

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 26, 2026 – Cutchogue Fire House***

Prior to the meeting, we had a guest speaker, Karen Blackburn a Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor. New York State Advisory Board Representative for Suffolk County. Her contact information is klblackburn63@gmail.com and her phone is 631-848-7653. Flyer attached to minutes.

Meeting Called to order by President Giovanni Chiarelli

Salute to the flag led by Sgt. At Arms Keith Vella

Moment of Silence for departed members followed by a prayer by Cutchogue Chaplain Roslak.

Chief Michael Bohen welcomed us to Cutchogue. First Vice President Dan Brooks thanked the Host department Chiefs and kitchen committee for hosting us this evening.

President Chiarelli Welcomed and thanked everyone for coming tonight.

President Chiarelli stated at each meeting he will read names of the Associations Past Presidents, so that we never forget. The Past President read off tonight were

• Frank A. Howland	Islip	1923-25
• Albert V. Sammis	Huntington	1926-28
• J. Fred Hugorth	Rockville Center	1929
• Arthur E. Robinson	Bay Shore	1929-30
• Ernest Stoll	Bayport	1931-33
• John Sherwood	Greenport	1934-35
• Carl F. Peterson	Riverhead	1936-38
• William H. Colson	West Sayville	1939-41
• Hewlett D. Johnson	Halesite	1941-43
• Benjamin G. Huskinsson	Port Jefferson	1943-45
• Frank S. Hubbard	Bay Shore	1945-47
• Joseph E. Walsh	Riverhead	1947-49
• Frank O.W. Johnson	Huntington	1949-51
• Leander B. Chute	Greenport	1951-53

Motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting by Paul Callargi, seconded by Bill Murray motion carried.

Introduction of Guests & Past Association Presidents by Third Vice President William Mullane

Scott A. Thebold, President Suffolk Districts

Mary Catherine Dolan, Vice President – Suffolk Educators

Paul Callegari – Suffolk Burn Center

Allison Petker – Director Suffolk County FRES
Artie Brewer – President North Fork VFA
Lori Zatorski – PP – Corresponding Secretary Suffolk County Ladies
James Leggio – Vice President Suffolk County Parade & Drill Team Captains

Past Presidents in attendance were

William Murray
Robert McConville
Eugene Perry
Jerry Owenburg
Robert Sutton
Vinny Ammirati

Treasurer's report. Jerry Owenburg read the treasurer's report. Motion by Bob Sutton to accept the Treasurer's report as read seconded by Vinny Ammirati, motion carried.

Bills - There were no bills

Communications:

- Nassau County – Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council letter regarding hospitality room at NYS Chiefs Fire 2026 June 10-June 13 – looking for donation. FF \$50 - \$99; Deputy Chief \$100 - \$249; Asst. Chief \$250-349; Chief of Dept \$350 and over.
- FASNY Hospitality at Convention – August 18-20 – they are asking sectionals to send check for \$250 (no gift cards) so that they can use this money to make baskets for the scholarship fundraiser. They are also asking for 3 bottles of spirits for the putting contest.
- Colonial Youth & Family Service 47th Annual Golf Outing celebrating 53 years of Service – June 29th. One of the Honorees is Rudy Sunderman, Suffolk County FRES Commissioner and Mastic Fire District Commissioner and Bill Biondi Mastic Beach Fire Commissioner. \$275 per golfer \$1100 foursome. Tee sign sponsor is \$150.00
- Riverhead Fire Dept 35th Annual Scramble Golf tournament on Weds 8/12 at Cherry Creek Links Golf Course. Looking for Beverage cart sponsor - \$200; Lunch sponsor \$250.00; Dinner sponsor \$500.00. Questions call Ex-Chief Sean Brennan at 631-727-2751.
- Mother Cabrini 1st Annual Classic Car & Truck show Sat May 30th 9am – 3pm St Frances Cabrini RC Church in Coram.
- Received thank you from Firefighter Cancer Awareness & Mentoring of New York State for supporting their 2026 golf outing.

Report of Presidents:

Report of Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli -

April/May 2026

Meetings/Events

-Suffolk County Vol Junior FF Assoc
-Suffolk County Vol Ladies Auxiliary
-East Hampton Chiefs
-Huntington Chiefs
-Smithtown Chiefs
-Brookhaven Chiefs
-Suffolk Chiefs
-Suffolk Districts

- Legislature EMS Ceremony
- Fire Police
- Nassau County
- Awarded several 50-year certificates
- SCVFA VP meetings
- Recruit NY
- 50 Year Certificate Presentation
- Riders of Fire Blessing
- Red Knights/Burn Center Fundraiser
- SCVFA Memorial Service

Administrative:

- Review changes to all SCVFA paperwork.
- Guideline Handbook
- Brochure pamphlet
- Scholarship

Report of 1st Vice President Dan Brooks –

- March 28 – Southern New York Meeting at Hewlett
- April 17 – Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs Council at Riverhead
- April 18 – Suffolk County EMS Conference
- April 28 – SCVFA Board Meeting
- May 2 – Southern NY Convention
- May 3 – SCVFA Memorial
- May 8 – Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council
- May 17 – Brookhaven Town Volunteer Firefighters Museum Memorial
- May 20 – Suffolk County Legislature's EMS Recognition Program

Reminders at meeting:

1. Please visit our Facebook and Instagram pages for constant updates and sharing of information.
2. We present 50-year certificates, contact Jean Christensen if you have a member or members reaching that milestone, or longer

2nd Vice President Donald Bracciodieta

March 28, Southern New York General meeting
 March 30 meeting at Bay Shore FD for set up for memorial service
 April 17 East Quogue for 50-year certificate
 April 21 Islip Town Chiefs meeting
 April 26 Suffolk County Junior's general meeting
 April 28 Suffolk County volunteer executive board meeting
 April 29 Southern New York executive board meeting
 May 2, southern New York Memorial service/convention
 May 3 Suffolk County volunteer Memorial service
 May 5, New York State Fire, Chaplin Association dinner
 May 13 Suffolk County ladies insulation dinner
 May 17 Burn Center red night ride North Sea
 May 18 Burn Center general meeting
 May 19 Islip town Chiefs

50-50 tickets are still available. Please see me or anybody else on executive board and thank you for their support drawing will be in October.

Letter was sent to all departments for this year for hospitality room for this year FASNY convention flyers are available again association thank you for your support

3rd Vice President William Mullane

April 26th – Juniors at Smithtown

May 5 – Chaplains installation at Riverhead

May 7 – Retirement at FRES arson Detective

May 8 – Suffolk County Chiefs at Riverhead

May 13 – Suffolk Ladies at Holbrook

May 21 – Suffolk County Districts at Manorville

Committee Reports

Financial Secretary Report – Tom Prendergast reported

On the financial Report, he collected an additional \$120 in the month of April.

Second notices were mailed May 1. So far \$425 has been collected plus another \$70 received tonight for the Month of May. Total Dues collected for 2026 is \$5700.00 as of May 26, 2026.

REMSCO report – Tom Prendergast

The Tom Lateulere EMS Conference was held on 4/18/26 at Ronkonkoma Marriott. It was well attended, with about 100 in attendance. Topics covered included: Pre-Hospital Blood, Heat Emergencies, Psychiatric Emergencies; Vascular Emergencies, EKG's and Domestic Violence/Human Trafficking.

CPR Awards were held on 5/9/26 at Coram FD. Trauma Awards will now be included along with the CPR awards.

AT the 5/19/26 REMSCO meeting in Yaphank, Rudy Sunderman mentioned about 185,000 EMS alarms were dispatched in Suffolk County throughout 2025. Rudy went on to commend the REMSCO in recognition EMS appreciation week May 17-23.

There is a new program in the forecast called SUNY Reconnect. This program provides Paramedic training to those age 25-55 that have no college education or credits. The tuition for the Paramedic training under this program is \$0.00

The next CPR Awards is scheduled for 11/21/26, location to be determined, but it will most likely be towards the east end of Suffolk County.

Upcoming EMT Classes: Suffolk County Community College 5/26/26; Rapdi EMT Refresher 5/27/26 – Yaphank, Cutchogue FD 5/27/26; Stony Brook School of Health Professions 5/27/26.

The next Tom Lateulere EMS Conference is tentatively scheduled for 4/17/27, at the Ronkonkoma Marriott.

Tom read over the bills & Legislation in Albany.

Annual Dinner – Robert Sutton reported

Please save the date of Saturday October 17, 2026, 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 dinner & journal Applications are here tonight and are also

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 money. for tickets. If you have any questions at all, please contact me.

By-Laws – Eugene Perry - Progress

Candidate Campaign – Eugene Perry – there are two posters for Frank Guarino. Will be ordering something for the convention.

FASNY – President Eugene Perry

We got a win in the State Assembly unanimous consent to raise state income tax credit to \$800. That's never happened. Our Legislative Representatives believe that it would be in the final budget language.

154th Convention of FASNY will be Aug 19-23 at the Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville, NY. Voting will be held on Wednesday 8/19 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. 2% Forum is Friday the 21st at 1:30PM. Casino night is 8/20 to benefit the FASNY Scholarship and is \$25 per person. There will be a high Rollers area for \$75.00. Testimonial Dinner honoring our FASNY Past Presidents and retiring FASNY and Home Officers.

Home Trustees – Bob Sutton reported the following:

The current census for the Firefighters home is 81.

Four applications are in various stages of completion. The new Members voted in at the last Trustee's meeting will be admitted the first week in June.

The Home is currently COVID & Influenza free.

The Home Car Show is being held this Saturday May 30.

The annual Open House will be held on September 28.

Our current Home Administrator Keith Henchey is retiring at the end of June after 6 years of service. Keith has been an integral part of the Home and has served the residents of the Home with a high level of professionalism & care. One of the final candidates for the administrator's position was at the Home on Wednesday, May 20 for the day and met with members of the administrative committee, Home Members, department directors, and received a tour of the campus. The other finalist will be on campus this Wednesday, May 27.

Father Halpin Memorial Service – Bob Sutton reported

Our annual Memorial Service was held on Sunday May 3, 2026, and the service went well.

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

Sadly, we had read off 99 names of deceased Firefighters and 10 deceased members of the Ladies Auxiliary. Next year's Memorial Service is scheduled for Sunday May 2, 2027. 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 Firefighter's Home – Jerry Owenburg reported:

It is September 20th. Will do the trees at Noon and parade starts at 1pm.

We are looking for bands to come up and play.

This year's gift is pool towels for the residents.

Firefighter Cancer Awareness Mentoring of New York State – Jerry Owenburg/Bob Sutton

Get your tests – do early testing. Let your family know we are here for them as well. We will help you through the tough times.

Firefighter of the Year – John Masem reported that there are 5 applications and will do a unit citation as well.

Headquarters – William Mullane – No report

Youth in the Fire Service – Keith Vella

7/18, Youth Day in Central at the Fairmount Training center.

7/31, Third annual Suffolk Jr's BBQ and social, Smithtown River Property.

08/09 – 3rd Jr's BEFO Class begins in North Patchogue.

8/21 – 8/22 Youth Day presented by the Suffolk Fire Academy and the Suffolk Jr's. They are looking for a donation for the day(s) for the kids. More details to follow. Fire Academy does not want FASNY to participate.

8/22 – Youth Day in Northern at the st. Lawrence County Fire Academy.

John A. Masem Sr. Scholarship – Keith Vella reported the deadline is June 1st. He has received 4 scholarships to date.

Suffolk Legislative – Jerry Owenburg (Suffolk) – Dan Brooks (FASNY)

Suffolk – Approved the reappointment of Bryan Prosek as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency services Commission.

Approved the reappointment of Jay Egan as a member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services commission.

Dan Brooks reported that there was a win of sorts with the Tax Credit – the Assembly has approved it. Gene Perry expects to see this in the final Budget.

Resolutions – Eugene Perry –

Resolution #1 – BE IT RESOLVES that the Association extends its sincere thanks to the Cutchogue 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 Mastic Fire Department for hosting our April Executive Board meeting. Motion to accept by Bob Sutton seconded by Bob Chiuchiolo motion carried.

Suffolk FRES Commission – Anthony Sullo/Bob McConville

Bob reported that they meeting tomorrow night. Bob Stated that the REMSCO blood started out of the FRES Commission, where it is carried by helicopter. New helicopters with have area built in to carry the blood. This was recently used in Smithtown. The board up was also started in the FRES Commission.

Sickness – No report

Steering – Past President Gene Perry –

The Steering Committee will meet at the June Executive Board meeting to select our endorsements for FASNY Office.

SCVFA Parade & Drill – John Masem

6/5 Lindenhurst Parade followed by the drill

Jr Drill will be 6/6 in Lindenhurst

The County Parade and Drill is on July 11th hosted by Bay Shore.

The States this year are in Hempstead.

They have no host for the Babylon and Islip Parades.

Jimmy Leggio, 1st Vice President of the Suffolk County Drill Team Captains was with us this evening. He stated that the Suffolk County Parade and Drill are a Long-standing proud tradition. He wants to try and get more departments to participate in the parade. The parade will be on Main Street. Parade starts at 6:30pm. Jimmy had applications with him this evening.

Training & Education – No report

William Reilly Journal – Giovanni Chiarelli - starting to get ads. The application is on the website. Please send your ad in PDF format. Please bring this back to your department and ask them to purchase an ad.

Publicity & Public Relations/Website – Dan Brooks / Roger Putnam – No report

Ways and Means – William Mullane – No report

Lithium Ion Battery – Bob Sutton/Bob McConville

A presentation is scheduled for tomorrow May 27, at the Selden Fire Department at 11:00AM. 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 – Mary Catherine Dolan, Vice President of Educators announced that the next meeting is June 15th in Central Islip. Let her know if you want a text or email. Also, if you would like to join, let them know. Website will be up soon.

Audit – Bob Sutton – no report

Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council – Mike Barry – Absent

Suffolk County Association of Fire Districts – Scott Thebold reported

August 27th in Patchogue is the next meeting in the Park, if it rains it will be at the fire house.

Joint counsel is working well together.

If you are attending the Yaphank Parade, please be sure your department RSVP's.

Be sure to wear packs doing overhaul to help prevent cancer.

Keith Vella great job – our youth is our future.

Suffolk County FRES/EMS-REMSCO - Allison Petker gave the following report

FRES REPORT

- Thank you for your support during our roll out of our Plain Language. Please continue to use plain language.
- Active Chiefs meeting to be held on Thursday May 14, 2026, at the North Patchogue Fire Department. Please email Brianne Minden to register.

- Please update text paging for your members; whether they are a new member or they are no longer in your department. Please utilize the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and emergency Services website under “communications” to make these updates.
- On Wednesday, May 13, 2026, the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services will be conducting a test of the county’s interoperable communications abilities. A memo is being sent with further instructions.
- Reminder – 250th Anniversary events will be taking place, please be aware of any events taking place in your district for situational awareness.
- Reminder – the US Open will be taking place in Southampton the week of June 15-21st.

EMS DIVISION

- EMS week is May 17-23, 2026; this year’s theme is “Improving Outcomes, Together”. Please take a moment to recognize your EMS providers and crews. In addition, please visit the Suffolk REMSCO webpage for non-core Continuing education opportunities offered by our hospital partners during EMS week.
- Agencies that have submitted and received confirmation of their CPR Saves will be recognized on May 9th at Coram Fire Department for their efforts.
- Human Trafficking Class will be offered on May 7th at Riverhead FD and May 21st at Mastic FD.
- Seats are still available for our EMT original courses that will be held in Cutchogue starting May 27th and Centereach starting May 20th. Please see Suffolk REMSCO webpage for more details.

Suffolk County VEEB Board Gary Schaum could not attend but dropped his report off to Secretary Jean Christensen to read.

- Youth Day is scheduled for August 21 and August 22.
- Lecture is hosted at Selden FD hands on hosted at S.C.F.A.
- Women in the fire service scheduled for October 23 lecture and October 24 hands on.
- Joey D event is scheduled for November 7th weekend.
- New Director of Fire Academy Larry Archer.
- Check website for upcoming classes.

Suffolk Conty Recruitment & Retention – Giovanni Chiarelli/Dan Brooks – No Report

Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary – Lori Zatorski report

- We held our Installation in Holbrook. Thank you to all who attended to honor our outgoing President Doreene DeRuiter of Lindenhurst and our incoming President Marybeth Asbell of Holbrook.
- Still selling scratch off lottery fundraiser tickets – tickets are \$10 and drawing in June.
- Our June meeting is in Hagerman, and we will conduct our annual memorial service.
- Our new officers are Marybeth Asbell President; Jean Christensen Vice President; Recording Secretary Doreene DeRuiter, Corresponding Secretary Lori Zatorski and Treasurer AnnMarie St. John.
- Thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you in the coming year.

NYS Fire Police – Chris Mele – New region 7 Director – No Report

Suffolk County Firefighters Burn Center – Paul Callergi gave the following report

- Next meeting is May 18th
- They are holding the Shot Gun Shoot
- If your department is having Fire Prevention the Burn Center can come. Contact Paul to arrange this and the nurses will come. Paul can be reached at 631-924-8143 and 631-678-2817

- No word on helicopter.
 - Discussion was held on burn victims going to Southside or Peconic Bay instead of Stony Brook
- Vinny Ammirati reported the Red Knight Motorcycle Club has donated over \$216,000 to the Burn Center. This is huge, thank you to the Red Knights Motorcycle Club

Suffolk County Safety Officer's - Jeff Bailes – No report

Southern NY VFA – Gene Perry reported the Convention was held on May 2nd in Central Islip. The Annual dinner will be on May 29th at the Nassau County Bar Association. The Officers remain the same.

Nassau County Vollies – Absent

North Fork VFA – Artie Brewer reported

- Next meeting is July 22nd at the Riverhead Fire Department.
- Had installation on May 16 at Birchwood. The new officers are
 Artie Brewer – President – CFD
 Howie Waldran – 1st Vice President JFD
 Bob Corwin – 2nd Vice President – GFD
 Larry Behr – Treasurer – CFD
 Jeanie Saunders – Sgt at Arms – MFD
 Frank Mustg – Chaplain – GFD

Babylon Town VFA –

Next meeting is in September at Wyandanch – Wheatley Heights. It is the third Monday.

Islip Town Vollies – Don Bracciodieta reported that the next meeting is June 17th in Islip Terrace

Old Business – None

New Business

- Gene Perry made a motion to send letter to Larry Archer at the Fire Academy and ask why FASNY is not included in Youth Day, seconded by Bob Chiuchiolo motion carried.
- Bob Sutton made a motion to donate \$100 to the NYS Chiefs Hospitality room.
- Motion by Gene Perry to donate \$250.00 check for the baskets for FASNY Scholarship fundraiser seconded by Marilyn Davis, motion carried.
- Motion by Gene Perry to donate three liquor bottles with handles to FASNY convention seconded by Marilyn Davis, motion carried.

Good and Welfare –

Vinny Ammirati reported that he visited with all Suffolk residents that live at the Firefighter's Home: Joseph Polgeer, Sag Harbor FD; Ann LaFountain, West Sayville FD Ladies; Peter Cincotta, Selden FD and John Andres, Sayville FD.

Scott Thebold stated it is important that we support the members that live at the Firefighter Home. Long Island Day is always a terrible turnout. We need to perhaps send out letters to dept. Bring back to your departments that Long Island Day is September 21st. It was noted that we do mail letters and we send out notifications through FRES.

Dark Horse – was drawn

Next membership meeting is July 28th in Holbrook
Next Executive Board meeting is June 23rd in Smithtown

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Roslak

Motion to adjourn by Vinny Ammirati seconded by James Grimes, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Jean Christensen
Secretary