

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

President
Amor "Skip" Portale
Vice President
Ellsworth Ott
2nd Vice President
Charles "Chuck" Kisby



Secretary
Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer
Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sect./Treasurer
Cindy L. Badger

March 18, 2015

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on March 18, 2015 at the Sweetwater 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 Chief Gary Franklin of the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Franklin welcomed all to Sweetwater.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 44 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 23

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2015 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 \$116,796.12, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$35,416.81 / Savings: \$5,006.12 / Savings: \$52,540.57 / 12 Month CD: \$23,832.62
/ 0.60% - Due 5/6/2015

Special Presentation

NJ Forest Fire Service – Division Fire Warden Bill Donnelly introduced the Atlantic County Section Fire Wardens in attendance. Bill noted that the forest fire season is upon us and that they are currently finishing up the prescribed burning within the next week or so. Bill reported that the VFA grants are still being processed and that there were approximately five hundred forest fire incidents in 2014 which involved approximately four thousand acres. Bill noted that anyone with questions, or requiring assistance, should feel free to contact the office. Bill reviewed the southern New Jersey Forest Fire Task Force and the plans to schedule a drill in the fall of 2015. Bill reported that the local fire wardens are available for presentations and training when requested and that they may also be able to arrange for a helicopter tour over a fire company's response area. The New Jersey Forest Fire Service is still working on finalizing contracted air support for the 2015 season and the NJFF helicopters are always available when needed. Bill reported that the fire towers will be staffed as soon as conditions dictate and that they may be visited if arranged for ahead of time. Bill reported that the pine beetle damage

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has decreased over the last two years but they are not expected to go away completely. Bill emphasized that all should avoid operating around dead trees due to the increased risk of them falling.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the meeting of the committee held on March 6, 2015 at Somers Point Station 1. Howard emphasized that there was extensive review of the Firefighter I class size and training procedures. Howard reported that Fire Instructor John V. Wagner Jr., also Estell Manor VFC chief, has been suspended from the instructor position due to not having the required fire instructor certifications from the NJ Division of Fire Safety. Howard reminded all to file the paperwork required to obtain formal NJ DFS certification and to keep that certification up to date when required to do so. Howard reported that a trip to the NJ Firemen's Home will be arranged this spring and that a trip to the 9/11 Memorial in New York may also be planned in the future.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the March 2, 2015 meeting was cancelled. The next meeting of the board is scheduled for May 4, 2015 at the training center.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported on fire coordinator notifications for an overturned tractor trailer in Richland and a 2nd alarm fire in Atlantic City. Ed reported that Tender Task Force Alpha (TTF-A) has a drill scheduled for April 19th at the Pinelands Regional High School. Due to limited staging, only tankers from the task force will be participating. There will be a pre-drill meeting on March 19th at the West Tuckerton firehouse. Ed reported that Sweetwater VFC Chief Franklin has informed him that Sweetwater now has an operational ice rescue team and that this has been updated into the county record. Ed reported that he received a call from the NJ Division of Fire Safety concerning the Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Company. The NJ DFS was contacted by the mayor of Estell Manor who informed them that he had concerns with the qualifications of their firefighters. Craig Augustoni was sent by the DFS to meet with the mayor and members of the fire company to investigate the concerns. It was discovered that the Estell Manor firefighters had failed to file the NJ DFS certification application after completing certifiable training courses such as Firefighter I and Firefighter II. The mayor of Estell Manor ceased operations of the fire company until the certification and equipment maintenance records are brought up to date. This also means that Estell Manor will not respond to any task force/strike team requests until they are placed back into service by the mayor. Ed reminded all that proper certification papers need to be filed with the NJ DFS and that all equipment needs to be maintained with proper maintenance documentation. Ed reported that Fire Chief Dennis Brooks, Atlantic City FD, is currently on an administrative suspension and that Deputy Chief Granese is currently serving as the Acting Fire Chief. Ed reported that he has an Apple iPad issued by the NJ DFS and now two of the nine deputy fire coordinators have been issued iPads from the county. Plans are for all deputy coordinators to have iPads in the future. The iPads give them on scene access to critical information such as the full county mutual aid plan. The mutual aid plan was also sent to all dispatch centers, the county EOC, and all county fire chiefs. The state requires the mutual aid plan to be updated every two years. The next update for Atlantic County will be in 2016, but Ed requested he be informed of any changes as they occur. Ed reported on the FY2014 Homeland Security Grant and that \$20,000 is earmarked for the EHTFD Technical Rescue Team, \$9,466 to the ACFD Confined Space Operations, and \$14,300 distributed to the county task forces and strike teams. Ed reported that some equipment is starting to be delivered and that he will contact the task force and strike team leaders to arrange for distribution. Ed noted that the Atlantic City FD may not continue to host the confined space equipment and vehicles. If that comes to fruition, the equipment and vehicles would revert back to the county. Ed reported that Washington and Bass River Townships, Burlington County, will host a wildland/urban interface tabletop drill on March 19th and have invited Atlantic and Ocean Counties to attend. Four of the deputy fire coordinators are planning on attending. Ed reported that all municipalities have signed the mutual aid agreement dated 2010. The mutual aid agreement expires in July 2015 and that Ed Conover, Atlantic County, will start notifying the municipalities that they need to negotiate and sign a new

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agreement. The new agreement, once fully executed, will be good for five years until 2020. Ed noted that a Memorandum of Understanding exists between Atlantic County and all neighboring counties providing for mutual aid. Ed reported that he forwards security alerts from NJ to all fire chiefs and requested that they be reviewed. Ed reported that he, and Oscar Dutch, met with NJ ANG Fire Chief Brian Alexander. Chief Alexander showed them a new attack unit he received and informed them that the NJ ANG is community oriented and wants to ensure that their equipment is available if needed to assist the neighboring fire departments. Chief Alexander would like to bring the new attack unit to the June meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association for a show and tell. Ed reported that there will be a town hall meeting in Corbin City on March 19th concerning the bridge closure during construction and that the affected fire chiefs are invited. Ed reported that the CAD/RMS committee is preparing to go out to bid for the CAD/RMS computer systems and that a committee has started working on a county radio policy.

Fire Marshal / Public Relations – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that there are three 50+ year member recognition submissions and thirteen nominations for valor awards. The committee will meet and review the nominations.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I is running with fifty-seven students. Mike noted that only ten of the fifty-seven failed the first quiz and that is an improvement over the last semester. Mike reported on the documentation and procedural errors at the Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Company. A newspaper article reported that some of their mistakes were due to not being informed about the NJ DFS certification procedures. Mike reported that all Atlantic County Fire Academy students are inform of the proper NJ DFS certification procedures. Mike spoke with Estell Manor President Matthew Wagner. President Wagner informed Mike that the article misinterpreted his statements. Mike reviewed the upcoming classes schedule at the training center and reminded all that if a company has a large group desiring flashover training a company class can be arranged. Mike reviewed some of the issues questioned about the limiting of the Firefighter I class size and the issues created by setting a limit. Mike reported that a strict discipline policy has been implemented and that chiefs will be contacted. There was discussion on student behavior, learning techniques, and what is being implemented to improve the same. President Portale reported that the executive committee and officers take the issue very seriously and have been doing all that is possible to help improve the situation. The fire chiefs need to be part of the solution by monitoring their students' progress and reminding all that no one is authorized to fight fire until they are in possession of NJ DFS Firefighter I certification. It was noted that the NJ DFS has revoked the certifications of fire officers in volunteer fire companies when it was discovered that they allowed improper operations or failed to ensure proper firefighter certification. Mike reminded all to keep proper personnel records. Mike reported that he will start emailing fire chiefs the Firefighter I quiz results where they can identify their students by their number and see how they rank within the class.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Chick Kisby reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on April 8, 2015 at the Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the home is currently accepting bids for redoing the electric in the old mansion and a new rooftop AC unit. Oscar reported that the location for the ACFFA bench is still covered by snow. Oscar noted that Howard's idea for a trip to the home is a good one and he will put together a list of prime weekends for a visit. Oscar reported that all else is going well and that the annual golf tournament is scheduled for May 5, 2015.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein reported that Atlantic County local relief treasurer and secretary books will be audited on May 13th in Egg Harbor and that letters have been sent to all. Henry reported that the two way video from the Firemen's Home to the 2015 convention has been approved. A committee has been formed to research moving the state office to a more central New Jersey location. Henry is serving on the committee. The lease on the current location will be up

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in approximately four and a half years. Henry reported that convention expenses have been approved to remain the same as last year and reminded all that the first quarterly local reports are due by April 15th.

ACFFA Dinner – The dinner is scheduled for March 20th at 18:30.

Communications

Egg Harbor Township Fire Chief Bill Danz submitted a letter he received from Senator Jeff Van Drew sharing his, and Assemblyman Bob Andrzejczak, continued supported for bill S1480 that increases allowable municipal appropriations to volunteer fire companies by the amendment of N.J.S.A 40A:14-34 municipal appropriation to fire companies.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to allow the treasurer to transfer the CD due in May, at Parke Bank, to the Capital One 360 account at the time it is due as recommended by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to sponsor the New Jersey Firemen's Home 2015 Golf Outing at the bronze level with a \$200.00 donation.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$7,944.67, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Liberty Mutual - \$1,358.00 (workers comp insurance) / Staples - \$97.07 (public relations and training office supplies) / South Jersey Welding - \$12.16 (equipment rental) / Public Safety Center - \$1,059.66 (PPE gloves) / Brenda Damico - \$114.78 (reimburse for BJ's for Whitey's retirement party) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$117.70 (training lunch) / This & That Uniform - \$2,179.75 (FFI shirts) / Firehouse Magazine - \$29.95 (1 yr. subscription) / Mike Corbo - \$2,775.60 (FDIC) / New Jersey Firemen's Home - \$200.00 (sponsor golf tournament)

Applications for Membership

Kenneth C. Chotiner of the Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company was accepted into membership.

Good of the Order

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

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Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:30. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on April 15, 2015 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center and hosted by the Margate City Fire Department. This meeting will include the annual valor awards and recognition of those achieving fifty plus years of active service.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Fri. Mar. 20, 2015	18:30	Mays Landing Country Club	Annual ACFFA Dinner (RSVP by March 6th)
Fri. Mar. 27, 2015	17:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	4th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner
Sat. Apr. 11, 2015	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sun. Apr. 26, 2015	07:00	Landisville VFC	Annual Breakfast (07:00 – 11:00)
Sat. May 2, 2015	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sat. May 16, 2015	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Mayfest (Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries)
Sat. May 16, 2015	11:00	Hamilton Twp. VFCs @ Hamilton Mall	Public Safety & Awareness Day (11:00 – 15:00)
Sat. May 16, 2015	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)
Sun. May 17, 2015	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Mayfest (Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries)
Sun. Jun. 7, 2015	12:00	Dorothy VFC	58th Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 20:00)
Sat. Jun. 13, 2015	12:00	Cologne VFC	Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
Thurs. Aug. 6, 2015	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 7, 2015	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 7, 2015	19:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Firefighter Competition
Sat. Aug. 8, 2015	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Tues. Aug. 11, 2015	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 18, 2015	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 19, 2015	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Oct. 3, 2015	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest (Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries)
Sat. Oct. 3, 2015	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sun. Oct. 4, 2015	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest (Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries)
Sat. Oct. 10, 2015	08:00	Elwood VFC @ Mays Landing Country	14th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sat. Oct. 17, 2015	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)
Sat. Oct. xx, 2015	09:00	South Egg Harbor VFC	Fall/Christmas Craft, Art, & Home Show
Sat. Nov. 14, 2015	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Dec. 5, 2015	11:00	Cardiff VFC	Open House with Santa Claus (11:00 - 15:00)

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ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Apr. 15, 2015	20:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting and Annual Valor Awards Presentation
Wed. May 20, 2015	20:00	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jun. 17, 2015	20:00	Milmay VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 15, 2015	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 19, 2015	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 16, 2015	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 21, 2015	20:00	Port Republic VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 18, 2015	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 16, 2015	20:00	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 20, 2016	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 17, 2016	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. May 1, 2015	19:30	Fire Museum of Southern New Jersey	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jul. 3, 2015	19:30	Landisville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 4, 2015	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Oct. 30, 2015	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 8, 2016	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 4, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Jul. 6, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Sep. 14, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Nov. 9, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 4, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Apr. 8, 2015	20:00	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. May 13, 2015	20:00	Northfield VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jun. 10, 2015	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jul. 8, 2015	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Aug. 12, 2015	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Sep. 9, 2015	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Oct. 14, 2015	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Nov. 11, 2015	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 9, 2015	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
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Jan. 2016	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Feb. 2016	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jul. 23, 2015	19:30	Dorothy VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 28, 2016	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 28, 2016	19:30	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association