

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

November 19, 2014

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on November 19, 2014 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department Sta. 1 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. Reverend Sweeny also spoke about the meaning of Thanksgiving. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Chief Michael Sweeney Sr. of the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Sweeney welcomed all to Somers Point and introduced the fire department officers that were in attendance.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance - 42 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 18

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the October 15, 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 \$153,049.58, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$71,882.97 / Savings: \$5,005.62 / Savings: \$52,436.65 / 12 Month CD: \$23,724.34
/ 0.60% - Due 5/6/2015

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the meeting of the Executive Committee held on October 31, 2014 in South Egg Harbor. Howard congratulated Whitey Swartz for his upcoming retirement as Atlantic County Fire Marshal and welcomed Dave Buzby who will be the new Atlantic County Fire Marshal. Howard thanked Whitey for all that he has done for this association under public relations. Howard reported that Stockton College is aggressively seeking to get the new central dispatch constructed, but will still have to overcome all of the state regulatory and permitting processes. Howard thanked Instructor Rob Winkler for providing an excellent training report to the Executive Committee on behalf of Director Corbo. Howard reported on some of the issues plaguing the current Firefighter I class concerning student behavior and ignorance. Howard noted that these issues need to be policed better and that it is more than just the Director's or Instructor's responsibility. All Fire Chiefs need to take responsibility for their students and make it

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clear that they are expected to behave as adults and take seriously their responsibilities as a student with the expectation that they will achieve a passing status for any and all classes that they are attending. Howard reported that the Executive Committee will be reviewing and evaluating the graduation process and requirements for Firefighter I. Howard reported that the 501(c)(3) application process is moving forward steadily and the Executive Committee has been kept up to date on the process by Secretary Mellon. Howard thanked Whitey for spearheading the 2015 calendar project and Secretary Mellon for laying out all of the meetings/events to be included on the calendar. Howard reported on the plans to finalize the purchase of a memorial bench to be placed at the NJ Firemen's Home. Howard reported that the Executive Committee received, and recommends the approval of, the public relations and administration budgets for 2015. Howard reported that President Portale is reviewing the association's library committee. Howard reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for January 2, 2015 in Pomona at 19:30 and will be the reorganizational meeting for 2015.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold summarized the business conducted at the meeting of the Advisory Board held on November 3, 2014. Howard reported that the need for additional training space and the status of the county owned fire apparatus, used for training, were discussed.

Fire Coordinator – Tom Hunter reported that Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent sent his regards. Jim Garth reminded all that Ed is seeking year end run totals for all county departments/companies.

Fire Marshal / Public Relations – Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz reported that year end fire report totals, for the county report, need to be submitted by February. Whitey reported that he needs the names of all firefighters that have passed during 2014 for inclusion in the Memorial Service in January. Also needed are any updates for new Fire Chiefs elected/appointed for 2015. Requests will soon be sent out for valor award nominations and submissions of firefighters that have achieved fifty plus years of service. Whitey reported that he is working with Mike Corbo on plans to hold a "Fire Safety Day" for the public, at the training center, in October of 2015. Whitey reminded all that assistance will be needed when it is time for the annual 4H Fair in August of 2015. Whitey reported that he will be working with Dave Buzby during a transition period and that Dave will now be the Atlantic County Fire Marshal. Whitey presented the completed 2015 calendar and thanked Secretary Mellon for the effort in putting together the meeting/event dates included on the calendar. Whitey provided the action photographs for the calendar and they are currently available for \$3.00 per calendar. Whitey reported that he hopes to include advertising on the 2016 calendar to offset some of the expense. Whitey thanked all for the support he has received during his more than twenty-five years as the Atlantic County Fire Marshal.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I training ground classes have had many cancellations due to weather/temperature conditions. They are currently working on making up the cancelled classes. Mike reported that they are working on improving test scores by implementing regular quizzes to ensure that the students are comprehending the material. The quizzes started with low results, but have improved. Mike reported that they are trying to deal with the issues of immature behavior as best they can. The problem has been difficult and many students have been removed from the class. Mike reported that, statewide, there has been an increase in student behavior issues and lower test scores. Mike reported that an idea that regular reports on all students be sent to fire chiefs would be too burdensome. Mike reported that he does contact a fire chief if one of their students is causing issues or having trouble. Mike reported on the current Firefighter I graduation ceremony process and how that some students walk with their class even though they still need to complete a makeup class or test. Mike reported that the NJ DFS allows up to three years to makeup classes/tests before the entire Firefighter I course needs to be repeated. Mike reminded all that those who still need to complete a makeup class/test have not received any certifications yet and their fire chief is made aware of their requirements to complete certification. Mike also reported that once anyone has to makeup fifteen or more classes they will need to repeat the entire Firefighter I course. Mike reported that the Firefighter II course will no longer have a formal graduation ceremony and that will help keep the graduation night more

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manageable. Mike noted that very few of the Firefighter I graduates in Atlantic County have returned to attend the Firefighter II course. Mike reminded all that Firefighter I is too basic to be the only training achieved by any firefighter and that all should try to include Firefighter II in their training objectives. Mike reviewed the current slate of courses scheduled and noted that attendance with the Fall session has been down, possibly due to dwindling training funds available at the end of the year. Mike reported that the Firefighter I test is scheduled for December and hopes to see improved scores over prior tests.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Charles "Chick" Kisby reported that the next meeting of the chiefs' association is scheduled for December 10, 2014 and will be hosted by Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company. Chick reported that a request was received at the November meeting to change up the chiefs' association meeting nights to different nights of the week instead of just on a Wednesday. Unfortunately it was too late to effectively address such a change and the 2015 schedule needed to be finalized. The meeting schedule will be readdressed in 2015 before setting the 2016 meeting schedule.

ACFFA Dinner – Cindy Badger reported that the dinner has been set for March 20, 2015. RSVPs are requested by March 6, 2015. There will be a cash bar and the cost for dinner, soda, and gratuity will be \$42.00 per person. A door prize request letter has been created to seek door prize donations for the dinner. It is requested that everyone assists with locating door prizes.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2015 Public Relations Budget of \$1,705.00 as presented to, and recommended by, the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2015 Administrative Budget of \$4,700.00 as presented to, and recommended by, the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2015/2016 meeting schedule.

2015/2016 Meeting schedule for the Executive Committee (meetings at 19:30):

March 6, 2015 – Somers Point #1
July 3, 2015 – Landisville
October 30, 2015 – South Egg Harbor

May 1, 2015 – Whitey Swartz Fire Museum
September 4, 2015 – Absecon
January 8, 2016 – Pomona

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2015/2016 Meeting schedule for the Regular Meetings (third Wednesday of month at 20:00):

March 18 – Sweetwater	April 15 - Fire Training Center (Host Margate)	May 20 – Pomona
June 17 – Milmay	July 15 – Linwood	August 19 – Laureldale
September 16 – Hammonton #1	October 21 – Port Republic	November 18 – Somers Point #2
December 16 – Bargaintown	January 20, 2016 – Egg Harbor City	February 17, 2016 – Longport

Bills

The bills, totaling \$11,443.01, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Walt's Primo Pizza - \$253.00 (training lunches) / MES - \$7,117.00 (3 sets instructor turn-out gear) / South Jersey Welding - \$13.46 (equipment rental) / State of New Jersey-927 - \$1,072.15 (quarterly taxes) / Goodenoughs - \$648.00 (straw) / Robert Mellon - \$310.83 (reimburse ID card ribbon & software upgrade) / Post Office - \$49.00 (stamps) / AtlantiCare - \$30.00 (CPR cards) / Suburban Propane - \$1,001.35 (propane) / ICC - \$714.00 (NJ fire code books) / Staples - \$234.22 (training office supplies)

Nomination of Officers

The second of two rounds of nominations was held. Only the seats on the Executive Committee are contested. 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

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Applications for Membership

Matthew Steinthal of the Farmington Volunteer Fire Company was accepted into membership.

Good of the Order

Lefty Clayton reported hearing rumors about CDL requirements for fire apparatus operators in New Jersey. Lefty cited N.J.S.A. 39:3-10j and 39:3-10k which exempt operators of firefighting apparatus from the licensing provisions of the federal "Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986."

39:3-10j Findings, declaration concerning commercial driver's licenses.

1. The Legislature finds that:
 - a. On September 20, 1988, the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation granted the states of this nation the authority to exempt certain drivers from the licensing provisions of the "Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986," Pub.L.99-570 (49 U.S.C. s.2701 et seq.).
 - b. The "Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986" requires a commercial driver's license for anyone who operates a vehicle that has a gross weight rating in excess of 26,000 pounds, carries 15 or more passengers or transports hazardous materials.
 - c. While that act's objectives to regulate and improve the traffic safety of the commercial trucking industry are laudable, it could have an unintended, and largely adverse, impact upon certain non-commercial drivers.
 - d. Unless the State of New Jersey, in accordance with the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation's directive, exercises its exemption authority, certain operators of firefighting apparatus, operators of emergency or rescue equipment operated for the purposes of a first aid, ambulance or rescue squad or for disaster control, non-civilian operators of military vehicles owned or operated by the United States Department of Defense or the National Guard, and farmers operating farm vehicles will be obligated to secure commercial driver's licenses under that act.
 - e. There appears to be no significant evidence that the operators of firefighting apparatus, operators of emergency or rescue equipment operated for the purposes of a first aid, ambulance or rescue squad or for disaster control, non-civilian operators of military vehicles owned or operated by the United States Department of Defense or the National Guard, or farmers operating farm vehicles in and about their regular agricultural activities pose or have created any safety hazards on the public highways which would warrant their being licensed under the provisions of the "Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986."

The Legislature, therefore, declares that it is altogether fitting and proper to authorize, in accordance with the directives issued by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, that the designated operators of firefighting apparatus, operators of emergency or rescue equipment operated for the purposes of a first aid, ambulance or rescue squad or for disaster control, non-civilian operators of military vehicles owned and operated by the United States Department of Defense or the National Guard, and operators of farm vehicles under certain circumstances be exempted from the licensing requirements set forth in the "Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986."

L.1989,c.164,s.1; amended 1990, c.103, s.36; 1991, c.11, s.1; 1991, c.126, s.1; 1997, c.269, s.1.

39:3-10k Exemption for operators of certain emergency, other equipment or vehicles.

2. Unless otherwise required by federal law or regulation, and subject to any rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this act, no (1) designated operator of firefighting apparatus, (2) non-civilian operator of a military vehicle owned or operated by the United States Department of Defense or the National Guard, (3) operator of a farm vehicle controlled and operated by a farmer, used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies to or from a farm, operated within 150 miles of a person's farm, and not used in the operation of a common or contract motor carrier, or (4) operator of emergency or rescue equipment operated for the purposes of a first aid, ambulance or rescue squad or for disaster control, shall be subject to the licensing provisions of the "Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986," Pub.L.99-570 (49 U.S.C. s.2701 et seq.).

Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a waiver shall not be granted if the granting of the waiver would place the State in a position of not being in substantial compliance with the requirements of the federal act.

L.1989,c.164,s.2; amended 1990, c.103, s.37; 1991, c.11, s.2; 1991, c.126, s.2; 1997, c.269, s.2.

Thank you to the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department Sta. 1 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 21:00. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on December 17, 2014 at the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company. Elections will be conducted and delegates are reminded to bring their delegate cards. Association dues for 2014 have not yet been received from Brigantine, Newtonville, Milmay, Collings Lakes, Mizpah, Weymouth, Cologne, Nesco, and Pleasantville. The delegates from those companies will not be entitled to vote unless dues are submitted.

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. Nov. 22, 2014	11:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale
Sat. Nov. 26, 2014	19:00	Gourmet Italian Cuisine	Firemen's Night Out Benefiting Bayview VFC
Sat. Dec. 6, 2014	11:00	Cardiff VFC	Open House with Santa Claus (11:00 - 15:00)
Sat. Dec. 13, 2014	19:00	Hammonton	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (reg. 17:30 & parade 19:00)
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Fri. Mar. 20, 2015	18:30	Mays Landing Country Club	Annual ACFFA Dinner
Fri. Mar. 27, 2015	17:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	4 th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner
Sat. Apr. 11, 2015	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner (HamAndOysterDinner.com)

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

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

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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

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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. 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