

*The Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter's Association, Inc.*

*P.O. Box 1463*

*Ronkonkoma, NY 11779*

*Organized 1886*



*Minutes – Meeting of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter's Association  
November 29, 2023 – West Islip*

Meeting Called to order by President Vincent Ammirati at 8:00pm  
Salute to the flag led by Sgt. At Arms William Mullane  
Prayer by Chaplain Joseph McCarthy

Chief John McAuley of the West Islip FD donated two bottles for our raffle. He was unable to welcome us, as he had to leave. A certificate of thanks was presented to a member of West Islip.

Motion by Frank Guarino seconded by Jonathan Barnet to accept the minutes of the September meeting, Motion Carried.

Introduction of Guests & Past Association Presidents: by Third Vice President Don Braccioldieta

- Stan Roberts, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Islip Town Council Vol.
- Peter Colli, Past President Town of Babylon
- Russell Curley, President South Shore Volunteer Fire Association
- Jeff Bailes, President NYS Safety Officers
- Scott Theobald, Vice President Suffolk County Districts

**Past Presidents:**

Robert McConville – William Murray – Jerry Owenburg – Gene Perry – Frank Guarino – Robert Sutton.

**Treasurer Robert McConville** gave the treasurer's report. Motion to accept by Paul Callegari seconded by Artie Brewer, motion carried.

**Bills/Correspondence** – There were no bills.

- Received the Burn Center minutes.
- SNY Ladies is having a gift card raffle.
- Bay Shore Fire Dept confirmed hosting the June Executive board meeting.

**Report of Presidents:**

**President Vincent Ammirati**

Meeting / Events attended

- S.C.V.F.A. meeting at C.I. September 26, 2023
  - October 6-10 Went to the trustees meeting at the home and the corn hole tournament.
  - October 11, 2023 Suffolk Ladies meeting at the Islip town museum
  - October 15 meeting with the Vice Presidents and Jean to go over the next two years that are ahead of us
  - October 19, 2023 the 1st Suffolk County Junior committee meeting at the Smithtown Fire Department
  - October 20, 2023 work drill at the Coram Fire Department to set up the meeting room for the firefighter of the year dinner
  - October 20, 2023 Brookhaven Town Chief's meeting at the Ridge Fire Department
  - October 21, 2023 Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter of the year dinner at the Coram Fire Department
  - October 23, 2023 Southern NY Zoom legislation meeting
  - October 24, 2023 Suffolk County executive board meeting Hagerman Fire Department
  - October 25, 2023 North Fork Vologies meeting at the Jamesport Fire Department
  - October 27, 2023 Long Island Association of Benevolence Associations meeting at the Selden fire department
  - October 28, 2023 Wake service for Carrol Marie Brooks
  - November 2nd to November 5th 2023 FASNY legislative weekend and Home Trustees meeting Troy NY
  - November 8, 2023 Suffolk County Ladies meeting at the Holtsville Fire Department
  - November 10, 2023 Suffolk County Chiefs Council meeting Wading River FD
  - November 11, 2023 Suffolk County, Emerald Society, Irishman of the year dinner Central Islip FD
  - November 12, 2023 Suffolk County Chief Council brunch Captain Bill's Bay Shore
  - November 18, 2023 Jerry Owenburg's testimonial dinner central Islip FD
  - November 20, 2023 Babylon Town Volunteer Firefighters, Association meeting at the East Farmingdale FD
  - November 21, 2023 Southern NY executive board meeting Buchanan FD West Chester NY
  - November 26, 2023 Selden FD Christmas Tree lighting
- We will be handing out the 2024, and 2025 committee assignments if anyone would like to participate on one of the committees, please let one of the presidents know.
- We had an informational meeting with Jerry Presta from the Nassau County Juniors and 3 members of the Nassau County Junior Association board at the Smithtown FD. At this information meeting we had about 11 advisors from different Suffolk Junior FD and we went over the logistics of starting a Suffolk County, junior Association that will piggyback off of us. The next meeting will be held at the Smithtown FD on Thursday January 25, 2024, 7:30 sharp and I'm hopeful that by spring of 2024 the Suffolk County Junior's Association will be in full operation.
- I like to thank everyone that worked, supported and was able to attend the Suffolk County Firefighters of the Year dinner this year and congratulations out to Chief John Manzi of the west Babylon FD the recipient of this year's FF award.
- And thank you to all that came out to the testimony dinner for Jerry Owenburg to celebrate his 10 years as home trustee.
- I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and I would like to wish all our members and their families the happiest of the holidays and I'm looking forward to working together with all of you in the new year.

**Since the last membership meeting, I have attended the following meetings/events**

**Report of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli** was absent, but sent the below report that was read by Secretary Jean Christensen

October 2023

15 Suffolk County Fire Marshall Fundraiser @ Top Golf

15 SCVFA

19 Juniors Mtg @ Smithtown

20 Setup @ Coram

21 Installation @ Coram

24 SCVFA @ Hagerman

30 Huntington Chiefs @ Cold Spring Harbor

November 2023

2 Smithtown Chiefs @ Nissequogue

3-5 Legislation @ Troy, NY

8 Huntington Fire Police @ Nesconset

18 Owenburg @ Central Islip

### **Committee Report:**

#### Journal

- Working on an e-mail list for current mailings and a vendor list to send for future mailings. If anyone can recommend vendors, please send/give them to me. Thanks!

#### Seminar

- Save the date for the SCVFA seminar to be held on May 18, 2024. Details to follow.

#### Other:

- Shirts ordered previously are in. Please see VP Don Bracciodieta to pick up your shirt. The cost is \$40 per shirt.

- There have been requests for both a SCVFA logo window sticker and sew on patch. We are looking into that and have vendors bringing back quotes. Details to follow.

- Vice President badge has been ordered. Due in a few weeks.

### **Report of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dan Brooks**

- September 27 – Suffolk County Medal Day hosted by the Riverhead. Fire Department and Suffolk County Fire Academy
- October 6 – Creating a Psychologically Healthy Fire Department hosted by the Suffolk County Fire Academy and the NVFC
- October 19 – Suffolk County Jr Firefighter Committee hosted by the Smithtown Fire Department and Nassau County Jr Firefighters Association
- October 20 – Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs Council hosted by the Ridge Fire Department
- October 21 – Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter's Association Firefighter of the Year Dinner hosted by the Coram Fire Department
- October 24 – Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter's Association
- Executive Board meeting hosted by the Hagerman Fire Department
- October 24 – FASNY Legislative Committee meeting (Zoom)

- November 2-5 – FASNY Legislative Committee Annual Conference held in Troy, NY
- November 8 – Lithium-Ion Battery Seminar hosted by the Holbrook Fire Department and the Suffolk County Fire Academy
- November 18 – Testimonial Dinner for Trustee Jerry Owenburg
- Thank you for the sympathy he received in the passing of his Mom, Carol Brooks.

### **Report of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Don Bracciodieta –**

- September 27 – Suffolk County Medal Day hosted by Riverhead Fire Dept and Suffolk County Fire Academy.
- October 7 – Southern New York General Meeting hosted by Stony Point Fire Dept.
- October 16 – Burn Center meeting hosted by Ridge Fire Dept.
- October 18 = Stony Brook fire prevention day, Stony Brook University
- October 18 – Babylon Chiefs hosted by North Amityville Fire Department.
- October 20 – Brookhaven Chiefs hosted by Ridge Fire Department.
- October 27 – Long Island Benevolent Association hosted by Selden Fire Department.
- November 3-5 FASNY Legislative Conference in Troy NY
- November 9 – Suffolk County Fire Educator’s membership meeting hosted by Brentwood Fire Department.
- November 15 – Islip Town Vollie membership meeting hosted by Holbrook Fire Department.
- November 20<sup>th</sup> – Burn Center Membership meeting hosted by Stony Brook Hospital
- November 21<sup>st</sup> Islip Town Chiefs meeting hosted by East Brentwood Fire Dept.

**Annual Dinner** – October 19, 2024, in Coram. Will have more information in January.

**Audit** – Jerry stated it will be in January 2024.

**By-Laws** –No Report

**Candidate Campaign** – Eugene Perry. Supporting candidates for FASNY and SNY.

**Credentials** – Tom Prendergast – Dues notices to be mailed 12/1/23. \$30 per year for Dept, Organization, Company. \$15 per year for individual members. Total 304 – 146 depts, organizations and companies and 158 individual members.

**FASNY** – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Eugene Perry –

- On behalf of the FASNY Presidents and the Board of Directors a Very Merry Christmas and Happy “Fire Safe” New Year.
- The Suffolk County Fire Marshalls Office will be doing its Annual Christmas Tree burn at the Fire Academy on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, time to be determined.
- OFPC has just published today its Rules and Regulations for the rollout of the Firefighter Training stipend that was approved in the state budget. Our legislative team read through it and will discuss it at our FASNY Board meeting on Friday.
- FASNY will be at the Long Island Metro Show on February 2-4, 2024, at the Nassau Coliseum.
- FASNY Winter Games are also February 2-4, 2024, at Greek Peak in Cortland NY
- Recruit NY weekend is April 14 & 15, 2024. A kickoff press conference will be held in March. FASNY is asking all firefighters and fire departments to display red lights during the month of

March. The event dubbed "light the State Red" is being promoted to the Governor to light state landmarks red for support of the Volunteer Fire Service.

**Home Trustees** – Trustees Bob Sutton & Vinny Ammirati gave the following report:

- Tree lighting is tomorrow night at 6pm
- Past Trustees here with us tonight are Jerry Owenburg and Bill Murray.
- 87 Members in the home, one just passed away. They have 7 on the waiting list.
- Working on putting in sidewalk lighting.
- Two members exposed to Covid – all is good.
- The meeting is this week.

**Father Halpin Memorial Service** is May 4, 2024, in North Babylon. Will be meeting with them in January.

**Firefighter Cancer Support Network** – Jerry Owenburg

- A new year is coming – get your screenings.
- If you know someone that needs dinner, please let him know.

**Firefighter of the Year** – John Masem reported that they will give John Manzi Jr his medal at the January meeting. Progress for next year.

John Manzi is attending FRES meeting tonight and asked to be excused if he doesn't make it back to our meeting tonight. John would like to know if we can write a letter of support to Senator Monica Martinex for a bill supporting 25-year retirement program. Also, FFOTY award, John would like to thank all the members of the committee, Roger has updated the info on the web page for 2024. Medals will be given out to Chief Manzi at our January meeting in West Babylon, elected officials who missed the dinner will appear at that meeting.

**Fire Prevention** – Don Bracciodieta

- Next meeting is January 19, 2024, in Central Islip. Dinner is 7pm, meeting to start at 8pm.
- If anyone is interested PRESENTERS for the 49<sup>th</sup> annual fire and life, safety educators training series, there are flyers on the table. Deadline is December 8, 2023.
- Holiday Safety
- Home heating safety
- Carbon dioxide detectors.
- Happy Holidays to everyone, be safe and be well.
- Please like us on Facebook and you will get daily updates on fire prevention reports.
- Closing note: "Let's all remember there is no honor in fighting a fire that could have been prevented through education."

**Headquarters** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Don Bracciodieta reported committee to meet first of the year.

**John A. Masem Sr. Scholarship** – Keith Vellia

Reminder that you must be an individual member for family members to be eligible.

## Legislative – Jerry Owenburg –

- Have had two meetings November 6<sup>th</sup> and November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Appointing Brandan S Pilking but all appointments are on hold till January.
- Accepting donation of dog grooming bath and faucet from the Firefighter Cancel Support Network to the County of Suffolk.
- Accepting and appropriating 50% Federal pass-through grant funds from the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the “Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) administered by the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services.
- SNY Legislative meeting is January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dan thanked everyone for helping him get on the FASNY Legislative Committee. Dan went over the FASNY website, Advocacy and went over the scorecard.

Monica Martinez is trying to pass bill – Motion by Bob Sutton to send letter in support seconded by Bob McConville. Bob McConville stated this was sent out to Districts.

## Long Island Day at the Home

- Next year is 9/15/24 – if you have a band the members would love to have bands there to play. Gene Perry asked if we could send out letters to depts looking for bands. It was stated that letters went out last year and will do it again.

Publicity – Dan Facebook is active. Dan Proposed putting a calendar on our Facebook page. Russel Crowley said to be very careful of those trying to sell things on Facebook.

## REMSCO – by Tom Prendergast

- Thomas Lateulere Memorial conference was held 9/23/23 at Sayville Ambulance Company. The tentative date for next one is April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Transfer of Authority Setauket FD to Setauket fire district.
- Ridge FD 90-day trial with AMR 12 hours daily.
- FASNY EMS Conference is January 26, 27 2024 in Selden
- Stats: EMS Personnel 68 BLS 56 CPAP 35 RSI 33 CFR  
5078 EMS 142 CC 917 Paramedic for total of 6170
- State Bills – NYS Senate 1466 SNY Assembly 0250A “ An Act to amend the Insurance Law in relation to payments to prehospital emergency medical services.

Mike Masterson was also there and shared the following:

- Agencies for E-Bridge call Paul Marra – has translation services.
- BSFR – Bohemia is relinquishing as of January 2024.
- New Standards on ambulances – state regulation. Billing name must match – Bill/Ambulance
- EMT Courses in North Lindenhurst, Bay Shore, Southold. Rapid day time in Yaphank.
- CME Calendar is out tomorrow. Same Schedule.

- Recruitment Tool – join and maintain membership for one year agency can voucher state for \$850.00.
- QA QI – changing email.
- ESO – new app – no requirements – if it comes up contact ESO. Signature not required.

### **Resolutions** by Gene Perry

- Resolution #1 – Be it resolved that the Association extend its sincere thanks to the West Islip FD for hosting tonight's meeting. Motion by Bob Sutton, seconded by Jeff Bailes, motion carried.
- Resolution #2 – Be it Resolved that the Association extend its sincere thanks to the Hagerman FD for hosting our October Executive Board meeting. Motion by Frank Guarino seconded by Warren Holtje, motion carried.
- Resolution #3 – Be it resolved that the Association convey to its Membership a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, motion by Keith Vella seconded by Peter DePinto, motion carried.

**Sickness** – Joseph McCarthy stated that there have been several funerals. Greg Martin from Lakeland passed away and =wake is tomorrow. Keep his brothers and sisters in your prayers.

**Steering** – Bob McConville went over the history from the late 1970's forward some of those included were Ed Carpenter, Lou LaFountain, Joe Esposito, Bill Reilly, Bill Murray, Bob Knight, Rich Vella. Remember where we came from. Please support the new board.

Gene Perry at this time thanked Bob McConville for all of his hard work.

- If interested in a position or committee please see Gene or Jerry Owenburg.
- March – SNY Endorsements.
- FASNY – petition available January 1<sup>st</sup> and closes out May 1<sup>st</sup>. Four members are running for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of FASNY – Ken Holmes, Wayne Butts, Diana Pilseck and Mike Carron.
- Received endorsement letter from Western for Wayne.
- Two are running for Trustee positions for the Hudson Valley Spot. They have four that want to run and they will bring that down to two.
- Tom Miller is doing our seminar. He did the FASNY seminar. He is from West Virginia. Will have details in January.

SNY – March meeting

FASNY – May meeting

### **SCVFA Parade & Drill** – John Masem

Progress – working on details – possibly Farmingville for 2024.

### **Training & Education** - John Masem

May 18<sup>th</sup> we will host a training on Lithium-Ion battery fires in Selden. Secretary Jean to get letter to Vinny for lecture and training.

**William Reilly Journal** – Giovanni was absent.

**Ways and Means** – William Mullane 50/50 - \$85 to the winner.

### **Youth in the Fire Service** – Keith Vella

- October 19<sup>th</sup> met to discuss starting a Suffolk County Junior Fire Association – it went well.
- January 25<sup>th</sup> will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Jerry Presta gave them their by-laws and will be going over them. Will set up a board of Directors. Nassau County Board is made up of females and they came in October and answered a lot of questions. If you have a junior's group be sure to send your Advisors to the meeting. It starts at 7:30pm.
- SNY Sponsored Nassau Juniors – 60 Juniors and advisors. They had a meeting, elections with presentation by Bob Sutton.
- Jonathan Barnett is co-Chair of this Committee.

### **Lithium Ion Battery** - Progress

### **Suffolk County Fire Chief's Council** – Nick Lucarella – President

No Report.

### **Suffolk County Association of Fire Districts** –Vice President Scott Theobald

- Next meeting is February 15<sup>th</sup> in Coram.
- On behalf of the President and Executive Board – Happy Healthy Holidays – be safe.

### **Suffolk County F.R.E.S.** Anthony Sullo reported.

Women in the Fire Service was a great success

### **Suffolk County VEEB Board** Gary Schaum

- Lithium Ion class for 2024 – please call the academy if you would like a class.
- Women in the Fire service had approximately 45 that attended, was very successful. Eveny was held by SCFA/FRES.
- Field and classroom schedule for 2024 will be sent out by December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- January Firefighter 1 classes are posted on the website. Please view as enrollment is 60 days prior. We are also holding a virtual FF1 class for 2024. This will meet the needs of college students, barrier beach communities and East End Departments.
- IAFC mentoring program March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> for 2024., please visit website for more information 20 students maximum.
- Please look for a new Fire Officer program for 2024. Email and regular mail memo has been sent to all departments.
- Joey D Foundation had over 300 students for 3 days, went well.

### **Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary** – President Lori Zatorski

- Lottery Scratch off drawing is being held in December.
- January 27<sup>th</sup> is the Jeffrey Wands fundraiser.
- Still selling tickets for our 100 club.
- Our next meeting is December 13 in East Islip 7pm, Grab bag is \$20.
- Happy, Healthy and Safe holiday season to all.
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### **Suffolk County Fire Police** - Frank Guarino

- NYS Tom with seminar is March 23 in Deerfield.
- April 14 is Brunch at Majestic Gardens in Brookhaven – details to follow.



## **Suffolk County Firefighters Burn Center** – Paul Callegi

- Handed out calendars tonight.
- December 18<sup>th</sup> is the next membership meeting at Stony Brook Hospital on the lobby floor – there are signs.
- Looking for people to join and help out They are down to about eight volunteers.
- You do not have to pay for parking when you attend a meeting – you get your ticket validated at the desk.
- They are looking for someone to host recognition day – it is in May.

## **Safety Officer's** Jeff Bailes

- FDSOA Conference – Phoenix AZ January 14, 2024 – Go to Website FDSOA.org
- Safety Officers of New York State – October 13, 2024, Nanuet NY 8am to Noon – free literature and free classes.
- Suffolk Safety Officers – November 29, 2023 – Islip Town Museum. Please join the mutual aid program.
- Nassau County Safety Officers – Uniondale FD November 29, 2023, 7pm Uniondale Van Ness
- Brookhaven Town Safety Officers – TBA
- Thank you all for supporting our fundraiser; stay safe and healthy – keep hydrated and get home safe.

## **Southern NY VFA** – Frank Guarino

- Buchanan on Tuesday.
- Next meeting is January 26<sup>th</sup> West Babylon – Dinner 7pm – meeting 8pm.
- January 20<sup>th</sup> is legislative meeting in Albertson.

## **North Fork VFA – Artie Brewer**

Next meeting is January 24<sup>th</sup> in Southold – Dinner 7:30 meeting to follow.

## **Babylon Town VFA** – Carl Formes wished all Safe Holiday season.

## **Islip Town VFA** – Next meeting is January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Islip Fire Department

## **South Shore VOLLIES** – Russel Curley

- Next meeting is January 19<sup>th</sup> in Hicksville station 4 – Dinner 7pm meeting 7:30 pm. Will have speaker on Opium Drugs.

## **Suffolk Fire Chiefs -** Next meeting is Kings Park 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in January – Dinner 7pm Meeting 8pm.

## **Old Business** – None

## **New Business**

- Motion by Bob Sutton to send letter to Suffolk Legislative Fire Rescue Comm. McCaffrey to endorse Brandan Pilkington seconded by Jonathan Barnett, motion carried.
- Scott Theobald made a motion to write a letter that 911 issue was unacceptable, he wants letter sent to FRES seconded by Jeff Bailes. Commissioner Beckley happened to come in at this moment and explained that it was a phone carrier that had the issue. After a discussion, Scott and Jeff agreed to hold off on sending the letter.

- Motion by Jeff Bailes to purchase computer for Financial Secretary not to exceed \$1500 seconded by Stanley Roberts, Motion carried.
- FASNY Museum is separate - work on their own with grant. It was voted that Patrick Perry will work on the Board of Directors.

#### Commission Beckley

- Verizon Wireless was the issue with 911. Only some people this happened to. All the police departments had to agree - Riverhead PD is the one that found the problem; two computer servers.
- He spoke tonight at FRES Committee meeting.
- They have asked Verizon for a report.
- Resolution for Firefighter tax break – Legislators in December agreed to 10% tax break after 2 years.
- Vets to Vollies program – Assy Durso bill in NYS to get passed – if so recruit – money to get started.
- Two New Fire Marshall positions – no vehicles, uniforms. This is the highest number in over 10 years.
- Asking the new Administration to go back to doing school inspections.
- Want more Dispatchers – real chief of communications.

#### Good & Welfare

- Warren sated in the last fire news there was a Goldfedder Cancer Article – you need to read this.
- Islip Fire Museum is having a Historian meeting tomorrow night.
- Metro Fire EMS – last weekend in January - \$25 to get in - will have limited program for Juniors.
- Jerry Owenburg thanked everyone for his Testimonial Dinner.
- Vinny thanked all for supporting him, thank you to all Past Presidents, and he is looking forward to getting Junior Association started.

Dark Horse was drawn – \$85 to the winner and raffled off two bottles.

**Next membership meeting is Tuesday, January 23, 2024 – West Babylon**

**Next Executive Board meeting is February 27, 2024 - Mastic**

Motion by Frank Guarino to purchase two SNY Ladies Tickets seconded by Keith Vella, motion carried.  
Closing Prayer said by Chaplain Joe McCarthy  
Motion to adjourn by Gary Stecker, seconded by Peter DePinto at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jean Christensen  
Secretary