jersey - \$30.30 (corporate document copy) / Staples - \$123.56 (training office supplies) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$140.00 (training lunches) / State of New Jersey - \$25.00 (annual report filing) / South Jersey Welding - \$13.02 (equipment rental) / Goodenoughs - \$900.00 (straw) / NJ Dept. of Community Affairs - \$700.00 (option B code book) / ICC - \$133.00 (NJ fire code)

Nomination of Officers

The first of two rounds of nominations was held. Those nominated 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, Wayne Dilks, William Donath
Executive Comm. (9)	Howard Berchtold Jr., David G. Buzby*, Levon "Lefty" Clayton*, Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Don DaGrossa, Oscar Dutch Jr., James Garth Sr.*, Charles J. Guenther*, R. Thomas Hunter Jr.*, C. Robert Winkler III

***have not yet formally accepted nomination and must do so before elections.**

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

Good of the Order

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

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Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:15. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on November 19, 2014 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 1.

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. Oct. 18, 2014	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner
Sat. Oct. 25, 2014	09:00	South Egg Harbor VFC	Fall/Christmas Craft, Art, & Home Show
Sat. Nov. 8, 2014	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. Nov. 22, 2014	11:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale
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ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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. 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)

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

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 Chiefs' Association

Wed. Nov. 12, 2014	19:30	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.

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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