

*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  
March 26, 2024 - Bayport Fire Department***

Meeting Called to order by President Vincent Ammirati at 8pm.  
Salute to the flag led by Sgt. At Arms William Mullane  
Moment of Silence for departed members.

Chief Bobby Dasch of the Bayport Fire Department welcomed SCVFA to Bayport.

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

Motion by Frank Guarino seconded by Gary Stecker to accept the minutes of the November meeting, Motion Carried.

**Introduction of Guests & Past Association Presidents by Don Braccioldieta**

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

Guests in attendance were:

Peter Colli, Past President Town of Babylon  
Joel Heilbronn, President Town of Babylon  
Stan Roberts, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Islip Town Vollies  
Mary Catherine Dolan, Vice President Educators / Secretary for Burn Center  
Scott Davonski, Executive Director Suffolk County Fire Academy  
Daniel Sicilian Deputy Director, Suffolk County Fire Academy  
John DeVito, Co-Chair Suffolk County Juniors  
Gary Schaum President – VEEB Suffolk County Fire Academy  
Scott A Thebold, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Suffolk Fire Districts  
Robert McConville, President Suffolk Fire Districts  
Lori Zatorski, President Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary  
Rudy A. Sunderman, Deputy Commissioner

**Treasurer's report.** Bob McConville read the Treasurer's report. Motion by Stan Roberts to accept seconded by Tom Dunn, motion carried.

**Bills/Correspondence** – Jean Christensen

There are no bills.

Correspondence received was:

- Acknowledgement from the family of Joseph DelVecchio
- Nassau County Firefighter Museum 1<sup>st</sup> Annual County Wide Fire Muster on Saturday September 28, 2024. They are looking for donations and antique rigs.
- Burn Center is having a Krispy Kreme Doughnut fundraiser – order by April 10<sup>th</sup> and pick up is Monday April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Holbrook Fire Department Certificate request
- Southern New York Minutes
- Cancer Support Network 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf classic, they are looking for hole sponsors - \$50.

### **Report of Presidents:**

#### **President Vincent Ammirati**

- SCVFA meeting at the West Babylon FD January 23, 2024
- Suffolk County Junior meeting at the Smithtown FD January 25, 2024
- Long Island Benevolent Meeting East Farmingdale FD January 26, 2024
- FASNY EMS seminar at the Selden FD January 27, 2024
- Nassau County Fire Police Association installation of Officers and dinner at Verdi's of Westbury January 28, 2024
- Smithtown Chiefs Council Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony February 9, 2024
- Suffolk County fire Districts Association meeting, Coram fire department February 15, 2024
- Brookhaven Chief's Council
- Center Moriches FD February 16, 2024
- Fire police recertification training Zoom class February 21, 2024
- Memorial Service for Joe DelVecchio Mastic NY February 22, 2014
- Suffolk County Junior executive Board meeting Smithtown FD February 23, 2024
- Southern New York Volunteer Firefighters Association executive board meeting Zoom February 26, 2024
- Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighters Association executive board meeting Mastic FD February 27, 2024
- Nassau County Fire District Association Dinner and installation of officers The Milleridge Inn March 1, 2024
- Suffolk County Fire District Association installation of officers and Dinner at Villa Lombardi March 2, 2024
- Trip to the FASNY home to bring up donations and visit members of the home. March 9, 2024
- Suffolk County Parade official meeting North Babylon Fire Company March 10, 2024
- Suffolk County Coordinators Meeting Medford Fire Department March 14, 2024
- Brookhaven Chief's council meeting Bluepoint FD March 15, 2024
- Babylon Town Fire Police Meeting
- North Babylon Fire Company
- March 19, 2024
- Home Trustee meeting Hudson NY March 21-23, 2024
- Looking for meeting places for 2025 if anyone thinks that your department would like to host a meeting, please reach out to one of the officers or our secretary, we will get you a request letter.

#### **Report of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli**

- Mostly away during the month of March
- Working on updating the address list for our Journal.
- Follow upon missing shirt and pocket badge for Past President Del Vecchio



Meetings attended in March 2024

14 OSHA webinar

15 Vol Fire Pol SNY Region 7 meeting

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

- February 3rd – Fire/EMS Expo
- February 7th – FASNY Legislative Committee Virtual Meeting
- February 16th – Brookhaven Town Fire Chief's Council Meeting
- February 24th – Coffee with a Commissioner Webinar regarding OSHA 1910 proposal
- February 27th – FASNY Lobby Day at the NYS Capital
- February 29th – Tour of FRES
- March 8th – Suffolk County Fire Chief's Council Meeting
- March 14th – Roundtable Webinar on OSHA 1910 proposal

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

- January 26, 2024, Long Island Benevolent Meeting East Farmingdale, FD
- January 30, 2024, Lithium-Ion batteries safety committee, Selden, FD
- February 29, 2024, Lithium-Ion batteries safety committee, Selden, FD
- March 8, 2024, Suffolk County fire chief meeting Bayport FD
- March 15, 2024, Suffolk County (Fire Educators) membership meeting central Islip FD
- March 18, 2024, BURN CENTER meeting at Stonybrook Hospital
- March 19, 2024, Islip Town Chiefs
- March 20, 2024, Islip Town Vol membership meeting Islip Terrace FD
- March 23, 2024, southern New York General meeting Glen Cove FD

**Annual Dinner** – Robert Sutton reported it is October 19<sup>th</sup> in Coram. The cost is \$75 per person. Handouts are on the table, please bring them back to your departments. Firefighter of the year ceremony is at this dinner.

**Audit** – Jerry Owenburg – was done in January.

**By-Laws** – No Report

**Credentials/Membership** – Tom Prendergast gave the following report:

We have three new members: Ronald Dutcher of the Brookhaven Fire dept; Arena Vasquez of the Central Islip Fire Department; John DeVito

Invoiced 304 in December – still 80 members owe.

**REMSCO Report**

- East Hampton Village ambulance to expand their territory.
- MCI Exercises – Coordinated at South Country Ambulance – LI Community Hospital.
- AMR Ambulance – worked out an agreement between North Amityville and Stony Brook and West Babylon. Ridge was also negotiating, but it was voted out.
- REMSCO – EMS Conference Sayville Ambulance on April 27, 2024.
- EMT-CC position appealed to the state for reinstatement.

Gene Perry said that Chief Greenberg stated EMT CC still practices till 2027. Can bridge to Paramedic – state will reimburse.

Jerry Owenburg stated Joint Council should meet regarding CC going to EMT. Jerry made a motion for Joint Council to meet regarding this seconded by Bob Sutton.

**Candidate Campaign** – Eugene Perry – no report

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

- Chan Rivera resigned due to health services. Don Farrell was appointed 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and will run in August for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.
- Mike Karashay appointed to the open seat on the Board of Directors.
- RecruitNY April 13 & 14. Baldwin FD & Wantagh FD were the winners of the RecruitNY banners for SNY. The department that recruits the most members will receive FASNY branded FF hoods.
- The RecruitNY Press Conference will be held on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at the FD 885 Old Country Road. Anyone who is interested in attending please come in Class “A” uniform.
- FASNY is encouraging all members & Fire departments to display red lights at their homes and firehouses in support of RecruitNY and the Volunteer Fire Service beginning on April 7<sup>th</sup> through RecruitNY weekend. The Nassau County Legislative Building in Mineola will be lit Red as well as the H Lee Dennison Building in Hauppauge. FASNY is working to have State Landmarks lit Red also.
- FASNY has been on weekly meetings with the State Chiefs and Districts on the OSHA 1910.156 rule. Need everyone to submit comments that we need an additional 90 days to understand the impact this change will have as well as public hearings so our leadership can testify.
- FASNY made a \$10,000 donation to the Tunnels to Towers Foundation.
- CFSI Symposium and inner is April 28-30 at the Washington Hilton.
- FASNY Convention August 8-10 Niagara Falls Convention Center, Meal Plan \$250 before May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Home Trustees** – Bob Sutton reported the following:

- 85 members – 3 on waiting list.
- All have new tv’s
- Last week was their meeting and they held Big Bucks BINGO
- Looking for Puzzles – Games – Trains – Fire Dept t-shirts
- Please make it a point to visit the Home.
- Vinny brought up suits – if you have any you want to donate, bring them to Vinny.

**Father Halpin Memorial Service** – Bob Sutton reported it is Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in North Babylon Fire co. Deadline submission is 4/15. Please get information to us as soon as possible. Be sure to invite the families. Class A Uniform and there will be food afterwards.

**Firefighter Cancer Support Network** – Jerry Owenburg –

- June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2-6pm is the Survivor Social at Islip Fire Museum. Bring families.
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**Firefighter of the Year** – John Manzi – Received six submissions will send to the committee to vote.

**Fire Prevention** – Don Bracciolieta

- Next membership meeting is May 4, 2024, location TBAA dinner at 7pm meeting to follow.
- Fire & Life Safety Tips
  - The deadline is quickly approaching for NFPA’s Fire and Life Safety Educator of the year award. Please consider nominating an outstanding educator in your department. Deadline is March 28, 2024.
  - Sparky the Fire Dog will be celebrating his 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday on March 18, 2024.



- Did you know that March is National Sleep Awareness Month? As firefighters we often have abnormal sleep schedules which could affect our health.
- Firefighter Health and Wellness building a resilient firefighter.
- 2024 Fire Prevention week June

#### **John A. Masem Sr. Scholarship** – Keith Vella

- Deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Received one application for a high School senior and firefighter.
- Can be for college or vocational school.

#### **Legislative** – Jerry Owenburg/Dan Brooks

- Jerry said there was no meeting this month. There will be two meetings next month.
- Dan reported that Lobby Day was last month. Income tax is moving please discuss with local officials.

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

- They will have a meeting in April.
- Looking for a band.
- Nassau Juniors come with like 100 kids.
- BBQ after the parade is done by 3pm and you can head home.
- Is a great day.
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#### **Publicity & Public Relations - Website** – Dan Brooks/Roger Putnam

- Share as much as we can on Facebook.
- Roger keeps the website up to date.

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

- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its sincere thanks to the Bayport Fire Department for hosting tonight's meeting, Motion by Bob McConville seconded by Bob Sutton, motion carried.
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its sincere thanks to Mastic Fire Department for hosting our February Executive Board meeting, motion by Frank Guarino, seconded by Jonathan Barnett, motion carried.
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association send a comment to OSHA regarding the OSHA 1910.156 Rule, Motion by Bob Sutton seconded by Jonathan Barnett, motion carried.

#### **Radio Committee** by Anthony Sullo

- CAD upgrade – work in progress. Estimated 18 months to completion. Mobile responder application expected back shortly, after firewall and security upgrades completed.
- EP11 upgrade – work in progress
- 9 Active trainees, 5 of whom come off training April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- New prospective dispatcher information session March 7<sup>th</sup>, 4 open positions. Hoping to hire before the current expiration of the HELP hire program in May. ESD I test was given in January, should see results by the summer.

- UHF EAST – Ridge fire department has been onboarded. Have begun coordinating with 7<sup>th</sup> division agencies to begin migration. Greenport water tower still a work in progress. Finalized engineering for Wainscott and Montauk 2 (recycle center) sites.
- VHF (MEDCOM) radio upgrade: Equipment on order. Likely to start work in quarter 3 of this year.

#### **Sickness –**

- Past President Roger Putnam is home recuperating.
- Past President Peter Cincotta is doing well at the Firefighters Home.

#### **Steering –** Past President Gene Perry

- Southern New York is now on two-year terms.
- FASNY will know at our next Executive Board meeting or Membership May meeting.

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

- .July 13 in Ridge – drill at 10am. Parade at 6pm in Farmingville.

#### **Training & Education –** Giovanni Chiarelli reported.

- The seminar is May 18<sup>th</sup> in Selden on Hybrid-Lithium Ion Battery. The speaker is from Virginia, and he will show how they explode.

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

- Journal is for the dinner, and this pays for our Scholarships. Ads are \$50, \$75 and full page is \$100. Please ask any vendors you use. Paperwork is on the table tonight and also available on our website.

#### **Ways and Means –** William Mullane

The winner gets \$100 tonight.

#### **Youth in the Fire Service –**

- John DeVito from Suffolk Jr. Association reported there is a meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> in Yaphank – working on by-laws and applications.
- June 15<sup>th</sup> in Selden meeting at 9:15 with Juniors.
- Thank you to Mary Catherine Dolan for your hard work.
- Thank you to President Vinny for your hard work.

#### **Lithium Ion Battery –**

- There is a public meeting at the Patchogue Library on Thursday night at 6pm. They are hoping to raise awareness on Lithium Ion Batteries.

#### **Suffolk County Fire Chief's Council –** No report

#### **Suffolk County Association of Fire Districts –** Scott Thebold

- Meeting on May 16 in Setauket.
- Working very hard with us and the chiefs – taking care of business.

#### **Suffolk County FRES Deputy** Commissioner Rudy Sunderman reported:

- May 9<sup>th</sup> Active Chiefs meeting June 9<sup>th</sup> at North Patchogue.
- Educate local residents on Lithium Ion Battery at local libraries.



- State Reporting – Fire depts must do this. Fire Marshall follow ups to be sure it is done. If you do not do reporting from 2023 forward FF1 and Fire Officer 1 will not get funds. Fill out form – chiefs – location and number of members. Ran data on active members and cleaning up now.
- Rudy spoke on the OSHA Rule 1910.156 -make sure to write to the Governor online. THIS WILL AFFECT YOU!

Scott said on the OSHA rule – we need to send letters – discuss cost – we have to pay attention and get comments out there.

Question on NYMFA Compliance – is it just for fire or EMS as well. Rudy to confirm if EMS is included.

Bob McConville stated the Volunteer Fire Service is under attack. PFFA is protecting the paid Professionals – we all need to speak up.

**Suffolk County VEEB Board** - Gary Schaum introduced Scott Davonski, the Executive Director Suffolk County Fire Academy and Daniel Sicilian Deputy Director, Suffolk County Fire Academy. Gary Schaum said we are in a good position with Rudy across the street. Scott gave the following report:

- Please review the training bulletin that was sent out and is posted on our website regarding “Flammable Gas Emergencies”. We try to keep our training bulletins current to what is happening in the fire service.
- Fire Officer I (August), Firefighter I (October) and Firefighter 2 (Sept) National Certification Exams (Pro-Board) to be held at the SCFA. Visit our website or social media pages for further information.
- Fire Police Original (21 hour) courses and Refresher programs are posted on our website.
- The Suffolk County Fire Academy will be offering a Basic Exterior Fire Operations (BEFO) course exclusively to members of fire department junior/youth/explorer programs. Chiefs or advisors should contact Chief Andrew Dinkel [adinkel@scfa-li.org](mailto:adinkel@scfa-li.org) for further information.
- The Field and classroom schedule for 2024 was sent out. Field evolutions begin April 1<sup>st</sup>. Start time for all field evolutions is 7pm.
- The SCFA will have limited supplies of Firefighter 1 (7<sup>th</sup> Edition) books during 2024. The publisher (IFSTA) will be releasing the 8<sup>th</sup> edition during the year. We envision transitioning to the 8<sup>th</sup> edition in January 2025.

**Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary** –President Lori Zatorski reported the following.

- Lottery Scratch off raffle in progress, drawing in June.
- Next meeting is April 10<sup>th</sup> with elections.
- May 8<sup>th</sup> is our Installation dinner.

**Suffolk County Fire Police** – Frank Guarino

- 130 People attended the Tom with Seminar.
- Thank you to the Academy for the referesher – over 700 on zoom.
- Region 7 does not have a director. This covers Huntington to Montauk.
- Babylon Town Fire Police dinner April 14 at Captain bills.
- Brookhaven Town Fire Police Brunch is April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Suffolk County Firefighters Burn Center** – Mary Catherine Dolan

- Krispy Crème fundraiser for the Boo Boo Bears – place order by 4/10 pick up on 4/15.
- Shot Gun Shoot is May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Brookhaven Range 8am till noon.
- Letters on table for representative and non- reps form to help out.
- Recognition Day – still working on a location.

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

**NYS Chiefs** – no report

**Southern NY VFA** –

- The convention is May 18<sup>th</sup> at Hillcrest FD in Rockland County. Memorial Service is at 4pm.

**North Fork VFA** –

- Next meeting is April 24 in Cutchogue FD Annex Dinner 6:30 and meeting starts at 7:30.
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**Long Island Benevolent** – No report

**Babylon Town VFA** –

- May 20<sup>th</sup> in Wyandanch is the next meeting. 7pm dinner – 8pm meeting.
- Memorial service is May 19<sup>th</sup> in Babylon.

**Islip Town VFA**

- June 19<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting at the Islip Museum 7pm feed – meeting at 8pm.

**Parade Officials**

- If you have someone go down, be sure to let the next set of judges know. They are counting at beginning and the end.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business**

Motion by Bob Sutton to purchase two holes for Cancer Support Network for a total of \$100 seconded by Jerry Owenburg, motion carried.

**Good and Welfare** –

Vinny saw Peter – he looks good and is doing well.  
Virginia McConville is getting better.

**Dark Horse** – Won by Warren Holst \$100

**Next membership meeting is May 28, 2024, in Holbrook**

**Next Executive Board meeting is April 30, 2024, in Center Moriches.**

Closing Prayer said by

Motion to adjourn by Frank Guarino seconded by John DeVito

Respectfully Submitted,



Jean Christensen  
Secretary