

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

*P. O. Box 1463*

*Ronkonkoma, NY 11779*

*Organized 1886*



**THIS PAGE IS  
DEDICATED TO THE  
MEMORY  
OF  
EX-CHIEF &  
SCVFA PAST PRESIDENT  
WILLIAM WEICK**

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*Minutes – Meeting of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter's Association  
January 24, 2023 – West Babylon Fire Department*

Meeting Called to order by President Robert Sutton at 8pm  
Salute to the flag led by Sgt. At Arms Don Bracciodieta  
Prayer by Joe McCarthy

Chief Michael Vergano of the West Babylon Fire Department welcomed SCVFA to West Babylon.

Motion by Bob McConville seconded by Peter Colli to keep a clear page in memory of William Weick. Motion Carried.

Motion by William Mullane seconded by Frank Guarino to accept the minutes of the November meeting, Motion Carried.

**Introduction of Guests & Past Association Presidents:**

**Guests:**

FASNY 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Eugene Perry  
Frank Guarino – FASNY Director  
Chief Anthony LaFerrera – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President NYS Chiefs  
Gary Schaum – VEEB Fire Academy  
Russell Curley – President South Shore Vollies  
Lori Zatorski – President SCVFALA  
Marybeth Asbell – PP and current Corresponding Secretary SCVFALA  
Peter Colli – Past President Town of Babylon  
John Manzi – NYS Districts  
Carl Formes – President - Town of Babylon Vollies  
Joel Hollbrune – Vice President Town of Babylon Vollies  
Jerry Owenburg – FASNY Firefighters Home Trustee

**Past Presidents** in attendance were Robert McConville, William Murray, Eugene Perry, Jerry Owenburg, Frank Guarino.

Treasurer Robert McConville gave the treasurer's report. Motion to accept by Peter DiPinto seconded by Stanley Roberts, motion carried.



## **Bills/Correspondence**

- Received minutes from SNY.
- Confirmation from Patchogue FD to host the E-Board meeting August 22, 2023
- Confirmation from West Islip FD To host the Membership meeting on November 29, 2023.

## **Report of Presidents:**

### **President Robert Sutton**

• Thank you to the West Babylon Fire Department for hosting tonight's membership meeting, it is greatly appreciated.

- I hope everyone had a nice holiday season.

- Line of Duty & 09/11 Memorial

Additional name plates have been ordered for those members that need to be included on the Line of Duty Death monument at the Fire Academy.

- 2023 Long Island Metro Fire/EMS Expo

The annual Long Island Fire/EMS Expo is scheduled for February 3rd to February 5th, 2023, at the Nassau Coliseum. Please make every effort to support this great event as it is Co-Hosted by the Islip Town Fire/EMS Museum Educational Center and the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs. Further Information can be found on the NYS Chiefs Website.

- Annual Memorial Service

On February 15, 2023, a preliminary meeting was held by Jean Christensen, Don Bracciodieta and myself with the Chiefs of the Greenlawn Fire Department. Our annual Memorial Service is scheduled for Sunday May 7, 2023, starting at 4:00 PM. This information has been blast faxed to all County Departments with the time, date and location. In addition, this event has been sent to Fire News and 1st Responder News for publication in their events section. More information will follow as it comes in.

- Educational Seminar

Our second annual seminar is scheduled for Saturday May 13, 2023, at the Selden Fire Department. Third Vice President Chiarelli will have more details under his report. Please bring back the seminar flyers and registration forms back to your departments and urge them to attend this very informative seminar. This is also a fundraiser for the Association, so please help us to promote this important event. We need to really push this into all of the County Departments and Organizations for this to be a success. This event has been sent to Fire News and 1st Responder News for publication in their events section. If anyone has any ideas on how to best promote our seminar, please let Giovanni Chiarelli and John Masem know.

- Annual Dinner and Firefighter of the Year Presentation

The annual dinner and Firefighter of the Year presentation is scheduled for Saturday October 21, 2023. A host location is being worked on with more information to follow.

- 50 Year Recognition Certificates

• Member recognition certificates for 50 years of services are available for any member(s) of your Department that has reached this momentous occasion. Department anniversary recognition certificates are also available. Please contact the Association secretary at [suffolksecretary@gmail.com](mailto:suffolksecretary@gmail.com) to request them.

- Committee Members Needed

Committee members are needed for our existing committees, as well as newly formed ones. If you are interested, please provide us with your information on the committee sheet at the meeting sign-in table, or

See me after tonight's meeting.

- Phone and E-Mail Notifications
- President's Report

January 24, 2023

Are you being notified of the Associations meetings and upcoming events? If you are not, please fill it out your phone and E-Mail information on the information sheet on the meeting sign-in table.

Website

Please visit our website at [www.scvfaonline.org](http://www.scvfaonline.org) for all forms as well as current information concerning events, activities, and postings.

- 2023 Meeting Location Requests

We are looking for any Departments that would be willing to host one our membership meetings or Executive Board Meetings for 2023. If there is any Department interested in doing this, please contact.

The Association Secretary at [suffolksecretary@gmail.com](mailto:suffolksecretary@gmail.com).

The Association meeting dates for 2023 are as follows.

Meeting Date Membership Meeting Executive Board Meeting

February 28, 2023, Selden FD

March 28, 2023 Center Moriches FD

April 25, 2023 OPEN

May 23, 2023 OPEN

June 27, 2023 OPEN

July 25, 2023 Smithtown FD

August 22, 2023 OPEN

September 26, 2023 Central Islip FD

October 24, 2023 OPEN

November 28, 2023 OPEN

For our future meetings, please reach out to your fellow Fire Department members and encourage them to join our Association, attend our meetings and be an active participant in it. All meeting dates and locations will be posted on our website and Facebook sites.

We are always interested in having any informative, interesting, and brief topics or presentations that can be held prior to our membership meetings. If any member has a topic/subject that they would like to have presented, or if you or someone that you know is interested in presented, please let us know.

#### **Report of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Peter Cincotta – None**

#### **Report of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Vinny Ammirati:**

Suffolk County Volunteer Fireman's Association meeting at Copiague FD November 29, 2023

Southern NY Meeting West Babylon FD January 7, 2023

Funeral services for past President William Wieck January 10, 2023

Suffolk County Chiefs East Brentwood 01/13/2023

Suffolk County Drill Team Captains

Meeting January 15, 2023



Babylon town volunteer fireman association meeting Copiague FD  
January 16, 2023

South Shore Volunteer Fireman's Association Meeting West Babylon January 20, 2023

**Next Long Island Benevolent meeting will be this Friday January 27, 2023, at Melville FD, 531 Sweet Hollow Rd -Dinner at 7:00pm Meeting at 8:00pm.**

**Report of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli** – None

**Annual Dinner** – Robert McConville/Eugene Perry – Starting process

**Audit** – Jerry Owenburg – Schedule is coming.

**By-Laws** – No report

**Candidate Campaign** – Robert McConville – Robert Sutton is running for Trustee of the Home.

**Credentials** – Dan Brooks – Please sign in

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

- On behalf of the FASNY Officers and Board of Directors have a Happy and safe New Year!
- Applications for all FASNY Awards are up on the website. These applications will not stay on the website all year, so if a department has an incident which should be recognized or any submission for the other FASNY Awards the applications can be found under the Awards Tab on the FASNY website with all the criteria for each award. All Award submissions must be received by March 15<sup>th</sup> for the previous year.
- FASNY awards 25 \$1,500 Scholarships to graduating High School Seniors. The applications are on the FASNY website. The deadline for the submission is also March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- FASNY Help is a grade-based reimbursement program for firefighters young and old attending college. Applicants can be reimbursed up to \$2,000 in tuition at any 2-&4-year colleges. Information on this program is under the Resources tab on the website.
- The Annual EMS Conference will be held at the Selden Fire Department on Saturday, January 28, 2023. There will be a Pre-Conference Workshop on Friday, January 27, 2023 presented by Suffolk County EMS which will be eligible for CORE CME credit hours. The Conference is eligible for Non-Core CME Credit hours.
- The Long Island Metro Show will be held February 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Nassau Coliseum. Along with the Vendors including FASNY there will be training classes presented by the New York State Chiefs. This is also the weekend of the FASNY Winter Games in Cortland, NY.
- The Governor has signed legislation for Real Property Tax Law 466-a that extends this real property tax exemption statewide and requires specific opt-in by each local taxing jurisdictions. All jurisdictions who already provide the exemption must pass a resolution to conform with the new law by 2025.
- If anyone has any questions about these and other FASNY programs, please see me later or contact the FASNY Office.

**Home Trustees** – Past Presidents of Trustees Jerry Owenburg and Peter Cincotta. Jerry gave the following report:

- We are taking care of 78 Brothers and Sisters. 4 new members voted on Monday. 5 members in the 100 club. Suffolk members in the home – 1 – Sag Harbor, 1 – West Sayville and 1-Sayville.
- No Co-vid cases with our brothers and Sisters. One staff member with Co-vid doing well at Home.
- If any organization or anyone wants to sponsor a meal for the Members and to thank the staff, call the Home to pick a meal. Call 1-800-479-7695.
- Four more active applications in the works. New Application online now three pages and five financial pastes.
- We would like to thank all that have donated to the Home. Holiday appeal letters are out to all. If you wish to donate to something specific call us and we will give you a list and make it happen. ( some examples Small change, Train club and Chapel Fund).
- Anyone looking to donate any Model Train items, Arts and Craft items, clothing, greeting cards or anything call us and we will get them up to the members. If you donate to the Home the Thank you will be sent to you signed by one of the members.
- If you want to Adopt a member form is online. As little as make sure the Member gets cards for Birthday and Holiday cards. Memorial bricks available form will be on-line soon. Call FASNY for now.
- If taking Member out for the day to an event. Please keep them safe, keep a mask on them and the people around them when in a group of people.
- Anyone looking to go into a Nursing Home give us a call. We can walk you through the paperwork and a tuff decision. We would like you to go to the Firemen's Home of course but can give you the questions you need to ask and people to see when making that hard decision. Please let all know to be eligible to be a Member in the Firefighter's Home, one year in the volunteer fire service Firefighters, Ladies Auxiliary, EMS Personnel in the Fire Dept and Spouses.
- Our Firefighter's Home is 131 years old this year.
- DBW Home Name is FASNY Volunteer Firefighter's Home
- Thank you for all of your support while I was President of the Board of Trustees.
- My call is 631-433-3701 if you need to reach me.

**Annual Seminar** – John Manzi spoke of the Seminar on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Firefighter Cancer Support Network** – Jerry Owenburg – be sure to get tested!

**Firefighter of the Year** – John Manzi/John Masem

- Website is updated – Applications due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The VEEB Board will forward applications to us.

**Fire Prevention** – Don Braccioldieta

- Next membership meeting for Fire, Suffolk Educators is January 27, 2023, at the Central Islip Fire House. Dinner is 7pm meeting at 8pm.
- February 7<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> is National Burn Awareness
- SAVE THE DATE – It's Official....the 2023 New York State Fire & Life Safety Educators' Conference is scheduled to take place May 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the New York State Academy of Fire Science in Montour Falls, New York!!!! Stay tuned for the announcement of the 2023 conference theme and our call for presenters!
- Please like us on Facebook and you will get daily updates on fire prevention reports daily.



- Closing note “Lets all remember there is no honor in fighting a fire that could’ve been prevented through education.”

**Headquarters** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Vinny Ammirati – working on letter for 2023. Hospitality room will happen.

John A. Masem Sr. Scholarship – Keith Vellia

- 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary this year.
- Application is on the website.
- Updated rules – HS Senior going to a college or vocational school. Child/grandchild/sibling of member.
- See Application and rules on website.

**Legislative** – Jerry Owenburg

**Long Island Day at the Firemen’s Home** – Jerry Owenburg reported:

- Long Island Day September 17<sup>th</sup>, West Islip FD band performed last year. Members loved it. Next year anyone with a band let us know. Members to judge battle of the Bands. All are welcome to come up Members, Ladies, Jrs, and families. Parade at 1pm BBQ to follow. Suffolk Memorial 12 noon.

**Membership** – Dan Brooks – no report

**Publicity** – Vinny Ammirati – no report

**REMSCO – Tom Prendergast** – report was read by Vinny Ammirati

Items discussed at the last REMSCO meeting on 1/10/23.

Transfer of Authority (EMS)

Selden FD to Selden Fire District

East Brentwood FD to East Brentwood Fire District

At the next REMSCO meeting on 3/14/23

Setauket FD to Setauket Fire District

Terryville FD to Terryville Fire District

CPR Awards at East Quogue FD 3/11/23

COVID-19 Stats:

559,000 infected

4850 Deaths

Suffolk County in the top 20 counties in the Country

Fire Departments are to update their rosters of their new leadership.

More paramedics need to be trained & certified in ROSC (especially on the East End)

Narcan training continues in Suffolk County.

BLS 12 Lead is back online.

With the hospital strike in NYC, there are no major staffing shortages in the hospitals in Suffolk County.

PEC's (Pediatric Emergency Coordinator) will be required in the Emergency Rooms of the hospitals in Suffolk County.

ALS Re-Accreditation will be required by 1/30/23. ALS providers not re-credentialed by 1/30/23 may be subjected to loss their status and be downgraded to EMT. Also EMT-CC's are encouraged to take the bridge training to become Paramedics because eventually the CC status will be abolished and those CC's not trained as Paramedics will be downgraded to EMT.

Suffolk County EMS staffing

CFR 31

EMT 4491

CC 249

Medic 876

Total 5647

58 Agencies certified BLS 12 Lead

#### **Resolutions** by Gene Perry

- Resolution #1 – BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its sincere thanks to the West Babylon Fire Department for hosting tonight's meeting. Motion by William Murray, seconded by Vinny Ammirati. Motion Carried.

#### **Sickness** –

- Secretary Jean Christensen is not with us tonight, as she is ill.

#### **Steering** – Past President Robert McConville

- Anyone that wishes to run for an office, please let Bob know.

#### **SCVFA Parade & Drill**

- July 8<sup>th</sup> in Riverhead – 9am parade start
- Looking for Parade Officials
- Five-year member of your department to be eligible.

#### **William Reilly Journal** – Giovanni Chiarelli – in the works.

#### **Ways and Means** – Don Braccioldieta – total collected \$220 - \$110 to the winner.

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

- Four youth days this year: Old Forge, West Postdam, FASNY Convention, Some place on LI (TBD)
- Looking to start a Suffolk youth committee.

#### **Suffolk County Fire Chief's Council**

- Past President Tom Kriklava reported 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in March is the next meeting.



**Suffolk County Association of Fire Districts** – meets February 16<sup>th</sup> in Selden – Elections.

**Suffolk County VEEB Board** by Gary Schaum

- The 2023 Schedule for all classroom courses is on our website and read for open enrollment. Members can enroll in a course/class 60 days before the start date of the course/class.
- The Fire Academy has started a Speaker Series during the winter months in 2023 for the following subjects:
  - Elevator Emergencies
  - Engine Ops- Getting water on the fire.
  - Taxpayer Fires

They will be at various locations within the County. Please visit the website for locations, dates and times. They are to be posted on our website.

- Website and New on-line classes will soon be out. Looking by end of this year.
  - Incident Safety Officer – Fireground Safety
  - Lithium-Ion
  - Roadway Safety – Geared to Fire Police
  - Certificate will be generated after completion for each training.
- Suffolk County Legislature passed the Garden Apartment Capital Project resolution.
- Total classes for 2022 were 1928. Total Attendance for 2022 was 48,283.

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

- New Scratch off lottery is under way - \$10 per ticket.
- Next meeting is February 8<sup>th</sup> in West Sayville.

**Suffolk County Fire Police**

- February 9<sup>th</sup> – refresher by zoom – pre-registration is a must.
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – Montour Falls
- May 11-14 – Niagara Falls

**Suffolk County Firefighters Burn Center** – Next meeting is February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Suffolk County Safety Officer's**

- Peter DiPinto attended Association Seminar in St. Pete, Florida.
- Most dealt with Cancer.
- Traffic awareness/situated awareness.

**NYS Chiefs** by Tony LaFerrera

- Fire/EMS Expo – need more class hands on participants.
- March 27<sup>th</sup> Truck skills beyond the textbook at West Babylon FD

Attached to minutes are forms for:

- Long Island Metro Fire/Ems Expo – February 3-5, 2023
- NYSAFC 2023 Seminar Series March 27, 2023 (See Attached)
- NYSAFC 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Fire 2023 Expo (See Attached)
- New York State Fire Service Alliance Legislative Initiatives for the 2023 Session (See Attached)
- Scholarship and Awards Program, Application package and Flyer available online. Deadline is April 1, 2023. (See Attached)

- Membership Application, members can join using our online portal. A printable PDF application is also available (See Attached)
- Remember to monitor OSHA 1910.156 for proposed changes and how they may affect what we do as a volunteer fire service.
- How many people must die before we act? How many is finally too many? ***Fire Sprinklers Saves Lives.*** The elderly disabled and everyone else would have time to evacuate a fire if sprinklers are in place. While recent deaths were in older homes and would not have impacted the proposed change in code to install home fire sprinklers in new construction, there are new tax benefits to building owners to retrofit commercial buildings with fire sprinkler.

**FRES** – Next meeting is January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Southern NY VFA** – next E-Board meeting is February 13<sup>th</sup> in Merrick.

**North Fork VFA** – Report read by Vinny Ammirati

- North fork volunteer fireman's Association report from Carlton Raab
- Not much to report out here. This will be the end of my 3-year presidential run. Our meeting is 1/25 @ orient FD. Greenport Washington day parade February 18th always a good time they make a great clam chowder for all after the parade.

**Babylon Town VFA** –

- North Babylon on March 20
- Memorial Service is May 21<sup>st</sup> 11am

**Old Business** – None

**New Business**

- Motion by Don Bracciodieta to purchase \$100 in lottery tickets from the Suffolk Ladies seconded by Frank Guarino, motion carried.
- Brookhaven Town Fire Museum Membership is due at \$50.00 – Motion by Don Bracciodieta to pay the membership dues seconded by Gary Schaum, motion carried.
- Suffolk County Fire Districts dinner \$300 for two tickets. Motion to send President and guest by Bob McConville seconded by Jerry Owenburg, motion carried.

**Good and Welfare**

- Peter Cincotta has covid so do not visit him at this time. February 11<sup>th</sup> he is supposed to come home to his house.
- Ex-Chief Billy Moon died in the line of duty – FDNY.
- Ex-Captain William Mauer & Ex-Captain Louis Iuzzini of the East Farmingdale Fire Company passed away.

**Next membership meeting is March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Center Moriches Fire Department.**



Closing Prayer said by Joe McCarthy

Motion to adjourn by Peter Colli seconded by R. Chiuchiolo at 8:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jean Christensen".

Jean Christensen  
Secretary