

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



May 15, 2019

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on May 15, 2019 at the Germania Volunteer Fire Company by President Charles E. "Chick" Kisby III. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Deacon Rich Maxwell. President Kisby then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Kisby introduced Chief David Simpkins Sr. of the Germania Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Simpkins welcomed all to Germania.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 38 of 176

Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 18 of 44

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2019 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the meeting of the committee held on May 3, 2019 in Longport. Howard noted that the Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition ceremony went well in April and thanked all that helped and attended. The committee discussed the critical incident stress management program (CISM) presented at the March meeting of the association. Further information will be sought and the possibility of creating a firefighter based CISM team will be investigated. The audit committee report was received finding the Treasurer's books to be in good order and recommending some procedural changes. The Treasurer informed the committee that some purchases still include charges for NJ sales tax and that those making purchases on behalf of the association should utilize the NJ ST5 sales tax exemption form. The Treasurer also reported that the use of a debit card for purchases is not recommended and alternative options are being investigated. Howard reported that the Atlantic County 4H Fair is scheduled for August 8th, 9th, and 10th. Howard reported that a letter was sent out by the 4H Fair Association seeking interest from municipalities that do not host a National Night Out to host a joint night on the Friday night of the fair. Howard noted that this would be the same night as the Firefighter Competition and that there may be some space constraints trying to do both events on the same night. Howard will be attending a 4H Fair Association meeting and will share his concerns with them. The committee discussed the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District proposal for high school-based

firefighter training and their ongoing effort to get the required state approvals. The committee also discussed the request that association fire instructors conduct the physical agility testing for the upcoming Atlantic City Fire Department entrance examinations. Chuck Mackintosh provided the committee with an update on the excess equipment information request. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled to be held at 19:30 on July 5, 2019 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Station 1.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that an informal discussion was held on April 15th as a board meeting could not be called to order due to a poor turnout. Howard reported that they would like to invite NJ Assemblyman John Armato to speak with the board, and start a constructive dialog, about the bill he has proposed for some firefighter training to be offered online. The next board meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on July 15, 2019 at the training center.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton reported that the Atlantic City Airport is scheduled to conduct their triennial drill on May 18th and that the drill will now only include the 2nd alarm companies. Lefty reported that the Atlantic City Airshow is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21st with a practice day on Tuesday, August 20th. The usual departments and companies that provide emergency services support during the show will again be requested to assist. Lefty reported that pile driving for work on the Albany Avenue bridge broke a thirty-six-inch water main. A tender strike team was placed into service with the Atlantic City Fire Department until water pressure could be restored.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby reported that the NJ DFS fire prevention poster contest only had a couple of submissions from the Pleasantville and Atlantic City school districts. Results of the poster judging have not yet been received.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I has twenty-nine students and will finish on June 18th and Firefighter II has seventeen students and will finish on May 22nd. Mike reported that FDIC was well attended. Mike reported on the upcoming classes scheduled at the fire academy. Summer Firefighter I starts on June 11th at 08:30 and Summer Firefighter II starts on June 12th at 08:30. Mike reported that five hundred plus register for the Atlantic City Fire Department entrance exam and four hundred plus showed up to take the exam. Mike reported on how it came that the association was requested to utilize county fire instructors to conduct the physical agility testing. The NJ Career Fire Chiefs' Association conducted the written exam. Mike reported on the process to properly bill for the use of county instructors and estimates that he would need ten instructors for five days at ten hours per day. Howard noted that this will fall under the outreach program and that final details are still be worked out. Mike reported on the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District proposal for high school-based firefighter training. Mike reported that they need to become an eligible training organization with level 1 and 2 fire instructors under the NJ Division of Fire Safety rules. The eighteen fire companies in the school district would need to establish a junior firefighter program so that eligible students may be affiliated with a fire company that would supply the required PPE. Mike noted that the Gloucester County Vocational School already has a firefighter training program. Mike reported that the GEHRSD, the NJ Department of Education, and the NJ Division of Fire Safety are still working on the details and requirements for the program and that he expects that it may take a year or more before they would get it running. Mike reported on NJ Assembly bill to lower the junior firefighter age to fourteen and another bill to expand the allowed capabilities of sixteen and seventeen year old junior firefighters. Mike also reported on a bill to allow for some required Firefighter I and II training to be completed online. Mike noted that he opposes that bill due to the current issues of there being no current medium to do such online training in compliance with current NJ DFS training requirements and the requirements of the ProBoard and IFSAC national certifications received with current training. There was much open discussion concerning the pros and cons of all the training bills put forth to the state legislature.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported on the May 8, 2019 meeting of the chiefs' association. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on June 12, 2019 at the Collings Lakes Volunteer Fire Company, Buena Vista Township.

NJ State Firemen's Assn. – Chick Kisby reported that letters were sent out from the NJSFA to all locals seeking opposition to the Governor's budget proposal to divert the NJSFA funding in the next year. It was also reported that the NJSFA has had to hire a lobbying firm to protect the NJSFA interests for the first time in their history.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the golf tournament was held on May 14th and one hundred sixty-eight of the two hundred registered attending in the rain. Oscar reported that they expect to break ground on the expansion between mid-May and the beginning of June. Oscar reported that the NJSFH is looking into the state budget proposals and how that affects the home due to the home's budget coming for the annual NJSFA two percent money.

Audit – President Chick Kisby reported that the audit committee met on March 27th in Linwood and that the Treasurer's books were found to be in good order. The committee also made some procedural recommendations.

Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition – Billy Merola reported that the valor awards presentation went very well and that a committee meeting will be scheduled in the next couple of months to review the nomination requirements and process.

Communications

A thank you card was received from Deputy Chief (Ret) Ed Hackett, Northfield Fire Department, thanking the association for recognizing his completion of fifty years of service.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon reported that the CDs at Capitol One Bank and Parke Bank both come due in June. Treasurer Mellon reported that Parke Bank has the best CD rate at this time and recommended that both CDs be combined into a new CD at Parke Bank.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to combine the two CDs to a new CD at Parke Bank when they come due in June.

Bills

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

Good of the Order

Dennis Sharpe reported Sgt. at Arms Charles Harlan received an Atlantic City Host Award for Best Security Personnel, for his work at Harrah's Atlantic City, at the twenty second annual awards held on May 8th.

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

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Rich Maxwell. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:20. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on June 19, 2019 in Milmay, Buena Vista Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

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| Sat. May 18, 2019 | 07:30 | Atlantic City Int'l Airport | Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill |
| Sat. May 18, 2019 | 15:30 | Port Republic VFC | Roast Beef Dinner (15:30 - 19:30) |
| Sat. Jun. 1, 2019 | 12:00 | Cologne VFC | Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00) |
| Sat. Jun. 1, 2019 | 13:00 | Collings Lakes VFC | 55th Anniversary and New Truck Housing |
| Sat. Jun. 1, 2019 | 15:00 | Gabriel Field, Galloway NJ | 1st Annual Natalie Dempsey Memorial Game & Spaghetti Dinner (benefits Mizpah VFC & AC Humane Society) |
| Sun. Jun. 2, 2019 | 12:00 | Dorothy VFC | 62nd Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00) |
| Sat. Jun 15, 2019 | 11:00 | Bayview VFC | First Annual Cornhole Tournament (6th Ave. Station) |
| Tues. Jun. 18, 2019 | 11:00 | Nesco VFC | Italian Hoagie Sale (11:00 - 16:00) |
| Mon. Aug. 5, 2019 | 19:30 | Egg Harbor City VFD | New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus |
| Thurs. Aug. 8, 2019 | 12:30 | Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50 | ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display |
| Fri. Aug. 9, 2019 | 12:30 | Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50 | ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display |
| Fri. Aug. 9, 2019 | 19:00 | Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50 | ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Firefighter Competition |
| Sat. Aug. 10, 2019 | 12:30 | Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50 | ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display |
| Sun. Aug. 18, 2019 | 10:00 | Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, Millville, NJ | 39th Annual Glasstown Antique Fire Brigade and Fire Fighter's Family Day |
| Fri. Sep. 13, 2019 | 13:00 | Wildwood Convention Center | New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention |
| Sat. Sep. 14, 2019 | 10:00 | Wildwood Convention Center | New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention |
| Sun. Sep. 29, 2019 | 10:00 | NJFM, 4 Polhemustown Rd, Allentown, NJ | NJ Fire Museum 4th Annual Open House (10:00 - 15:00) |
| Sat. Nov. 9, 2019 | 16:00 | Oceanville VFC | Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com |
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| Sat. Apr. 4, 2020 | 16:00 | Oceanville VFC | Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com |
| Aug. (TBD), 2020 | 19:00 | Egg Harbor City VFD | New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus |
| Fri. Sep. 18, 2020 | 13:00 | Wildwood Convention Center | New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention |
| Sat. Sep. 19, 2020 | 10:00 | Wildwood Convention Center | New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention |
| Sat. Nov. 14, 2020 | 16:00 | Oceanville VFC | Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com |

ACFFA Meetings**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

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| Wed. Jun. 19, 2019 | 20:00 | Milmay VFC | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting |
| Wed. Jul. 17, 2019 | 20:00 | Linwood FD | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting |
| Wed. Aug. 21, 2019 | 20:00 | Mizpah VFC | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting |
| Wed. Sep. 18, 2019 | 20:00 | Hammonton VFD Sta. 1 | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting |
| Wed. Oct. 16, 2019 | 20:00 | Dorothy VFC | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting |
| Wed. Nov. 20, 2019 | 20:00 | Somers Point VFD Sta. 2 | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting |
| Wed. Dec. 18, 2019 | 20:00 | Cardiff VFC | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting |
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| Wed. Jan. 15, 2020 | 20:00 | Egg Harbor City VFD | Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service |
| Wed. Feb. 19, 2020 | 20:00 | Longport VFD | Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting |

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

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| Fri. Jul. 5, 2019 | 19:30 | Somers Point VFD Sta. 1 | Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting |
| Fri. Sep. 6, 2019 | 19:30 | Absecon VFD | Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting |
| Fri. Nov. 1, 2019 | 19:30 | South Egg Harbor VFC | Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting |
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| Fri. Jan. 4, 2020 | 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. Jul. 15, 2019 | 19:00 | Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center | Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board |
| Mon. Oct. 21, 2019 | 19:00 | Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center | Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board |
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| Mon. Jan. 13, 2020 | 19:00 | Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center | Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board |

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

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| Wed. Jun. 12, 2019 | 20:00 | Collings Lakes VFC | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Jul. 10, 2019 | 20:00 | Estell Manor VFC | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Aug. 14, 2019 | 20:00 | Laureldale VFC | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Sep. 11, 2019 | 20:00 | Nesco VFC | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Oct. 9, 2019 | 20:00 | East Vineland VFC | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Nov. 13, 2019 | 20:00 | Linwood FD | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| Wed. Dec. 11, 2019 | 20:00 | Sweetwater VFC | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
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| Tues. Jan. 28, 2020 | 20:00 | Absecon VFD | Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association |
| February 2020----- | ----- | ----- | NO MEETING----- |

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

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| Thurs. Jul. 25, 2019 | 19:30 | Port Republic VFC | Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association |
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| Thurs. Jan. 23, 2020 | 19:30 | Bargaintown VFC Sta. 1 | Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association |
| Thurs. Jul. 23, 2020 | 19:30 | Linwood FD | Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association |