

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 25, 2025 – Centereach Fire House***

Prior to the meeting, Sr. Fire Marshall, Dr. Don Lynch spoke on what the Suffolk County Fire Marshalls do. Some of the highlights is: They have had an arson dog for 34 years; Burn Center procedure has changed for burned firefighter, so it runs more smoothly. If you have an injured firefighter, the County Fire Marshall is available if needed, but they not automatically go. They do fire extinguisher training and inspections. FRES is a support agency. Fire Marshalls have 96 hours of training a year to be certified. Lithium-Ion Battery Task Force –three prong approach - Educate – make sure it is used correctly, class for public, Firefighters need to understand – the Academy has presentation.

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 Chaplain Joseph McCarthy

2nd Assistant Chief Steve Corvaia is at an Alarm.

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

Motion by Frank Guarino seconded by Marilyn Davis to accept the minutes of the January meeting, Motion Carried.

Introduction of Guests & Past Association Presidents:

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

The guests in attendance were:

Gene Perry – FASNY President

Frank Guarino – FASNY Director

Scott Thebold –President Suffolk County Districts

Dan Sicilian -Deputy Director SCFA

Don Lynch – Chief Fire Marshall - FRES

Stan Roberts – 1st Vice President – Islip Town Vollies

Joel Hellbruan – President Town of Babylon Vollies

Marybeth Asbell – Vice President Suffolk County Ladies

Gary Schaum – President VEEB Fire Academy

Don Gleason – 2nd Vice President Burn Center

Treasurer's report. Bob McConville read the totals of all accounts, and the copy will be attached to the original minutes

Motion by Jeff Bailes to accept the Treasurer's Report seconded by Bob Sutton, motion carried.

Bills - None

Communications:

- Brookhaven Town Fire Police Association Brunch is May 18th 11am – 2pm at Majestic Gardens \$50 per person. They also sent Raffle tickets for \$5.00 each if anyone is interested.
- Donation request for Hospitality room at the Chief's convention
- Terry Farrell Golf Tournament
- There is an anticipated Vacancy on the VEEB board in the Agricultural Sector.
- Letter from Tony Cruz advising they have re-organized under the title of "Firefighter Cancer Awareness Mentoring of New York State". It is their intention to continue to provide services to all who wish to contact them. Their mission is "To provide Cancer Awareness and Mentoring, and to empower our Hero Brothers and Sisters and their Family Members diagnosed with cancer in the Fire and EMS Services in the State of New York." You can contact them at fcamnys@gmail.com.
- FASNY Tee Sign Sponsor \$100 per sign
- FASNY ad book for their 153rd Annual Convention August 2025 on Long Island. Full Page is \$250.00, Half page \$125.00 and quarter page is \$75.00.

Report of Presidents:

President Vincent Ammirati

- Long Island Fire and Metro show at the Nassau County Colosseum January 31, February 1, & 2,2025
- FASNY convention committee meeting February 6,2025 zoom
- Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary meeting February 12,2025 Zoom
- Southern New York executive board meeting February 17,2025 Zoom
- Islip Town Chief Counsel Meeting Bayport FD February 18,2025
- Nassau County District installation of officers and annual Dinner at the Miller Ridge Inn Jericho March 7,2025
- Suffolk County District installation of officers and annual dinner at the East Winds Wading River March 8,2025
- Suffolk County Chief's Council meeting Brentwood FD March 14,2025
- Town of Babylon Volunteer firefighters' association meeting March 17,2025
- Southern New York Volunteer Firefighters Association meeting at the Albertson FD March 22,2025
- FASNY Home visit and Browns Revolution FASNY Home chili cookoff fundraiser Troy NY March 23,2025

Report of 1st Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli

February 2025

25 SCVFA meeting

26 - 28 Vacation

March 2025

1 - 22 Vacation

Report of 2nd Vice President Dan Brooks –

- February 25 – February SCVFA Board Meeting
- March 13 – Suffolk County Lithium-Ion Taskforce Committee
- March 21 – Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs Council
- March 22 – Brookhaven Fire Department’s Installation / 50 Year

3rd Vice President Donald Bracciodieta

- February 25, 2025, Suffolk County volunteer fireman association executive board meeting mastic FD
- March 13, 2025, ion lithium battery committing Selden FD
- March 17, 2025, BURN CENTER General meeting Stonybrook Hospital
- March 19, 2025, Islip Town general meeting central Islip FD
- March 22, 2025, southern New York membership meeting Albertson FD

Tom Prendergast gave his reports at this time

Financial Secretary Report

March - Dues collected was \$280.00

A special thank you to Southold FD Hook & Ladder for updating back dues by reactivating their membership - \$90.00.

A special thanks to Patchogue FD Union Hook & Ladder Co 1 for updating back dues, re-activating their membership - \$145.00.

Dues Collection

November 2024 \$2765.00

December 2024 \$2355.00

January 2025 \$ 940.00

February 2025 \$ 285.00

March 2025 \$ 280.00

Total including what was collected tonight is \$6760.00.

Second notices to be mailed during the month of May 2025 – approximately 70

2026 dues notices to be mailed during the month of November 2025.

EMS Report – Tom Prendergast

- Kings Park FD is in the process of filing a “Transfer of Authority” from Department to District.
- REMSCO EMS Conference has a change in venue from St. Anthony HS to the Courtyard Marriott in Ronkonkoma. The date remains the same, April 26, 2025. So far approximately 90 people have signed up.
- In regard to the Measles outbreak; as of 3/11/25, there was one measles case reported. This one case was from a child that was from abroad visiting a family in Suffolk County.
- Current bills in the State Assembly and State Senate pending approval by the governor are as follows:
 1. A34/S31: Provides that the NYS Thruway shall issue permits for Ambulances and Fire Vehicles for toll exemptions.
 2. S4020B: An Act to amend the general municipal law and the public health law, in relation to emergency medical services to deem EMS as an essential service.
 3. S6058: Income Tax Credit Bill – this legislation gives state income tax credit to volunteer firefighters and members of the volunteer ambulance corps in good standing up to \$2500.00.

4. A516/S5837: Gives state income tax credit to volunteer firefighters and members of volunteer ambulance corps in good standing up to \$1200; requires such a member must be in good standing for a minimum of five years and maintain continued eligibility.
 5. S3768/A2442: Allows for reimbursement of transportation costs for emergency care without prior authorization by social services official including emergency medical transportation by an ambulance service certified under article 30 of the public health law; authorizes the commissioner of health to establish a reimbursement methodology to ensure providers of reimbursed.
 6. S5333/A1309: An initiative to preserve and extend the community-based paramedicine demonstration program to expire May 2025: Authorizes collaborative programs for community paramedicine services as part of the hospital-home care-physician collaboration program.
 7. S1515/A02177A: Would remove EMS services from real property tax cap, allowing local municipalities to expand and support their local EMS services.
 8. A288/S6019: Repeals the provision of law that volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers who receive a real property tax exemption for service may not receive the income tax credit for such service.
- First Responder Stats
 - CFR 35 (+2)
 - EMT's 5568 (+413)
 - EMT Critical care 133 (-8)
 - Paramedics 1018 (+87)
 - Total First Responders Suffolk County 6754

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. Our dinner will 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.

By-Laws – Eugene Perry No report

Candidate Campaign – Eugene Perry – no report.

FASNY – President Eugene Perry read his report.

- Recruit NY is coming up on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 & 27. Currently there are 18 departments in Suffolk County that have signed up for either or both days. Please go back to your Departments and encourage them to participate in this Statewide recruitment effort. I want to congratulate the St. James FD for signing up before February 22nd and was the winner of \$500 worth of social media advertising for their Recruit NY event. Departments signing up to participate before March 31st will be entered for a chance to win a custom printed Recruit NY banner. If you sign up before April 19th you will be entered to win \$250 for expenses incurred during Recruit NY weekend.
- In Conjunction with Recruit NY, FASNY is promoting a “Light up NY Red” campaign the week before Recruit NY. We are asking everyone to display a red light on your home and to encourage your neighbors to do the same.
- Registration for the FASNY Convention August 7-9 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Hauppauge is available on the FASNY website. There are flyers on the table for the Golf Outing on Wednesday, August 6th at the Wind Watch golf and Country club. 8am shot. There are also flyers for the FASNY Journal.

- This past Friday, Myself, 1st Vice President Don Farrell, Association Counsel Tim Hannigan met with the newly confirmed US Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer to discuss OSHA 1910.156. Though it was brief, it was a very positive conversation. We expressed to the Secretary that FASNY's position is that the Volunteer Fire Service should be exempt from the current proposed rule as written and stand ready to work with OSHA on a rule that's attainable and workable for the Volunteer Fire Service.
- First Annual Fire Training Symposium May 16-18 Fort William Henry Hotel, Lake George. Training weekend registration costs are \$125.00.
- Long Island Press Conference on Thursday April 24th 11am at Patchogue Fire Headquarters – wear Class A.

Home Trustees –Bob Sutton reported the following:

- Our current census is 83.
- Nine applications are in various stages of completion.
- One resident is currently in the hospital.
- On March 27, there will be a Big Bucks Bongo at the Home.
- On September 27, there will be an Open House and Corn-Hole Tournament.

Father Halpin Memorial Service – Bob Sutton reported

Our Next memorial Service will be held on Sunday May 4, 2025, at 3pm. This event will be hosted by the Patchogue Fire Department and will start at 3:00 PM. The location for the Memorial Service 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.

Sadly, to date we have 85 names of Firefighters and Ladies Auxiliary members that have passed away since our last Memorial Service

Please take the flyer for the Memorial Service back to your Chief's/Boards and impress upon them the importance of submitted 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 Jean Christensen or myself.

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

September 21st – Memorials at Noon – Parade at 1pm.

Sadly the Suffolk County Tree (SCVFA & SCVFALA) died and came down. The tree was from 1960. The cost to replace will be between \$1200 and \$1400.

Firefighter Cancer Awareness Mentoring of New York State – Jerry Owenburg –

Golf Outing is Monday September 8th – Still waiting on the new 5013C.

Firefighter of the Year – John Manzi

Have received 10 applications to date.

Headquarters –William Mullane

Sales are light – if interested please see Bill.

Youth in the Fire Service – Keith Vella

Suffolk County –

4/27 – 9am – meeting in North Patchogue

May 4th – 9am Ronkonkoma Railroad Station – Hands on Drill – must be 14-18 years old to participate. Younger members can observe.
2025 – Dues is due.

FASNY Youth

August 8th – FASNY round table for advisors
August 9th – Youth Event at convention

August 22/23 – Suffolk County Fire Academy Lecture and hands on – Topic TBD

John A Masem Sr. Scholarship – Keith Vella

Deadline is June 1st – have received no applications to date.

Legislative – Jerry Owenburg

Meeting April 1 in Riverhead

Resolutions – Eugene Perry

Resolution #1 – BE IT RESOLVES that the Association extends it's sincere thanks to the Centereach Fire Department for hosting tonight's meeting. Motion to accept by Bob Sutton – second by John Fleischman, motion carried

Resolution #2 – BE IT RESOLVED that the Association extends its sincere thanks to the Mastic Fire Department for hosting our February Executive Board meeting. Motion to accept by Jeff Bailes seconded by Anthony Sullo, motion carried.

Radio Committee – Anthony Sullo - No Report

Suffolk FRES Commission – Anthony Sullo

Meeting is tomorrow night.

Formed Recruitment and retention committee – Dan Sicilian is in charge. One person from each County organization and township. Dan and Vinny are attending this First meeting is in April.

Sickness –

Joel Heilbrunn reported that Jackie Miller passed away and his wake is Thursday at Boyds in Babylon – firematic services at 8pm. Funeral is on Friday.

Steering – Past President Gene Perry – will meet in May.

- There are openings on FASNY Committees
- 3rd Vice President needs letter from their department stating they support you.

SCVFA Parade & Drill –

Drill is on July 12th in Hagerman.

Joel Heilbrunn went over judging for parades this year. There are new rules. There will be better communication. Rules are going out to the departments.

Nassau and Suffolk Parade Officials are now one unit.

Town Parade – Lakeland

State Parade – Main Transit
Looking for host of County Parade.

Joel also reported that Babylon Town brunch is in October at Captain Bills. Fire Police Installation is April 6th at Captain Bills.

Training & Education – Progress

William Reilly Journal – Cheech

Send ads in email – electronic form. There are forms up front, please bring them back to your department. Money is used for our scholarships.

Publicity & Public Relations/Website – Dan Brooks / Roger Putnam

Dan reported that we now have an Instagram Account.

Ways and Means – William Mullane

Collected \$100 tonight – winner to receive \$50.

Lithium Ion Battery – Bob Sutton

The Lithium-Ion Battery Task Force Will meet again on Wednesday May 8, 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.

Fire Prevention – Don Bracciadieta gave the following report

- Next membership meeting is March 26, 2025 – Brentwood FD – Dinner 7pm meeting to follow
- New York State Association of Fire Chief Seminar series April 2, 2025 – “Short-Handed Firefighting” Seminar to be held at the West Babylon Fire Dept headquarters.
- The New York State Association of Fire Chiefs and the New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control are happy to announce details for the 2025 New York State Fire & Life Safety Educators’ Conference! This conference, which is the longest running conference of its kind in the United States, will consist of three single-day regional offerings across New York State and focus on methods to reduce fire and life safety risks in our communities. This will be our 50th Fire & Life Safety Educators’ Conference, and we hope to see you all there.
- Upcoming Dates – June NFPA fire prevention announcement will be out for theme for fire prevention for this year.
- Fire prevention is right around the corner.

Burn Center - Meet the third Monday of the month. SCVFA needs a representative. Paul Callegari said if no one wants to do it, he would. Vinny offered to be alternate. Need to send letter.

They are proposing a by-law change to meet every other month instead of every month.

Shotgun fundraiser is May 17th

No pediatrics at NCMC Burn unit.

Gary Stecker stated that the Burn Center has Mass cards – he uses them all the time.

Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council – No Report

Suffolk County Association of Fire Districts – President Scott Thebold reported

- Thank you to Bob McConville for his hard work and dedication.
- Congratulations to Bob Sutton Sgt at Arms.
- Moving along supporting this organization
- Next meeting is May 15 in East Northport.
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Suffolk County FRES – report given by Sr. Fire Marshall Don Lynch

- The Suffolk County REMSCO is now taking applications for its next CPR Lifesaving Award ceremony. The ceremony will take place on May 10, 2025, and the deadline for application is April 20, 2025. The criteria for this award is 1. Return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC), 2 Patient must be discharged from the hospital neurologically intact (the Suffolk REMSCO will confirm with the hospitals for you). To nominate your crew, please use this link:
- <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=tSt8d6calU2fhTUv9cke7MqpVQzDDNVCiK55WEYdhutUNdVUTetZTVhUWEg2Vk5CUkUxN1FXVzFaQy4u&route=shorturl>
- A recruitment and retention survey is out and if your fire department has not responded, please make sure to do so. We must continue to update who your Volunteer Recruitment contact is, number of members in fire, EMS, fire police Etc. Please be sure to respond as soon as possible.
- Reminder: Active Chiefs meeting is being held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at North Patchogue Fire Department. Any Chiefs or captains interested in attending, please email Brianne Minden at FRES. Annual Deputy Fire Coordinator meetings are being held March 18, 2025, and March 25, 2025.
- FRES Communications sent 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.
- FRES has moved to current EMD version 14; the documentation is available on the Communications page of the FRES website.
- Reminder: All radios brought in for programming on the County's trunked system MUST be accompanied by a letter of authorization from the department and invoices detailing the equipment was purchased by the department. The county does not allow personally owned radios on the system.
- If your department's Chiefs change in April, please notify FRES of these changes so the directory can be updated.
- The Commissioner would like to extend his sincere gratitude to all chiefs, officers and members of each department that responded to the Westhampton Pines Fires.

Suffolk County VEEB Board report given by Deputy Director Dan Sicilian

- The 2025 Cadet/Junior Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations program is now available for enrollment. Visit <https://scfa-li.org/2025-junior-explorer-befo-program/> for more information.
- The 2025 field training season begins on March 31, 2025. All field sessions start at 7pm. Please make sure you members hydrate before and during training exercises.

- Field training improvements for the 2025 season include instructor/student overhangs at the taxpayer and tower, new tractor trailer fire prop, and new sign in booths. The sign in booths were donated by the 'Lt. Joseph P. DiBernardo Foundation'.
- A webcasting room is nearing completion inside the main building of the academy. This room will be utilized for our online classes and other online training opportunities in the future.
- This month's training bulletin discusses 'Master Streams'. Please visit our website to review the bulletin.
- The SCFA is working with FASNY for a training opportunity at the SCFA during their Annual Convention (August 7-9). Visit <https://fasny.com/events/2025-annualconvention/> for more information.
- The annual Women in the Fire Service Event will be held on Saturday October 25th. More information to follow.
- National Certification (Pro-Board) testing for Firefighter 1 (September 6th) and Firefighter II (October 4th). More information to follow.
- We encourage your members to submit for the NYS Training Stipend. For more information visit <https://scfa-li.org/nys-training-stipend-information/>
- 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. • Chiefs, please make sure we have your updated contact information (phone, email, etc.) as we are utilizing email as our primary method of contact.

Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary - Vice President Marybeth reported

- Our next meeting is April 9th in Holbrook
- Fundraisers ongoing are our Lottery Scratch Off - \$10 each and our 100 Club - \$26 for 26 weeks.
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NYS Fire Police – Frank Guarino

- April 5th is the State Fire Police meeting at the Firefighter's Home.
- May 8 – 10 is State Fire Police Convention
- The Fire Police seminar online had 1050 in attendance. Than you to the Academy.

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

Jeff Bailes had the following report

Upcoming Safety Officer Meetings/classes

Suffolk County Fire Academy
Incident safety Officers meeting

Rockland County Safety Officers
TBD
TDB

Suffolk County Safety Officers Meeting – Cancelled

Sayville FD Resolute Hose Co
ISO Class
April 26, 2025 – 8am
Sayville FD

Fire-EMS Safety Officers Association of NYS Inc.
ISO and HSO Classes and exams

All year
Many locations
See Jeff Bailes for information

Nassau County Safety Officers meeting
May 21, 2025, 7pm – Uniondale

FDSOA Conference
January 13-15, 2026
Scottsdale Arizona
BE ALERT – BE SAFE!

Southern NY VFA – Frank Guarino reported
May 17th is the Memorial Service 4pm in Hagerman -

Nassau County VOLLIES – No Report

North Fork VFA –Artie reported
4/23 Next meeting on Shelter Island
May 31st is the Installation
Cutchogue Fire house is still under construction. April 12th they are having raffle/cocktail party

Long Island Benevolent –No Report

Babylon Town VFA – Joel reported earlier

Islip Town VOLLIES – Stan Roberts reported the next meeting is June 18th in East Brentwood

South Shore – no report

Old Business – None

New Business

- Bob McConville made a motion to purchase \$150 tee for the Terry Farrell Foundation seconded by Bob Sutton, motion carried.
- Gene Perry made a motion to purchase business cards for Bob Chuchillo to use for recruitment/retention committee seconded by Marilyn Davis, motion carried.
- Bob Sutton made a motion to purchase two holes for the FASNY golf outing seconded by Anthony Sullo, motion carried.
- Warren Holtje made a motion to send \$100 to the NYS Chiefs hospitality room seconded by Marilyn Davis, motion carried.
- Bob Sutton made a motion to take a full-page ad for FASNY seconded by Don Gleason, motion carried. Jean to do an ad and send it to Bob McConville.
- Gary Stecker made a motion to purchase a tree at the Firefighter's Home not to exceed \$2000 seconded by Jerry Owenburg, motion carried.
- Suffolk County VFA is selling 50/50 tickets – drawing will be in October at our dinner.

Good and Welfare – None

Dark Horse – won by Jerry Owenburg

Thank you to Centereach for hosting us tonight.

Next membership meeting is May 27, 2025 – in Southold

Next Executive Board meeting is April 22, 2025 – Central Islip

Closing Prayer said by Chaplain John Fleischman

Motion to adjourn by Frank Guarino, seconded by Joel Heilbrunn, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jean Christensen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jean Christensen
Secretary