



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

Organized 1886



*"Proud Hosts of the 2010 FASNY Convention"*

Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen’s Association March 23, 2021 was via Zoom. In attendance were people. Officers in attendance were President Frank Guarino, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Robert Sutton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Peter Cincotta, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Vinny Ammirati and Treasurer Robert McConville.

Salute to the flag led by President Guarino followed by a moment of silence and the prayer by Chaplain John Fleischmann.

Eugene Perry motion to set aside a page in the minutes for Financial Secretary/Honorary President William Rowse seconded by Don Gleason, all in favor.

Minutes were emailed out – did you all read them – Motion by Vinny Ammirati to accept seconded by Chris DelVecchio, all in favor.

Introduction of guests – President advised at this time there were 33 in on the zoom meeting. He thanked all in attendance for taking the time to join us and he hoped that they and their families are all well.

**Treasurer’s Report** by Bob McConville as of January 26, 2021

**March 23, 2021**

General Fund	\$5532.35
Headquarters	\$670.39
Dinner Fund	\$3103.28
Scholarship Fund	\$3968.47
Ways & Means Account	\$3701.96
Campaign Account	\$3701.96
FASNY Ways & Means	\$4471.01
Wildfire Account	\$2261.98
Convention	\$1952.40
Presidents Account	\$ 378.59
Savings Account	\$3239.09

Total in all accounts \$29,608.48

Motion by Vinny Ammirati motion to accept seconded by Chris Del Vecchio.

No Bills currently

**Communications** by Secretary Jean Christensen

Received meeting confirmations from:

Blue Point - Feb 23, 201 Executive Board

East Brentwood – March 23, 2021 Membership Meeting

Westhampton Beach – April 27, 2021 Executive Board meeting  
Patchogue FD – August 24, 2021 Executive Board meeting  
Central Islip FD – Veral confirmation from Bob Sutton

Email from Patrick Carey that the Washington Birthday parade is cancelled except for the Greenport Fire Dept only.

Long Island Association of Benevolent – Membership application - \$100 for dues  
Acknowledgement received from Family of William C Rowse  
Christmas card from Town of Babylon Volunteer Firemen's Association  
FASNY acknowledgement of \$100 for Holiday appeal for the Firemen's Home  
Request from Shelter Island Fire Dept – for 70-year certificate – Jean mailed.  
Two request 50 year and 60 year to East Northport – Jean mailed

With dues we received a note from Drew B Bennett advising us that his dad G. Berkley Bennett passed away on May 1, 2005. His name will be added to honor roll for dinner and Memorial Service.  
Bill Rowse also needs to be added to the Memorial Honor roll.

#### **Steering Committee** – Bob McConville

Eugen was elected to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of FASNY, and Frank Guarino was appointed as Director of FASNY to replace Eugene until election in August. Have received four resumes to date for the position of Financial Secretary and three resumes for the position of Sgt-at-Arms. Received one resume for Firefighter of the Year Committee. Thanked Anthony Sullo for his two years as Southern New York VFA President. He did an outstanding job as President.

Sickness – Jean is not aware of anyone. Keep everyone and their families in your prayers during this difficult time.  
Please keep Larry Montrose in your prayers.

#### FASNY Report by FASNY 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Eugene Perry

- Happy New Year form FASNY Officers, Board of Directors and Board of Trustees
- Thank you all for your support for me election as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.
- All Full Company Membership Renewals have been sent out. Individual Membership Renewals will be going out shortly. Harrison Brauer no longer works for FASNY.
- FASNY Awards are all on-line applications, deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>. If you know a deserving candidate, be sure to fill out the application. FASNY awards 25 \$1,500 Scholarships to recognize High School Seniors entering college. The online application is on the FASNY website. Deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Recruit NY weekend is April 24-25. FASNY is building a tutorial on how to conduct a virtual event or Traditional Open House. We encourage all Departments to sign up at recruitny.org and participate. The website has all the material you need to have a successful event. Last year over 800 Departments statewide signed up. We are planning virtual Press Conferences across the State prior to the weekend.
- In November, the Governor signed into law establishing a Recruitment and Retention Task For. This group will examine different Training and deliver methods. Establish Firefighter 1 training into High Schools, community Colleges and BOCES. Tax incentive and other volunteer benefits and recommendations on these or new programs, Analysis of current recruitment and retention programs being utilized in other states and recommendations as to the adoption of similar programs in New York; and Identification of recruitment incentives to assist in recruitment of volunteer firefighters from under-represented and at-risk populations. The task force must submit a report to the Governor by April 2022. FASNY along with the State Chiefs, Districts and Fire Coordinators each have a seat on the Task Force. The FASNY Presidents are in the process of vetting names for our seat as well as making recommendations for other seats currently.
- FASNY has launched a Recruitment Social Media Campaign. Go to your Social Media Platforms, search “FASNY Firefighter Recruitment” and share it.
- Upcoming virtual FASNY training, ON February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm the topic will be Professional Development for the Volunteer Fire Officer presented by Tom Merrill, a 38year Fire Department Veteran who serves with the Snyder Fire Department, which is in Amherst NY. On Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> also at 7pm, the topic will be “UL Attack Study” Modern Tactics presented by Battalion Chief Jerry Knapp, a 40-year veteran Firefighter/EMT with the West

Haverstraw, NY, and Fire Department training officer at the Rockland County Fire Training Center. FASNY will continue to offer these Training webinars due to the reduction of in person training as we continue our mission to inform and educate the Volunteer Fire Service. The course synopsis as well as the link for those webinars are on FASNY's website under the Training Tab.

- Looking towards the fall (depending on COVID) FASNY will be hosting an in-person Training Weekend at the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany, NY September 24-26, courses and more information as the dates get closer.
- FASNY will also officer in person (Again Depending on COVID) ESIP Training "Preparing for the Future When You are Stuck in the Past" with David Denniston, Region 4 Director of the Association of Fire Districts of the State Of New York at the West Babylon Fire Department on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Registration for this course will be \$15 for FASNY Members/ \$20 for Non-Members.
- Again, I would like to thank you for your support as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. I've already learned a lot since my election in October, with more to come.

Home trustee -President Jerry Owenburg – Happy New Year to all. They have 68 brothers and sisters. One member tested positive but no symptoms a few staff members. No visitors currently. Accepting applications for county days but will depend on COVID-19. All members eligible have received both shots. Part of staff got both shots; rest of staff have first and will get second the end of February. Staff still tested twice a week. If someone tests positive, they then must test the residents again. They are having a tough time. Dudley Philhauser 97 years old from Stony Brook passed away at the Home. We have two left from Suffolk County. They are working on 5 applications and just sent another 7 out. If you know of anyone let him or Peter know.

Southern NY VFA \_ have not heard anything from them.

Suffolk County Chiefs – no one present.

Suffolk County Ladies – President Marybeth Asbell wished all a Happy New year – Stay safe. She misses everyone – The ladies are zooming and have two fundraisers they are working on a 100 club and a new lottery scratch off. We made a video for the Firemen's Home – Lori and Jean provided pictures and Lizz Christensen put it together for them. Great to see everyone – stay safe and God Bless.

Roger Putnam asked for flyer for the Web Site – Jean to send to Roger.

Commissioner Jordan – is not with us but Chief Vetter is with us – he sends his regards and asked Joel to join us. Any questions on the vaccine he would be happy to answer them. Signal 19 has been changed the new test group is Suffolk VFR – number is 67283. Text Suffolk VFR to 67283 to get on list for vaccine.

Memorial Service – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bob Sutton - Tentative for May 2<sup>nd</sup> We have a few Fire Departments, but none will commit due to COVID – will not rule out a virtual service.

Suffolk County Parade and Drill – Chris has nothing as he has been out of the loop since November.

Drill in West Sayville and the parade will be in Sayville. The Drill list is out on the state web site. All dependent on Covid but do have schedule and are still having meetings.

Long Island Day at the Firemen's Home – Jerry – have date – have application in but will be dependent on COVID. It is the third Sunday in September.

Parade and Drill Officials – Suffolk met in Lindenhurst – Eugene was elected Treasurer and they are planning their year. If you wish to become a drill or parade official, please contact them, they are both in need of officials.

FRES – Bob McConville – no report - they meet tomorrow on Zoom. They do get updates from the Commissioner.

Radios – Anthony Sullo had to be excused – told Vinny he had nothing.

VEEB Board – Gary Schaum – not on.

Fire Police – been zooming – no Montour falls in March will be up in Deerfield and the Convention is May 13, 14,15 in Niagara. A tentative April 9 & 10 Fire Police meeting statewide in Hagerman, dependent on Governor.

**Legislation** – Jerry Owenburg – he has nothing unless Vinny does.

Score card is out – had Legislative meetings in November in Troy and United concern meeting was held on zoom. Vinny read us the scorecard:

Issues of United Concerns:

- Chapter Amendments to Cancer Coverage Verification Requirements was signed by the Governor 12/23/19.
- Relates to the regulations of chemicals in upholstered furniture, mattresses, and electronic enclosures – 2020: referred to Environmental Conservation Committee by the Senate and pending introduction to the Assembly.
- Prohibits the use of chemical flame retardants on residential upholstered furniture – Senate Status – 2019: Referred to the Rules Committee – 2020 Referred to Environmental Conservation Committee and in the Assembly in 2019 was on third reading on the calendar and 2020 on third reading on the calendar.
- Endangering the welfare of a first responder by making illegal modifications – 2019 Referred to Codes Committee and 2020 Referred to Codes Committee by both the Senate and the Assembly.
- VFBL/VAWQBL Temporary Total Disability Increase Senate – 2019 passed senate and in 2020 Referred to Local Gov. Committee and in the Assembly for 2019 & 2020 referred to Local Gov. Committee.
- 5-Year Extension of Heart VFBL/5-year extension of Lung VFBL – signed by Governor as part of FY2021 Final Budget 4/3/20.
- The “Fair Play” cost recovery for fire department ambulance service – Passed the Senate in 2019 and in 2020 passed the senate on 7/21/20. In the Assembly in 2019 it died and 2020 it was referred to Local Gov. Committees.
- Recruitment and Retention Task Force – was delivered to the Governor 10/30/20.
- Legislation for the creation of career and technical education pathways in the areas of Fire Protection and EMS – Pending Introduction to the Senate and Assembly.

Other FASNY Scorecard Items:

- Reducing the use of PFAS chemicals in firefighting activities – Chapter Amendment – Signed by the Governor on 4/29/20.
- Relates to the determination of points for LOSAP during a state disaster emergency - Signed by the Governor 6/17/20.
- Modernizing School Fire Inspections – Signed by the Governor 12/16/19
- Increasing maximum contribution for certain service award program – Signed by Governor 11/8/19.
- Expand length of Time Between Recertification – Pending Introduction into the Senate and the Assembly.

President thanked Vinny for his report.

**Firefighter of the Year** – Past President Roger Putnam – Been in contact with George at Awards & Gifts and is in the process of doing the 2020 plaques for North Patchogue FD. As stated, before he is resigning from this position and hopes that someone will step up. He has been out of commission for about 8 months. He had an aortic aneurysm and thanked god it was caught, and he had surgery next day.

Bob Holly is retiring April 1<sup>st</sup> and he is the go between for Roger, he sends applications to Roger that are submitted for medal day. Gloria will forward applications as received to Roger until a replacement is found. President thanked Roger for his service and the time he has put in for many many years and wishes him good health. We are there for anything he may need.

### **President’s Report**

**2nd Vice President Peter Cincotta** – County is doing best they can in the best way they can to get the vaccine out. If offered the shot, he encourages that you get it so we can meet face to face and take care of the business we let linger. Most of all stay healthy and stay safe.

**1st Vice President Bob Sutton** – no formal report. He would like to reiterate what Peter said – FRES is doing an outstanding job thank you.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Vinny Ammirati** – Thank you to all who came out for the drive-by's we had – Fireman in Medford who passed of Covid, Joe Callari past president of museum, nice showing for his showing. He attended the Ladies Auxiliary Testimonial Dinner for Jean with all the President's. He attended the convention and elections via zoom. He went to FASNY Legislative weekend in Troy NY. He did Zoom with united concerns. Thank you all for coming out for our brother and sisters – including Bill Rowse and his funeral.

President Guarino has been zooming as our President and Director of FASNY. He will support everyone in Suffolk County to the best he can.

Gary Schaum just joined us – he apologized - he thought that the meeting started at 8pm. Gary just had nose surgery, he had cancer. Gary gave the following reports on VEEB and Suffolk County Parade and Drill:

#### **VEEB**

- There was a change to the Intro to Fire Officer prerequisite. The member will now only need Firefighter 1 and one year after completion of the Firefighter 1 course to enroll. This should help in making it easier for firefighters to get into that course.
- Work is underway on the taxpayer with the door and window replacement project, will be completed by March.
- Trench Rescue simulator construction is also underway, will also be completed by March.
- Edward Johnston was appointed Chief of the Fire Academy. Chief Holley is retiring in April.
- Deputy Chief position to be filled soon.
- Advertising in Fire News for Maintenance Mechanic position.

Trying to handle the pandemic the best they can and offering online classes.

Audit - Jerry Owenburg – was going to do this week but he got tied up – he will set up in near future.

EMS – Meryl was not present. Peter has not heard much other than PPE and using it on all calls, using minimal people on calls. John Fleischmann reported that Paul Marra has been appointed to EMS 1. FASNY EMS conference will be virtual – should be out soon. The one usually held in Selden is cancelled due to COVID.

President asked Jean to send Larry Montrose a get-well card from the Association.

**Resolutions** – Eugene Perry said he does not have any since we are not meeting in person. If anyone has something, we will talk about in the E Board meeting and add to March.

**Burn Center** – Don Gleason – reported they are on hold like everyone else. Fundraisers on hold. About to have the insurance meeting. They had elections – President Dawn Mayer, 1st VP is Frank 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Don Gleason, Treasurer Bob Sutton, Secretary Mary Catherine Dolan. Working on Challenge coins, they will be having in the very beginning stages. He has lots of goods for sale from Emerald Society – Face masks, hats, shirts. Emerald Society also on hold.

**Annual Dinner** – Bob McConville – as far as he knows they are still closed, may be playing golf. Will start to look at Mill Pond Inn in March for October Dinner.

**Wm Reilly Journal** – Giovanni Chiarelli – Receives some checks and he did send them back to the departments with letter thanking them for the donation but that we were not having a journal.

**Headquarters** - Vinny – He does not have anything. He does not know if they are having a convention. Gene said right now scheduled for first weekend in August. – Aug 6-8<sup>th</sup>. We have not signed contract yet with hotel.

**Candidate Campaign** – Bob McConville – We Were not able to do anything last year for Gene due to no in person convention. We will endorse Frank Guarino for five-year term as FASNY Director. We will be looking for a replacement for Jerry Owenburg as FASNY Trustee in 2023 and Peter Cincotta in 2024.

We continue to look for new ticket sellers for our monthly lotto raffle.

Safety Officer – Jeff Bailes

- Happy New Year everyone
- We strongly recommend everyone gets a vaccine.
- Please wear a face covering, wash your hands, maintain social distancing
- IDLH zone a wide area, everyone wears proper PPE.
- 9 LODD for 2021 all COVID-19 related according to the USFA throughout United States.
- New York State Association of Safety Officers raffle won.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Ridge Firefighter
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Orient FD
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place Selden Firefighter
- Zoom meetings regarding Safety held by
  - FDSOA
  - NYSASO
  - FASNY

Thank you and all stay safe and healthy.

Thank you for allowing me to speak.

**By-Laws** – Peter – they are done. Jean has made the updates in the by-laws. If you have any thoughts on changes get a hold of Peter.

**Fire Prevention & Life Safety** – Don Bracciodieta

Website is up and running. If you have information for it send to them. Zoom January meeting was suspended till February. If you need anything, please let him know.

**Headquarters** – Nothing going on.

**Ways & Means** – no report.

Credentials – 35 members present on Zoom.

**Financial Report** by Bob McConville mailed out 185 to individual members, 159 to depts/companies/associations.

56 depts/21 companies paid dues and 104 individual members paid their dues for a total of \$3490.00.

Bob asked Jean if she had membership application, he sent.

Tom Prendergast of Selden joined in 2020 Motion by Bob McConville to accept for membership seconded by Vinny, all in favor.

Kyle McCarthy West Babylon – Bob McConville motion to accept as member seconded by Jerry Owenburg,

**John Masem Scholarship** – Keith Absent

**Firefighter Cancer Support Network** – Jerry stated even though covid is going on you need to go to the doctor and get your tests and follow up, get your treatments – do not put it off, cancer does not wait for anything.

**Webmaster** – Roger

Roger put list of meetings up – Jean to look at and make sure that it is up to date.

Roger added button to SCVFA Website FASNY Training.

**Youth in Fire Service** – FASNY committee is doing two webinars first is Feb 10<sup>th</sup> topic is house search and emergency procedures along with Nassau county Fire Academy. It is on FASNY website under training, there is no cost. March 21<sup>st</sup> webinar on forcible entry also by Nassau County Fire Academy.

**North Fork Volunteer Firemen's Association** – Vinny and Pete have been in contact; they are just waiting it out like us. Babylon Town Fire Association is not having meetings either.

**Long Island Benevolent Association** – met two Sundays ago in Bellmore. Looking into street addresses, it is a little different and they are trying to find out why with Senator Brooks office. Cannot get a membership meeting. Scheduled for meeting in April right now. But they stay in touch by phone calls.

Old Business – none

**New Business** –

Gary Schaum asked if anyone reported on the Suffolk County Drill and Parade. Below is tentative schedule depending on the pandemic.

- 2021 – Host West Sayville for Drill and Sayville will host Parade.
- 2022- Host Copiague for Parade and Drill
- 2023 – Host is Riverhead for Parade and Drill

Jean has the application for the Long Island Benevolent Association, dues \$100.00– Peter Cincotta said we are not a benevolent and not sure that we should get involved as a County Association. Gene Perry said we have received applications from Towns and tried to explain that we do not go down should go up – we need to make decision on how to handle these applications in the future.

Bob McConville agreed that we should not. Chris Del Vecchio made a motion not to make application seconded by Roger Putnam, all in favor.

**Good & welfare** –

Chris Del Vecchio thanks the Association and all who called and sent cards. He has a long road ahead of him right now, but he will be back.

Peter Cincotta – Burn Center and Cancer Support Network do a big job with the fire service and he recommends that we support they are in memory and sympathy cards to kind of fundraiser for these two groups. They are not able to have their fundraisers due to COVID but in the meantime we can support them through these cards – pass this along to the other organizations.

Gene Perry said that the Suffolk VFR that Chief Vetter spoke about – sent text out tonight, Suffolk First rapid COVID-19 testing with information on how to register.

Jean Christensen reported that the next membership meeting is March 23, 2021 in East Brentwood and the next Executive Board meeting is February 23 in Blue Point.

Gary Schaum asked if they should get reports to Jean – President Guarino said yes please.

President Guarino said If nothing else – please stay safe, if you need anything contact one of the Presidents or Jean.

Closing prayer by Chaplain John Fleischmann.

Motion to adjourn by Vinny Ammirati seconded by Don Gleason, and a third by Mike Barry, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jean Christensen*

Jean Christensen

Secretary