Minutes – Meeting of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen’s Association  
May 27, 2014 at the North Lindenhurst Fire Department

-Meeting called to order by President Jerry Owenburg at 8:02 PM
-Salute to the flag led by Sergeant at Arms, Ryan Murphy
-Chaplain David Carrigan gave an opening prayer and moment of silence for the sick and departed members
-Lieutenant Alexinas of the North Lindenhurst Fire Department welcomed the S.C.V.F.A.
-Vice President Cincotta thanked the Lieutenant and all the members for hosting the meeting and serving dinner
-M/M/S/P to accept the minutes of the March 25, 2014 meeting at the West Islip Fire Department

Introduction of Guests: Vice President DelVecchio reported that the following guests were in attendance: Past Presidents William Wieck, Robert McConville, William Murray and Eugene Perry, FASNY 1st Vice President Robert McConville, FASNY Director Eugene Perry, FASNY Home Trustees Bill Murray and Jerry Owenburg, Suffolk County Chiefs President John Carney and 2nd Vice President Scott Thebold, Suffolk County Ambulance Chiefs President Bryan Prosek, South Shore Volunteer FD Association Anthony Sullo, VEEB Member Alan Groveman, SC Emerald Society Bill Murray, SC Ladies President Mary Gehrlein, SC Fire Safety Educators President Bob Sutton, SC Burn Center Treasurer Jerry Owenburg, Firefighter’s Cancer Support Network Jerry Owenburg, NYS Fire Police Past President Frank Guarino

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Bob McConville read report
M/M/S/P to accept the Treasurer’s report as read.
-Bob stated that we need more ticket sellers for our daily number drawing.

Bills: None

Communications:
-Letter from FASNY for donation for to Scholarship raffle.
-Minutes of the Southern NY VFA meeting held March 29, 2014 in Ardsley, NY
-Thank you from Suffolk County Burn Center for our dollar a man donation
-Suffolk County Burn Center “An Afternoon at the Sea” at the Atlantis Aquarium Sunday, October 5, 2014
-5th Annual Guy Cassara Golf Outing for the Suffolk County Burn Center

Report of Presidents:

Report of President Jerry Owenburg: Reported on the meetings and events he attended on behalf of the Association

Report of 1st Vice President Peter Cincotta: Reported on the meetings and events he attended on behalf of the Association

-Report of 2nd Vice President Chris DelVecchio: Reported on the meetings and events he attended on behalf of the Association

Report of 3rd Vice President Frank Guarino: Reported on the meeting and events he attended on behalf of the Association

Steering Committee: Robert McConville reported:
-Nominations for office will be at the July meeting.
-Anyone who would like to run for office, please see Bob

Sickness: David Carrigan reported:
-John Masterson from St. James home from hospital
-FASNY Past President Ed Carpenter in hospital, not doing very well
-If anyone knows of a member who is sick or in the hospital, please contact Dave at dcarrigan@westbabylon.org

**F.A.S.N.Y.**  Eugene Perry reported:
-Recruit NY was a success with over 500 Departments across the State opening their doors for Open Houses
-FASNY has announced this year’s winners of the FASNY Gerard J Buckenmeyer Volunteer Scholarships and 2 of the 15 scholarships are going to students in Suffolk County, one from Dix Hills FD and one from Smithtown FD
-FASNY is hosting a golf outing to benefit both the New York State and National Fallen Firefighters Memorial on Monday, August 18, 2014. Information on foursomes and sponsorships are available on the FASNY website
-The FASNY Convention will be held August 20-22, 2014 at the Desmond Hotel and convention Center in Colonie, NY. A complete schedule of events can be found on the FASNY website

**FASNY Home Trustees:** Bill Murray/Jerry Owenburg reported:
-There are 69 residents in the Home with one new admission
-Anyone who would like to “Adopt a Resident” please contact Jerry
-The Softball Tournament is August 1-3, 2014
-The “Wish List” has been changed to the “Members Comfort List”
-There are events going on at the home every weekend
-Anyone who has DVD’s, puzzles or crafts to donate to the Home contact Jerry or Bill
-Anyone who knows of someone who needs assistance, contact Bill or Jerry

**Southern New York VFA:** William Murray reported:
-Introduced newly elected 2nd Vice President Anthony Sullo. Bill is now the Jr. Past President
-Dinner will be held on Friday, June 27, 2014 at Pompeii Restaurant in West Hempstead

**Commissioner Williams’ Report:** Ryan Murphy reported:
-FRES has done well with Capital Project and will report back what was finalized and made it thought the process

**Suffolk County Chiefs:** Scott Thebold reported:
-Chiefs are here to support us, if we need any assistance please reach out
-We need a strong person to replace Bob Knight in Legislation
-President Owenburg asked if anyone is interested in working on Legislation see Bill Wieck

**Suffolk County Ladies:** Mary Gehrlein reported:
-Thanked the Presidents for attending the Ladies Dinner
-The ladies need a host for their next meeting
-Thanked the Association for their continued support
-Ladies will have a bus going up to the LAFASNY Convention for the election on Wednesday, August 20, 2014. More information will follow

2014 S.C.V.F.A. Memorial Service: May 4, 2014: Vice President Cincotta reported:
-Thanked the North Babylon FD for hosting the Service
-Thanked Bob Sutton and Patrick Perry for putting the music together for the service
-We need a host for next years’ service which will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 7PM
-Anyone who would like to host a future Memorial Service can send a letter of intent to the Association

S.C.V.F.A. Parade and Drill: Robert McConville reported:
-Drill is Saturday, July 12, 2014 at 9AM in Ridge; the parade will be in Selden at 6PM
-There are only 14 or 15 Departments entered in the parade
-Applications for the parade are on the Suffolk Drill Team Captains website
-There will be a leg trophy in memory of Past President Rich Vella for Best Appearing Juniors

Long Island Day at the Home: President Owenburg reported:
-This year’s date is Sunday, September 21, 2014
-Our Chapel window is in and will be dedicated along with Ted Rosko’s window at 11AM
-The tree and monument ceremony will follow the window dedication
-The Juniors from Suffolk & Nassau Counties will be honored in the program

Parade and Drill Officials: Rich Ligon reported:
-1st drill of the season an Old-Fashioned Drill hosted by Amityville
-Numerous Departments have not paid their dues to the Drill Team Captains. In order to be judged in parades your dues must be paid. You will put at the end of the parade if your dues are not paid.
F.R.E.S.: Ryan Murphy reported:
- There have been some new members appointed to the FRES Commission. One member was up for reappointment and was up for reappointment and was rejected by the Legislature because of poor attendance
- SAFER Grant status was reviewed
- Repairs have been made to the Fire Academy
- Next meeting is tomorrow night

VEEB: Alan Groveman reported:
- A 3 year contract with the County has been signed
- EMS personal can be brought in for training for MCI, Officer Training, etc.
- Commissioner Williams working with Chief Holley to obtain a $50,000 startup allocation in the budget to create a condo burn building
- Working to get all the courses certificated so college credits can be given to our firefighters
- The new hybrid course has done very well with the passing rate going up
- President Owenburg stated that Alan has met with himself and the Executive Board to try to work out the issues with the VEEB appointment
- The Association sent letters to the Legislators opposing the VEEB appointment. Jerry attended the Public Safety meeting and was able to get the appointment tabled until the next meeting which is this Thursday, May 29, 2014
- Jerry received a call from one of the legislators to come to a meeting Wednesday morning at 9:15AM at the Legislative building in Hauppauge to discuss this before the Public Safety meeting.
- Letters were again sent to all Legislators asking that the appointment and selection process start over again
- Any future changes to the appointment and selection process will be done with the Joint Council
- Ryan Murphy asked Alan if VEEB is staying with their choice and the answer was yes

Radio: Anthony Sullo reported:
- Many member organizations have no representation
- 2015 capital project to replace 15 year old Command Van
- 10 dispatcher positions have been filled
- Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, 2014

Fire Police: Frank Guarino reported:
- Next NYS Fire Police meeting is October 10 & 11 in Athens, NY

Legislative: William Wieck reported:
- Will try his best but will never be able to fill the shoes of Bob Knight
- Flammability in furniture & illegal modifications & Illegal modification bills have passed in the Assembly
- Job Protection Bill was vetoed by the Governor in 2013 and must be reintroduced for the 2014 Legislative Session
- VFBL/AWBL benefit increase was not included in the State Budget. We will pursue this again in the 2015-2016 State Budget
- Issues of United Concern and other FASNY scorecard items are moving through Committees

Firefighter of the Year: President Owenburg reported:
- Thomas Gorman from the Bohemia FD is the 2014 Suffolk County Firefighter of the Year
- He also is the FASNY and Southern NY Firefighter of the Year

Audit: President Owenburg reported:
- Anyone who is interested in being Chairman, please see Jerry

EMS: Meryl Montrose reported:
- There are 2 vacancies on REMSCO. Seven agencies have expressed interest; the letters were turned over to the Nominating Committee for review. The Islip Town Ambulance Chiefs and North Shore LIJ were brought to the floor for a vote and approved
- Education Training Committee reported on an application brought by St. Johns University to offer Paramedic classes at their Sayville Campus. They advised against it. After some discussion it was voted not to allow the course sponsor update application
- 94% of agencies have obtained the necessary license to process controlled substances. Five agencies are still outstanding, one may drop ALS
- Suffolk County EMS will be offering classes though the summer (no down time) June 30, 2014 is the deadline for EMT’s complying with the National Curriculum. EMT-CC’s and Paramedics have until June 30, 2015
- The Nasal Narcan for EMT’s is approximately 1 month away from complete compliance. The pilot program for EMT CPAP program has started
-The following agencies were recognized with Life Saver Awards: Riverhead VAC, East Marion FD, Jamesport FD, Ronkonkoma FD, Deer Park FD, West Islip FD & Setauket FD
-The following Volunteer Ambulance Corps were recognized with Gold Metal Community CPR Awards: Southampton VAC for training over 800 and Medford VAC from training over 2200 lay people from their communities in compression only CPR

**Resolutions:** Eugene Perry reported:
1. BE IT RESOLVED that we thank the North Lindenhurst FD for hosting tonight’s meeting
2. BE IT RESOLVED that we thank the Huntington Manor FD for hosting the April Executive Board meeting
3. BE IT RESOLVED that we thank the Selden FD for hosting a Special Executive Board meeting on May 21, 2014
4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Association purchase tickets to the FASNY Past Presidents Dinner
5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Association purchase tickets to outgoing FASNY President Jim Burns’ Testimonial Dinner
6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Association purchase tickets to outgoing Firemen’s Home President John Farrell’s Testimonial Dinner

M/M/S/P to accept resolution as read.

**Burn Center Stony Brook:** President Owenburg reported:
- Very busy, West Islip firefighters sent home
- Burn Center is now on the 8th floor
- Please have firefighters follow up if they go to the Burn Center so they receive the proper care
- Tours are always available and Memorial cards see Jerry
- Burn Recognition Day went great, thanks to all for attending
- You can call the clinic at the Burn Center @ 444-4545 with any burn questions
- Anyone who would like to be a member of the Burn Center Executive Board, please see Jerry
- We have a web site www.suffolkffburn.com and we are on Facebook and Twitter

**Arson Task Force:** President Owenburg reported:
- Anyone who is interested in being Chairman please see Jerry

**Annual Dinner: Saturday, October 18, 2014 at Sunset Harbour:** Vice President DelVecchio reported:
- Tickets are $65 each. Cocktail Hour starts at 6 PM
- Applications available on the website

**William Reilly Scholarship Journal:** Eugene Perry reported:
- Full page ads are $50, ½ page ads are $30
- The journal supports the John Masem Scholarship
- Applications available on the website

**Homeland Security:** John Pedneault reported:
- Discussed the lack of surveillance during Memorial Day. If you see something, say something, we must remain vigilant

**Publicity:** Ryan Murphy reported:
- Ryan Murphy is the contact for Suffolk County for submissions to the Volunteer Firefighter. Ryan is the contact for the Southern New York Regional news in the magazine. Please send your submissions to Ryan at www.ryan.murphy@suffolkcountyny.com.
- If you submit a picture please make sure it is captioned left to right with the names of the people, the location and date.
- Deadline for submissions is the 1st of the month as it has to be to the Volunteer Firefighter by the 5th of the month.

**By-Laws:** President Owenburg reported:
- Anyone interested in being Chairman, please see Jerry

**Campaign:** Robert McConville reported: Progress

**Safety Officer:** Alan Bayley reported:
- The next meeting will be on Friday, June 6, 2014 in Yaphank
- Incident Safety Officer is very important on the fire ground
- Hot days are coming, drink a lot of water
- Brookhaven Town safety Officers next meeting is Tuesday, September 9, 2014, keynote speaker will be Jack Emma
Fire Prevention: Bob Sutton reported:
The next meeting will be Friday, May 30, 2014 at the FRES Library
-There are now 20 new Fire Life Safety Educator Level 1 in Suffolk County. Another will be offered in the next year
-The Association will no longer print and send out a news letter. All info can be found at www.scfsea.org
-Check the FEMA & NFPA website for some free Fire Prevention information
-With summer here remember pool safety
-Suffolk County All Hazards Trailer has been it many locations in the County

NFPA: No Report

Recruitment and Retention: Ryan Murphy reported:
-The SAFER grant comes to a close in October; however there are some efforts for an appeal
-Trying to structure a 2 year funding to offset the students that will be applying to the FASNY HELP program
-Recruitment overall in Suffolk County has gone very well

Headquarters: Vice President DelVecchio reported:
-The theme at the Hospitality Night at the Convention is Mardi Gras
-Letters were sent to Department for donations to the Suffolk County Hospitality Room

Ways and Means: Ryan Murphy reported:
-$96 to the winner

Credentials: Bill Rowse reported: 52 Members in attendance

Membership: Bill Rowse reported:
-3 new members, M/M/S/P to accept new members

John A. Masem Sr. Scholarship: Keith Vella reported:
-Deadline for the Scholarship is June 1, 2014
-You must be a member of the Association for 1 year or a child or grandchild of a member of the Association for 1 year to qualify
-Applications are available on the website
-Please make sure the application is complete
-To date we have 3 applications

Youth in the Fire Service: Vice President Cincotta reported:
-Southern New York Youth Seminar went very well
-Youth Day at FASNY Convention on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at the Colonie Training Center
-Suffolk County Youth Seminar scheduled for November. Details to follow
-Westhampton Beach Juniors celebrated their 10th Anniversary & Selden “J” Company celebrated their 40th Anniversary

Firefighters Cancer Support Network: Jerry Owenburg reported:
-Advance Dermatology offering free skin cancer screening for any firefighter or EMS provider & their families
-Miracle House in Midtown Manhattan will give you a room for 2 & a cooking area for $75 per night for anyone who has a firefighter or EMS provider in the hospital for cancer treatment
-Submitted a white paper at CFISI in Washington DC
-Anyone wishing to be a mentor survivor or caregiver, contact Jerry
-Any department or EMS group wishing us to speak at one of your meetings, contact Jerry
-When you are ready, we are here for you and your family. Please call, we can help you through some tough times for you and your family members
-1 in 3 firefighters come down with cancer in their career
-We have children’s programs also. Call Jerry @ 631-433-3701 and they can hook you up with a survivor mentor with the same type of Cancer
-To contact the Cancer support network, contact Shawn Owenburg, Regional Director at 866-994-FCSN or e-mail: SOWenburg@FCSN.net or their website is www.FirefighterCancerSupport.org or Jerry Owenburg at 631-433-3701
-To date we have mentored 259 firefighters, 29 EMS providers & 81 family members

Food Drive: Eugene Perry reported: Progress

Web Site: President Owenburg reported
-Roger Putnam has kept on top of our web site; if there is anything that needs to be added or changed, please contact Roger
Unfinished Business: None

New Business:
- M/M/S/P to donate a $35 gift card to the FASNY Scholarship raffle
- M/M/S/P to take a Tee sign in the Burn Center Golf Outing

Election: None

Good and Welfare:
- M/M/S/P to put a page in the minutes in memory of Past President Robert Knight
- Please keep Ed Carpenter in your prayers

Dark Horse: Winning numbers drawn.

Future Meeting: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 – Port Jefferson FD
Anyone who would like to receive a phone message or email for the meetings and other events please give your email address or the phone number you would like to be used to the Secretary at kmpredo@aol.com

Closing Prayer: by Chaplain Carrigan

Motion to adjourn and meeting adjourned at: 9:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Kathryn M. Perry
Secretary