

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
May 27, 2025 Southold***

Prior to the meeting, Tom Rinelli from Pet CPR and First Aid spoke about the classes that they offer. For more information you can contact Tom at Tom@pawsnclaws911.com

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 President Vinny Ammirati.

Chief David Surozenski welcomed us to Southold and introduced his Assistants, First Assistant Chief Pindar Damianos and Second Vice President John Rumppler. First Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli thanked the Southold Chiefs and Department for hosting our meeting tonight and presented a certificate of thank to Chief David Surozenski.

Motion by Paul Callargi seconded by Frank Guarino to accept the minutes of the March 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

Allison Aievoli – Acting Director of Emergency Preparedness, FRES

Stan Roberts – 1st Vice President – Islip Town Vollies

Joel Hellbruan – President Town of Babylon Vollies

Paul Callegari – Burn Center Representative

Chris Mele – Region 7 Director VFPASNY

Artie Brewer – President North Fork VFA

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

Motion by Stanley Roberts to accept the Treasurer's Report seconded by Carleton Raab, motion carried.

Bills submitted to Treasurer and paid

Staples for \$49.14 from Jean Christensen – Certificate holders and multiple certificates.

\$15.76 from Giovanni Chiarelli for package of certificate holders

Communications:

- Thank you from the family of Janet Johnson.
- Nassau Firefighters Museum Muster August 23, 2025.
- Invite from Bay Shore Hook & Ladder Company #1 to honor 50-year members on October 4, 2025
- Central Islip FD August 8th is the Annual Rev. John Halpin Golf Outing. \$190 per golfer. The hole sponsor is \$100, and cart sponsor is \$50.00.
- 2025 FASNY Convention August 7-9 – Ad Book request
- Fundraiser honoring Councilman Neil Manzella.
- FASNY Delegate Information

Report of Presidents:**President Vincent Ammirati**

- Membership meeting March 25, 2025 Centereach FD
- FASNY Home Trustee meeting March 27 to March 29, 2025 Hudson NY
- Nassau County Juniors Association meeting Wantagh Fire Department March 30, 2025
- Suffolk County Ladies Meeting Holbrook FD April 9, 2025
- Department Services for Joseph DaRocha's Williston Park NY April 15, 2025
- Suffolk County Burn Center Meeting Stony brook Hospital April 21, 2025
- SCVFA Executive Board Meeting April 22, 2025 Central Islip FD
- Southern NY Ladies Auxiliary 90th Anniversary dinner at Piccolo Ristorante Bellmore, NY
- FASNY Committee walk through the Hyatt Regency hotel Hauppauge NY April 24, 2025
- Long Island Benevolent Association meeting at the Central Islip FD April 25, 2025
- Middle Island FD installation of officers and Dinner April 26, 2025 at the Land End Sayville NY
- Wake service for East Moriches Ladies Auxiliary member Jo Ann Romanowski April 27, 2025
- Manorville FD Golf outing at the Pine Hills Golf and Country Club April 28, 2025
- SCVFA memorial service at Patchogue FD Firemen's Park May 4, 2025
- Trustee meeting Hudson May 8th-10th, 2025
- FASNY Home Members memorial service Hudson May 9, 2025
- LAFASNY Meeting Hudson May 10th, 2025
- Suffolk County Ladies meeting West Sayville FD May 14, 2025
- Southern NY Memorial and convention Hagerman FD May 17, 2025
- Red Knights MC Suffolk County Burn Center fundraiser North Sea FD May 18, 2025
- Islip Town Chiefs meeting Brentwood Fire Department May 20, 2025
- Memorial Day parade Centereach May 25, 2024

Report of 1st Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli

- Ads are coming in. Remember that the profit from the journal is what give us the money for the scholarships.
- Be sure that your members are submitting to get the money for the Firefighter I classes that they are entitled to.

Report of 2nd Vice President Dan Brooks –

- April 1 – FRES End of Year in Review
- April 12 – Cutchogue Cocktails and Raffles Fundraiser
- April 16 – FRES Retention and Recruitment Committee
- April 18 – Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs Council
- April 24 – FASNY RecruitNY Kickoff
- April 24 – FASNY Legislative Committee
- April 26 – Suffolk County EMS Conference
- May 4 – Halpin Memorial
- May 8 – Beyond the Sirens EVOC Presentation
- May 10 – Lindenhurst 50+ Year Certificates
- May 16 – Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs Council
- May 17 – Patchogue FD Engine Co 145th Certificates
- May 19 – Mastic Beach FD Golf Outing
- May 22 – FASNY Legislative Committee

3rd Vice President Donald Bracciodieta

- *March 26, 2025, Suffolk County fire educators Meeting Brentwood FD
- *April 12, 2025, Nesconset Installation dinner 50 years Certificate award presentation
- *April 26, 2025, Medford FD installation dinner 60 years certificate award presentation
- *April 29, 2025, Southern New York executive board meeting Port Chester hose company 5
- *May 12th, 2025, now one day committee meeting Wantagh FD
- *May 17th, 2025, southern New York / meeting Hagerman FD
- *If anybody's interested, I have the hospitality 2025 donation letter if anybody's interested in donating

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.

- Congratulations to Frank Guarino the new President for SNYVFA.
- FASNY Convention is August 7-9 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Registration online at FASNY.com. If you have trouble, please call the office. This year sectionals are being asked for \$200 to make baskets.
- 1st Annual Training Symposium was in Lake George and 68 attended. Next year's date is May 16-18, 2026.
- Caring Coin – 1st Responder Mental Behavior Health Committee. Not a challenge coin. It is to be given to someone who is struggling with Mental/Behavioral Health. Let me know if you need.
- Training Stipend demographic sheet by chief is needed along with paperwork from the Student.
- Firefighter I is \$1250.00, BEFO is \$750 and FO1 is 1,000.

Home Trustees –Bob Sutton reported the following:

- The current census for the Firefighters home is 84.
- Eight applications are in various stages of completion.
- New Member and Past FASNY President James Burns was admitted to the Home this past Tuesday. He is doing well and happy to be there.
- A film school graduate student has been filming a short film here at the Home this week, which is required for her to get her master's degree. FASNY is coordinating this project, and the Home will be getting a short promotional video for our website to replace the current one on the site.
- The Home is currently COVID free.

Father Halpin Memorial Service – Bob Sutton reported

Our annual Memorial Service held on Sunday May 4, 2025. The Service went well except for some damp weather with approximately 200 people in attendance. At this event the names of

We would like to thank the Patchogue Fire Department for graciously hosting or services and for their support and the food, they provided after the Memorial Service. I would also like to thank our Executive Board and the Ladies Auxiliary Board for their work on this years' service, especially Jean Christensen, for tracking down names of the deceased members.

Sadly, we had read off 144 names of deceased Firefighters and 18 deceased members of the Ladies Auxiliary. Next year's Memorial Service is scheduled for Sunday May 3, 2026. If any Department would be interested in hosting next year's event, please let us know as soon as possible.

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

It is Sunday, September 21st. Noon will be our Memorial followed by the parade at 1pm and then a BBQ. Gift this year will be ice cream dish and spoon and a golf towel.

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

Will be at the Chiefs Convention.

Reach out if you are in need support. They will work thru this with you – tell your family, there is also support for them.

Firefighter of the Year – John Manzi/John Masem - Absent

10 Applications received

Headquarters –William Mullane

50/50 that will be drawn at the dinner are for sale. They are \$1.00 each. They will be available right up to the dinner and that night.

Youth in the Fire Service – Keith Vella

FASNY August 8 and August 9th. 8/8 is at 10:45 for the adults and it is "How to build and maintain Youth"
August 9th – is for the youth – will be classroom.

August 22 and August 23 are lectures and hands on at the Suffolk County Fire Academy.

Suffolk Jr. Association dues for 2025 are due. They received their 5013C status. They had hands on drill at the Railroad, and they had 87 in attendance, 70 Juniors.

Will be doing basic exterior August – December

Upcoming Junior meetings

June 22 – North Babylon

September – West Babylon

November - Setauket

John A Masem Sr. Scholarship – Keith Vella

Deadline is June 1st – No applications received to date.

Open to Suffolk County Members not just high school seniors.

Suffolk Legislative – Jerry Owenburg

Next meeting is June 17th

Dan Brooks reported on FASNY Legislation

EMS Billing – five-year extension was granted.

Phase out firefighter personal protective equipment with intentionally added PFAS – gear is outlawed by 2028.

Resolutions – Eugene Perry

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

Resolution #2 – BE IT RESOLVED that the Association extends its sincere thanks to the Central Islip Fire Department for hosting our April Executive Board meeting. Motion to accept by Bob Sutton seconded by Bill Mullane, motion carried.

Radio Committee – Anthony Sullo/Bob McConville- No Report

Suffolk FRES Commission – Anthony Sullo/Bob McConville

Meeting tomorrow night and they will be touring FRES.

Sickness –

Chaplain Joe McCarthy is in his own room now. He has a long road ahead and will take calls and visitors.

Anthony Sullo is doing well – he may go home. He has PT everyday – still healing

Past President Bill Murray is home and doing better

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

If you are interested in getting on a county committee, see Jerry Owenberg or Gene Perry.

If interested in getting on FASNY Committee give Gene Perry your resume.

Giovanni Chiarelli – his department turned in his letter.

SCVFA Parade & Drill –

Joel Heilbrunn reported parade are back on and sanctioned. There are some new rules - hair can be a little longer but must be neat; earrings are ok; you can blow siren at a certain point.

Lakeland is hosting the Islip Town Parade on August 10th
Town of Babylon Parade is third Saturday in September
September 27th is the Suffolk County Parade in Hagerman
Joel stated that Suffolk and Nassau can have their own meetings, but they are under state parade officials.

If Drill teams are disrespectful, it will be reported and dealt with. It will not be tolerated.
Nassau and Suffolk Parade Officials are now one unit.
Town Parade – Lakeland

Training & Education – No report

William Reilly Journal – Giovanni Chiarelli

Letters are out – he has forms up front. Please send Ad in PDF format. Any questions see Cheeck.

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

Instagram page has been created.

Ways and Means – William Mullane

Collected \$190 tonight – Winner to receive \$95.00

Lithium Ion Battery – Bob Sutton

- A few presentations are in the scheduling phase for the fall already.
- 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.
- New trend is to have kid put a paperclip or fil in the USB port on the chrome book – it is a new challenge.

Fire Prevention – Don Braccioldieta gave the following report

- Next meeting is June 13, 2025, at the Manorville FD 7pm dinner, meeting to follow
- Fire & Life Safety topics. For the month of May, honoring EMS and Firefighters for their dedication to the fire service.
 - Grilling Safety
 - Boating Safety
 - Pool Safety

Audit – No report

Credentials/Membership – Tom Prendergast gave the following report

Total Dues Collected November 2024 through April 2025 was \$6840.00
No dues collected for the month of May 2025
2nd dues notices mailed May 24th.
2026 Dues notices will be mailed in November 2025.

EMS/REMSCO – Tom Prendergast

REMSCO EMS Seminar was held on 4/26/25 at the Courtyard Marriott. Topics discussed were Shock, Assessment, Etiology and Management, Medical History, Handling RMA/AMA, Wellness EMS Responders, Improving Scene Time, Prehospital Blood & TXA (Tranexamic acid) Course agenda attached. Tom also included an EMS legislation report.

Recruitment & Retention – Bob Chuchillo

Bob reported he put five signs up on Fire Island after the last meeting. He asked about business cards, this is being worked on. He said he has received feedback – couple of people are having trouble with stipends.

Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council – No Report

Suffolk County Association of Fire Districts – President Scott Thebold reported

- Mental Health is important, has attended many classes in the last few months. It is a big concern – keep an eye on your members.
- A lot of working house fire – be careful.
- Task Force meeting – see Bob McConville
- Reach out to the corresponding secretary to get information out.
- Next meeting is August 21st in Coram.

Suffolk County FRES – report given by Allison Aievoli – Acting Director of Emergency Preparedness, FRES

- Bidirectional CAD memo was distributed to all agencies; any questions please contact Communications.
- Public Information Officer Class to be held jointly with the Suffolk County Fire Academy, Jun 9, 2025, at 7p at the Mastic Fire Dept. Please register through the Suffolk County Fire Academy Website.
- OEM Staff Successfully secured \$3,500 in reimbursement for the Rocky Point Fire department's response efforts during the August 18-19 flooding event.
- OEM Staff recently held a Terrorism Awareness and Suspicious Activity Reporting for Fire, EMS & Fire Police at Westhampton Beach Fire Department on April 21st. Over 100 first responders attended the training. The next training will be held at Jamesport Fire Department on May 28th at 7pm. To enroll, please visit the Suffolk County Fire Academy website and register under the "Open Enrollment – Lectures" section.
- To Support wildfire preparedness and containment efforts, FRES and OEM recently hosted a Heavy Equipment Operator training course for County, Town and Village public workers. Led by NYS DEC Forest Rangers, the session covered wildland fire terminology, fire behavior, safety protocols and the roles and tactics for heavy equipment use during wildfire response.
- EMS Week is May 18th – May 24th, please share our gratitude with your providers.
- EMS Recognition Award event sponsored by Legislator Thorne has been rescheduled for May 20, 2025, from 5pm-7pm at the Suffolk County Legislature Building.
- Reminder – EMS is looking for old and new Ambulance photos to show where EMS started and how far they have come. Please submit them to paul.marra@suffolkcountyny.gov by May 12th.
- Please complete the Fire Department Demographics if not already completed. This is to include the requested NERIS information. NERIS information has been emailed out to each department; if you have not received it or have any questions, please contact our office.
- Any department wishing to have Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services talk about career opportunities at their department meeting, please contact Brianne Minden at Brianne.minden@suffolkcountyny.gov. We currently have openings for Emergency Services Dispatcher I.

North Fork Vollies Vice President questioned the police helicopter county approved to carry blood. It is a work in progress.

Suffolk County VEEB Board Report by Gary Schaum was read by Secretary Jean Christensen in his absence.

- The Suffolk County Fire Academy and Suffolk County FRES will be hosting a training class “In the Public Eye – A Fire Department’s Guide to News and Social Media” on Monday June 9th at Mastic FD. This one session class will provide attendees with an understanding of traditional news media and contemporary social media, including how both interact with the fire service on a daily basis. Please visit our website to register.
- Terrorism Awareness and Suspicious Activity Reporting for Fire, EMS & Fire Police classes – Weds May 28th at Jamesport FD and Thursday Sept 4th at Deer Park FD. Please visit our website for more information.
- Virtual Engine Company Operations course beginning on Tuesday June 3rd. Please visit our website for more information.
- Marine Firefighting class at West Islip FD on Thursday June 26th. Please visit our website for more information.
 - The Suffolk County Fire Academy will be offering a NYS Fire Officer 1 “Boot Camp” over 8 days in a 2-week (non-consecutive) timeframe. Students must attend all the dates of the “Boot Camp”. The scheduled dates of the program are as follows:
 - Monday July 7th – Thursday July 10th
Monday July 21st – Thursday July 24th

All classes will be conducted 8am – 5pm daily with a 1-hour lunch.

Visit the open enrollment page of our website for more information.

- This month’s training bulletin discusses “Electrical emergencies”. Please visit our website to review the bulletin.
- National Certification (Pro-Board) testing for Fire Officer I at the Nassau County FSA on Tuesday June 3rd. Registration is through the NYS Learning management system.
- 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 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-annual-convention/> 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.

Suffolk Conty Recruitment & Retention – Giovanni Chiarell/Dan Brooks
They attended the first meeting. They will first be working on retention.

Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary - Vice President Marybeth reported

- Next meeting is June 11th in Hagerman
-

NYS Fire Police – Chris Mealy – New region 7 Director

- Introduced himself. He is an Ex-Chief from Smithtown.
- The Convention was May 8-10 in Kingston

- 50/50 was won by Cutchogue and was \$4500.00
- We are a larger region in the state. Earned a number of certificates in training NYS Fire.
- Have five plus active Fire Police members who received 50-year certificate.
- They will be presenting a memorial resolution upon the death of a fire police member.

Suffolk County Firefighters Burn Center – Paul Callergi reported

- Fundraisers – shot gun shoot and the next day is red knight motorcycles.
- Voted to meet every other month. Next meeting is June 16th
- Burn Victim should go to Burn Center – Can go by Helicopter.
- It was noted the Red Knights have donated over \$210,000 to the Burn Center
- Bob McConville – stated when on scene ask the burn victim if they want to go to Stony Brook. Try and get them to go there.
- Doctors developed pineapple gel, and it is approved to use on PEDS too.
- You can call and set up a tour – see Paul to get the information.

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

Southern NY VFA – President Frank Guarino reported

- Attended the Ladies 90th Birthday Dinner in Bellmore
- SNYVFA Memorial at Hagerman FD followed by the Convention
- SCVFA Memorial Service in Patchogue
- NYS Fire Police Convention
- SNYVFA Dinner May 30th at the Bar Association
- June 18, 2025 is the Re-Org meeting at the Selden FD
- Jean Christensen is going in as President of SNYVFA Ladies Auxiliary tomorrow night.

Nassau County Vollies – Absent

North Fork VFA –Artie Brewer reported

- Artie is an Ex-Chief and Ex=Commissioner of Cutchogue. They are still working on their fire house
- The installation is this Saturday at Birchwood 6pm tickets are \$100 per person
- They meet four times a year and their next meeting is July 23rd.
- Cutchogue chicken BBQ may be off premises again. It is August 24th
-

Long Island Benevolent –No Report

Babylon Town VFA – No Report

Islip Town Vollies – Stan Roberts reported next meeting is June 18th in East Brentwood – Nominations.

South Shore – no report

Old Business – None

Gene Perry spoke on the baskets for the FASNY Convention. We have already taken care of this.

New Business

Nothing to report

Good and Welfare – Reported earlier

Dark Horse – won by Greg L.

Thank you to Southold for hosting us tonight and the wonderful meal that was served.

Next membership meeting is July 22, 2025 – Smithtown River Property

Next Executive Board meeting is June 24, 2025 - Hauppauge

Closing Prayer said by President Vinny

Motion to adjourn by Greg Lagarenne seconded by Gene Perry, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jean Christensen".

Jean Christensen
Secretary