

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

September 21, 2016

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on September 21, 2016 at the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2 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.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Hammonton Volunteer Fire Department Chief, William Eppler. Chief Eppler welcomed all to Hammonton and reported that the Hammonton Fire Department was honored to have carried the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association banner while leading the Atlantic County fire departments that participated in the Wildwood Memorial Parade on September 17th.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 36 of 176 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 20 of 44

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2016 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 \$100,455.08, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$18,422.32 / Savings: \$5,008.39 / Savings: \$52,857.20 / 13 Month CD: \$24,167.17

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Vice Chairman Oscar Dutch reported on the Executive Committee meeting held on September 2, 2016 in Absecon. The Executive Committee discussed the need to request that some of the younger members of this association take a more active role in regular and special activities of the association. That would include increased delegate attendance at the monthly meetings and greater assistance with the 4H Fair and any other annual functions. At this time it is very noticeable that the same regular participants are doing most of the work. Oscar noted that there was no business from the Executive Committee that requires any association action.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Oscar Dutch reported on the meeting of the Advisory Board held on September 12, 2016. The issue with the burn building door bolts is still being actively addressed so that a proper solution will be implemented.

Fire Coordinator – Deputy Fire Coordinator Oscar Dutch reported that Tender Task Force Bravo (TTF-B) has scheduled a drill for October 2, 2016 in Mizpah. This will be a reduced function drill emphasizing drafting and pumping. Oscar reported that the Large Diameter Hose Strike Team is working on scheduling a drill in coordination with the airport to be held sometime before winter. Oscar reported on the two recent 2nd alarm fires in Atlantic City. Both incidents utilized modified mutual aid instead of going to a 3rd alarm. Some of the issues that the surrounding municipalities encountered with modified mutual aid were discussed. Oscar noted that Ed Vincent and Vince Jones will be meeting with the Atlantic City Fire Chief to discuss the use of modified mutual aid that differs from the current plan on file.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the live streaming of the convention from Wildwood went well and was enjoyed by the residents. Oscar also reported that all continues to go well at the home, they are continuing to research options for a dementia wing, and a NJ based hospital is looking to possibly lease some land on the far side of the home's acreage for the construction of an outreach center.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that the fire prevention poster contest will start soon utilizing the 2016 NFPA theme "Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years". Dave noted that last year a teen from Atlantic City won a laptop for their submission. Dave requested that all departments remind the schools and get the word out.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I is running with nineteen students, some of which are from out of county. Mike noted that as recently as three years ago, there were forty students. Firefighter II is running with thirteen students and was almost canceled due to low enrollment. Mike reminded all that the Firefighter I class only provides training and certification to meet the minimum basic requirements to perform safely as an entry level firefighter under direct supervision of a senior level firefighter or officer according to NJ Division of Fire Safety and the NFPA 1001 standard. Seeking Firefighter II training and certification should be the goal of every firefighter along with the many other opportunities available. Mike reported that the projector in classroom 2 has failed and that the county is looking into replacing it. Mike reported that a car body was received for the propane pad, but it did not meet the requirements to be installed. Mike will look to partner with the technical school to construct a car mockup that will withstand the environment of being on the propane pad. Mike reported that all current certificates earned have been sent to the fire departments along with the invoices.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Skip Portale reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 in East Vineland.

NJ State Firemen's Assn. –Cindy Badger reported the newly elected officers of the NJ State Firemen's Association include Frank Gunson as President and Robert Ordway as Vice President. Cindy reminded all that delegate/life member allowance vouchers are due by November 1, 2016 and that the third quarter relief payment reports are due October 30, 2016. Cindy requested that any local that is mailing these forms to do so via certified mail. Cindy reported that she met with President-Elect Gunson to discuss the voting issues encountered at the convention. Many of the voting forms did not have the circle filled in completely or dark enough. President-Elect Gunson had already been on the phone to with the manufacturer of the voting machines to discuss the issues and is working on a solution. Cindy noted that President-Elect Gunson send his thanks to all those in Atlantic County that supported him. Cindy reported on the new long-term healthcare assistance plan that will start on January 1st and provide up to \$600 per month towards medical needs of those members in a home or receiving home visit healthcare. Cindy reported that convention expenses for the state association continue to be greater than relief expenses and that this is not an ideal situation. The qualifying requirements to receive relief are not being lowered, but it is requested that local representatives and trustees reach out to those that may qualify and have not applied. This includes unmarried widows/widowers of exempt firefighters. Cindy reminded all to remember that applications for relief are confidential and should be assigned, and referred to, a number when being processed. Cindy was asked about the possibility of the state association covering a greater special relief amount and lowering the potential supplementary relief amount that the local associations have to cover. Cindy will inquire about those values and the possibility of change.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

President Portale reported that Secretary Mellon was contacted about a possible funding opportunity. With only a few days available to get a proposal together, President Portale appointed a committee to identify and submit a proposal for funding. President Portale informed all that additional equipment for the fire academy will be requested and pointed out that the recent 501(c)(3) status approval is what allows the association to pursue this type of funding.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$2,656.58, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Dave Buzby - \$12.24 (reimburse dry clean assoc. banner) / NFPA - \$272.08 (public relations material) / Continental Fire & Safety - \$177.00 (pyrolite adapter) / South Jersey Welding - \$14.26 (equipment rental) / MES - \$1,176.00 (rebuild 4 nozzles) / Thomas Sweeny - \$392.00 (4H Fair & Wildwood parade - 7 trophies) / AtlantiCare - \$200.00 (20 BLS cards) / Amor Portale - \$400.00 (purchase oxy-acetylene tanks & gauges) / Jim Garth - \$13.00 (refund assoc. hat - hats not ordered)

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

Good of the Order

Jim Garth reported on the departments that received trophies at the Wildwood Parade. Northfield, Somers Point, Mizpah, Newtonville, and East Vineland were all recipients of parade trophies. Northfield was awarded both trophies sponsored by the association. Best Appearing Atlantic County Apparatus and Best Appearing Atlantic County Fire Company/Department.

Tom Sweeny reminded all that he serves as church clergy, as well as association Chaplain, and is available for any pastoral care that any firefighters may need.

Thank you to the Hammonton Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2 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 20:40. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on October 19, 2016 at the Estell Manor Volunteer Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Sep. 24, 2016	10:00	Northfield FD	1 st Annual Classic Car Show @ Sta. 2 – Burton Ave.
Sat. Oct. 1, 2016	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner (16:00 - 19:30)
Sun. Oct. 9, 2016	10:00	Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pleasantville, NJ	First Responders Appreciation Sunday
Sat. Oct. 15, 2016	08:00	Elwood VFC @ Mays Landing Country	15th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sat. Oct. 15, 2016	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30)
Sat. Oct. 29, 2016	09:00	St. James Hall, Holy Trinity Parish, Ventnor	Super Hero Walk for Autism
Sat. Nov. 12, 2016	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Tues. Nov. 22, 2016	07:00	Smithville Inn	Atlantic County Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast (07:00 - 08:30)
Wed. Nov. 23, 2016	19:00	Dubliner Irish Pub, Galloway	Firemen's Night Out Benefiting Bayview VFC (and Helmet Raffle)
Sat. Dec. 10, 2016	19:00	Hammonton	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (lineup 18:00 & parade 19:00)
Sun. Dec. 11, 2016	12:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Community Open House (12:00 - 15:00)
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Sat. Apr. 8, 2017	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Nov. 11, 2017	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Oct. 19, 2016	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 16, 2016	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 21, 2016	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 18, 2017	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 15, 2017	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. Nov. 4, 2016	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 6, 2017	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Mon. Nov. 14, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 9, 2017	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Oct. 12, 2016	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Nov. 9, 2016	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 14, 2016	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
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Wed. Jan. 11, 2017	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Feb. 8, 2017	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

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Thurs. Jan. 26, 2017	19:30	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 27, 2017	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association