

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

*P. O. Box 1463*

*Ronkonkoma, NY 11779*

*Organized 1886*



***Minutes – Meeting of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter's Association  
March 28, 2023 – Center Moriches 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 Rev. John Fleischman

Chief Phil Masterson of the Center Moriches Fire Department welcomed SCVFA to Center Moriches.  
Third Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli thanked Chief Masterson and all the members of Center Moriches for hosting the meeting and serving dinner this evening. A certificate of appreciation was given to Chef Masterson.

Motion by Peter DePinto seconded by Stanley Roberts to accept the minutes of the January meeting, Motion Carried.

**Introduction of Guests & Past Association Presidents: by Third Vice President Chiarelli**

**Guests:**

- Scott A Thebold – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Suffolk Districts.
- Anthony V. LaFerrera – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President NYS Fire Chiefs
- Nick LuParella – President Suffolk Chiefs
- Gary Schaum – VEEB Board
- Jeff Bailes – President Safety Officers
- Carl Formes – President Town of Babylon Volunteer Firefighters
- Mary Dolan Vice President of the Educators and Secretary for the Burn Center
- Stanley Roberts – 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Islip Town VOLLIES
- Peter Colli, Past President Town of Babylon VFA
- Lori Zatorski President Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary
- Marybeth Asbell – Past President Suffolk County Ladies
- Frank Guarino – FASNY Director
- Gene Perry – FASNY 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

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

**Treasurer Robert McConville** gave the treasurer's report. Motion to accept by Frank Guarino seconded by Bill Mulane, motion carried.

### **Bills/Correspondence**

- Bill from Jean Christensen for \$67.25 for Certificate supplies.
- Nassau County Suffolk County Fire Chief's Council asking for donation for hospitality room at NYS Fire Chief's conference in June.
- Check from Centereach for seminar \$400
- SNY Men's minutes
- Certificate request from Brookhaven Fire Dept.
- Certificate request from Holbrook Fire Dept.
- Names for Memorial service have been coming in.
- Burn Center 2024 Representative form

### **Report of Presidents:**

#### **President Robert Sutton**

- Thank you to the Center Moriches Fire Department for hosting tonight's membership meeting, it is greatly appreciated.
- Congratulations to Past Association President and current Treasurer Bob McConville on being elected and sworn in as President of the Suffolk County Fire District Officers Association.

#### **Annual Memorial Service**

Our annual Memorial Service is scheduled for Sunday May 7, 2023, starting at 4:00 PM. We will be meeting with the Greenlawn Fire Department this month to go over this event. We have blast faxed this event to Suffolk County, and it will be in the April Issue of The Fire News. Please provide us with any names of your Department's deceased members & Ladies Auxiliary members who have passed away from April 16, 2022, to the present day. The deadline for this is April 20, 2023.

#### **Educational Seminar**

Our second annual seminar is scheduled for Saturday May 13, 2023, at the Selden Fire Department. and urge them to attend this very informative seminar. This also a fundraiser of for the Association, so please help us to promote this important event. 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 1 st Responder News for publication in their events section. More information will follow as it comes in. We need to really push this fund-raiser to all of the County Departments and Organizations for this to be a success. This event has been sent to Fire News and 1 st Responder News for publication in their events section.

#### **Annual Dinner and Firefighter of the Year Presentation**

The annual dinner and Firefighter of the Year presentation is scheduled for Saturday October 21, 2023. This event Will be held at the Coram Fire Department. The Dinner application as well as the journal information has been posted to our website and is also available tonight on the front table. Please make every effort to promote & support dinner and journal.



### **Line of Duty & 09/11 Memorial**

The name plates of those individuals that were not attached to the monument and were read off at the October 30, 2022, Line of Duty Death services have come in and have been attached to the monument.

### **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**

Are you being notified of the Associations meetings and upcoming events? If you are not, please fill out you're your phone and E-Mail information on the information sheet at 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.

### **The Association meeting dates for the remainder of 2023 are as follows:**

Meeting Date Membership Meeting Executive Board Meeting

April 25, 2023 Brookhaven Fire Department

May 23, 2023, Yaphank Fire Department

June 27, 2023 Hauppauge Fire Department

July 25, 2023, Smithtown Fire Department

August 22, 2023, Patchogue Fire Department

September 26, 2023 Central Islip Fire Department

October 24, 2023, Hagerman Fire Department

November 29, 2023, West Islip Fire Department

January 23, 2024, Bayport Fire Department

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:** Vinny asked to be excused he was on vacation. Secretary Jean Christensen read his report as follows:

### **Attended the following meetings:**

- Long Island Benevolent meeting Friday, January 27, 2023, at Melville FD
- FASNY Legislative Committee Zoom meeting, January 30<sup>th</sup>.
- FASNY Legislative Committee meeting February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- EMS/Fire Department show at Nassau County Coliseum February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>.
- East Farmingdale Fire Department awards dinner February 11, 2023

- SCVFA Executive Board meeting at Selden FD March 1, 2023
- Suffolk County Ladies meeting March 8, 2023
- Suffolk County Chiefs meeting March 10, 2023, North Babylon FD
- March 20, 2023, Babylon Town volunteer Firemen's Association meeting at the North Babylon FD
- March 25, 2023 -Southern New York Volunteer Firefighter's Association meeting in Selden FD

Suffolk County Volunteers will be hosting a hospitality room this year at the FASNY Convention in Niagara Falls, New York in August. We are looking for donations to help offset the cost.

**Report of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli** – went to a couple of meetings, seminars and funeral. Cheech worked on new logo for SCVFA – it has firefighter not fireman.

**Annual Dinner** – Robert McConville/Eugene Perry – will be in Coram in October. Notice to go out May or June.

**Audit** – Jerry Owenburg – Audited books and all is in order.

**By-Laws** – No report

**Candidate Campaign** – Robert McConville – Bob Sutton is running for Trustee in August. Anyone that wants to run for an office or be on a committee please submit letter.

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

**FASNY** – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Eugene Perry – gave the following report.

- LODD FF Jason Arno – Buffalo FD March 1, 2023, 37-year-old leaves behind a wife and young daughter
- FASNY Lobby Day scheduled for 2/28 was postponed due to weather. ASA conducted a virtual meeting with Legislators and legislative Chairmen. Date for non-fiscal Lobby Day TBA.
- 10% Property tax exemption – any Municipality who currently gives the exemption has to do a resolution to conform with the new law. They have until 2023. There is a sample on the FASNY Website.
- FASNY Convention – August 10-12 at the Sheraton Hotel in Niagara Falls.
- RecruitNY – April 22 & 23. Departments who sign up by April 14<sup>th</sup> are eligible for a \$500 grant from FASNY. Go to recruitny.org to sign up. Press Conference on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am the Dix Hills FD HQ.
- FASNY's latest Economic Impact Study was released at a Press Conference on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am the Dix Hills FD HQ.
- FASNY's latest Economic Impact Study was released at a Press Conference on March 20<sup>th</sup> at FASNY HQ in Albany.
- FASNY Convention for 2025 & 2026 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Hauppauge.
- Propane Emergency Class April 14 at Greenport opens 7am starts 8am, limit is for 50. Must be qualified interior firefighter. Is on website.
- FASNY Dues is due – Gene read the Departments from Suffolk not paid.

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

- We are taking care of 81 Brothers and Sisters. Three Members were voted on this Saturday. 5 members in the 100 Club.
- Co-Vid cases 0 Brothers and 0 Sisters. 0 Staff with Co-Vid.
- 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.
- 5 more active applications in the works. New application on line now three pages and five finance pages.



- 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 exp. Small change, train club and Chapel Fund).
- Anyone looking to donate any Model Train items, Arts and craft items, clothing, blank 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 on line. As little as make sur the Member gets cards for Birthday and Holiday cards. Memorial bricks available form will be on-line soon. Call FASNY for now.
- If taking a 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 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 the 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 132 years old this year.
- Long Island Day is September 17<sup>th</sup> – West Islip FD band performed last year and the Members loved it. Next year anyone with a Band lust 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 at 12 noon.
- DBA Home Name FASNY Volunteer Firefighter's Home.
- 2023 Chili Cookoff at Brown's Brewery in Troy NY Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm. We have two brother Members of the Home were entered in the Cookoff. I cheered them on for all!!!! Brother Billy Rosenhagan won 5<sup>th</sup> place.
- We are planning a Cornhole tournament in end of August details to follow.
- Jerry Owenburg Past President Firefighter's Home Trustees thanks all for their support when I was President. If you need anything my cell is 631-433-3701.

**Annual Seminar** – John Manzi couldn't make it. John Masem said the Seminar is Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> 10-2pm. FDNY Speaker – please get members to sign up, cost is \$50 in advance or \$60 at the door. There are flyers up front.

**Firefighter Cancer Support Network** – Jerry Owenburg – May 8<sup>th</sup> is the Golf Outing. Get your tests done, early detection will save your life.

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

Five applications have been received – the committee will start scoring.

**Fire Prevention** – Don Bracciodieta

- Scholarship – The Educator's scholarship program is up and running. As of last week, the applications for (2) \$500 nonacademic scholarships have been mailed out. If you are a member of the Suffolk Educators, then our department will get an application in the mail. The requirements for this scholarship eligibility is any member of family of an individual member or department – and must volunteer someplace. Submit the application and a short essay on "volunteerism" and you will be entered into the Scholarship. If your department is a member of the Educators and you have not received the application please contact Robert Sutton, Mary Dolan or myself and we will get it to you. Application deadline is June 1, 2023.
- We will not be having a May meeting this year. We are postponing the meeting until June. Currently we are working with a host for the meeting location, date and time. Because of the scholarship and host schedule, we are still not ready to post that information but will make sure that it is announced well in advance for all to attend and congratulate the winners. The information will be placed on the website, Facebook page and

announced at various association meetings.

- Open Houses
  - We know that we are early but if your department is hosting any form of open house EMS or Fire and would like help we have the availability for the following items
    - Hazard House
    - Sparky the Fire Dog
    - Handouts
    - Information or more ideas for your open house
    - Hands only CPR Class
- New York State - Office of Fire and Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC)
  - Some upcoming information for Fire Prevention:
    - May 5-7 NYS Fire and Life Safety Educators' Conference - I have the pamphlet if anyone is interested in going. It is always a great weekend full of information.
    - June 5-6 Fire and Life Safety Educators Program will be hosted in Cheektowaga at the Erie County Fire Training and Operations Center
  - The OFPC has updated their website and it is filled with great information. This site is easier to navigate.
  - There have been over 10 recalls just in the last month. All this information is located on the NYS Department of Homeland Security Website

**Headquarters** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Vinny Ammirati – Excused

**John A. Masem Sr. Scholarship** – Keith Vellia – Received two applications to date. Deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Open to HS Seniors as well as someone going back to school. Also good for Trade School.

**Legislative** – Jerry Owenburg – Didn't make the meeting was with Peter Cincotta.

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

- September 17<sup>th</sup> – Noon is Memorial Service at the monuments; Parade at 1pm followed by BBQ.
- If your Department has a Band please plan to attend, we would love to do a battle of the bands for the residents.

**Membership** – Dan Brooks –

- Thank you for paying your dues as well as those that owe back dues.
- Dues is \$15 for Individual and \$30 for Department and Organization.
- If you are not a member you cannot win a scholarship.
- Has a pamphlet with mission statement and applications.
- Let us know if you have idea on what we can do.

**Publicity** – Vinny Ammirati –

Dan reported that Dan, Vinny, Jean Christensen, and John Masem are sharing and posting on the Facebook page.

**REMSCO – Tom Prendergast** –

- Transfer of Authority – Terryville FD to Terryville Fire District.
- Ronkonkoma FD in process to change Transfer of authority to District.
- CPR Awards moved to 4/16/23 – East Quogue
- EMS Week starts week of May 21, 2023



- 68 Agencies BLS – 12 Lead; 39 Agencies Cpap; 32 CFR; 4647 EMT; 147 CC and 675 Medics. With a total of 5501 in County.
- MOU Town of Babylon, East Farmingdale FD, Catholic Health take over EMS – 2 year contract ALS/BLS.
- Seven EMT Classes are in progress.
- Tom Lateulere Conference is September 23, 2023.

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

- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its sincere thanks to the Center Moriches FD for hosting tonight's meeting. Motion to accept by Frank Guarino, seconded by Pete DePinto, motion carried.
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its sincere Thanks to the Selden FD for hosting the February Executive Board meeting. Motion to accept by Jeff Bailes, seconded by John Masem, motion carried.

#### **Sickness** – No Report

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

We are looking for folks interested in running for office or to be on a committee.

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

- July 8<sup>th</sup> is the Suffolk County Parade and Drill In Riverhead. Parade at 10am, Drill to follow 45 minutes after completion of the parade.

#### **William Reilly Journal** – Giovanni Chiarelli – Progress

#### **Ways and Means** – Don Bracciodieta – Collected \$235 total - \$117 to the Winner.

Website – Roger Putnam has the Website current, and all forms are available on the website.

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

- Looking to do a two-day event in Suffolk County in Yaphank and Hagerman.
- Also having classes in West Pottsdam, Niagara Falls at Convention and Old Forge. Nassau County is starting new pilot training program in 2023 Tower & Extinguishers They will be hosting their first individual training program on April 30<sup>th</sup>. This will be conducted like the camp selection. They are asking for a limit of two Juniors/Explorers from each group
- Looking to start a Suffolk County Jr. Association.

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

- Nick Lucarella thanked all for their support.

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

- Wrote a letter to County and asked that they support the Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters.

- Thank you for your support.
- Look forward to working with you. May 11<sup>th</sup> is meeting in Riverhead on Lithium Batteries. They are working on getting the information out.

### **Suffolk County F.R.E.S.**

- The FSA contract is in the process of being signed.
- No decision has been made yet on the deputy position.
- Our Emergency Management Office received its state accreditation.
- Developing a mental health outreach program with the CEO for the Association of Mental Health. We are hoping to roll that out to Fire Departments by spring. I would like to make the first offering at the Dis Hills Fire Department.
- We are in the beginning phases of planning for a "Women in the Fire Service" event for October (Breast Cancer Awareness Month) and a Drone Rodeo for June.

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

- Upcoming Cancer Prevention Training – Upcoming dates are:
  - May 10<sup>th</sup> 7pm at Mastic Fire Department
  - May 11<sup>th</sup> 11am at North Patchogue Fire Department
  - May 11<sup>th</sup> 7pm at Dix Hills Fire Department.
- RIT Training Bulletin for March is out.
- Water Rescue swim test is on website under open enrollment. This is a required test to take any water rescue training at the YMCA Mastic Beach March 29<sup>th</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Surface Water Rescue 16 hours class April 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- New online Haz-Mat refresher is up and running on the website.
- Field opens tonight.
- Lithium-Ion Training is ongoing.
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> is National FF1 exam open to 50 Students.
- Fire Academy Field work continues.
  - Set back added to taxpayer building.
  - car fire Prop is completed.
  - New forcible entry prop
- Obtained more property.
- September 23 – Fire Police at County

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

- Working on new lottery scratch off fundraiser to be drawn at their June meeting.
- April 12<sup>th</sup> is our next meeting – Elections and will be held at the St. James fire house.
- Working on a new 100 Club fundraiser – cost is \$26.00 and runs for 26 weeks.

### **Suffolk County Fire Police**

- The convention is May 11, 12, 13 in Niagara Falls.
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> is Field Day at the Academy in Suffolk

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

Next Meeting:

- April 17, 2023, • It has been a hybrid meeting for the last couple of months. It is always better to come to the meeting but if you are not able to join in person zoom information will be emailed to all that are interested.
- All are welcome to this meeting this is an open meeting Recognition Day
- Tentative Date is June 4, 2023



- Will advise and send invitations out when the date and location is set. Representative Forms
- Last year we received very few representative forms. Those forms need to be updated every year for your department or association to have a representative. Make sure that information is current on the form.
- If you are not a rep or alternate and would like to receive information, please contact secretary so she can place you on the list In Memory of Cards
- I have a bunch with me. We sent them to the funeral homes last year and have been making sure they have a small pile. If your chief, good and welfare committee or district is looking for them please have them contact me or take some tonight. Fundraising
- We are having our 2nd Annual Pindar Fundraiser this year on August 5th. What is better than food, wine and good friends going out for a night? Keep watching the Facebook page and we will have the information brought to association meetings. Burn Unit
- Dr Sandoval wants to remind everyone that he is available to visit a meeting for a presentation
- The unit has been very busy with all the house fires in the area
- The Burn Unit is open for tours again. Chad Williams is the contact person but please contact any of the officers and we will get your information to him for coordination of the tour. Ways to contact me mdolan.suffolkburncenter@gmail.com or 855-98-BURNS (28767) ext. 4 for the secretary.

**NYS Fire Chiefs** – Anthony LaFerrera\_gave report.

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

New York State Safety Officers

- Next scheduled ISO class is June 24, 2023, at Jamaica Hospital exam \$325.
- Annual meeting October 8, 2023, Hillcrest FD, Spring Valley NY
- Anyone interested in taking the Incident Safety Officer class we offer it free via zoom or in person every day.
  - Nationally Certified Incident Safety Officer, and Health and Safety Officer class and exam is \$325 zoom or in person.
  - Guaranteed to pass exam or money fully refunded.

Suffolk Safety Officers

- Next meeting to be determined.

Nassau County Safety Officers

- Next meeting March 29, 2023, Uniondale FD

Thank you all for supporting our fundraiser – stay safe and healthy, keep hydrated.

### **Southern NY VFA** –

- May 20<sup>th</sup> Convention and Memorial Service in Hewlett
- June 23 – Dinner at Leonards.

### **North Fork VFA** – Carlton Raab

- Installation is May 6<sup>th</sup> 8-10 Riverhead; cost is \$125 per person. Motion by Carlton to send the Board – changed to purchase two tickets, which was seconded by John Masem, motion carried.
- April 26<sup>th</sup> is the meeting in Greenport.
- East Marion had a horrific accident/fire with Electric car involved. All four occupants passed away. Took 11,000 gallons of water. It eventually burns itself out.

Suffolk Districts, Chiefs and Vollies have formed a task force on lithium-Ion Batteries.

**Babylon Town VFA** – Carl Formes reported.

- Next meeting is in May.
- May 21<sup>st</sup> is their Memorial Service at Town Hall at 11am.
- September 9<sup>th</sup> is meeting in North Babylon

**Islip Town VFA** – next meeting is June 20<sup>th</sup> in West Sayville

**Old Business** – None

**New Business**

- Bill from Staples for \$67.25 for Jean Christensen. Motion to pay the bill by Gene Perry seconded by John Fleischman, motion carried.
- Motion to donate \$100 to NYS Chiefs hospitality room by Frank Guarino seconded by Warren Holtje, motion carried.
- Scott Theobald brought up that there was another active shooter at a school again yesterday. This is getting closer and closer. Brookhaven Chiefs Council is having PD at a meeting to discuss. There was also a stabbing in Lindenhurst school yesterday and at a school on the east end today. This is very scary, and we better be ready – we really need to look at this.

**Good and Welfare**

Prayers for James Santoli please.

**Dark Horse** was drawn.

**Next membership meeting is May 23 in Yaphank.**

**Thank you for coming tonight.**

Closing Prayer said by Rev. John Fleischman

Motion to adjourn by Jerry Owenburg, seconded by Frank Guarino at 9:07pm, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jean Christensen  
Secretary