

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

*P. O. Box 1463*

*Ronkonkoma, NY 11779*

*Organized 1886*



**Minutes – Meeting of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association  
July 26, 2022 - Smithtown**

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

Chief Pat Decidue of the Smithtown Fire Department welcomed the SCVFA to Smithtown. 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli thanked Chief Decidue and all the members for hosting our meeting tonight and serving dinner. Vice President Chiarelli presented a certificate of thanks to the Chief.

At this time, we had the presentation of the Scholarship Awards. With us was Kathleen Czuris and John Masem, children of John Masem Sr. This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the scholarship. We have three winners and with us this evening is Katie Sunderman and Danielle Murullo. At this time presentations were made, and pictures taken.

Motion to accept the **May Minutes** was made by Peter DePinto 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Bracciodieta, all in favor.

**Introduction of Guess & Past Association Presidents** by 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli

**Guests in Attendance:**

Patrick Beckley, FRES Commissioner  
Tom Kriklava, President Suffolk Chiefs  
Lori Zatorski, President Suffolk County VFA Ladies Auxiliary  
Stanley Roberts, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Islip Town Volliers  
Carleton Raab, President North Fork Volliers  
Frank Guarino – FASNY Director  
Robert Fox Commissioner from Flanders FD  
David Fox, Ex-Chief Flanders FD  
Joe Cavalazzi, Ex-Chief Flanders FD  
Danielle Marullo – Patchogue FD  
Kelly Newham – Patchogue FD  
Sally Newham – Patchogue FD  
Rudy Sunderman - Suffolk County Fire Academy  
Eugene Perry – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President FASNY

**Past Presidents of the Association in attendance:**

Frank Guarino  
Jerry Owenburg  
Bob McConville

**Treasurer's Report** - Robert McConville read his report and it will be attached to the Secretary's copy of the minutes. Motion to accept the minutes by Jerry Owenburg seconded by Frank Guarino – all in favor.

**Correspondence & Bills:**

Received:

- Letter from FRES that Anthony Sullo's FRES commission will expire on December 31, 2022
- Letter from FRES that Robert McConville FRES Commission will expire December 31, 2022
- Thank you from Lori Zatorski, President of Suffolk County Ladies

No Bills.

**Report of Presidents:**

President Robert Sutton:

- Thank you to Smithtown Fire Dept for hosting tonight's membership meeting, it is greatly appreciated.
- Next year's Memorial Service is scheduled for Sunday, May 7, 2023, and will be hosted by the Greenlawn Fire Department. More information will be following.
- We are planning our next seminar for March or April of 2023. If anyone has any ideas on a subject for next year's seminar, as well as a potential host, please let Giovanni and John Masem know.
- Long Island Day at the FASNY Firemen's Home is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2022, with the start time still to be determined. We are looking for any Fire Department bands that would like to come up and march with Suffolk County, as well as play some sets for the Firemen's Home residents after the parade. There is a barbeque after the parade as well. Buses are scheduled to be leaving from various departments, more information to follow concerning this.
- The Firefighter of the Year Committee has selected Firefighter David Grant from the Rocky Point Fire Department as our Firefighter of the Year recipient. Congratulations to David on his achievement. David will be honored at our annual dinner on October 22, 2022.
- The annual dinner and Firefighter of the Year presentation will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2022, and will be held at the Centereach FD Location at 9 South Washington Ave, Centereach. There are dinner ticket request forms as well as journal applications available at the front table area.
- We have selected three individuals to receive the scholarships this year. I would like to thank our Scholarship Chairperson Keith Vella and the committee for their hard work and great job.
- Member recognition certificates for 50 years of service are available for any member of your department that has reached this momentous occasion. Department anniversary recognition certificates are also available. Please contact the Association secretary at [suffolsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:suffolsecretary@gmail.com) to request them.
- 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.
- Are you being notified of the Associations meetings and upcoming events? If you are not, please fill out your phone and email information on the information sheet at the table meeting sign-in table.
- Please visit our website at [www.scvfaonlineorg](http://www.scvfaonlineorg) for all forms as well as current information concerning events, activities and postings.
- 2023 Meeting Location – we are looking for any Departments that would like to host one of 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). Association meeting dates for 2023 are as follows:



MEETING DATE	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	EXECUTIVE BOAR MEETING
January 24, 2023	Need Host	
February 28, 2023		Need Host
March 28, 2023	Need Host	
April 25, 2023		Need Host
May 23, 2023	Need Host	
June 27, 2023		Need Host
July 25, 2023	Need Host	
August 22, 2023		Need Host
September 26, 2023	Need Host	
October 24, 2023		Need Host
November 28, 2023	Need Host	

- The next membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, hosted by the East Marion Fire Department. We will be coordinating transportation at various locations, in order for our members to be able to attend the meeting.
- The Association meeting dates remaining are as follows:
  - September 27, 2022 – East Marion FD
  - November 29, 2022 – Copiague FD
- 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. All meeting dates and locations will be posted on our website and Facebook page.
- We are always interested in having any information, 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 n presenting, please let us know.
- Since our last membership meeting, I have attended the following:
  - May 27, 2022 – Retirement party for Suffolk County Fire Marshal Brett Martinez.
  - June 2, 2022 – Presentation of 50-year certificate to a member of the Greenlawn FD.
  - June 4, 2022 – The Long Island Invitation Drill held at Lindenhurst FD
  - June 4, 2022 – Presentation of 50-year certificates to members of the Nesconset FD
  - June 8, 2022 – The Suffolk County Fire Districts Managers meeting at the Dix Hills FD
  - June 8, 2022 – The Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary meeting at the West Sayville FD
  - June 10, 2022- Attended the 2022 FASNY Convention committee meeting as a guest in Tarrytown
  - June 14, 2022 – Presentation of a 50-year certificate to a member of the Riverhead FD
  - June 15-18, 2022 – Attended the NYS Fire Chiefs EXPO in Syracuse NY
  - June 20, 2022 – the Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter's Burn Center Fund meeting via Zoom.
  - June 21, 2022 – The Islip Town Fire Chiefs Council meeting at the Holbrook FD.
  - June 22, 2022 – The fire Chiefs Council of Babylon meeting at the West Islip FD
  - June 24, 2022 – The Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association Annual Dinner at Leonard's Palazzo.
  - June 28, 2022 – The SCVFA Executive Board meeting at the Hagerman FD
  - June 29, 2022 – The Long Island Day at the Home committee meeting, at the Wantagh FD
  - July 7, 2022 – The Smithtown Fire Chiefs Council meeting at the Smithtown FD
  - July 8, 2022 – The Fire Chiefs council of Suffolk County at the Smithtown FD
  - July 9, 2022 – The Suffolk County Drill & Parade held at the Copiague FD
  - July 16, 2022 – The FRES Recruitment Day and food drive, at their Yaphank Location
  - July 25, 2022 – The Suffolk County Firefighter's Burn Center Fund meeting, via Zoom.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – Peter Cincotta – Excused

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Vinny Ammirati:** Vinny is not with us tonight, he is on vacation in Florida, but he sent the following report: **He attended the following:**

- Suffolk County Meeting – Bay Shore FD – May 24, 2022
- Department Services for Ex Captain Smithtown FD William Cunningham – May 31, 2022
- 50 Year Certificate Presentation at the Greenlawn FD on June 2, 2022
- Lindenhurst Parade on June 4, 2022
- 50- Year Certificate presentation for the Nesconset FD on June 4, 2022
- Selden FD and Selden Fire District presented appreciation certificates thanking them for the use of their headquarters for our Seminar - June 6, 2022
- Southern New York Executive Board meeting – Baldwin FD on June 13, 2022
- 50 Year certificate presentation – Riverhead FD on June 14, 2022
- LOD Wake Ex-Chief Stephen Freon Hauppauge FD on June 17, 2022
- Southern New York Dinner at Leonard's of Great Neck on June 24, 2022
- Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association Executive Board meeting on June 28, 2022
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Port Jefferson -July 4, 2022

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli:**

Attended many meetings across Suffolk County

**Annual Dinner report by Bob McConville**

October 22, 2022, at the Centereach fire House. We have sold 80 tickets to date.

**Candidate Campaign** – Robert McConville

Gene has stuff to give out.

Thank you to Jerry Owenburg for your two years as President of Trustees at the FASNY Firemen's Home.

**Credentials** – Dan Brooks –

Please be sure to sign in

Fire Departments	102 Paid	35 still not paid
Individuals	116 Paid	58 still not paid
Organizations	5 Paid	6 still not paid

Please see Dan after the meeting if you still owe dues.

**FASNY** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Gene Perry gave the following report

- FASNY Past President Michael Wutz passed away. He was President from 2006-2008. Please keep his family in your prayers.
- FASNY Convention is coming up August 8-13<sup>th</sup> in Tarrytown NY – All information is on the website.



- Training September 23-25 in Oriskany. Information is on the FASNY Website. The state will pay for the housing and the training is free.

#### **Home Trustee** – Jerry Owenburg gave report

- By the end of the week, we should have 80 residents at the FASNY Firemen's Home. Expect seven (7) more in next week.
- One member passed away last week.
- They had three members with covid and one in the hospital.
- Right now, you can still take the residents out
- By the end of September, they will have six-member sin the 100 cubs. One member is 104 today.

#### **Firefighter Cancer Network** – Jerry Owenburg

- Make sure you get your tests done - please do not wait.
- They are available for the firefighter as well as the families

#### **Firefighter of the Year Committee** – John Manzi reported

- . The Winner is David Grant from Rocky Point.

#### **Fire Prevention** – Don Bracciodieta

- Next membership meeting is August 18, 2022, at the Nesconset fire House – Dinner is 7pm and meeting at 8pm.
  - Grills – Cooking – whether it is part of a graduation party, Independence Day Celebration or backyard barbecue, follow some of the tips contained in this link from NFPA to avoid a culinary disaster during the peak month of grill fires and beyond. <https://www.nfpa.org/public-education/fire-casuses-and-risks/seasonal-fire-casuses/grilling>.
  - Hotel/Motel/RV Safety: Whether you are staying in a hotel or spending time at the campground, be sure to follow the tips provided by the US Fire Administration and the NYS Office of Fire Prevention & Control in this link. [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/hotel\\_Motel.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/hotel_Motel.html).
  - Water/Boating Safety: Check out this link from the US Fire Administration, as well as the attached pamphlets from NFPA & NYS OFPC, for tips on staying safe while in and around the water. [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/media/pictographs/pools\\_and\\_swimming.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/media/pictographs/pools_and_swimming.html)
  - Heatstroke: Every year, children and pets die from heatstroke after being left in vehicles. Check out this link to resources from Safe Kids Worldwide on how to prevent this tragedy from happening in your area! <https://www.safekids.org/heatstroke>
  - Please like us on Facebook and your will get daily updates on fire prevention reports daily.
- In closing, let's all remember there is no honor in fighting a fire that could have been prevented through education.

#### **Headquarters** – Vinny sent the following report

Donations received for the support of the Hospitality Room as of 7/20/22.

- East Northport Fire Dept.
- Lindenhurst Fire Dept.
- Selden Fire Dept – Dixon Engine Company #3
- Sayville Fire Dept.
- Selden Fire Dept.
- Mastic Chemical Company #1
- Town of Babylon Volunteer Firemen's Association

- New York Safety Officers
- Selden Fire Dept. Rescue #4
- Central Islip Fire Dept.
- West Babylon Fire Dept.
- Fire Island Pines Fire Dept.
- Suffolk County Fire District Officers
- Van Guard Hose Co#1 (Patchogue)
- Patchogue Fire Dept.
- Selden Volunteer Exempt Firemen's Benevolent Association
- Brookhaven Town fire District Officers Association
- Jamesport Firemen's Association
- Billy Theiss's donation of his 50/50
- Medford Fire Dept.
- Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary
- North Fork Volunteer Firemen's Association

#### **Legislative** – Jerry Owenburg

Today or yesterday the state okayed to give license to sell.

#### **Long Island Day at the Home** – Jerry Owenburg

- September 18<sup>th</sup> – we will have parade and battle of the bands. The resident council will be the judges.

#### **Membership** – Dan Brooks

No report

#### **REMSCO** – Tom Prendergast

Covid-19 – New Variant BA5 442,000 people infected – 24,000 inpatient – 4,389 passed away

288 cases monkey pox

Suffolk EMS Personnel – 30 CPR, 4288 EMT, 266 CC: 790 Paramedic for a total of 5374

Revision to BLS Skills exam / CPR

Third Annual Tom Lateulear Conference in Selden was 4/30/22. At the September meeting plans will be made for date and location of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference.

EMS Memorial in Albany is September 20, 2022

#### **RESOLUTIONS** – Eugene Perry

- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its sincere thanks to the Smithtown FD for hosting tonight's meeting. Motion by Stanley Roberts, seconded by Frank Guarino, all in favor.
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its sincere thanks to the Hagerman FD for hosting the June Executive Board meeting. Motion by Bob McConville seconded by Peter DePinto, all in favor.



- BE IT RESOLVED THAT we appoint Jean Christensen as Secretary of the Association for the coming year. Motion by Frank Guarino seconded by John Masem, all in favor.
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association congratulate the Central Islip Hoboes for winning the Suffolk County Championship. Motion by Stanley Roberts seconded by Gary Stecker, all in favor
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association congratulate Brentwood, Wyandanch & North Lindenhurst as Best Appearing Fire Departments..... motion by John Masem seconded by Warren Holts, all in favor
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association congratulate Wyandanch for Best Appearing Ladies Auxiliary.....motion by Gene Perry seconded by Gary Stecker, all in favor.
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association congratulate West Sayville and Selden for Best Appearing Juniors.....Motion by Bob McConville seconded by Gene Perry, all in favor.

**Sickness** – Secretary Jean Christensen was asked to send card to Chief Ed Johnston.

**Steering** - Robert McConville

The Steering Committee recommendation – there are 5 or 6 folds running for FASNY. We should only endorse candidates from Suffolk County. Motion by Jack Blum to only endorse Suffolk Candidates seconded by Frank Guarino, all in favor. SNY Is doing the same.

Question on the floor – what if someone is running from Nassau –

FASNY Elections have changed, and we may not want to endorse someone that we don't know. Used to be there was only one person running.

Gene Perry thanked the membership for their support. He will continue to represent Suffolk County proudly.

**SCVFA Parade & Drill** – Gene Perry reported

It was run by Copiague, and it went well with the exception of a few traffic issues.

Gene believes that a host was picked for next year but is not sure who it is.

**William Reilly Journal** – Giovanni Chiarelli & John Masem

. Please send a PDF of your ad, so that they have a good copy.

**Ways and Means** – Don Braccioldieta

Collected \$285. 00, so \$142 will go to the winner

**Website** – No report

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

- On August 6<sup>th</sup> they recognized the winner of the FASNY Youth Group of the year, Bay Shore Brightwaters Rescue Ambulance Youth Squad and the Youth Mentor of the Year award winner was their Director Mary Catherine Dolan.
- There will be three youth days this year. August 27<sup>th</sup> In West Babylon. 7am registration and 8am start. Can enroll up to 40-50 kids. Sign up on the FASNY website. There will also be one on August 20<sup>th</sup> in West Postdam and some time in September at Old Forge.



## **Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council** – Tom Kriklava

- Golf Outing is September 26<sup>th</sup> at Smithtown Landing. \$140 per golfer, check in 0700, tee off at 0800.
- Memorial at Fire Academy – 22 names being added tomorrow. Very close to completion
- Installation Brunch is December 4<sup>th</sup> at Captain Bills, more to follow.
- Taking names of Chiefs or Ex-Chiefs for Chief of the year award. Contact an Executive Board member. Also taking names for Rich Vanderkeef Award.
- Looking for Chiefs or Ex-Chiefs to join ceremonial unit.
- Next meeting is September 9<sup>th</sup> in Deer Park.

## **Suffolk County Association of Fire Districts:**

Next meeting is in Cuthogue the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in August

## **Suffolk County F.R.E.S.** – Commission Beckley

- Fire Marshal Office Update: Brett Martinez retired on May 27, 2022. A new K9 handler has been identified and Chief Fire Marshal Lynch assures met that the candidate will be in the next ATF class this fall. Graduation will be sometime in December and then the handler and K9 will be operational. Until then, we have worked out a plan for coverage with Nassau Fire Marshal. In addition, interviews have begun to fill the current vacant Fire Marshal position. There is an expectation that a second position will be allocated in the upcoming operating budget.
- Vets to Volleys Initiative: Spoke at the NY Association of Fire Districts Conference about this and with Assemblyman Durso. He would like to take the program statewide. Looking for feedback on what we would like departments to get from it.
- Open House: The Open House was held on July 16. In total, we had more than 150 in attendance, including 90 on the recruitment side. Through Island Harvest, we collected enough food to serve more than 1,718 meals to local families. The even was highlighted by a train vs vehicle exercise that featured a tremendous partnership from various agencies as well as a drone exercise.
- Test Kits and PPE: We still have at home test kits available to Fire/EMS agencies. Request can be made through the FRES website. Expiration dates on kits have been extended for an additional 3 months. Good through September.
- USAR: All USAR training has been suspended until an after-action report is done concerning the incident that occurred with Ex=Chief Feron. An additional memo was sent afterwards clarifying that regular communications can continue. USAR members are being asked to provide medical clearance from their home fire departments. I held a Zoom with the team explaining my reasoning and we will be holding a USAR status update call on 8/4 with the team.
- Inter-Municipal Agreement: Departments can enter onto an Inter-Municipal Agreement with the county to purchase its fuel through the county. If interested, contact the Commissioner for details. Projected fuel savings would be \$0.60 per gallon. Ocean Bay park has signed on.
- First Responder Mental Health: We have been receiving more requests for assistance from our chaplains and that is a good thing. Chaplain McCarthy and Brady and DFC Berkowitz have been doing an outstanding job assisting injured fire fighter and their families.
- Drone Team: Our Drone Team has been very active this summer as we were first deployed to an event at the East Farmingdale plant fire. In Addition, we partnered with county agencies and operated during shark watch over the July 4 weekend at Smith Point Beach. Our drone team's efforts were featured on several media outlets, both regional and national. Our drone team has been working with SCPD Marine Patrol on several different missions concerning dangerous marine life.
- Deputy Commissioner: The County is conducting interviews for the Deputy Commissioner job. They are still going through the first round.  
the county will be hosing a blood drive at the SC Fire Academy on August 3<sup>rd</sup> between 10AM and 4PM in honor of Scott Martella, a former County Employee.

## **OEM Items of Interest**

- EOC Construction continues. Furniture delivery began on 7/26.



- Additional initiatives that our staff is working on include the creation of a Citizens Preparedness Academy designed for People with Differing Abilities. The first session launched on July 12 and is ongoing.
- FRES continues to work towards state accreditation for our Office of Emergency Management.
- FRES is moving to a new warehouse by 7/29.

**Suffolk County V.E.E.B. Board-** Gary Schaum was absent and Rudy Sunderman gave the following report:

- SCFA completed National Exams for FF1 and Fire Instructor 1 during the month of July.
- Water Rescue Awareness Classes August 2, 3 & 4<sup>th</sup> locations posted on our website.
- Car Fire Prop gas line has been repaired working on installation of care fire prop. Looking to roll out vehicle fires again next year 2023 for field classes.
- Cancer Awareness Training October 12<sup>th</sup> Dis Hills FD 7pm; October 13<sup>th</sup> SCFA 10am and October 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm in Setauket, this also discusses the proper cleaning of your equipment after alarms.
- New Doors, additional training Props have been added to taxpayers, additional pavement has been added to SCFA field.
- Medal Day is September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at North Lindenhurst.
- New Thermal Imagine Camera Class to be added to Field Classes for 2023.
- Look for Monthly Training Messages via email and website.

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

- Started new 100 club – cost if \$26.00
- Running a new Lottery Scratch off \$10 per ticket
- Next meeting is September 14 in Islip.
- The ladies are here if you need anything.

**Suffolk County Fire Police** – Frank Guarino reported

- State meeting August 7 & 8
- March 18<sup>th</sup> is the Tom With Seminar
- 2023 Convention will be in Niagara Falls
- October 1<sup>st</sup> Field Day.

**Suffolk County Firefighters Burn Center Fund** –John Masem reported

- IMO's being delivered to funeral homes.
- Reviewing protocol
- Night at the Vineyards is 8/12
- Next meeting is August 15 at 7pm

**Southern NY VFA**

No Report

**North Fork VFA** – Carlton Raab

Meet tomorrow night on Shelter Island

**Old Business** – none

### New Business

- Gene Perry congratulated Tom McCarthy as 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Chief Chaplain for NYS Chaplains.
  - Tarrytown Fire Department is selling 50/50 tickets to be drawn at the FASNY Anniversary parade. Gene Perry Made a motion to purchase \$50 worth of tickets, seconded by Jerry Owenberg, all in favor.
  - Saturday September 3<sup>rd</sup> is football fundraiser – cost is \$85.00. Jerry made a motion to send President and guest, seconded by Gene Perry, all in favor
  - Jerry Owenburg made a motion to purchase \$100 in ladies fundraisers seconded by Anthony Sullo, all in favor.
  - Thank you from the Masem family for continuing the John Masem Scholarship in memory of their Dad.
  - Jerry Owenburg said that the Emmitsberg Memorial Service is moving to the first Sunday in May.
  - Warren Holtie thanked all for reaching out on their Line of Duty Death of Ex-Chief Steven Feron of the Hauppauge Fire Department.
- Joe McCarthy said that if your department does not have an active Chaplain have you chief contact him.

### Good & Welfare

- Please visit Peter Cincotta if possible. Visits should be in the afternoon.

### Dark Horse –

Dark horse was drawn, and Gene Perry won the 50/50

Next meeting is September 27<sup>th</sup> in East Marion. Making arrangements for transportation.

Closing prayer by Chaplain Joe McCarthy.

Motion to adjourn by Keith Vella seconded by Rudy Sunderman at 9:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jean Christensen  
Secretary