

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
January 28, 2025 – West Babylon Fire Department***

Meeting Called to order by President Vincent Ammirati
Salute to the flag led by Sgt. At Arms William Mullane
Moment of Silence for departed members followed by a prayer by our President Vinny Ammirati.

Chief Steve Kamalick of the West Babylon Fire Department welcomed SCVFA to West Babylon.

First Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli thanked Chief Kamalick for hosting our meeting this evening and for the wonderful meal. At this time Chief Kamalick was presented with a Certificate of thanks from the Association.

Motion by Jimmy Grimes seconded by Jonathon Barnett to accept the minutes of the September meeting, Motion Carried.

Introduction of Guests & Past Association Presidents:

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

The guests in attendance were:

Gene Perry – FASNY President

Frank Guarino – FASNY Director

Stan Roberts – 1st Vice President – Islip Town VOLLIES

Don Holupka – President Long Island Volunteer Firemen's Benevolent

Doug Miller – Vice President Long Island Benevolent

Jim Grimes – Past President ITVA

Ryan Fischer Fire Marshall FRES for Commissioner Sunderman

Joel Hellbruan – President Town of Babylon VOLLIES

Lori Zatorski – Past President/Corresponding Secretary Suffolk County Ladies

Kevin Fitzpatrick – 1st Vice President Suffolk Chiefs

Gary Schaum – President VEEB Fire Academy

Scott Thebold – 1st Vice President Suffolk County Districts

Treasurer's report. Bob McConville read the totals, and copy will be attached to original minutes
Motion by Frank Guarino to accept the Treasurer's Report seconded by Gary Stecker, motion carried.

Bills

- Brookhaven Town Volunteer Firefighter Museum – Dues \$25.00 for Firematic Group.
- Staples for supply of certificate covers \$70.16

Motion by Gene Perry to pay the bills seconded by Tom Dodge – All in Favor.

Communications:

- Thank you from the family of Linda Bunten, a Suffolk Ladies member who passed away from Holtsville.

Report of Presidents:

President Vincent Ammirati

We are in need of a Sgt at Arms.

- SCVFA membership meeting at the Selden FD September 24,2024
- Suffolk County Metal of Valor Day at the Central Islip FD September 27,2024
- Southern New York legislative zoom meeting September 30,2024
- FASNY Trustees meeting, Corn-hole tournament, testimonial dinner, Hudson NY October 4-6, 2024
- Suffolk County Ladies meeting Islip Town FD museum October 9,2024
- Funeral for Home Member Robby Hicks Hudson NY October 18,2024
- Suffolk Vollies FFOY dinner October 19,2024
- SCVFA Executive Board Meeting October 22,2024 West Sayville NY
- North fork Firefighters Association Meeting East Marion October 23,2024
- Long Island Benevolent meeting Huntington Manor FD October 26,2024
- Drill Team Captains dinner Hunting Hilton October 27,2024
- FASNY Convention meeting zoom meeting Oct 30,2024
- November's Trustee meeting at the FASNY Home Hudson NY November 1, 2024
- FASNY legislative conference Troy NY November 2nd and 3rd, 2024
- Suffolk County Chief Council meeting At the Medford FD November 8,2024
- Suffolk County Woman in the Fire Service 2024 event at the Suffolk County Fire Academy November 9,2024
- Suffolk County Junior Firefighters Association meeting at the Setauket FD November 10,2024
- Suffolk County Chief council brunch at Captain Bill's Bay Shore November 10,2024
- Wake service for Home Member Joseph S. Mihalich of East Rockaway Fire Department at the Donza Funeral Home East Rockaway November 10,2024
- Texas Roadhouse restaurant in Selden for veterans' appreciation day November 11,2024
- Southern NY executive board meeting Central Islip FD November 12,2024
- Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary meeting at the West Sayville Fire Department November 13,2024
- Brookhaven Chiefs Counsel meeting at the Gordon Heights FD November 15,2024
- Suffolk County Burn Center Meeting at the Stoney Brook hospital November 18,2024
- FASNY Teams Home Trustee meeting November 21,2024
- Suffolk County District Meeting at the Copiague Fire Department November 21,2024
- Suffolk County Burn Center fundraiser Governor's comedy club November 24,2024
- Department Services for John Fazio of the Setauket FD November 25,2024
- Suffolk County Ladies services for Linda Bunten Medford November 26,2024
- FASNY Trustee meeting Hudson and Troy NY December 5 and December 6,2024
- V-Board interviews to fill the open teachers position December 9,2024

- Southern NY membership meeting at the West Babylon FD January 4,2025
- Suffolk County Ladies meeting at the Lindenhurst FD January 8,2025
- Nassau County Junior firefighters Association installation of officers and Dinner New Hyde Park January 11,2025
- Suffolk County Junior Firefighters Association meeting at the Selden FD January 12,2025
- Audit committee meeting at the Selden FD January 16,2025
- Suffolk County Lithium-Ion task forces meeting Selden's FD January 16,2025
- Testimonial Dinner for Jose Da Rocha Albertson Fire Department January 19,2025
- Town of Babylon Vollies meeting Copiague FD January 20,2025
- FASNY Day 1 EMS Conference at Selden FD January 24,2025
- Long Island Benevolent meeting at the Hewlett FD January 24,2025
- Southern NY Outreach meeting at the Albertson FD January 25,2025
- FASNY Day 2 EMS Conference at the Selden FD January 25,2025

Report of 1st Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli

Gave his report.

We are in need of meeting places for our 2026 regular and Executive Board meetings. If your department can host, please see Cheech.

Report of 2nd Vice President Dan Brooks –

- September 27 – VEEB Board Medal of Valor
- October 5 – Presented 50 Year Certificate at Farmingville
- October 19 – SCVFA Annual Dinner
- October 22 – SCVFA Board Meeting
- October 23 – Northfork Volunteer Firefighters Association
- October 31/November 3 – FASNY Legislative Weekend
- November 8 – Suffolk County Chiefs Council
- November 9 – Women in the Fire Service
- November 10 – SCVJFA Meeting
- November 10 – Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council
- November 15 – Brookhaven Town Chiefs Council
- November 18 – Suffolk County Burn Center
- November 21 – Suffolk County Fire Districts
- November 26 – Suffolk County Ladies Aux Wake Service
- December 11 – Suffolk County Ladies Aux Meeting
- December 13 – Christmas Tree Burn
- January 10 – Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council
- January 16 – Suffolk County Lithium-Ion Task Force Committee
- January 17 – Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs Council
- January 19 – SCVJFA Meeting
- January 25 – FASNY EMS Conference
- January 25 – 50- and 70-Year Certificates at Cutchogue

3rd Vice President Donald Braccioldieta

January 4, 2025, southern New York general meeting West Babylon FD

January 12, 2025, W. Islip FD Junior cadet ceremony

January 15, 2025, Bohemia FD Islip Town general meeting

January 16, 2025, Selden FD lithium battery committee task force meeting

January 23, 2025, central Islip educators general meeting
January 24, 2025, Long Island Benevolent Hewitt FD
January 25, 2025, southern New York Legislation workshop Albertson FD
January 26, 2025, Memorial service meeting with the host department Patchogue FD

If anybody's interested, I have the new hospitality 2025 donation letter if anybody's interested in donating

Annual Dinner – Robert Sutton reported

Please save the date of Saturday October 18, 2025, for our annual dinner, Installation and Firefighter of the Year presentation. The event will once again be held at the Coram Fire Department, and the tickets are \$75.00 each. The Applications are here tonight and are available on our website.

Please take the applications for the dinner & Journal back to your Fire Departments/Boards and other organizations that you belong to get commitments and monies for tickets. If you have any questions at all, please contact me.

Audit – Jerry Owenburg – Audited the books – all are in order.

By-Laws – Eugene Perry No report

Candidate Campaign – Eugene Perry – If you want to run for an office, get letter to him or Jerry. If you want to be on a FASNY Committee, send him your resume.

FASNY – President Eugene Perry read his report.

Discussion was held on residential sprinklers and that we need to support the sprinkler bill.

There was a question on how long to get stipend – Gene to check on this he hasn't heard anything on their being a lag.

Director Frank Guarino reported that the next Board meeting is February 6th in Troy and on what he has been up to – which is below

- (1) Jan 8, 2025, Meeting at Troy Hotel 1:30 PM
- (2) Jan 9, 2025, Audit Meeting
- (3) Jan 10, 2025, BOD Meeting
- (4) Jan 11, 2025, Junior FD Nassau County Dinner New Hyde Park
- (5) Jan 12, 2025, Junior FD Suffolk County Academy Ceremony West Islip FD
- (6) Jan 16, 2025, NYS Fire Service Council Zoom
- (7) Jan 16, 2025, Meeting at Mattituck FD
- (8) Jan 17, 2025, Islip Town Fire Police Association meeting at Great River FD
- (9) Jan 19, 2025, Testimony Dinner for Past Director Jose DaRocha
- (10) Jan 19, 2025, Fire Prevention Life Safety Zoom Meeting
- (11) Jan 21, 2025, Babylon Town Fire Police Association Meeting Wyandanch FD
- (12) Jan 22, 2025, SFVFA Meeting Bridgehampton FD
- (13) Jan 23, 2025, District Meeting Hagerman FD
- (14) Jan 24, 2025, Long Island Benevolent Meeting Hewitt FD
- (15) Jan 25, 2025, Legislation Meeting at Albertson FD
- (16) Jan 26, 2025, Nassau County Fire Police Association Brunch and Installation Dinner Westbury
- (17) Jan 28, 2025, SCVFA Membership Meeting West Babylon FD
- (18) Jan 29, 2025, VFPASNY Zoom & Training (756) Members
- (19) Jan 31, 2025, EMS Fire Expo Nassau Coliseum

- (20) Feb 1 & 2 2025 EMS Fire Expo Nassau Coliseum
- (21) Feb 5, 2025, Hagerman Fire Police Meeting
- (22) Feb 6 & 8 2025 BOD Meeting

Home Trustees –Bob Sutton reported the following:

Our current census is seventy-eight, with Two new members will be admitted this week.
Sixteen applications are in various stages of completion.
One resident is currently in the hospital.
On March 23, there will be a Chili Cook-Off at Browns Brewing, in Troy, NY.
On September 27, there will be an Open House and Corn-Hole Tournament.
On March 27, there will be a Big Bucks Bongo at the Home.

Jerry's ice cream machines are up and running.

Father Halpin Memorial Service – Bob Sutton reported

Our Next memorial Service will be held on Sunday May 4, 2025. This event will be hosted by the Patchogue Fire Department and will start at 3:00 PM. The Memorial service will be held at the Michael E. Reilly Memorial Park, DeWitt Avenue & Smith Street in Patchogue. This will be a Class "A" uniform event.

There will be tents set up for this event. In the event of inclement weather, the memorial Service will be relocated to the Apparatus Floor at the Patchogue Fire Department's Headquarters.

Please take the flyer for the Memorial Service back to your Chief's/Boards and impress upon them the importance of submitting the names of all Fire Department members as well as Ladies Auxiliary members that have passed away since April 16, 2024, to present and up to April 30, 2025. If you have any questions at all, please contact me.

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

It is Sunday September 21st – Noon is our annual Memorial – followed by parade at 1pm and BBQ.
If interested, you can adopt a member

Firefighter Cancer Support Network – Jerry Owenburg –

There will be a letter going out – they are not in agreement with National, so they are going out on their own. They are now called "Firefighter Cancer Awareness Mentoring of New York State". You can reach them by emailing fcamnys@gmail.com.

Firefighter of the Year – John Manzi

They are taking applications, and they are due by March 1st. The application is on the website. We do share applications with VEEB. However, you must submit your application to FASNY, it is not shared.

RESMCO CPR Awards on the website for Cardiac save.

Headquarters –William Mullane had no report.

Youth in the Fire Service – Keith Vella

FASNY – March 15th deadline for Youth Group of the Year and Mentor of the year.
At FASNY Convention on Friday there will be an Advisor round table from 10:45 – 12 noon.

Saturday there will be a youth event from 12-4pm.
August 22 – 23 will be Youth Day at the Fire Academy.

John A Masem Sr. Scholarship – Keith Vella

Open to you Children, and grandchildren – deadline is June 1st. Is for a HS Senior for college or vocational school. Also open to a member of our association that wants to go back to school. Put application in if this applied. We have offered this to our individual members for two years now and not received one application. Applications are updated and, on the website, and on the front table tonight.

Legislative – Jerry Owenburg/Dan Brooks

Jerry reported the following for Suffolk County

December 3, 2024 – Meeting

Approving the reappointment of Edward J. Vinogroski as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission.

Approving the appointment of Brian Cullen as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Commission.

Tabled Resolutions:

1821. Adopting local Law No. -2024. A Charter Law to amend Suffolk County Charter Article XI and a Local Law to amend Articles IX and XI of the Suffolk County Administrative code to transfer operation and supervision of Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) to the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (“FRES”).

There was an amendment to Article XI of the Suffolk County Charter and Articles IX and XI of the Administrative Code to transfer operation and supervision of EMS to FRES, this went into Effect January 1, 2025,

THIS WAS APPROVED

January 21, 2025 – Meeting

Appointing Robert Celeste as a member of the Suffolk County Vocational Education and Extension Board.

Dan – FASNY Level – Dan went over the FASNY Scorecard –

Ensure VFBL parity with Workers Compensation

Designate EMS as an essential service

Sales tax exemption for home life safety products

First Responder Peer Support Program

VFF/VAW income tax credit increase; enable reception of local RPT exemptions & income tax credit

Make Permanent: Heart Presumption Lung Presumption

Make Permanent: EMS Cost Recovery

Phase out firefighter PPE containing PFAS

Enable fire district to directly pay local training stipend

Dan stated that Senator Monica Martinez is fighting hard for us.

March 4th is Lobby Day

FASNY is looking to do legislative weekend different – Update scorecard every other year – on off year would meet with officials.

Resolutions – Eugene Perry

- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its sincere thanks to the West Babylon FD for hosting tonight’s meeting. Motion to accept by Bob Sutton seconded by Bill Murray, Motion carried.

Radio Committee – Anthony Sullo spoke on the East End paging system

Suffolk FRES Commission – Anthony Sullo stated they meet tomorrow night and have three resumes for Deputy.

Sickness – President Ammirati thanked everyone who reached out to him following his recent surgery.

Steering – Past President Gene Perry – If you are interested in running, please see Gene or Bob.

SCVFA Parade & Drill – Will be in Hagerman on July 12th. The parade will be at 6pm.

There is a parade Officials meeting February 8th and March 10th.

Training & Education – Progress

William Reilly Journal – Giovanni Chiarelli stated there are forms up front and they will be mailed to the department. Please email PDF for your ad. Just a reminder that the profit of the journal is what funds our scholarship. Thank you.

Publicity & Public Relations – Website – Dan Brooks/Roger Putnam
Roger has the website up to date
Dan said that he is sharing events on Facebook

Ways and Means – William Mullane
Collected \$220, so the winner will receive \$110.

Lithium Ion Battery –

We have one presentation scheduled for Wednesday February 5, 2025, beginning at 7:00 PM. This presentation is being held at the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Library, located at 1 South Country Road, Brightwaters, NY 11718
The Lithium-Ion Battery Task Force Will meet again on Wednesday March 13, at the Selden Fire Department.
Our task force has a very informative and valuable presentation to help educate the communities about the safe handling and use of Lithium-Ion Batteries. This presentation is available, at no cost to all.

We encourage local associations, libraries, fraternal organizations, civic groups, homeowner associations, Scouting of America, Girl Scouts, and all Fire Department and EMS agencies, as well as Junior/Youth/Explorer organizations to attend.

If any individual or organization has questions, or are interested in scheduling a free presentation, please contact us. You can also use this at your open house.

Fire Prevention – Don Bracciodieta gave the following report

Our next membership meeting is March 28th – Location to be determined. Dinner 7pm – meeting to follow.
Fire & Life Safety topics

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control is excited to announce two great training opportunities...the 2nd New York State Fire & Emergency Services Health, Wellness, & Safety Symposium (March

7th-9th) and the 50th new York State Fire & Life Safety Educators' Conference (multiple dates & Locations). They are Saturday April 26th, 2025 – Suffolk Fire Academy - Saturday May 3rd, 2025 Clifton Park Fire Department and Friday May 9th, 2025 at Henrietta Fire District Station #6. A schedule and registration information for the Conference will be distributed in the near future. Stay well.

Upcoming Dates – Metro show this weekend please stop by the educator's table. Always open to new members. Education for fire prevention is more than just October.

Suffolk County Fire Chief's Council President Kevin Fitzpatrick reported

- Suffolk County Scholarship is 3/21, dinner 5:30.
- Next meeting is 3/14 in Brentwood

Suffolk County Association of Fire Districts – Vice President Scott Thebold reported

- Next meeting is February 20th in Yaphank.
- Dinner flyer is out – is March 8th
- Scott is going in as President

Suffolk County FRES Deputy Fire Marshal Ryan Fisher came to report for Commissioner Rudy Sunderman

- Departments at Jennings Creek Contact Emergency Management to recoup funds
- EMS is now Officially under Rudy – Location will remain the same for now.
- Website is updated – is a resource guide. Be sure to get requests in.
- AMR Assistance
- Serves Application is due January 31st. – Spring is due 3/21.
- Training outside fire academy.
- Please note that our website has an updated Resource Guide and updated Survey Request for resources.
- Active Chiefs Meeting to be held Thursday, May 8, 2025, at North Patchogue Fire Department. Anyone looking to register must do so by notifying Brianne Minden at Brianne.minden@suffolkcountyny.gov by April 24, 2025. Captains are welcome.
- EFD and EMD updates went out to all departments; please review. It was also distributed via the Daily Brief.
- A recruitment and retention survey is coming out to your fire department; as you are aware, we must continue to update who your Volunteer Recruitment is, number of members in fire, EMS, fire police, etc. Please be sure to respond accordingly.
- Thank you to those Chiefs that have updated their directory page and equipment data. By the end of February, I would like to complete the project to share the current data with Communications. Please email all your data to FRES; if you have any questions please contact the Commissioner's Office.
- FRES Communications will be sending Procedure pages and Automatic Pre-plans to each agency; please reach out to your chiefs to be sure they review and respond, even if there are no corrections.
- Reminder – all chiefs are to report their annual demographics to NYS OFPC. An email was sent to all chiefs regarding this reporting procedure; if you do not have it, please contact FRES and we will provide it.

Suffolk County VEEB Board by Gary Schaum

- January starts modules of our "Officer Development" (Fire Officer 1) series, which has become extremely popular, so much so that we had to implement an application process for the courses. Please visit <https://scfa-li.org/fire-officer-1-supervising-fire-officer-course/> for more information about the program.
- When completing training authorization forms for your members, please make sure the form is complete with check boxes and dates entered. We have been seeing forms submitted that are signed by a Chief but lacking other required information.

- The 2025 online Hazmat Refresher is now available. Please visit https://elearn.scfa-li.org/courses_list/ for more information and to take the online Hazmat Refresher.
- SCFA/VFPASNY Fire Police Virtual (online) Refresher January 29th. For more information or to register visit <HTTPS://elearn.scfa-li.org/events/fire-police-refresher-virtual/>
- Fire Officer 1 National Certification Exams (Pro-Board) to be held at the SCFA on February 4th & 5th. For more information and to register visit <HTTPS://scfa-li.org/fire-officer-i-national-exam/>
- ICS 300 Course beginning on Friday March 8th. For more information and to register visit <https://elearn.scfa-li-org/events/nims-ics-300-2025/>
- SCFA Basic Exterior Firefighter Operations (BEFO), Interior Fire Operations (Firefighter 1) and Fire Officer 1 completed after August 31, 2023, are eligible for the NYS Training Stipend. Upon completion of each course, the rosters are submitted to NYS and appear on the students' NYS training record. We encourage your members to submit for the NYS Training Stipend. For more information visit <https://scfa-li.org/nys-training-stipend-information/>
- Five current courses at the SCFA have been evaluated for college credit by the National College Credit Recommendation Service (NCCRS). Firefighter 1 (7), Firefighter II (3), Introduction to Fire Officer (1), Fire Officer 1 (2), and Rapid Intervention Teams. (1) Please visit <https://scfa-li.org/college-credit-information/> for more information on our college credit program.
- Certain SCFA courses have prerequisites. Prerequisites MUST be completed PRIOR to registration for those courses. You can review the course catalog as well as the open enrollment page of our website for required prerequisites. All registrations will be vetted by staff to assure prerequisites have been satisfied.
- This month's training bulleting discusses "Mayday Situations". Please visit our website to review the bulleting.
- Robert Celeste, appointed to VEEB.
- Chief's, please make sure we have your updated contact information (phone, email, etc.) as we are utilizing email as our primary method of contact.
- First F/F1 class for Juniors was completed.

Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary – Lori Zatorski wished all a Happy New Year. There are flyers on the table for our current fundraisers – 100 club and Lottery scratch off. Our next meeting will be February 12th in West Savyille. We look forward to working with you this year.

Suffolk County Fire Police – Frank Guarino

- Thank you to the Academy – VEEB and Fire Police – Zoom training on January 29th with over 800 signed up.
- March 1st is the Tom With Seminar.
- April 5-6 Quarterly meeting at the Firefighters Home.
- May 8-10 Convention in Kingston.

Suffolk County Firefighters Burn Center

- February 17th meeting at Stony Brook Hospital
- Looking for Reps from Depts please bring back to your department.
- Calendars are up front if anyone is interested.

Suffolk County Safety Officer's - Don Bracciodieta -No Report

Southern NY VFA – Frank Guarino reported

- February 17th board meeting in Glenwood Landing
- March 22 – Meeting at Merrick – Empire Hose

- May 17th Convention and Memorial Service at Hagerman – 4pm

Nassau County VOLLIES – Absent

North Fork VFA – No report

Long Island Benevolent – Doug Miller stated that they filed the lawsuit yesterday. Have just over 50 districts that joined the lawsuit. We want to fix the system to get the right amount. Next meeting is April 25th in Central Islip. Don Holupka stated that FASNY gets the Homes 2%. Bob McConville stated that FASNY receives the money, but it is given to the Firefighter's Home.

Jerry Owenburg stated the lawsuit is not about where the money goes – it is about the streets. Doug stated that the street listing system is not easy. They are asking them to fix the system.

Babylon Town VFA – Joel reported they have their Brunch on October 5th at Captain Bills – honoring 50 years. Memorial Service is Third Sunday in May.

Islip Town VOLLIES – Stan reported the next meeting is March 19th in Central Islip.

South Shore – Russel reported the next meeting is March 23rd location to be determined. They will have a guest speaker.

Old Business – None

New Business

- Robert Sutton made a motion to purchase scratch off and 100 club tickets from the ladies - \$100 of each seconded by Jonathan Barnett, motion carried.
- Warren spoke on the Mega Show – Booths are upstairs – free parking – they are doing two classes. The Coliseum are not committing to next year yet.

Good and Welfare – Jerry Owenburg stated Peter is doing well – give him a call and chat.

Dark Horse – 50/50 and two bottles were drawn. Steve Badala won the 50/50.

Thank you to West Babylon for hosting us tonight.

Next membership meeting is March 25th in Centereach

Next Executive Board meeting is February 25th in Mastic

Closing Prayer said by President Vinny Ammirati.

Motion to adjourn by Jimmy Grimes seconded by Frank Guarino at 9:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jean Christensen
Secretary